



The Tributary Issue 2011– Q2
2011 Spring Convention, Cheyenne, May 13-15

Later in this issue:

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- "Events, Deadlines, and Links"

On the website (<http://area76wyaa.org>):

- Tributaries 2008 - present
- Print this issue for your groups**



----- **A Story** -----

Today is my 55th birthday, and reflecting back I was probably alcoholic with that first drink, sometime during high school. I say that because I liked the effect so -- like the TV screen was all snowy and somehow with alcohol the picture cleared all nice and focused. Fortunately or unfortunately, I didn't really start drinking "alcoholically" until my mid 40's. Prior to that it was experimentally in college where I drank so much and became so ill that I didn't repeat those experiments for years to come. For example: rather ridiculous to spend money that was not plentiful anyway on BTO concert tickets, and then spend the concert in the bathroom puking. In later years, I would drink occasionally and as a rule socially. Although maybe sometimes more than other folks did.

I'm a nurse by profession but I did take a two-year detour to teach High School and do nursing part time. I had just renewed my teaching contract after the second year when I went to school in-between classes after drinking vodka, but who could smell that? So I lost that job, and came into the doors of AA. I continued working part time as a nurse and would have periods of

sobriety -- 2 months, 6 months, 9 months, 11 months -- on and on. I just wasn't getting it.

Out of frustration, I voluntarily joined a monitoring program for professionals where my feet would really be held to the fire if I relapsed. And that's exactly what happened. Now, nothing is voluntary. I'm essentially "on probation" with the Wyoming State Board of Nursing for 5 years and I am not allowed to give narcotics for 2 years. I must call in for drug testing every day, and as people say, "I'm on paper".

Of course, this entire time I wasn't the only one with frustration. My spouse was ready to divorce me and I think he would have thrown in the towel if we weren't so financially entangled in several business ventures.

Finally, I got honest, found a sponsor who had what I wanted, and with her help I worked those steps for the umpteenth time, and finally those awesome steps and God's grace saved me. Now I have 14 consecutive month's of sobriety with no compulsion to drink. Yes, I do believe in unity, service, and recovery. Keep coming back, I did, I am, and it's working.

So Lucky and Grateful, MaryAnne B.

----- **Found on the Archives Table: "In Case You Didn't Know"** -----

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship – designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualification for membership is that they can't hold their likker and don't want to learn how. It has no rules, dues or fees – no nothin' that any sensible organization seems to require. At meetings, the speakers start on one subject and end up talking about something entirely different, concluding by saying, "I don't really know anything about the program except that it works". The groups are always broke but always seem to have money; they are always losing members, but always seem to grow; they

claim AA is a selfish program but always seem to be doing things for others. Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements which everyone blithely ignores. Members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff – only to return as if nothing had happened and to be greeted accordingly. Nothing is planned more than 24 hours ahead – yet great projects are born and survive magnificently. Nothing in AA is according to Hoyle – how can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to laugh at ourselves; God made man – he made laughter too. Perhaps he is pleased with our efforts and makes everything right no matter who pushes the wrong buttons. Maybe he is pleased not with our perfections but with our sincerity; maybe he is pleased because we are trying to be nobody but ourselves. We don't know how, but it works; and members keep receiving their dividend checks from the AA investment. It's smart to stay sober.

----- Fellow AA's -----

I made my first meeting in the winter of 1975. As I recall I liked everything about it, the language of the heart, the fellowship, the coffee, the lack of fee's, almost everything except the "NO DRINK DEAL". I just didn't seem to be able to hang with that part. It's hard to get much sobriety without that part of the deal.

What I discovered 10 years later was that I only had part of what I needed to be successful in our design for living. Yes I know about "the only requirement for membership", but there are two requirements to live a sober and happy life. I had the "wanna" to be sober on that first meeting but I was missing the willingness to do the work needed for me to be not just dry but contentedly sober. You know, if you WANT what we have and are WILLING to go to any length to get it.

For me just the want to was not enough. It took 10 more years of my pain to get the willingness. I have been sober since Sept 5th of 1985 and am still willing to do what is asked of me in A A. I had a God given moment of clarity and was able to see that doing what I wanted was going to keep me drunk. I needed to do the next right thing and much of the time that had nothing to do with what

I wanted to do. I was soon to learn though that it is simple -- do the right thing and get the right feelings and that's what I always wanted was to feel good.

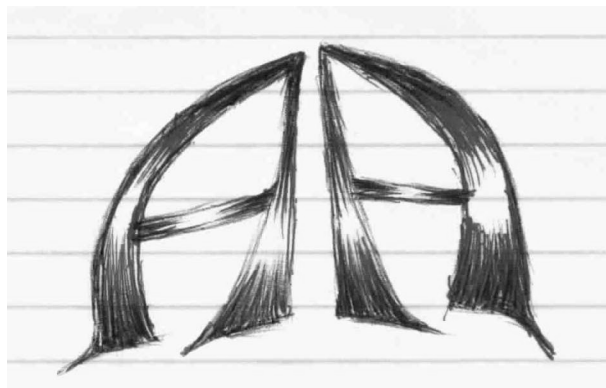
After 25 years of sobriety that has not changed. Do good, feel good.

I had an amazing thought during that moment of clarity: "I'll just say yes to any A A request if at all possible". That took me on a new journey into service for this fellowship and you guys let me do everything from the important stuff like making coffee to the little known parts of A A like serving my Area as Delegate at the General Service Conference and most all service positions in between.

Today I am still an active member in Alcoholics Anonymous. We all have our own journey in life and if you are an alcoholic like I am, there are two Powers in your life: a loving God that says "I love you -- please join your fellows in this new design for living"; and King Alcohol, that says "You had better or I will kill you!!"

Thank you for my sobriety and for a life far past what I deserve.

Love in the Fellowship, Paul J.



---- **Guidelines/R&C** (Report & Charter) ----

Hello Area 76,

Well, election time for our trusted servants is at our Summer Assembly. We still serve until the end of the year. It seems I am just starting to get a clue as to what my job entails. That's just my experience in service. I plan to pass on some information to the next person who gets this committee.

We will try to have our Area guidelines updated where necessary by the Summer Assembly. We also still need to find SOMETHING acceptable to the Assembly concerning these gap committees?? We will get something? See you in Riverton (St. Stephens Mission) July 29th-31st. Summer Assembly

Yours in Service, Dean S.

Heard at a meeting:

We're all different as to how we acted when drunk. I robbed banks.

----- **From the Registrar** -----

It is time to begin looking at updating your group, district and area officer information packets. December 31 Area 76, many districts and groups will have new leadership. With the change comes update information. If you have already done this and have not submitted your changes to me please do so soon!!

Here is how it works: Download the group information form from the AA website (http://aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/e_infchan.pdf) fill it out and either

a) email it to me (xxx@xxx.xx) or
b) mail it to me. (c/o Don M, xxx, xxx, xxx).
I would have you do this from our website but it isn't important enough for our webmaster to put it up there!!!!

Remember DCM's, it is your responsibility to ensure your entire district's and group's information is correct and updated and submitted in a timely manner.

For some personal info...

Many of you should know I am rotating out of Registrar the end of 2011. I jokingly have said to many of you that I have served my six year sentence. But in all honesty it has been a privilege and honor to be your

trusted servant. I have had some very rewarding experiences, some deep disappointments, and some very frustrating times as your Registrar since 2006. I have watched Area 76 change, sometimes to the good, and sometimes the not so good. But Area 76 is a living, breathing entity within the fellowship of AA and change is inevitable. What we do with it will make or break it.

With my rotation of service from Registrar, also comes my retirement from Area service. I have been in service work my entire length of sobriety in one way or another. I have witnessed many positive and some negative happenings for Area 76. I came into Area service as PI Committee Chair, and was instrumental in getting our website and its guidelines written and passed by the assembly in 1999. I also witnessed an Area Chair come into an Assembly and resign his position because of drinking again after 16 years. Now that took the wind out of our sails that year!! Remember?

I then went back and served my home District 12 as DCM. I witnessed participation of district meetings of just 6 participants to over 30 participants at my last meeting as DCM. Now that was a God thing!!

I was elected in 2002 as Area 76 Alternate Delegate, then Delegate in 2004-2005. That I am gladly saying was the highlight of my service, being able to represent you, the State of Wyoming in New York at the General Service Conference for Panel 54. What a journey that was for me both personally and spiritually. It is with gratitude to you, God, and the fellowship that I had the opportunity to serve in such a capacity. I have memories I will never forget!

So it is with mixed feelings I have decided to rotate into my lifetime commitment as being a past Delegate for Area 76. I will be down here in SE Wyoming or somewhere in Wyoming, attending AA meetings, sponsoring men who need it and welcoming newcomers to AA. You will see me still at Assemblies, sometimes, because I have a passion and desire to come. But I will be sitting in the back ready to help where needed.

I will miss the service work, but know what to do to get back in if it is too much to bare. It is at my home group serving coffee and shaking hands of the new folks and visitors coming me.

This it not goodbye, but see ya later...

And remember I love ya and there ain't a damn thing you can do about it.

Don M. Area 76 Registrar (outgoing)

---- **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

2011 Dates:

Jul 17 Tributary Input **Deadline**
Jul 29-31 Summer Assembly, St. Stephens (Riverton)
Oct 21-23 Fall Convention, Casper

2012 Dates:

_____ Winter Assembly, Sundance
Jun 1-3 Spring Convention, Laramie
_____ Summer Assembly, Torrington
_____ Fall Convention, Sheridan

Local Events (add yours):

Jun 10-12 26th Devil's Tower Campout
Jun 17-19 36th June Jamboree, Mills
Sep 2-5 17th Unity Campout, Frye Lake
Sep 22-25 15th Archive Workshop, Helena, MT
See these and other flyers on website.

Links:

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