
OA GUIDELINES



Guidelines for OA Newsletters

1.

Have the newsletter be an OA group, intergroup, region or service center-sponsored publication (if it isn't, OA meeting lists cannot be used for mailings).

2.

Have an editor who has been in the program long enough to understand the Traditions, or have someone trustworthy check the issues for Traditions breaks (advertising of non-OA events, endorsing or opposing of "causes," outside enterprises, etc.) before printing.

3.

Be sure your newsletter does not print copyrighted material without permission. *Lifeline* and *A Step Ahead* articles may be reprinted as long as credit is given ("from *Lifeline*," or "from *A Step Ahead*"). Contact the WSO or check OA's Web site for more information on OA's copyright policy. Most OA newsletters contain a statement that any other anonymous group is welcome to reprint without permission.

4.

Most newsletters try to avoid using printed items from outside the Fellowship. There is much fine OA material available, and personal articles from OA members are the most popular items, anyway. You will want to take care just what you present as the OA program in your newsletter.

5.

It's best to keep it positive. Don't allow editorial opinions on controversial group issues or angry harangues on group or intergroup policy to dominate the newsletter.

6.

Most intergroup newsletters print a brief summary of intergroup minutes and financial statements, reports of upcoming OA events, reports from loners or groups in outlying areas, as well as articles about personal recovery.

7.

Many editors receive newsletters from other intergroups and regions around the country and "borrow" liberally from them until they begin receiving material from within their own area. If you need help finding other newsletters, contact the Board Internal Information Committee at the World Service Office. ▶

8.

Break the newsletter up visually with sketches, cartoons, pictures, etc.

9.

Some intergroups give the newsletter away; some charge a subscription rate in order to meet expenses; some have both subscriptions to individuals and free issues to member groups and other intergroups. If you do have a subscription rate, a tear-off subscription blank printed with every issue will encourage subscriptions.

10.

A bulk mailing permit will help you to afford mailing to all your groups and other intergroups. The best rating to get is that of an educational nonprofit organization. To do this you will probably need an IRS tax-deductible, nonprofit, educational organization status under their 501 (c) (3) rating. Write WSO for instructions on how to get this IRS status. Until you get it, you can always obtain a regular bulk mailing permit, but it is more than twice as expensive, although still considerably less than first class. A minimum of 200 pieces must be mailed to use bulk rate. Call your local post office for current rates.

Congratulations! We know your newsletter will enhance the growth of Overeaters Anonymous in your area tremendously. The Board Internal Information Committee will be happy to help you in any way.

OA Board-approved, 1980

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