

The SHARE PRODUCTION STATEMENT Explained

On the contents page of the SHARE magazine there are nine points listed regarding articles and their submission. Collectively, these are known as 'the SHARE production statement'. They are designed to assist members in submitting articles. They serve as 'prudent guidance' to help each author. Bill W described prudence as: 'Common sense and good judgement.' The subcommittee's aim is to be helpful. This statement also helps the SHARE Editor with the process of selecting appropriate articles.

1) Publication of any article does not imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous or SHARE. Personal opinions should not be attributed to the Fellowship.

By its very nature SHARE has different types of articles published every month. These are written by members, each with their own style. It is akin to members sharing at a meeting. The character of the writer and his/her unique way of passing the message gives our magazine a fresh look every month. There is an element of (personal) responsibility in this regard - on the writers' behalf and that of SHARE, in particular in the underlying principle of Unity and the concept of 'Principles before Personalities'. Writing an article for SHARE is service. SHARE, in its simplest form is a conduit, for passing the AA message.

2) There is no payment for contributions and they cannot be returned. There is a minimum two-month lead time.

Writing an article for submission to SHARE is Service. In return for Service work, the only reward is the opportunity to stay sober and help others. No financial advantage is reaped. The Traditions were written as a result of experience, with a view to dealing with situations as and when they arose. We, as a Fellowship, can draw on the experience of our fore-fathers. This is a shortcut to wisdom. To facilitate publication of the submitted articles, there is a 'lead time.' This is a minimum of 2 months. This enables the articles to be logged, distributed to SHARE Readers - who score them on a scale of 1 to 6, ranging from 'must print' (1) to 'unsuitable' (6). Scores can be anywhere in between. These scores are then forwarded on to the Editor. Time is also needed to collate, arrange the presentation and subsequent printing of the magazine so there are strict deadlines to adhere to.

3) The Editor, whose decision is final, may edit material and cannot guarantee publication of any contribution. Articles should not exceed 1000 words.

Publication of any article depends on several things: scoring by the SHARE Readers; length of article; content; space available – to name but a few. In an AA meeting, if a member talks for too long or jumps in to share repeatedly, the chairperson may point out that the time is limited and it would be nice to hear from as many in attendance as possible. The same may be applied with regard to SHARE. Some members do regularly contribute articles and have them published but to demand an article be published is not within the spirit of Service. Printing very long articles, however important or interesting, means that other articles cannot appear. SHARE is our 'Meeting between Meetings' and tries to ensure there is a wide range of Experience, Strength and Hope in each issue.

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4) Poetry, obituaries and 'in memoriam' will not be published.

Poetry, whilst submitted with good intentions, often presents feelings, ideas and emotions which may veer away from SHARE's primary purpose. The SHARE subcommittee is not in a position to judge poetry nor to be involved in copyright issues.

SHARE is our 'meeting between meetings'. In it, we share our Experience, Strength and Hope in recovery from alcoholism. There could be serious discord if a member sent in an obituary or 'in memoriam' and it wasn't published. The number of death notices and tributes would be an issue, as well. The mention of those near and dear would contravene our anonymity principle. It is also important to note that, as a national publication, SHARE is read outside the Fellowship.

AA Service News provides a simple 'In Memoriam' section.

5) Only Conference Approved Literature (CAL) may be quoted. Mention of other books, films, videos, TV programmes, operas, poems, magazines or periodicals, etc. may imply outside affiliation. Please cite the title and page reference of any CAL.

There are many useful aids to a persons' own journey in recovery. AA has no opinion on these. Neither are we affiliated with any outside organisation. In AA, however, CAL is our guiding light. Our literature and the spoken word are the most effective ways of communicating the message to alcoholics of our type. Prior to any CAL being published, it always undergoes a rigorous vetting process. Furthermore, it must be approved by the General Service Conference (our annual national 'group conscience'). This process can take months or even years, so thoroughly and conscientiously is it considered. The referencing of CAL sources by name and page number assist the Editorial Team in their service roles. These sources are checked and the exact wording adhered to, so as to preclude any distortion of the original text.

6) Contributions referring to local AA matters, conferences, assemblies, public information and conventions will be refused unless they share a personal point of view, based on the recovery experience in AA.

AA Service News is the proper publication where AA members can express their Service experience. SHARE is a platform for sharing our Experience, Strength and Hope. It facilitates an adequate presentation of the AA Programme.

If relating the roles of other service committees or local AA matters is done within our code of 'love and service' and relates to the writer's Experience, Strength and Hope, then an article would be considered for publication.

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7) Any proper names within articles or letters will be removed, except when they refer to authors already printed in SHARE.

"John D in my group did many bad things, such as #####!!!! but now he's better - what an example." The most important way to pass the message of AA is by relating our *own* Experience, Strength and Hope.

We must always bear in mind that SHARE is used and read *at the public level*. Mentioning other AA members, family members, etc, could lead (by deduction) to a personal anonymity break. Referring, by name, to people outside AA could bring the Fellowship, through SHARE magazine, into disrepute.

8) Anonymity will be protected, but contributors and correspondents are asked to include a contact telephone number and full name and address (not for publication).

Members are encouraged to supply their personal details when they submit an article for publication. These are held, in confidence, at the General Service Office, York. From time to time the Editor may wish to clarify something within an article. Alternatively, members sometimes request a reply to certain matters, via GSO, but no personal details are included in their correspondence. If the Editor can communicate, via GSO, these matters can often be clarified and the article published. SHARE protects the anonymity of individual members. This responsibility is taken very seriously as is evidenced by the fact that the SHARE subcommittee is *directly* responsible to the General Service Conference through the AA GB General Service Board and SHARE's designated Trustee.

9) All articles, cartoons and content submitted to SHARE become copyright material of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and SHARE.

As all submissions to SHARE are focused on Fellows' experience, strength and hope and are specific to the AA Programme of recovery, based on the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts then having the same submissions published in other recovery publications could be interpreted as affiliation thus breaking AA Traditions.