

# The TRIBUTARY

Area 76 Newsletter

Summer 2017



**Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks.**

*From "Twelve Concepts For World Service,"*

*Concept Nine , by Bill W., 1962.*

*In The A.A. Service Manual.*

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Servants' Tales,

Area 76 Happenings



### **From Our Area Chair:**

One of the gifts of this program is the willingness to share it with others. It is time well spent, when there is another willing member interested in learning and sharing his journey from a state of hopeless despair to a realization that the promises that are in the Big Book are within his reach. When I get the chance to work the program with another drunk, it allows me to stay focused and humble in regard to my alcoholism. We take turns reading, stop to ask questions, spend lots of time citing examples of our pasts, and most importantly, hold each other accountable.

This is not to say that the conversation doesn't take some interesting detours that take us "off task," but once we get refocused we typically make progress. We spend a lot of time discussing what this program has done for us, and how sometimes progress is slow and not so obvious. I openly discuss what my condition was when I first showed up, and how I have observed the progress in others that allowed me to know that I was getting better.

There are those around us who are each in the process of doing whatever it takes to clean up the wreckage of their past and become a good and responsible person leading a productive life. These folks struggle from time to time, and the only thing I can do is share my experience, strength and hope. In other words, I can humbly share the details of my journey from the first time I came through the door.

One of these drunks shared with me how grateful he was for the progress he has made. He shared that his life was still unmanageable. He is still working on the mess he has made, but he knows without a doubt that his

life depends on his continued willingness and commitment to work this program so that his life gets better. He told me he has tools today - that he acquired by hanging around with a bunch of sober drunks - that allow him to check his temper, do the next right thing, and understand what to do when he's done something wrong. I get to tell him that I learned these same things the same way he did, that I'm not perfect, and that all I can promise is that I will make progress each day as long as I continue to maintain my spiritual condition through the guidance and direction of this program. This is the most important work that I can do in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The fundamental program of Alcoholics Anonymous requires that we all participate in the service structure in some way. We must all understand how important it is that we first learn how to serve, and then do our individual part to make sure that we are in a position to always make sure that the message gets carried to the still suffering alcoholic. This requires that many different tasks be completed, from serving on the General Service Board all the way up to the person who washes the coffee cups in their home group. I get to work with other drunks because I'm willing to be of service to others.

Concept 9 talks about "good leadership," and in order for me to be a good leader I must first understand that I must be a good servant. Leadership is only as good as the effectiveness of the group that is being led. I am a better leader when I understand that I serve those in the group, and that as long I'm a willing servant I will be an effective leader. The members of Area 76 have put their trust in me, and for that I'm not only grateful but also humbled.

There are many disagreements with the decisions and direction from the Trustees, General Service Board, Delegates and so on. The founders asked us to put our trust in each other, and left us with methods to correct

problems and bad decisions. Our fellowship is far from perfect, and the expectation is progress, just as it is with each of us in regard to our recovery. We must make sure that our example is a clear example of how to be of service to all members of Alcoholics Anonymous, so that when we choose able and competent leaders in the future, each understands that they know who they serve and why they do it.

There are opportunities for each of us to give back to this program that has saved our lives, and we must each find our own way to show our gratitude for the life we have been given as a result of our membership in a fellowship that loved each of us when we couldn't love ourselves.

Thank you all for being part of my sobriety,

Mel W.

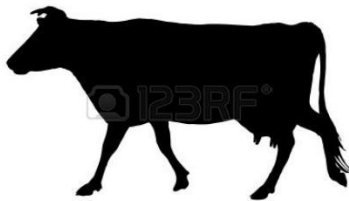
Area 76 Chairman





## **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.



## **Trusted Servants**

It works if you work it! Many AA meetings end with this slogan. I always thought it meant working the steps, but in reality, it means working the traditions and the concepts, too. Alcoholics Anonymous is an organization like none other. It's based on spiritual principles that help suffering alcoholics become sober and so much more. We come to rely on each other to keep the doors open and the coffee on.

As an organization, we rely on trusted servants for more than just the basics at a meeting level. Over time, we not only learn the steps and traditions, we realize that it takes a lot of people working together to maintain the group, the District, the Area and GSO. The steps, traditions and concepts provide guidelines chock full of principles that keep AA going.

The 12 Traditions grew out of difficulties the membership experienced in the early years of AA. Our founders learned through trial and error what helped others to achieve and maintain sobriety. The importance of principles like honesty, hope, faith, courage, integrity, willingness, humility, love, justice, perseverance, spirituality, and service are clear. We need sober people who are working a program to volunteer in service to keep AA going.

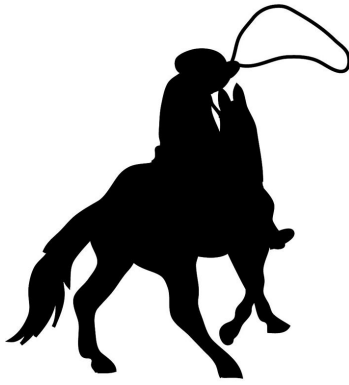
We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us. - 12 Concepts Illustrated

All trusted servants serve limited terms. This spirit of rotation helps to make sure that A.A. leadership doesn't stagnate and continues to reflect the true group conscience. We trust our members to do what's asked of them with integrity, humility and perseverance.

This also works in reverse. If we have a service position and are expected to behave in a trustworthy manner, then we will tend to try harder to do that. When enthusiasm wanes for working the steps or going to meetings, taking on a service position can ignite a new passion for AA.

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous have shared their experience, strength and hope with me freely. My home group taught me that it was very important to give back something to AA in return. Our future depends on reliable and trustworthy leadership and participation in service at every level. It works!

Loran H., Sheridan



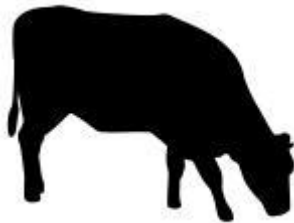
Aide reporting to General on the state of the field of battle:

“The situation here is serious, sir, but it is not hopeless!”

Sponsor to new sponsee working on the First Step:

“The situation here is hopeless, but it is not serious!”

To submit an article, story, joke, or cartoon to the Tributary, email to [area76tributary@aa-wyoming.org](mailto:area76tributary@aa-wyoming.org), or send to Suzanna T., PO Box 111, Parkman, WY 82838



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Nov 3-5 **Fall Convention**, Gillette

Sep 8-10 2017 West Central Regional Forum, Sioux falls , South Dakota

### **2018**

Mar 2-4 **2018 WCRAASC Service Conference**, West Des Moines IA

Mar / Apr **2018 Winter Assembly**, Douglas

Mar / Apr **2018 Winter Assembly**, Douglas

May 18-20 **2018 Spring Convention**, Riverton

Jul 20-22 **2018 Summer Assembly**, Torrington

Jul 20-22 **2018 Summer Assembly**, Torrington

Oct-Nov **2018 Fall Convention**, Cheyenne

