



pastparticles

Archives Newsletter for Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain and its English speaking Region in Continental Europe

Volume One, Number Six.

June 2013

Welcome,

to the summer edition of Past Particles with news and views concerning Archives.

We have had a number of changes around the Archives Sub Committee lately with a new member and some old faces disappearing. Our latest addition is Harry from West Yorkshire Intergroup who has just joined us, so welcome Harry and we also hope to be adding another two archivists to the Committee soon.

In the last couple of months a start has been made on the "Closed Groups" files from the Filing Cabinet in the Archives room and 6 microfilms have been produced so far with at least the same number needed to finish the project. On saying finished we need to remember that as groups close we need to save their files and when enough data for a film, we then microfilm. These are stored in the microfilm cupboard of course.



Our pc containing all group histories, data and anything concerning Archives is coming along very well and we ask here again for any Histories of your Groups, Intergroups or Regions and anything at all to do with the growth of AA in GB, please get in touch or send it to us here at gsoarchives@btconnect.com or contact me direct.

Paul and I put together a brief "History of Conference" presentation for the display case and apparently it went down very well with our Conference Delegates as they made their way about GSO before going to Conference in April. It is though a "brief" history and needs to be expanded upon...any offers?

Question; Do you have any memories of when you were at Conference? Anything that would be interesting reading in our Archives?



Northern National Convention

GSO Archives have been contacted by the NNC Committee with regards to any information we have in our files about the Northern National and I thought it best to put it together as a Timeline. Harry, being at GSO one day in May, agreed to help with this and we have already made a good start. My thoughts are now along the lines of, well if we have the Northern National Timeline why not do the Southern National and indeed the National Convention as it used to be called.

Of course without help from our Archives Network



this would be near on impossible so if you have any memories, anecdotes or information about the Northern Southern or National Conventions it would be lovely to hear from you.

Here is a little titbit I found while squirreling...

NORTHERN CONVENTION UP-DATE

For the past 13 years the Northern half of our National Convention has remained at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. The numbers, attending both resident and non-resident have increased to such an extent that in 1989 most of the main meetings will be held in the Norcalympia, the great hall behind the hotel.

The hotel management have expressed a wish, with which we concur, that it would be good to devote the weekend exclusively to the Fellowship but they would need to have approximately 280 rooms booked by December, which is more than we can currently guarantee.

Some visitors have expressed their disappointment at the lack of smaller meetings at Blackpool, and next year this is being catered for, as is a Marathon Meeting.

On the less serious side, we are reverting to an earlier tradition of the convention being opened by the Mayor of Blackpool, and we are looking for special entertainers at the Cabaret, during Saturday night's dance – so far we have only retained some Lancashire Clog Dancers! – any other offers?

The Committee would warmly welcome any new ideas – reply with your completed booking form to:

Northern Convention Registrar
14 Pulford Close Beechwood
Runcorn Cheshire WA7 2YS

Roadshows.

Jimmy M. from Glasgow Region and I did a Roadshow at the Scottish Convention at Oban and we are doing another at the Lomond Gathering Dumbarton, The Glasgow Convention, The Blue Bonnets and also at meetings here celebrating a 40th and a 50th year anniversary. The Roadshow was well received and we had a question and answer session at the end.

We have contacted Glasgow Region and SW Scotland with a view to buying a projector because at present we need to borrow one. This will be stored in the Glasgow AA office and will be also available for PI, Health Liaison, Prisons etc.

We hope to get more people involved in archives and also to do a full history of AA in Scotland Group history etc. At the Roadshow we use Journey of

Discovery and other AA material

Brian H.

On the subject of Roadshows, many years ago there was an Archives Roadshow which seemed to go down very well and many have expressed the opinion that we should start this back up again. Due to costs this is said to be too expensive for the Fellowship however we at GSO Archives are putting together an “official” Archives presentation and are offering this to Intergroups and Regions to be included in either their local Conventions or whatever.

Again contact me direct, or at GSO Archives.

Annual Archivists Meeting.

Again our annual get together is soon upon us and any topics for inclusion would be appreciated. This year it takes place on the 18th and 19th of October 2013 so register with us as soon as possible to guarantee your seat.

Since April of this year we have 6 new Archivists who have joined us, so welcome to you all and hope to see you in October. They are now on the current Archives Network List which as we know is kept updated by Elaine at GSO. Thanks Elaine.

Thanks to Angela for her support with supplying the input concerning the Group History Project. We need to remember here that this is normally not part of her task at GSO and is doing this as a service to us and GSO Archives, so thanks to Angela and all at GSO who are involved in whatever way with Archives.

That's it folks, always remembering we do not wish to live in the past but we need more of your histories.

In AA Love and Service,
Stephen S, Fellowship Archivist.

Happy Squirreling.