A Declaration of Unity
This we owe to A.A.'s future:
To place our common welfare first;
To keep our fellowship united.
For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
And the lives of those to come.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS® is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from alcoholism.

- The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause.
- Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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The history of A.A. is studded with the names of nonalcoholics, professionals and others, who have interested themselves in the A.A. recovery program. Thousands of us owe our lives to these people, and our debt of gratitude knows no bounds.

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Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of men and women who help each other maintain sobriety and who offer to share their recovery experience freely with others who may have a drinking problem. The program A.A. suggests consists basically of “Twelve Steps” designed for personal recovery from alcoholism.

The Fellowship today is in more than 180 countries. Approximately two million alcoholics have achieved sobriety in A.A., but members recognize that their program is not always effective with all alcoholics and that some may require professional counseling or treatment. A.A. is concerned solely with the personal recovery and continued sobriety of individual alcoholics who turn to the Fellowship for help. The movement does not engage in alcoholism research or medical or psychiatric treatment, and does not endorse any causes—although A.A. members may participate as individuals.

The movement has adopted a policy of “cooperation but not affiliation” with other organizations concerned with the problem of alcoholism. Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through its own groups and members and declines contributions from outside sources. A.A. members preserve personal anonymity at the level of press, films, and broadcast media.

From the beginning, many A.A. members have come to believe that alcoholism is a progressive illness—spiritual and emotional (or mental), as well as physical. The alcohols we know seem to have lost control over their drinking out of a need for acceptance and belonging, and are thus inclined to seek and need help. The Fellowship is designed specifically to meet this need for help. It is not a hospital, nor a place of worship, nor a business, nor a social club, nor a political party, but a fellowship of individuals extending help — although they may feel it is best for the alcoholic to request such help first.

3. They may help arrange hospitalization. Local A.A. offices often know where hospital treatment of alcoholism is available.

4. The A.A. Fellowship is not affiliated with any religious groups or organizations. A.A. members simply by deciding they are members who are ready to help others recover. They become A.A. members by signing a statement of agreement and by affiliation with a group of A.A. members in their community. They may choose any A.A. meetings to which they feel they are attracted.

A.A. is glad to share their experience with anyone who is interested, either in conversation or at formal gatherings.

What Does A.A. NOT Do?
A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover; solicit members; engage in or sponsor research; keep attendance records or case histories; join “counsellors” of social agencies; follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide dry-out or nursing services; hospitalization, drugs, or any other medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services; engage in education about alcohol; provide housing, clothing, jobs, money or any other welfare or social services; provide domestic or vocational counseling; accept any money for its services or any contributions from non-A.A. sources; provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.