



The Tributary Issue 2011– Q4
2011 Fall Convention, Casper, Oct 21-23

Later in this issue:

- "Letter to Ron"
- "Events, Deadlines, and Links"

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

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



---- Treasurer ----

Hi Area 76! It has been such a wonderful experience serving as your treasurer. I have really enjoyed the job as well as the people I have met and worked with along the way. I sure love AA and all it has given me and I really enjoy serving in any capacity. Thank you for the opportunity.

We definitely have some room to grow in the area of self-support as an Area. As servants of the area, all GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee Chairs and Officers need to bring back the message of self-support to their groups. Encourage participation in service and discuss contributions to the service entities with your groups so that we can continue to work on reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic and providing services to groups. If you need some help, grab an AA pamphlet, ask somebody for help, like your DCM, or an Area committee member or the delegate. We would love to help and share our experience, strength and hope about self-support.

Thanks again for letting me serve as Treasurer!! I look forward to seeing you in the future in service of AA.

Kim G, Treasurer

----Corrections ----

As Area 76 Corrections Chair, I have had the opportunity to work with an awesome committee. The committee members have been the movers and shakers in carrying the message to Wyoming's correctional facilities. They are dedicated beyond belief. When I've needed help, they've been there. When I've needed information, they've been there. When I've needed a whipping post, they've been there. Without them, carrying the message to those incarcerated simply would not happen.

We have had our trials over the last two years with the "devil letter". Hopefully, that is on the way to being resolved. We have ongoing issues with different facilities and I doubt that that will end anytime in the near future but those committed continue to "fight the fight".

The bottom line is that I feel so fortunate and blessed to have been a part of all that has happened in the last two years. The committee members I have come to know have been such a gift. Thank you all.

Sally W., Corrections Chair
(but not for long!)

A great discovery of the 20th Century was that changing your actions can change your thinking.

---- Chair ----

My warmest greetings to Area 76!

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all, once again, for allowing me such wonderful opportunities for service in our Area! It has been such a privilege to work with you all. I never quit being amazed at your passion, your commitment, your belief in our principles, and your love of our Fellowship. And I am always amazed at your willingness to put up with me for all of these years. Thank you for your trust! On to my report:

In September, I attended the West Central Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa. Boy, was that a long drive! I will always encourage you to attend any Regional functions. Sometimes the distances are great, but you will always get to meet a lot of people who have their shoulders firmly under all Three Legacies, and they prove to be a source of experience and knowledge! Besides, I want them to be able to meet you as I think pretty highly of you all.

In addition, I found really cheap tickets to Wichita, Kansas and got to go with my sponsor to the South West Regional Forum in early October. Forums are put on by the General Service Board every other year. The trustees give reports on all aspects of our Fellowship, put on workshops and presentations, and answer questions from the floor. Several staff members are also on hand. It's one thing to have a discussion about the Grapevine, but it's even better when you get to do it with the Grapevine Editor! The next one is 2013.

One of the things that really struck me was that there were several different topics of passionate discussion that were brought up at both Forums. Of the several topics, I noted that Area 76, at our last Assembly, had many of the same concerns AND passed several actions to forward to the General Service Conference for their consideration. It would appear that the changes that we've made in mirroring the Conference are not only getting the groups more informed about issues at hand, but also got us ahead of the ball on the timeline. When the Regional Trustee from the South East said that she wished someone would submit an agenda item on one of the

topics, I smiled to myself and thought, "Area 76 has got you covered!" Forgive me if I sound smug. I am really proud of you all! Also, because I know I will be asked several times, "No, the Area did not pay my way to these Forums."

Our next Regional function will be the West Central Regional Service Conference in Billings, Montana the first weekend in March. This one is pretty close for us, so I'm hoping that all of our new Area Officers, Committee Chairs and DCMs will make every effort to attend. At this Conference, you'll hear presentations, reports, get to attend workshops, and get informed about what is going on in our Fellowship - not to mention supporting our new delegate. Get in the car -- you'll be amazed!

And speaking of new DCMs, as your Districts are having their elections, please be sure to email me the information so I can pass it on to the incoming Area Delegate and Chair. Name, address, phone number, and email addy, please.

We are going to do one more teleconference for the Area standing Committee Chairs before we rotate to hopefully tie up any loose ends before we rotate. Current chairs, if you haven't passed your inventories on to me or haven't taken my inventory, yet, please be sure to get that to me as soon as you can. Also, if any of you have any feedback for me as chair, I welcome your comments.

We should have the new Department of Corrections "structure" in place by the first of the year. This will be in lieu of the dreaded "DOC letter" which was abandoned at our last Assembly.

I also have one more workshop before the end of the year. I am told that all are invited, and the information should be out by Convention time. Let me know if you haven't heard about it or if I can be of some help at another workshop.

Our next gathering will be the 2012 Winter Assembly in Sundance. Hope to see you all there!

That concludes my final report as General Service Area 76 chair. Thank you, again!

With Love in Service,
Brooke, Area Chair

It'll work out in the end.
It's just not the end yet.

This (non-AA) letter was read (with permission) by a member of my morning meeting. He was 3 years old when his 93-year-old Great-Grandfather wrote this letter on the occasion of the birth of his sister. It is in a realistic typewriter font.

August 13, 1958

My dear Xxxxx,

I am so glad to hear of your arrival. I am exceedingly glad that you so promptly sent your great grandfather word that you are here. And my, what a big girl you are. Eight pounds, two and one-half ounces. I'll bet that those big brothers of yours will never be able to push you around even if they double up on you.

I see from your beautiful little letter that you are from "Heaven" and that you are classified as "happiness". What a brave little girl you are to come to this rough and trying old earth to shed your happiness on your mamma and your daddy and your brothers and the hundreds and hundreds of people you will be meeting from time to time during your stay of eighty or ninety, or maybe one hundred years here on earth. I know that you will give to these people you meet all the way from great big portions of happiness to the ones you are to live with through all the years, to the tinier bits to all you come in contact with even briefly. And they will all be needing it and will bless you for bringing it with you and sharing it with them.

Down here on this earth where you are to stay for a time, many things may happen to disturb the pure and serene happiness which

was yours. You may shed tears occasionally. You may wonder at times if anyone in the whole world loves you. But this will not be true. The great Lord of the Heavens knows just what kind of a world he was permitting you to come into, and he planted in your little heart the tiny seeds of faith and hope and love, of belief and courage and enduring strength. He believed so much in these qualities which he implanted in you that he told us big folks that if we really desire heaven with all its happiness, we should be just as you are -- innocent, pure, loving, unspoiled.

So, your great grandfather hopes that when you are summoned back to that heaven from which you came to earth for a time, you may enter into a happiness that is greater and sweeter and deeper than any you have ever experienced or even dreamed. That the memory of every difficulty and every tear you have shed while here on earth will be a memory of triumph.

Knowing that you came on this journey packed light, I am sending in a separate package a bit of wearing apparel, hoping that it will enable you to get your social activities in operation at once.

Accept my sincere love,

Your Great Grandfather Thomas A. E...

I have become a pupil of the AA movement rather than the teacher. -- Bill Wilson

---- letter to Ron ----

---- Events, Deadlines, and Links ----

Ron Thompson sponsored many people in my morning group. He had chemotherapy for cancer, and was doing well. Because of his weakened immunity system, he succumbed to pneumonia in one day. This letter is from one of his sponsees.

Ron,

Tonight I got a call that you've left us to be closer to God, but there is so much I never got to say. I miss you already. My friend. My trusted advisor. My counsel in life and addiction. I didn't love you; I do love you for accepting this wayward felon when all others said I couldn't make it. You gave me back what I'd lost -- faith in others and myself. My heart hurts knowing I'll never share coffee with you at a meeting, and I feel a little lost. But I'm Sober. One day at a time.

You were my support through hard days. I dedicate this 24 hours to you my friend.

At first I asked God, "Why do you call the good ones back?" I still need you. I will always think of you as the friend who helped me find peace and sanity. I'm glad your pain has ended though.

Forever your sponsee & friend, Britain

P.S. I love you; and tell God to kick my butt every now and then.

---- Trib Editor ----

[It seemed like a good idea at the time]

I'm of the opinion that the Tributary is not the place for minutes, financial reports, or flyers. These are better off separate.

My hat goes off to Trib editors in the past who have done issues with, it seems, 10 or 20 articles. I actually prefer smaller Tribs because they are less intimidating. I'm not one to pester people, and consequently, I did not have an abundance of contributions. I had enough. And I was impressed with the quality.

I enjoyed this 2-year term of service. I would recommend that you submit articles to the next Trib editor. Ask your fellow members/sponsees to submit articles. It is satisfying and therapeutic. And it is appreciated by the readers.

Dave C, Tributary Editor

From the Guidelines:

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

2011 Dates:

Oct 22-24 Fall Convention, Casper

2012 Dates:

- Mar 2-4 ? West Central Regional Forum, Billings
- Mar 30-Apr 1 Winter Assembly, Sundance
- May-Jun ?-? Spring Convention, Laramie
- Aug 24-26 Summer Assembly, Torrington
- Oct-Nov ?-? Fall Convention, Sheridan

Local Events (add yours):

See flyers on website.

Links:

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Tributary input:

Registrar: Kim G.

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Area Contributions: (2012-2013)

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God's got our back.