

FA's First Four Years – Just in Case You're Wondering

1971

April 29: FA's first organizational meeting takes place in southern California, attended by more than 50 members.

May 5: At FA's second meeting, foundational topics are discussed, and many decisions are made. The fellowship's name is selected from among 30 that are submitted. FA's bylaws are drafted. A Literature Committee is established. The first draft of *A Basic Pamphlet* (#1001) is circulated. *A Guide for the Family of the Drug Abuser* (#1002) is finalized and readied for printing.

The group sets up shop in Culver City, California, in a suite shared with an accountant. The rent for this small space is \$60/month. FA remains in Culver City for 40 years, until relocating to Des Plaines, Illinois, in 2011.

Public-information opportunities are pursued, including a presentation to probation officers and student drug-users at a school, an FA discussion on a radio station, and a write-up in *Inventory* (a quarterly magazine on substance abuse).

1972

January: FA leases its first office, for six months, at a cost of \$90/month.

February: Letters begin arriving from out of state.

March: Discussions commence about tax-exempt status, which leads to FA's incorporation, and about liability insurance for officers. Active groups start in North Carolina.

May: Drafts of a suggested meeting format and the earliest "basic readings" are reviewed.

June: FA's bylaws are approved. The title for FA's newsletter – *The Twelve Step Rag* – is chosen from among 31 entries.

August: *The Twelve Step Rag* banner is designed. Nonprofit status is attained on August 31. Five literature publications, including *A Father Faces Drug Abuse* (#1003), are completed.

Public-information work includes articles in the *Los Angeles Times*; outreach to schools and police diversion programs; radio and TV news coverage and taped interviews; articles for health magazines; presentations to the local Delinquency and Crime Prevention program and probation department; panel discussions; literature for libraries.

1973

Dunn Brothers in Hawthorne, California, prints FA literature in its "down time" for a number of years. The only cost to FA is the paper. This gives the fellowship a large financial boost.

Members are on the lookout for public-information opportunities, driving considerable distances to speak at all manner of conferences, seminars, and workshops on legal, public, and health-information issues.

New groups are forming all over the country. There is interest in establishing Spanish-speaking groups and translating FA literature into Spanish.

1974

Out-of-state groups are forming so rapidly that the WSO is swamped with requests for information. Anonymity is defined more specifically with regard to public-information communications. More than 30 public-information activities take place in 1974.