

SHARE WORKSHOPS

The following ideas, although fairly basic and brief, have been suggested as possible ideas for those who are planning to hold SHARE workshops and who may have no previous experience. It is also hoped that these suggestions might encourage others to hold SHARE workshops, so stimulating further awareness of SHARE and increasing subscriptions, as well as prompting members to write articles.

The Aim

- To increase subscriptions and circulation of SHARE
- To promote awareness of SHARE and its role in maintaining sobriety
- Encourage participation of members as SHARE Liaison Officers at Intergroups and Regions, as well as Group Reps
- Encourage members to share their experience, strength and hope by writing articles for publication

Attendance

Normally, the Intergroup and/or Regional Liaison Officer(s) should be present. It might be helpful to have them involved in the organising. If practicable, invite a member of the SHARE Editorial Team.

Discussion

Once the aim of the workshop has been decided, subjects for discussion should be fairly obvious. Should ideas be lacking, the following suggestions may be helpful:

- Obtain latest sales figures from GSO for discussion
- Discuss ways of improving sales of SHARE. Ask how many groups do or do not take SHARE. If they do not, why not? If they do, are they actively sold – or just left ‘on the table’? If all copies are regularly sold each month, might not groups increase their order? Invite sharing of experience in increasing circulation.
- What do Groups do with old copies? Suggestions – give them to newcomers – pass them on to the local community, e.g., hospitals, treatment centres, doctors’ waiting rooms, probation officers, social workers. Distributions of this kind need not to be confined to ‘old’ copies. (Remember to remove the centre pages)

- Contributions. Any member of the Fellowship may submit to the Editor an article or letter for publication in SHARE. Do groups have a SHARE Rep? If so, does the SHARE Rep encourage members to write articles? Articles from members of well established sobriety are especially welcome. Have Intergroups considered asking Groups within a locality to submit articles? Any difficulties in writing (e.g. grammar, spelling, etc.) need not be a deterrent as all contributions are sub-edited before publication. Invite those present to share how they have encouraged members to write for SHARE – as well as their own experience of contributing to SHARE.
- Content. Although decisions on the style and content of SHARE rest with the Editor and Editorial Team, suggestions are always welcome. For those who might be critical of SHARE, remember that the content of SHARE is only as good as the contributions received. Ask how many of those present have written an article for SHARE.
- Consider the idea of a quiz. This can be fun and members might remember the answers to the questions much better than if the same facts were merely given in a presentation.

Conclusion

Before the conclusion of the Workshop, it might be appropriate for the Chairperson (or whoever is leading) to review the meeting and consider whether the aims have been (or are likely to be) achieved. Although a written report on the Workshop is not essential, a summary at the conclusion giving the 'sense of the meeting' might be useful. If a report is written, the SHARE Team would welcome a copy.