

AA Area 36, District 24, Internet Guidelines

Introduction

The Internet has become a popular mechanism for opening up communications to the masses. Almost all individuals have access through some combination of home, work and public library computers. While this wonderful tool provides easy and broad access to information, its usage can impinge on AA's 12 Traditions.

This document describes District 24 policy related to the use of our Internet Website and Email.

Web

District 24 maintains a website at www.district24aa.org. This website exists for a variety of reasons including:

- Carry AA's message to those still suffering
- Extend AA's reach into communities not otherwise served
- Provide a directory of meetings within the district
- Foster the involvement of those seeking general service opportunities
- Facilitate District 24 general service activities
- Communicate correct information among the AA community and fellowship and to help dispel misinformation about AA as a whole
- Provide links to additional AA related resources

This website is open to all who have access to the Internet.

In keeping with A.A. General Service Conference and the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly (Area 36) Internet Guidelines, District 24 has adopted the following:

All information on District 24's website will be published in an anonymous fashion. Anonymity in this context means that people will be referred to by their first name and last initial. Among other things last names, phone numbers, addresses and pictures are prohibited.

GSO's guidelines recognize that materials identifying people are routinely handed out at meetings. These breaches of anonymity are considered acceptable due to distribution within the program.

All those submitting content to be published on the website must adhere to these guidelines. Two versions will need to be created and maintained for those instances where it's desired to have a meeting version that breaks anonymity.

All content submitted for website publication will be reviewed. Any documents found to violate anonymity will be returned for editing.

Email

Email is an inherently insecure method of communication. Relatively simple tools and techniques can be applied to "spy" on the emails as they traverse the Internet. This "spying" is available to anyone,

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anywhere who has the skills and the desire to snoop. As such, AA's principle of anonymity should always be followed when sending Internet Email.

Various techniques including encrypted attachments can be used prevent this snooping.

Work Usage

Many people find that they use their work computers for personal purposes, including their AA related activities. Most employers maintain ownership of company Email facilities reserving the right to review contents without notice or permission. As such, it is highly desirable to avoid the use of company email addresses and computers when dealing with AA related matters. In the event such usage can't be avoided the user is expected to conform to all employer rules and regulations.

Free email accounts are available from a variety of sources including Google, Yahoo, Hotmail or MSN for those interested in obtaining a non-work account. In addition to personal usage, these free email accounts can also be used for a specific purpose such as communication related to an upcoming event (Shakopee12StepWorkshop@gmail.com).

Additional Readings

AA General Service Internet Guidelines: http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/mg-18_internet.pdf