

Area Newsletter Guidelines P75

Motion: Adopt the following as the Guidelines for the Newsletter, replacing all previous Area Actions regarding the Newsletter:

1. The methods for **Area Newsletter distribution** are via:
 - a. **Email** to [SETA-Announce](#),
 - b. SETA **Website** postings to the:
 - i. [Homepage](#) (temporary),
 - ii. [Newsletter page](#) (permanent), and
 - c. **Print** distribution of the 8-page color Newsletter via DCMs with quantity determined by budget approval without requiring amendment of this Area Action. Currently 250 English (12 active districts) and 100 Spanish (4 active distritos).
2. For [11th](#) & [12th](#) Tradition [anonymity purposes](#), contact information in the Newsletter is limited to:
 - a. **SETA position-based email** addresses (preferred),
 - b. **SETA individual addresses** with first names and last initials if no position-based address is appropriate, and
 - c. **no last names** or **phone numbers**, including those incorporated in email addresses.
3. The Newsletter will carry the following **statements** *as appropriate to the issue*. For example, the Newsletter will not credit A.A.W.S. or the Grapevine if the edition contains no excerpts from them.
 - a. The Newsletter focuses on **service-related** pieces relevant to SETA and will consider and credit any reputable A.A. source whose piece is published. Uncredited pieces are from the Newsletter Committee.
 - b. The Newsletter Editor reserves the **right to edit or decline** to publish any submission that is not service-related, otherwise inappropriate, or for editorial needs. The Newsletter's print page limit is dictated by the budget so not all submissions can be published. Items may be held for another issue or digital supplements may be published beyond the page limit in case of particularly useful items that cannot fit in the print edition.
 - c. **Excerpts** from [Alcoholics Anonymous](#), the [Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions](#), [The A.A. Service Manual](#) or other Conference-approved literature are printed with permission of [A.A.W.S., Inc.](#)
 - d. The Preamble as well as **excerpts** from the [AA Grapevine](#) and [AA La Viña](#) are printed with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Background for Newsletter Motion April 2025

Following are the standing Area Actions regarding the Newsletter, several of which have not been implemented for recent rotations. There appear to be no Area Actions superseding them, nor anything relevant in the SETA Policies & Procedures Manual, nor any acknowledgement of them in the Job Description.

Believing that Area Actions must be current to be useful, we propose to adopt the provisions listed in the Motion to replace the following Area Actions. **Comments in blue.**

Newsletter *Previous* Area Actions

M2011-014 7/10/2013 Passed unani- mously	Ad-Hoc on SETA Mailings Procedures –The Ad Hoc Committee on SETA Mailings further proposes that the preferred method for Area Newsletter distribution is via Email & the SETA Website postings with the following guidelines: 1. Phone numbers removed from the Contact Page of the Newsletter, leaving first names, last initials and the SETA position-based Email addresses; 2. Those without email access will still receive by mail; 3. Ability to “opt in” or unsubscribe at any time. Motion passed unanimously & is effective immediately.	Recent distribution has been by email & SETA Website—not snail mail. 1. Covered in 2(a-c) of the Motion. We think the space is better used for stating when the committee meets, with links to the monthly meetings or a map, than for names. Each committee name is linked to its web page where names are posted. 2. [Deleted—no mail.]
Comments cont’d.	3. Opt in by creating a SETA email account or joining SETA-Announce. There is no longer a separate Newsletter list. 4. We believe all readers have access to a smartphone or a printed copy via their DCMs/GSRs. No Newsletters have been mailed in recent memory. It’s too expensive (printing, postage, seals or envelopes, labels), time-consuming (assembling, mailing and maintaining list) and space-consuming (requires a blank half-page or envelopes). 5. Any member can still opt in by obtaining a SETA email address or directly joining SETA-Announce. They can opt out via their own email Filters if they wish; it’s simpler to delete it from email if a member doesn’t want to read it.	

M2004-012 Passed	<p>Motion to accept Newsletter Guideline #4, which states: "The Newsletter will carry the following statements:</p> <p>A. The newsletter editor reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any comment or flyer deemed inappropriate or for editorial needs.</p> <p>B. Excerpts from <i>Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve and Twelve</i> or the <i>A.A. Service Manual</i> are printed with permission of A.A.W.S., Inc. The Preamble as well as excerpts from the <i>Grapevine</i> and <i>La Vina</i> are printed with permission of A.A. Grapevine Inc.</p>	<p>A. Covered in 3(b) of the Motion.</p> <p>B. Covered in 3(c-d) of the Motion.</p>
M2004-011 Passed	<p>Motion to accept Newsletter Guideline #3, which states: "Members may request from Newsletter Editor to be added to electronic mail list."</p>	<p>Signing up for a SETA email address or SETA-Announce automatically subscribes to Newsletter.</p>
M2004-01004/11/04 Passed	<p>Motion was made to accept recommendation #2 of the Newsletter Guidelines as amended.</p>	<p>See M2004-009 next</p>
M2004-00904/04/2004 Passed	<p>Motion to amend recommendation #2 of the Newsletter Guidelines to read: "The Newsletter will accept articles from Regional Trustees, Area Officers, Standing Committees, DCMs, GSR, and Past Delegates."</p>	<p>Proposed Guidelines widen sources to service pieces from "any reputable A.A. source." Many other Areas publish valuable content which we would be lucky to reprint. This also allows announcing national service committee entities such as the National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW), the National PI/CPC Working Group, National Corrections Conference, etc.</p>
Comments	<p>Sources [Draft] :</p> <p>The Newsletter will consider and, if published, credit the source of service-related articles from</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Trustees; 2. Regional Service Assemblies; 3. Regional Forums; 4. Delegate; 5. Alternate Delegate; 6. Area Officers; 7. Standing Committees; 8. Ad hoc Committees; 9. Convention Chairs; 10. Intergroup Liaisons; 11. DCMs; 12. GSRs; 13. Past Delegates; 	<p>The draft list is much too long and might need to be updated often. Better to leave it in the Editors' judgment if it is service-related and "a reputable A.A. source."</p>

		14. A.A. Conference approved literature, 15. A.A.W.S. publications including service material, Box 4-5-9, Sharing Behind the Walls, About A.A., updates, etc., 16. A.A. Grapevine; 17. La Viña; 18. La Vigne, and 19. Other reputable A.A. sources such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. District or Area Newsletters; b. International Convention; c. National A.A. Technology Workshop (NAATW); d. National PI & CPC Working Group; e. Technology in A.A. Forum (TIAA); f. Texas State Convention, and g. Young People in A.A. (YPAA), including TXCYPAA & ICYPAA. <p><u>On second thought, this list is too long and will take up too much space in the Newsletter. How about:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Newsletter focuses on service-related pieces relevant to SETA and will consider and credit any reputable A.A. source. 	
M2004-008 04/04/04		Motion to amend recommendation #2 of the Newsletter Guidelines which states: "The Newsletter will accept articles from Area Officers, Standing Committees, DCMs, and GSRs of the Southeast Texas Area" by eliminating the word GSR. Motion failed.	Failed
M2004-007 04/04/04 Passed	04/04/04	Motion #1 of the Newsletter Guidelines states: " No last names of members of Alcoholics Anonymous will be used in the newsletter."	Covered by Motion 2(c)
M1991-008 04/14/1991 Passed	[M]otion for 4 standing changes to the Quarterly Newsletter.		
	Comment: Believing that the four standing changes in 1991 were replaced by the four recommendations on the Newsletter Guidelines in 2004, the unsuccessful search for the 1991 standing changes was discontinued.		
M1985-001 01/13/1985 Passed	[M]oved that we print the group names and the amount of their contributions in the area newsletter.		
	Comment: Group contributions have not been printed in the Newsletter for at least 10 years. The information is posted on the Treasurer's webpage in the quarterly report. There is much more useful information to encourage and improve service that can fill more than the 8 pages we can print.		