



## The Tributary

May 28-30, 2010 Area 76 Spring Convention Cody

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"From the Chair"  
"Events, Deadlines, and Links"

### On the website (<http://area76wtaa.org>)

Tributaries 2008 - present

Print this issue for your groups



The AA triangle is set in the symbol of our fellowship --the **circle and triangle**. In construction the **triangle** is the strongest structural shape. The **circle** of our symbol represents the fellowship of AA. It connects at three points with the triangle. If any one leg of the triangle is shortened or lengthen the circle is deformed. If one leg is broken, the circle collapses on itself. So each leg of the triangle needs to be strong to support the circle. Each leg needs to be equal to avoid deforming the circle.

The representations of the triangle:

The **12 steps**: the **recovery** leg  
The **12 traditions**: the **unity** leg  
The **12 concepts**: the **service** leg

As a member and servant of Alcoholics Anonymous I need to follow and practice these three sets of principles not only for my survival but the survival of the fellowship and those yet to come.

**Recovery**: In the foreword to the 3rd edition of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" there is a simple statement: "Recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength and hope". In the chapter "Bill's Story" is this statement: "We meet frequently so that newcomers may find the fellowship". On page 164 is the statement: "Obviously you cannot transmit something you do not have".

What I have observed is that these basic statements seem to be overlooked or ignored. Meetings are not the recovery program of AA. They are an introduction to the fellowship. One-on-one sponsorship is the AA program. Experience, strength and hope comes about from practicing the process of all 12 steps. So the suggestions from the first meeting I attended are still true today:

Keep coming back  
Get a big book  
Get a sponsor

**Unity**: Foreword to the second edition: "We had to unify the fellowship or pass off the scene."

In the 1940's the traditions came about to promote unity in the fellowship. The very things that resulted in the traditions are still in existence today:

Quarrels over membership, leadership, and money  
Strivings for power and prestige  
Schisms which would split AA apart

As a servant of the fellowship today, I need to be careful not to break the traditions. While they are not rigid rules I believe they can be "bent" only so far.

**Service**: Page 77: "Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us". One of my first employments was as a service station attendant. When a customer came in for gas, their windshield was cleaned, oil checked, tires checked. I was trained on how to perform these services. The customers were at much less risk of an accident or mechanical break down. I know now that it was a marketing ploy to sell more products. Then self-serve came in. People pumped their own gas to save 2 cents per gallon.

When I finally came to the fellowship of AA, my self-serving brought me to a point of breakdown. My life was a wreck. Service, as I was taking the 12 steps of AA, amounted to making the coffee, emptying ash trays, washing dishes, cleaning the meeting place; things way below my over-inflated ego. The process of the 12 steps deflated my ego. Then I was grateful to perform those menial tasks for the group.

Then my group selected me as GSR. I learned about the traditions. I needed to read and study the service manual. I needed to learn how to check the oil of AA.

The marketing ploy is that I am in much less danger of breakdown or wreck and hopefully so is the fellowship.

-- Greg B.

I used to measure the length of trips by "six packs". Now I measure them by "speaker CDs".

---- From the Chair ----

"Perhaps more than any other group of people in A.A., the area committee is responsible for the health of the Conference structure and thus for growth and harmony of the A.A. Fellowship."  
-- Service Manual, Chapter 5

**Greetings, Area 76!** I'd like to thank everyone who attended our Area Assembly in Green River. I was truly grateful to see so many members engaged in our service structure! There was a huge amount of information for the committees to pour over and then get the rest of us up to speed to arrive at an informed Area conscience. We saw quite a few A.A. members who were not voting members of the Assembly have a valuable role in the committees. 10 o'clock at night, and we were still discussing! You are all amazing!!

The good news for everyone about our upcoming Assembly in Evanston is that the agenda won't be nearly so heavy. Our Winter Assembly is our pre-Conference gathering: our opportunity to get informed about the GSC agenda and share our thoughts with our Delegate. As such, we just have to figure that the Winter Assembly is always going to be a long one! Our Summer Assembly gives us an opportunity to more thoroughly discuss local issues as well as discuss proposals for the following year's GSC (General Service Conference). And next year, our Summer Assembly will also be our election assembly.

Referring to the quote from The Service Manual above, for a long time, I didn't understand what was meant by "the Conference structure." I figured it meant THE Conference and all the stuff in New York. I thought that our Area was our local business and certainly my homegroup had nothing to do with New York. While I've been at many Area Assemblies where the GSC agenda was discussed in a myriad of ways, it was often kind of a hassle! It was a shock to

read in the Conference Charter, the document that we agreed on in 1955 that set up the Conference, that the sole purpose of the Area was to convene every two years to elect a Delegate and that such area assemblies are concerned only with the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. Since 1955, we've found many other ways for the Area Committee to perpetuate our message. We've added Area Conventions, this newsletter, arranging for people to carry the message into our State Corrections facilities, to name a few.

Consider the DCM (District Committee Member). When we have a District meeting, the GSRs (General Service Representatives), officers, and standing committee chairs are usually all considered members of the District Committee. So why is only one of them called the District Committee Member? Well, the DCM is actually an Area Committee member elected by the district, just as our delegate is a Conference member elected by our Area.

It took me awhile to wrap my head around the idea that a GSR is really, really, really part of the Conference structure and that at every level of our Conference structure - group, district, area, conference, that there are two equally important aspects of each level: the local consideration of that level and the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. I think this is what is meant by, "responsible for the health of the Conference structure and thus for growth and harmony of the A.A. Fellowship."

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as the chair of the Area Committee, looking forward to seeing everyone in Evanston, and hope everyone has a great Convention!

-- Brooke C.

**Late note** -- we need a CPC Chair. Contact me at [chairperson@area76wyaa.org](mailto:chairperson@area76wyaa.org)

**Did you hear about the skeleton that went to the bar and ordered a beer and a mop?**

## Invitation

I don't mind small issues of the Tributary. In fact, there is an advantage. Less intimidating. It has been decided that maybe the Tributary is not a good vehicle for Agendas, Minutes, and flyers.

For the next issue, I would like to see an article or two on "My destiny". I'm thinking that we all have our life scripts that we learn from our childhood -- from our parents and significant others. Both positive and negative. How can we make the most of our positive models and overcome the negative models? But don't let me limit you.

What is appropriate? (Brief is fine)

Articles on recovery, unity, service.  
Personal experiences, strengths, hopes.  
Group/District/Area concerns.  
Poems (that would surprise everyone).  
Pictures (black and white, of course).  
Original cartoons.  
History of AA in your town.  
One or two sentences "heard at a meeting".

I used to look for straight-flushes  
and full-houses and was disappointed.  
Why couldn't I see that getting 2-pairs  
and 3-of-a-kinds was a great life?

### ---- From the Webmaster ----

Flyers, Flyers, Flyers.....

- \* How do get flyers out to everybody?
- \* How do you find current Flyers?

Go to the Area 76 website at [www.aa-wyoming.org](http://www.aa-wyoming.org) and click on Event Flyers. I am pretty active and post a lot of Flyers so you are able to get an easy-to-remember resource for posting Flyers at Clubs, Conferences, Meeting, etc.

If I don't have your Flyer you can email it to me at [webmaster@area76wyaa.org](mailto:webmaster@area76wyaa.org)

or on the Event Flyers page you can Create an account. With an Area 76 Account you can upload Flyers directly to the Web Site. This service has only been available since April and we have already had Dozens of Flyers posted and HUNDREDS downloaded. It is pretty Amazing.

-- Wayne H.

## Events, Deadlines, and Links

(Additions, corrections to [xxx@xxx.xxx](mailto:xxx@xxx.xxx))

From the Guidelines:

Mar-Apr: Winter Assembly  
May-Jun: Spring Convention  
Jul-Aug: Summer Assembly  
Oct-Nov: Fall Convention

### 2010 Dates:

May 28-30 Spring Convention, Cody  
Jul 1-4 2010 International Convention,  
San Antonio  
Jul 11 **Deadline** - Tributary submissions  
Jul 30-Aug 1 Summer Assembly, Evanston  
Oct 15-17 Fall Convention, Gillette  
Nov 12-14 WC Regional Forum, Rapid City

### 2011 Dates:

\_\_\_\_\_ Winter Assembly, Rawlins  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spring Convention, Cheyenne  
\_\_\_\_\_ WCRAASC, Brainerd, MN  
\_\_\_\_\_ Summer Assembly, Lander/Riverton  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fall Convention, Casper

### Local Events (add yours):

Jun 11-13 Devil's Tower Campout  
Jun 11-13 CCYPA, Denver  
Jun 18-20 June Jamboree, Mills  
Jul 9-10 Tye Flume Campout, Dist's 1&2  
Jul 16-18 Allred Flat Campout, Afton  
Sep 10-12 Pig Roast, Gillette

### Links:

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