

## Suggestions for Writing Your Group's History

Note: The following questions were taken from Vol. V, No.1 of *Markings* (1987), the archival newsletter published by the General Service Office.

- When and why was the group formed and where did it meet? Was it meant to fill the needs of a specific segment of the Fellowship? Was it a spinoff from another group? Who was instrumental in forming it, and who were the first officers? How many members did it start with? Did it keep the original name: if not, why did it change?
- How has the group evolved: Has it changed names, meeting places or times? Has it moved? Has the makeup of the group changed? Has it added or lost Big Book studies, beginner meetings, etc?
- Has the group been involved in any outside activities as a group: potlucks, institutions, public information, 12-step workshops, etc?
- Has the group had any problems; if so, how did it overcome them?
- What do you feel makes the group unique; what are the good qualities about the group? Does the group now have any weaknesses; has it ever had any?
- Has the group ever been involved in any unusual projects or disagreements?
- Have any "unusual" or "unforgettable" characters ever been associated with the group?
- Does the group have a particularly close relationship with another group? Do the members of this group also attend another group together?
- Is there any other thing in the group's history that is particularly interesting? Does it have any specific plans for the future?
- Do any of the original members of the group still attend the meetings?
- Have any other groups spun off from this group?
- What segment of the Fellowship is currently represented in the group: old-timers, treatment center patients, young people, professionals, etc?
- Is the group no longer active; if not, why did it fold?

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To paraphrase the Big Book (page 164), these questions are meant to be suggestive only. The Archives Committee realizes they know little or nothing about your group, but you can disclose more by sending them your group's history. You can give it to your GSR, bring it to the next District 8 meeting, or email/mail it to the committee:

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