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# The Eighty - Three

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## Area 83 Archives Newsletter

**Our Area 83 history through the eyes of those before us... A legacy of gratitude**

### Becoming an Archivist

**Creating and saving our history**

**Jennifer C  
Archives Chair  
District 26**

**Eddy G.  
Archives Chair  
Area 83**

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Archivist  
Area 83**

#### Of Special Interest

Contributions to 'The Eighty - Three' should be sent to:  
[archivist@area83aa.org](mailto:archivist@area83aa.org)

#### Role of the Archivist(Archives Workbook)

The archivist is the focal point of the collection, determining on one hand what to include in the collection, and on the other hand working towards making the collected material available to the greatest extent possible to members of our Fellowship and those in the public realm with a valid interest in A.A.

- The archivist collects, organizes and preserves material of historical interest. Typically the archivist selects a representative sample of the collection and arranges those into a travelling display.
- The archivist is responsible for both the physical and the intellectual integrity of the collection. It is important to ensure the privacy and protect the anonymity of the members whose names are including in the collected documents.
- The archivist is also responsible to report regularly to the area committee, or if it exists, the area archives committee, about new material received and to give updates about ongoing projects at the archives.

#### Becoming an Archivist for Alcoholics Anonymous

After completing two years of sobriety, I found myself wanting to explore the service side of our program. During a business meeting with my home group our GSR brought to group attention a vacancy for the archive chair position. With only having a slight idea of what the position entailed, I emailed our DCM and found out what I needed to do to qualify.

Reading the Archive Workbook was my first task. For those who don't know, the Archive Workbook is a detailed guideline of exactly what my job was going to be. I read it twice. During this time I also acquired the District 26 collection. District 26 currently does not have an archive office. To my knowledge, over the last few years, our collection has been stored in the personal residence of whoever held the archive chair position.

Once officially elected to the chair, I really got the ball rolling with our collection. First on my agenda was to go through what had been given to me. In total I received seven large storage containers. I believe that initially there was some sort of organized system. Unfortunately said system had been ignored for quite some time.

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## Becoming an Archivist

Completely unsure of what I was in possession of, I made a simple decision to number each box and to the best of my ability detail what was in each box. Carefully dissecting each container I was aware that everything I did have was part of our history and needed to be respected. Items were only recorded. No alterations or removal of any item occurred.

Finishing this task was tedious but very rewarding. Not only did I gain more knowledge about my district but also our history as a whole. It is important that I mention the team of members who have been guiding and educating me in this journey. I can't name you all by name but I trust that the District 26 collection and myself will only benefit from all your expertise. With my new skills polished I have also had the opportunity to complete my first oral interview. My selection for narrator was a member of my home group and has over forty years of sobriety. The interview went very well and I'm pleased with the content.

District 26 has also become part of the GTA Archive committee. I meet with the committee once a month in their archive office. What is amazing is that after my term is complete as chair for District 26 I can remain on the GTA committee. I will continue to be an active archivist for Alcoholics Anonymous.

I should stress one more aspect about this new chapter in my life. None of this would be possible without my sobriety and our program. For the first time in a long time I feel connected and important. It's a great way to feel.

I hope my words will encourage more members to join service and find which ever position they choose as rewarding as I have.

Jennifer C  
Member Port Whitby  
District 26 Archive Chair

### The Role of the Archives Committee

The archives committee is responsible for establishing policies, procedures, and budgets. The archives committee will also establish the mandate of the committee, along with the District or Area committee. The mandate will identify what the local committee will collect in the types of archival items, what types of displays to construct and how this committee will spread the message of how these archival items relate to the establishment of the local district or area.

The Archives Committee, along with the archivist, will review the local collections and decide which items should be preserved and displayed at local events in their area or district. Only those items which show a significant relationship to the district or area should be collected. The following are examples of some of the things you may wish to collect:

- Minutes of Business Meetings of local groups or committees

- Copies of First Editions of AA Books from early members

- Local Conference Posters and Minutes

- Speaker tapes of local member's talks

- Oral Histories of long-time local members

- speaking of how AA was started in your area

- Correspondence between significant local members on matters relating to AA in the local area

- Correspondence with local health professionals which show how AA has helped local health professionals in the area of treatment of Alcoholism.

It is important for the local committee to reach out to the local committees for direction and budgets.

# History of Area 83

## Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group was founded on February 11, 1981; the name has not changed over the years.

The group was started as there was a need for another group in the area

The original founding members were Al R, Harry N, Harry S, Mike M, Ron P, Bob C, Moe P, Bob D.

The Fellowship Group is a spin-off from the Triangle Group and there were no spin-offs from the group.

When the group started meetings were held once a week and the format of the meeting was an open speaker meeting.

The group now holds two meetings a week. A closed meeting is held on Monday at 6:30 PM which has 3 rooms – a beginner’s room, a rotating 12 step discussion room and a Big Book study room.

An open meeting is also held on Monday at 8:00 PM. There is a business meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 PM, however a closed beginner’s meeting is still held separately.

The table cloth was made by Al R’s wife, Marjorie R (non-member). It is not known as to when or who made the other items used at the group.

The group holds a candlelight meeting at Christmas.

There were 150 members in the group in 2011 and there are 102 members in 2015.

There are no known Customs, Traditions or Interesting anecdotes to share.

There are no links with Al-Anon or Alateen.

During the group’s history, the location, date and time changed as follows:

Location	Date	Time
St. Saviour’s Church.....	Mon (Feb 11, 1981	
– end 1981) .....	8:30 PM - O	
43 Kimberly Avenue, Scar		
St. John’s R.C. Church .....	Mon (end 1981 –	
mid 1994/beg1995).....	8:30 PM - O	
794 Kingston Road		
95 - Pres Apr 2016)...8:00 PM - O	Mon (mid 94/beg	
Scarborough		
95 - Pres Apr 2016)...6:30 PM - C	Mon (mid 94/beg	

## SCARBOROUGH DISTRICT 22 ARCHIVES

### GROUP HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR GROUP SUMMARY PAGE

1. What was the founding date of the group: if unsure, when do you think the founding date was? (month/day/year)
2. What was the group’s name when it was formed? Why was the name chosen?
3. Has group’s name changed over the years? If so, when did it change and why?
4. How did the group get started? (i.e. need for a group in area, resentment etc...)
5. Who were the founders of the group? (If uncertain, who may have started the group?)
6. Were there any spin-offs of your group?
7. Was your group created as a spin-off? If so, what group did it spin-off from?
8. When the group started, how often were meetings held? Has this changed over the years?
9. What was the format of the meeting (open, closed, discussion, speaker etc.)? Has this changed over the years?
10. Any item(s) made by a group member(s) that is used at the meeting? (i.e. table cover, slogans, slogan board, wooden steps, book holders, painted pictures etc...) If so, who made them and in what year?
11. Does the group hold social or special AA related activities? (i.e. holiday parties, candlelite meetings, picnics etc...)
12. During the groups history has their location, date and time changed? If so, please list.
13. How many members are in the group today?
14. Has there been an increase or decrease of group members over the years? Please describe.
15. Does the group have any links with Al-Anon or Alateen? If so, what are they and when did they start?
16. Does the group have any customs, traditions or interesting anecdotes? If so, will you share them?

# History of Area 83

