

# The TRIBUTARY

Area 76 Newsletter

Spring 2017



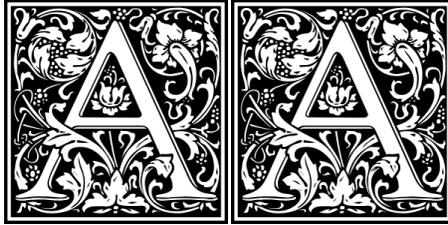
**Harder still to accept was the now proven fact that the conscience of the group, when properly informed of the facts and issues and principles involved, was often wiser than any leader, self-appointed or not. We slowly realized that the old-timer frequently was faulty in judgment. Because of his position of assumed authority, he was too often influenced by personal prejudices and interests. With all his experience and good works, there was still nothing infallible about him at all.**

*From "The Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous,  
Unity: The Second Legacy," from a talk by Bill W., 1957.  
In A.A. Comes of Age.*

## **CONTENTS:**

Servants' Tales,

Area 76 Happenings



**From Our Area Chair:**

**“We Are Gonna Be OK”**

While I hear differing opinions on the long term survival and effectiveness of our program, it occurs to me that there is and always will be a continuous never-ending supply of people like us who need a solution to our common life-threatening problem. Then in turn, it makes sense that there will be an equal and urgent demand for a solution to this problem. This is the law of supply and demand as it relates to Alcoholics Anonymous: something about our common welfare, and its dependence on the unity of our fellowship, resulting in recovery from this horrible malady.

If one were to “pay attention” at certain times, they would question the unity they were observing. However, I believe that any two (or more) of us together can work out any issue related to our common problem. Our lives depend on it. In order for us to reach effective consensus, we must make sure that the minority opinion is heard, that all who wish to share are allowed to, and that we each carefully consider our opinion through the filter of our spiritual principles.

The most important tool in my sobriety bucket is my belief and trust in my higher power. To understand and know that the presence of a power greater than ourselves in our collective group conscience whenever we are gathered allows all of us to have trust and confidence in each other. Members who are serving in elected and appointed positions understand and know that being in service to the fellowship is their primary objective.

I realize that there are instances when servants try to lead when they should just serve - I'm guilty of that myself - but I admire any servant who will step up and selflessly give back what was so freely given to them. It annoys me when I listen to criticisms, windy unfounded claims of incompetence, and negative comments from members who elected the very folks they are complaining about. There are no perfect people in our fellowship.

We may as a group be more flawed than most, but when we are in the process of backing one more day away from the nightmare of booze and are working together, the results are amazing. Alcoholics Anonymous has not only allowed me to live without booze, but it has also afforded me a life I didn't imagine possible. I believe that this wasn't free, and that I need to make an effort every day to ensure that I stay sober and that I do something to repay this fellowship.

There isn't enough time and space for me to write and talk about all of the things going on in AA that I don't agree with. I can only disagree based on principle whenever the opportunity presents itself. The example of the fellowship deciding to move forward with an intentional presence on Twitter is absolutely insane. I'm not a computer expert, but I do understand well enough to know that there isn't a remote possibility of protecting our anonymity online, no matter what others may say. If this is truly wrong it will become apparent and corrective action will need to be taken. It is also true that once this "cat is out of the bag" it will be difficult or impossible to put it back in.

Every step, tradition, and concept was written as a result of experience. Some of the experiences were good, others not so good. Because of the law of supply and demand there will always be Alcoholics Anonymous, because if there isn't, folks like us will die. The correction process will in most cases be painful and difficult, but we will do whatever is necessary to

fix what is broken to ensure that this program continues to be there for those who have a desire to stop drinking. We must continue to trust in our higher power as he expresses himself in our group conscience, base our thoughts and actions in principles, and trust and love each other.

I want to thank all of you for your commitment and service to the drunk who still suffers.

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.





## **The Light of A.A.**

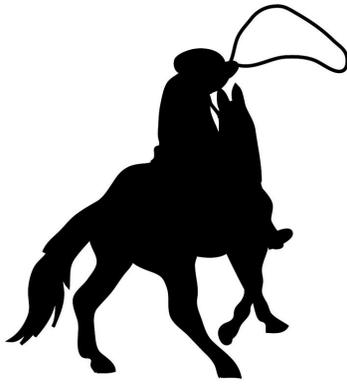
I found A.A. in one of the darkest times in my life. I was so broken and was drowning myself at the bottom of a Jim Beam bottle. My marriage was falling apart, I wrecked my car with my husband in it, and I ended up doing ten days in jail.

You would think that would have been enough, but it wasn't. I needed the helping hand in A.A. On my own, I was struggling to deal with life's blows, and I found an angel in A.A. that just listened. It was so freeing, talking with someone and getting so much off my shoulders. It was nice to let someone in past my walls of protection.

I found a sponsor I could talk to, and I am so grateful. They helped me regain my sanity, back from the teetering point.

I was so lost, but I know it was God's loving power that showed through in A.A. I am eight months sober, and happy to be facing life one day at a time, not wanting to get drunk. Thank you, God and all the wonderful angels in A.A.

Sincerely, B.U.



### **Is There Any Way of Knowing (What Bill W. Would Do?)**

When the request for submissions to the Tributary came out and I saw the topic, my first thought was, "That's silly." The thought I actually had was profane, but....character flaws galore - still.

On further reflection, and since the suggested topic was tied to our AA Traditions, I decided to participate. And, while it is not really possible to know what Bill would do, it is possible to know what he did. His labor to insure the preservation and perpetuation of Alcoholics Anonymous was a prolific outpouring of love and service to all of us who have fumbled and stumbled our way into this God-given fellowship and been gifted with our sobriety and lives truly worth living.

Our group is healthy, according to many of the visitors who pass our way ("Let another's mouth praise you, and not your own"). It is also a large group with lots of newcomers, not-so-newcomers, elder statesmen, and a few bleeding deacons. We are the only A.A. group in our community, and have maintained our unity since the group was re-started in the early 1970's.

Coincidentally, we have held weekly 12 Step and 12 Tradition meetings since the early 1980's, alternating between and a step and a tradition each week. I credit our group's unity, growth, and willingness to stick with each other, especially when personalities have clashed, to the fact that our group studies and practices the Traditions. We do not deviate from our

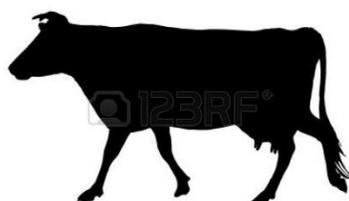
format, and even though Tradition meetings are avoided by some of our members, our group conscience has decided that our survival and well-being are directly tied to our understanding and use of the AA Traditions.

I suspect that like most well-grounded AA's, Bill would have referred dilemmas and questions mostly to the application of the principles he and his fellow travelers found and tried on their journeys into sober living. As he himself said, "We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick. The answers will come, if your own house is in order. But obviously you cannot transmit something you haven't got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us.

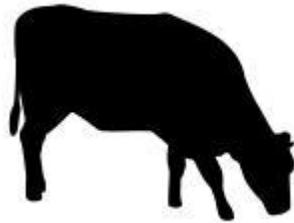
Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

May God bless you and keep you — until then." (Alcoholics Anonymous, p.164)

John S., Cody, WY



To submit an article, story, joke, or cartoon to the Tributary, email to [anna\\_zeuss@yahoo.com](mailto:anna_zeuss@yahoo.com), or send to Suzanna T., PO Box 111, Parkman, WY 82838



**“We Oughta Have a Form For This!”**

Ever been in one of those heated discussions with someone, where you eventually realize you’re heatedly *agreeing* with them? Kind of hilarious in hindsight, even though at the time we sometimes lose our tempers in these situations where we just don’t hear or understand each other.

One such discussion between two old friends in A.A. started out this way:

“We oughta have a *form* for this!”

“We already *have* a form for this! Bill W. gave it to us when he said the group conscience, ‘when properly informed of the facts and issues and principles involved, was often wiser than any leader.’”

“No, no! I mean, we ought to have a *form* for this!”

“But we already *have* one!”

“Aargh!”

“Aargh!”

They were talking about finding a way towards having an “informed” group conscience. What eventually resulted, when they figured out what they both were saying, was a handy form that any group could fill out. It’s called a “Group Conscience Form.” It looks like this:

Topic for  
discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Facts:

Issues:

Principles:

Topic for  
discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Facts:

Issues:

Principles:

Our district actually tried this form out in a workshop, to see if it might be helpful in discussion of several thorny issues that had been with us for months. Did it make the discussions go faster? Were they shorter? Did we come up with The Answer? Did we still feel friendly towards each other after the discussion? Long discussions resulting in hard feelings and inaction had been a long-term problem for our district, and we really wanted to find a way to work together better by using the A.A. principles of our Twelve Traditions.

The results have been ongoing. This is a good place to start, absolutely! Like practicing the twelve Steps, it is just amazing to see what emerges when we make the effort to keep returning to the basic facts, discover what the issues really are, and then apply the principles of the Traditions.

It seems there really is a loving God, as expressed in our group conscience!

Suzanna, Area 76 Tributary Chair

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**



Jul 14-16 **Summer Assembly**, Evanston

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

**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**

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**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: AA Al-Anon**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet \$29.00**

**Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

