

**ESSAY, march 1991**

## **Report on Sobriety Definition Survey**

Roy Ks 12 December 1990 letter to SA groups invited groups to respond to what he felt was SAs interpretation of the sobriety definition:

Regarding SAs definition of sexual sobriety, "married" means traditional, legal, heterosexual marriage, and "spouse" does not include "committed relationships" with either the same or opposite sex.

Groups were invited to express whether they affirmed, did not affirm, or chose not to respond to this statement.

### **Mechanics of the Survey**

To provide a system of checks, survey responses were to be returned on the SA letterhead provided. Individual groups were identified by name, city, meeting day and time, contact person, and address. Responses were dated, and comments were solicited. The matter of how the survey at group level would be conducted was left up to each group. The target date of 4 January was chosen so the trend could be reported to the Oklahoma City convention. Due to time constraints, about as many responses came in after that date as before. Cutoff date was 22 February.

### **Results of Group Sobriety Survey:**

Number of groups responding: 170 Number of groups affirming the 12 December statement: 128 (75.3%) Number of groups not affirming the statement: 32 (18.8%) Number of groups marking "chooses not to respond": 10 (5.9%) Ambiguous responses (not counted): 8

### **PO BOX 300, march 1991 Oklahoma City Convention Business Meeting Report**

[A departure from current practice was made when convention planners decided that the convention business meeting, traditionally dealing only with matters pertaining to conventions, would, in this case, also bring up other matters. It was stated at the beginning of the business meeting that any suggestions or recommendations made on such other matters would be suggestions only, not binding on the fellowship.]

The following report is from Jean P., who chaired the business meeting:

"At the business meeting of the Oklahoma City SA conference, January 12, 1991, the following motions were made and passed:

[.....]

"3. Following a discussion of SA's sobriety statement, a motion was made that this conference business meeting go on record as recommending that Sa's sobriety statement be left exactly as it is now written in the SA manual. After extensive discussion, this motion was passed 36 to 1, with 3 abstentions. [.....]

**article by Roy K. By letter of 12 December 1990**

, I invited all SA groups to express themselves regarding the interpretation of SA's sobriety definition. Although the letter was from me, it was written with and received the unanimous consent of the Central Office Advisory Committee on 8 December 1990. The actual wording of the statement was suggested by members of that Committee. (A brief sketch of the origin and service of the Advisory Committee is included in this mailing.)

As new members and groups have come on the scene since 1981, there has been less direct encounter with the spirit of SA's origins and principles. One result is that some people and groups have different views and conduct about SA's fundamental principle of sexual sobriety, yet continue to call themselves SA. This has raised serious issues regarding trademark and copyright infringement involving unauthorized changes to SA's Traditions, Steps, literature, and statement of sobriety. (See Report on the NY Legal Issue.) Thus it became necessary to determine whether SA as a whole\_\_¿the majority of groups\_\_¿did still in fact hold to SA's interpretation of sobriety.

The sobriety survey was thus intended to provide a "sense of the Fellowship" on how SA's sobriety was being interpreted by its groups. It was not intended to discriminate. It was not intended to suggest a change in SA's literature. It was not a vote to see what SA wanted for a sobriety definition; that was settled in 1981. It was to get the sense of the percentage of groups adhering or not adhering to the commonly held view of SA sobriety.

Let me reemphasize: SA, as always, is inclusive, welcoming those from any sexual experience "who want to stop lusting and become sexually sober."

We decided the 12 December survey should go to groups instead of individuals because SA decisions in the past have been made on a group basis. It was also felt that members might want to know where groups stand on the sobriety issue.

Roy K.

[...]

12 December: Following advice of legal counsel and that of the Advisory Committee, Roy K. writes to all SA groups, inviting them to respond to the sobriety survey so the sense of the fellowship on interpretation of the sobriety statement can be determined. (The IGC was incomplete and inoperative at the time.)

[...]

22 February 1991: Results of the 12 December sobriety survey are in. Of the 170 groups responding to the survey, 128 (75.3%) affirm the statement, 32 (18.8%) do not affirm, and 10 (5.9%) chose not to respond.