

The TRIBUTARY

Area 76 Newsletter

Winter 2017



Throughout the entire world today we are witnessing the breakdown of “group conscience.” It has always been the hope of democratic nations that their citizens would always be enlightened enough, moral enough, and responsible enough to manage their own affairs through chosen representatives. But in many self-governing countries we are now seeing the inroads of ignorance, apathy, and power-seeking upon democratic systems. Their spiritual resources of right purpose and collective intelligence are waning. Consequently many a land has become so helpless that the only answer is dictatorship.

Happily for us, there seems little prospect of such a calamity in A.A.

*From “Twelve Concepts for World Service,
Concept 1,” by Bill W., 1962*

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Area 76 Happenings



From Our Area Chair:

We have all gone by the half way mark of this service cycle, and it's important that we all understand that our individual efforts and commitments are as needed and important as they have ever been. It's important that each of us make sure we have done everything we can to ensure that our individual responsibilities are met, so that all of us can collectively be confident that the service structure of Area 76 is in the best possible position to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

There is a never-ending supply of problems and concerns related to our mission to serve. I choose to think of these issues as "opportunities to succeed," and each of these opportunities has a solution and a process to get there. In Alcoholics Anonymous the process is an honest and concerted effort to reach an informed group conscience on any given issue. In order to be informed there must be a method of making certain that all members of the "group" have the necessary information and then in turn understand this information. This is an arduous and time-consuming effort.

If I have learned anything while serving others it is that the longer it takes, the better the outcome. That was hard for me to come to terms with, as patience is not one of my glaring qualities. It's been proven to me over and over again in general terms: a tabled issue that eventually gets solved always has a better outcome than a floor action that is acted upon in haste. I don't mean to suggest that there is no place for floor actions but their use should be minimized in the name of effective and lasting outcomes.

We all know that we ought not be organized, but I think it's important to understand that it doesn't mean that we should be disorganized! The service structure is made up of individuals who have defined responsibilities and who are volunteers who expressed a desire to give back to this thing of ours. If we each fulfill our obligations and make sure that we help each other, then we will be in the best possible position to serve the still suffering alcoholic. If one is going to serve, then that means that they must stay current with the tasks that are specific to their position. If weeks go by and attention is not given to job duties, then there is someone somewhere that is not able to do their job, which in turn leaves someone else in need and eventually results in the message not being carried to the one person we ultimately all serve, the suffering drunk who needs our help.

So ask yourselves if you are making this connection from your service position to the person who needs us most. If the answer is yes, then you are probably doing your job. If not, please fix whatever is wrong by whatever means necessary. There are many experienced members of Area 76 who will respond to requests for help and guidance. Service positions are not commitments of just the week before the assemblies. They are two-year commitments, and the workload varies based on the position and opportunities that come up. I will always be grateful for the trust and confidence that you all have afforded me. I can claim progress, and I understand that perfection is not a requirement. I will continue to serve all of you to the best of my ability, and I understand that it is a privilege to be in service to all of the members of Area 76.

Mel W.

Area 76 Chairman





I get to do service.

What does that mean? That service is a joy and a privilege. Service is something I can do in sobriety to maintain my spiritual condition. In return, I receive friendship, laughter and support from others. I get to witness Alcoholics Anonymous in action. I don't have to do anything at all, unless I want to stay sober.

In the early days of my sobriety, I didn't know what service meant. My biggest concern was not drinking. I was attending meetings and reading the Big Book. That's about it. But, as the fog began to lift, I heard conversations about service; people asked for help cleaning up or needed someone to open the meeting and make coffee. Those were things I could do. Within my first year of sobriety, I got to be the secretary for the home group. We had a very small home group, so we rotated jobs back and forth. Next, I got to be the treasurer - a real challenge for this people person - I am not a numbers person.

Eventually I became a GSR. I got to travel around the state and meet super-dedicated members of Alcoholic Anonymous who devote so much to maintaining our fellowship. I learned how important the home group member is to the general structure of AA. Each member has a voice through the group conscience. The GSR takes that voice to the District, Area, Region, and eventually GSO. It's incredible to think that our

organization has been maintained from the bottom up, not the top down, for so long.

After nineteen years of service for my home group in Utah, my husband and I moved back to his hometown in Wyoming. I was adrift with no home group. I didn't attend very many meetings because I felt different than, not a part of. Finally I picked a home group, found a sponsor, and volunteered as secretary for the group. I feel part of the big picture again.

Sure, sometimes it's inconvenient to do service, but I want to maintain my sobriety. After all, this is a program of action! What I have today is so much more than what I had when I was out there drinking. The only service I performed then was to keep the bars in business. They seem to be doing fine without me, and I get to do life without them.

Loran H.

District 2, Sheridan



SERVICE - I GET TO DO THIS

Woo-hoo! What a ride.

(Webster's College Dictionary 4th Edition) Service: "work done or duty performed for another or others"

(A.A. Service Manual) A.A.'s Legacy of Service: "Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives;

this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence....Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer – ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and the A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.”

Those definitions seem simple enough when one reads them. HA!

I was fortunate enough to have a sponsor bring me to my first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. When I came in to the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous, my thought was NOT on how to be of service to others. I needed a safe place for an hour where the demons and the drink would leave me alone. The idea had not crossed my mind that the act of that woman bringing me to a meeting was in fact SERVICE.

At two weeks sober, this same sponsor picked me up to go to a meeting (again, SERVICE). We then proceeded to pick up another woman on our way who was just a day or two sober. On the drive over to get her, my sponsor asked me to share with her how I was staying sober. I remember telling her I didn't think I had anything to share. She told me I had 10 days more experience of not drinking than this newer woman had. I was about to begin my journey in to SERVICE. The challenge in that situation was: was I willing and able? The same question of 'was I willing and able' would continue to present itself each and every time the opportunity of SERVICE would present itself.

Early in sobriety there was not much I was capable of, other than just being at a meeting. I was willing to go to those meetings, facing the fear of the unknown. The “unknown” included a) people; b) the type of meeting I was walking into; c) hoping no one would talk to me; and d) desperately hoping they would at least be nice and not ask me to leave! The meeting doors being open, the coffee being made, the literature out, the greeters at the doors: all were forms of SERVICE. People reaching out their hand, introducing themselves to me, and exchanging telephone numbers were forms of SERVICE.

As I achieved more sobriety, I was given the opportunity to be of SERVICE by taking over the secretary position of the meeting. I was willing and able. I learned responsibility by having to be at the meeting early, since I had the key to the place. Did I do the job perfectly? Nope. I will always remember the first time I completely forgot my service job of opening the meeting. The realization came to me a couple of days later that I was a space cadet. The good thing was nobody got drunk over it - including me - and I began learning to laugh at myself.

Having the opportunity to be on Twelfth Step call lists allowed me to bring others in to the SERVICE of visiting a practicing alcoholic who had called for help. I got one such call after an evening meeting was ending. I was able to ask a fairly new woman if she would like to come with me. Sharing SERVICE is a great joy. The two of us went over and spent about an hour with the woman who had called the hot line for help. After we left that house I was asked, "Do you think she will get sober?" I responded with, "We planted a seed, and the big blessing is that we are still sober." She never forgot that Twelfth Step call, and she commented on that to me twenty years later!

Every SERVICE position I have ever had has trained me for the next SERVICE position. While washing coffee cups, I was helping the next meeting to have a clean coffee station set and ready to go for the next meeting and the person who would be opening that meeting. While I was meeting secretary learning about the responsibility of being on time, of getting the meeting started and having the correct literature out, all were preparing me to become the General Service Representative.

As GSR I was attending District meetings, taking notes, giving my home group reports of the business of the District, voting the group conscience, and being part of a chain of communication; all were preparing me to be District Committee Member. As DCM, preparing agendas, chairing the District meetings, providing AA Conference Approved literature and Service manuals for the new GSR's, and participating in the Area Assemblies all trained me for the many different Area SERVICE positions I have since held, and currently hold.

There has never been a service position I knew how to do when I took it. What a relief that is! On the job training, who would have thought? I have learned by doing, asking for help, and being willing and able to follow suggestions – questioning all the time in order to increase my understanding. All my SERVICE opportunities have provided me new insights by making me redouble my efforts to look at where I can apply the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, how they can teach me new lessons and give me better understanding.

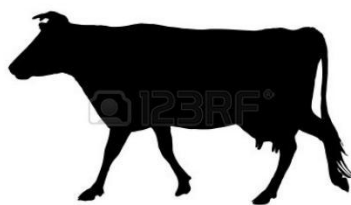
By being willing and available, thus taking on group level SERVICE opportunities to various levels of GENERAL SERVICE to SERVICE outside AA through the lessons I have learned in AA, I have the rich beginnings of understanding the principles of Responsibility, Authority, Participation, Decision Making, listening to Minority Opinion, Delegation, Balance, Trust, Leadership, Clarity, Teamwork and occasionally even hints of Wisdom.

The best thing ever is this: “I can’t keep it unless I give it away.” And that, my fellow Area 76 friends, IS SERVICE. I GET TO DO THIS.

Yours in love and SERVICE,

Kathi C,

Area 76 Alternate Delegate



To submit an article, story, joke, or cartoon to the Tributary, email to anna_zeuss@yahoo.com, or send to Suzanna T., PO Box 111, Parkman, WY 82838

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



SOBRIETY RIDE

JOIN US FOR A RIDE OR DRIVE

(Casper Group Leaving 24/7 Club @ 11 AM going to Douglas)

(Guernsey Group Leaving the Park @ 11 AM going to Douglas)

MAY 13, 2017

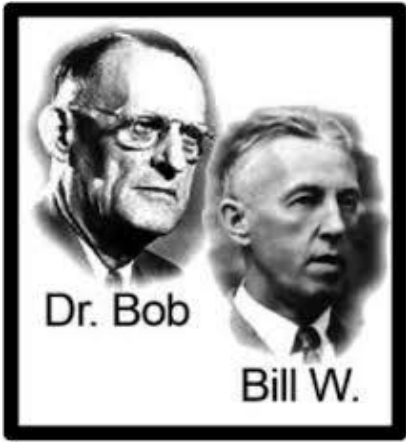
Meet at the Plains in Douglas, WY

ABOUT 12-12:30 FOR LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Ride to the Natural Bridge for a meeting

(Questions contact Gordie 307-575-3429 or Lyn 307-575-0271)





“We Saw,
We Felt,
We Believed”

Wyoming - Area 76, Spring 2017 Convention

Hosted by District 2 June 2, 3 and 4, 2017

Sheridan, Wyoming

Hotel: Holiday Inn, 1809 Sugarland Drive, Sheridan WY 82801

307-672-8931 or 888-465-4329

Mention “Area 76 Spring Convention” for \$79 room rate

Speakers: (AA) Lori G–Hallam, NE//Ken B–Omaha, NE//Chris D–Rapid City, SD

(Al-Anon) Beth D- Rapid City, SD// ***to be announced***

Convention Contacts:

Kathy L (406) 580-5809 Matt J (307) 763-6503 Brenda J (307) 689-0666

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Check the Area 76 website for the link to ONLINE registration

-OR-

Spring 2017 Convention

Complete and mail in form: **PO Box 7312 Sheridan WY 82801**

Check or Circle Applicable Items

Name	AA _____ Al-Anon _____
Street Address	Reg: before 5/1/17 \$18 After 5/1/17 \$20
City/State	Banquet (optional) \$30
Email	Coffee Mug (optional) \$ 7
Telephone	Donation (optional) \$
	Total to mail in: \$ _____
Comments	

Save the date

JULY' 14TH. 15TH. AND 15TH

2017 Area 76 Summer Area

Assembly

Evanston Wyoming

Evanston Round House

For more information call

Dan 307-877-4742

Mike 307-679-7698



A DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

SELF-WILL RUN RIOT...

Area 76 2017 Fall Convention

November 3rd, 4th & 5th 2017

Ramada Plaza, 2009 South Douglas HWY Gillette, WY

307-686-3000

Speakers:

AA Speakers: Al-Anon Speakers:

John S. Cody WY Nancy B. Buena Vista CO

Tim H. Louisville KY Sam V. Iowa City IA

Jim R. Kellogg MN

Hotel rooms \$59.00 per night (Limited Availability, Price

Good Until Oct 19th)

Pre-Registration fee \$46.00, Italian Buffet \$29.00 per meal

Please mail Registration to:

Fall Convention:

P.O. Box 3716

Gillette WY 82716

Any Questions Call Lindsay 307-660-1968 or Brian 307-680-3559

Name: _____ Circle one: AA Al-Anon

Address _____ Banquet \$29.00

Phone () _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

