



Later in this issue:

From Officers, Chairs, Bill W.
"Events, Deadlines, and Links"

On the website (<http://area76syaa.org>):

Tributaries 2008 - present

Print this issue for your groups



---- A Story ----

I'll just start when I was at the bottom. My bottom. I've been drinking and drugging for about 35 years. Mother and Father -- alcoholics; Brother and sister -- both, partly. I am the youngest.

I've done some bad things in my life, and bad things have happened to me. I was 46 when I tried to commit suicide by slashing my throat on both sides. It was supposed to be the last straw. I asked God to take me or let me live a new life. Only by God's hand did I survive.

I found God again in my life, I truly believe. All of a sudden here was hope. With my eyes open wide, I started over. I got out of my basement apartment. That in itself opened my eyes. I went to an inpatient program called The Haven. The only one of its kind -- treating men and women living in a house outside of town. When I got there I still hadn't detoxed. When I finally came around I started to open up about my past. I started to become part of the family.

I met this girl who had been searching for her father for all her life. She mentioned his name and I asked if he was a roofer. I've been a roofer for most of my life and so was Kim, her father. He had been a friend for a long time. He had recently lived on my couch for about a year. He also was an alcoholic. We drank together for a long time. I was kind of looking out for him. When I told her all of this, she was overwhelmed. A few days later she asked for his phone number. It was out of my hands. They finally were about to meet for the first time in 28 years. Kim's daughter and I started to get close, like I was a new Godfather for her.

Kim died alone in Denver. That was devastating for both of us. They only knew each other for 4 months. After the funeral, she and I became even closer. She asked me if I would give her away when she gets married. I said I would. That felt great, especially since I have no children. I felt privileged to do this for Kim and for her.

Now we aren't getting along. She found out that I was taking medication -- pain pills. She, along with where I did my rehabilitation, say I've slipped; that I have relapsed. They made me question my sobriety. I had to ask God what to do. I ended up also asking for help from the fellowship. I had to tell her to clean her own side of the street before she worried about mine. I haven't heard from her in a month or so. I'm sure we will talk soon.

For me, I'm living a good clean life. I feel I'm spiritually fit. I come to A.A. for knowledge and for relief of my thoughts and reactions. I hear me in other's stories. All I know is that I'll keep coming back.

Scott

I know that God
will not give me more
than I can handle.
I just wish
he didn't trust me so much.
-- Mother Theresa

---- From the Treatment Chair ----

Hi -- my name is Dave and I am an Alcoholic.

When I was asked to be Area 76 Treatment Facility Chair I knew it would be a lot of work, but it would help me keep AA in my life 24-7. (I pulled some quotes out of the treatment facility work book for better illustration.) Since its beginning in 1935, the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous has cooperated with treatment facilities. Bill W. himself was a product of a treatment facility — Towns Hospital in New York City. After he had finally put together several months of sobriety, Bill returned to Towns to try to work with other alcoholics. This was the beginning of A.A.'s Twelfth Step work in hospitals.

So you see, AA has been working with treatment facilities from the start. This does not imply that we stop going on twelve step calls or doing one-on-one work, this just means there is more than one way to **carry the message.**

I would like to explain what AA does at the treatment facilities. We cooperate with the facility not affiliate. We go to meetings not to run them but to carry the message. Like one client (this is the general term the facility uses for people in treatment) told me it is so good to hear that it is working outside of the facility and to hear a fresh AA view instead of hearing the same view from the same clients for the whole time they are there.

I attend the treatment facility meeting on Sunday morning (right now it is the only meeting outside AA's are allowed to attend) -- the facility chairs the meeting, they read the open meeting statement, then the preamble, then how it works or something out of the big book, then the daily meditation, then the chair goes to their right or left and see what everybody has to share, in accordance with the open meeting statement.

"This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are here - especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our third tradition which states that "the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking" we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems as they relate to alcoholism."

Then we share, our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. It is just like any other meeting. The facility also attends the one Saturday night speaker meeting.

I hope this story helps somebody in AA that wants to be of more service in carrying the message. You do not need to be intimidated by treatment facility meetings.

Treatment is Discovery, AA is Recovery.

David B, Area 76 Treatment Chair

---- From District 7 ----

Hi, my name is Todd T. Alcoholic, Evanston... DCM, Dist.7 for those of you who did not know...

Life is a Journey and time flies. A few days ago I became willing to go to any length to get it. Actually feels like just moments ago -- in my puzzle of life it really is -- just moments.

Promises -- one of the many things I could never get right. If I only had a dime for every promise I never kept. LOL.

The greatest simple influence in my life today is The Big Book. Through it my Higher Power has given me promise and promises. Are they extravagant? I think not. In fact I have found the Big Book itself to be rigorously honest. The promises are not extravagant, if we work for them.

Work -- service in particular. I had the eye-opening experience of chairing the summer assembly; have been to the Allred Flat campout in July; stayed with my Lander AA family at the Frye Lake campout labor day weeknd. "Wyoming Woodstock" shirts were worn. The cops showed up. LOL.

The weekend after labor day, I camped out at the Bear Lake Bash, got an awesome Bash quilt and pillow. Fantastic meetings and food next to a lake right out of the Bahamas. I could relate a book full of spiritual experiences from these four examples alone!!

Work??? I never worked so ...hard at having the time of my life, ...hard at having some real fun, ...hard at laughing ...with friends. I guess I never really understood the phrase "work and service". Probably because I used to work so ...hard at getting my next drink. Sadly, that's what I do best.

But for the grace of God.

Todd T.

Be yourself.

Everyone else will appreciate
the originality.

---- From the Treasurer ----

Seventh Tradition (Long Form): The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this idea; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

This is the tradition which we try to live by when it comes to money in Alcoholics Anonymous. At the Area level, the treasury is supported by contributions from groups and individual members, as well as any money made from conventions or assemblies to provide services to the Area. These services include electing a delegate to represent us in New York at the General Service Conference annually; sending the delegate to each district to report on the GSC and to the regional service conference to represent the Area; meeting twice a year to discuss items from the GSC agenda and Area business; choose and support host committees for conventions and assemblies; support Area committee members in carrying the message to alcoholics in the Area; maintaining a website; printing our Area's newsletter, The Tributary, for distribution throughout the Area.

To continue these services, our treasury must be supported by contributions. If we spend what we budgeted this year, we will have spent more than what came in. This is unsustainable over time. At present we have the money for the budget, but this will not last if contributions do not continue. At the beginning of the year, the Finance Committee Chair will put together the annual budget based on the budget request forms that are submitted by Area committee chairs and officers. When this is done, we will have a better idea whether we will have to change our Area's spending or not. Group contributions are important to continue vital services at the Area level. It is also important that the money sent to the Area is spent responsibly and prudently. Please inform the Area treasurer, your GSR, DCM, or an Area committee member if you have questions or concerns about the Area treasury or a request for additional Area service, or if you are

interested in having a workshop on the 7th tradition and self-support.

In Love and Service,
Kim G.

---- From Bill W., 1947 ----

Perhaps this is not the time or place to talk at length of my own recovery, of our A.A. program in detail, or of our astounding growth. This room is filled with fellow alcoholics who know and practice the A.A. way of life as well as I. The accomplishments of Alcoholics Anonymous are headlined in the press of the world. So I shall be content if I can remind myself, and any who would hear, that Alcoholics Anonymous is not, after all, a personal success story. It is instead, the story of our colossal human failures now converted into the happiest kind of usefulness by that divine alchemey - the living Grace of God.

-- Bill W. talking in Los Angeles, April 9, 1947

---- From the Trib Editor ----

I emailed the DCM's a couple of weeks ago to pick somebody in their district to write an article. I thought a week's notice would be better than a month's notice because, for me, if I had a month, I would forget. I'll try the same thing again for the next issue, but give maybe 3 weeks notice. **BUT DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED** -- share your experience, strength, hope, story, joke, poem, etc. My email is in the last column.

It ain't the heat,
It's the humility.
-- Yogi Berra

---- Events, Deadlines, and Links ----
(Additions, corrections to xxx@xxx.xxx)

From the Guidelines:

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

2010 Dates:

Oct 15-17 Fall Convention, Gillette
Nov 12-14 WC Regional Forum, Rapid City

2011 Dates:

Mar ?-? WCRAASC, Brainerd, MN
Mar 20 Tributary **deadline**
Apr 1-3 Winter Assembly, Rawlins
May 13-15 Spring Convention, Cheyenne
_____ Summer Assembly, Lander/Riverton
_____ Fall Convention, Casper

Local Events (add yours):

See flyers on website.

Links:

Website: www.area76wyaa.org
webmaster@area76wyaa.org

Tributary input: Dave C.

xxxxx
xxxxx
xxxxx
tributary@area76wyaa.org

Registrar: Don M.

xxxxx
xxxxx
xxxxx
registrar@area76wyaa.org

Area Contributions: Kim G.
(Checks payable to Area 76)

xxxxx
xxxxx
xxxxx
treasurer@area76wyaa.org