

# WRITING FOR UNITY

## ***Who writes the Unity?***

You do. Unity stories are always welcome. The content of Unity is written solely by sober members of AA. Without your contributions, the pages of Unity would be empty.

## ***What is the schedule of topics for the Unity?***

The schedule is determined by the months of the year. The first month of the year, January, is always about the first step/first tradition/first concept. The second month of the year, February, is always about the second step/second tradition/second concept, and so on.

Holidays or historic events may influence a topic. For instance, relationships and romance are typical February subjects because of Valentine's Day. The November topic is always gratitude because Thanksgiving is in November. June is the month AA was founded. Other special topics may be announced a month or two ahead of time.

## ***When is the Unity deadline?***

The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. If you e-mail your story to [daytonunity@gmail.com](mailto:daytonunity@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, it will usually be in time for the next month's issue. Events and announcements are also due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## ***What should I write about?***

Anything related to your personal experience in sobriety is an appropriate topic for a Unity story. Write in the first person (use "I" statements) to avoid a scolding or admonishing tone. You may write about your own beliefs and opinions as long as you don't insult others for having different beliefs. Please respect the anonymity of other members in your writing. Avoid personally identifying details. (For example, "A woman I know at a noon meeting at South Side who wears an eye patch and always has a parrot on her shoulder told me....")

If you hear something at a meeting that makes you see things in a different light, write about it. If you've stayed sober through a difficult experience, write about it. If there's something you really like about a particular meeting, write about it. If you have experience, strength and hope to share, write about it.

## ***How long should my story be?***

A good story length is 500 words to start. Stories longer than 900 words will be edited for length. A long story is like a long share at a meeting: it takes up space that could be used to give other people an opportunity to share.

## ***What about photos and art?***

Photos and art are welcome. Stories and art are published at the discretion of the editor. Decisions are made with the 12 Traditions in mind.