

WWA72 HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

(For Groups, Districts, Intergroup, Central Offices, Clubs, Conferences, and Area Committees)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to stimulate a conversation within your group, for the purpose of producing a new or updated group history.

DISTRICT NUMBER _____

GROUP NAME _____

When was your group formed? _____

Original number of groups in your district _____ Current number _____

Did you split off another group? _____

Reason for split? _____

How many home group members do you have? _____

Do you have any committees? _____

What officers do you have? _____

How are your officers selected (elected, appointed)? _____

Do you have an archivist? _____

If so please provide name and number for the area archivist.

What format does your meeting follow (open/closed, big book study, speakers meeting, etc.)?

Are you a specialty meeting (men's, women's, etc.)? _____

Have any controversies occurred? _____

How were they resolved? _____

Have you hosted or helped host an area event such as Archives, Accessibility, Treatment, and Corrections Quarterly? _____

Have any members of your group made a significant contribution to any of these Areas? _____

Do you support clean and sober activities (such as gratitude dinners, picnics, sober softball, dances, conferences, and/or round-ups)? _____

If you are a district do you have any clubs, conferences, institutions, or intergroups, or CSOs within your district? _____

There must be some memorable stories that should be saved for posterity. Our history will be more interesting, if it is as much about people as it is about the facts. We are particularly interested in some anecdotes and "color" you might be able to provide. Maybe you can tell us about:

- A favorite character.
- Pioneers we have had in Western Washington Area 72.

- Development of special interest groups such as Gay Groups, Dual Groups, Non-Smoking Groups, Women's Luncheons, Stag Groups, Young People's Groups, and Native American Groups.

Your first step in compiling a history will be to talk to the old-timers in the group. With their help, you can make a list of names of the earliest members, who might still be around.

Many key people may no longer attend the group meetings or may have moved on to other communities; and, we all have spotty memories! So, other sources of information such as minutes, letters, and reports should be accessed and used.

You might want to have a meeting of old timers. You'll be surprised how they can jog each other's memories when they get to reminisce about the good old days!

Make sure you include as many people from across your district as possible. It might be a good idea to record this meeting, because it is hard to take notes when there are a lot of people speaking fast or all at once. Once you start writing your history from what you have learned from these old timers, you will most likely begin to find some gaps in the story. So it might be a good idea to go back to some of these old timers, one at a time, to try and fill in the gaps. You will know better what questions to ask at this point and your increasing awareness will help you guide the conversation to fill in the information that you need.

You may be surprised at how many events outside of the group itself are vital to explaining the group's history.

As soon as you think that your history is nearly complete, share it with those old timers and the members of your group. Remember, it is their history also; and, they can be an enormous help with the final touches.

When you feel that your story is complete give a copy to your District Archivist (or DCM, if you don't have an District Archivist), and mail the original to the Western Washington Area Archivist.

The Area Archivist will store all group histories at the Archives Repository in Tacoma. If, for some unknown reason, a group or district loses or misplaces their copy, the DCM, District Archivist, or future Researcher can get a copy to replace it from the Area Archivist.

Does the Area Archivist have your groups permission to include this history , in a new Area history book.