

SHOPLIFTERS ANONYMOUS

WHAT IS SHOPLIFTERS ANONYMOUS?

ShA is a fellowship of men and women who meet to share their experience, strength and hope with one another in order that they may solve their common problem and help those who still suffer to recover from compulsive shoplifting.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ShA?

Our primary purpose is to stop compulsively shoplifting. We welcome in fellowship and friendly understanding all those who share our common problem.

ShA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organizations or institutions; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

WHAT IS THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP?

There are NO dues or fees for ShA membership. We are self-supporting through our own contributions.

IS ShA FOR YOU?

Most of us have been unwilling to admit we were real compulsive shoplifters. No one likes to think that they are different from their fellows. Therefore, it is not surprising that our shoplifting careers have been characterized by countless vain attempts to prove we were like other people. The idea that somehow, some day, we will control our shoplifting is the great obsession of every compulsive shoplifter. The persistence of this illusion is astonishing. Many pursue it into the gates of prison, insanity, or death.

We learned we had to concede fully to our innermost selves that we are compulsive shoplifters. This is the first step in our recovery. With reverence to shoplifting, the delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed.

We have lost the ability to control our shoplifting. We know that no real compulsive shoplifter ever regains control. All of us felt at times we were regaining control, but such intervals – usually brief – were inevitably followed by still less control, which led in time to pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization. We are convinced that shoplifters of

our type are in the grips of a progressive illness. Over any considerable period of time we get worse, never better.

Therefore, in order to lead normal happy lives, we try to practice, to the best of our ability, certain principles in our daily affairs. These principles are laid out in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, as adapted for ShA.