

FALL 2016

Kentuckiana Newsletter

The Voice of Area 26

"My Group... My Responsibility"



In this issue:

- On Point: AA members through the years have found it important to belong to ONE group which they call their 'Home Group'
- Meet the Area Committee Chairs and Officers
- What's on your Mind?/Stump the Chump
- From desk of the Archives'Chair
- Members' thoughts on Traditions Ten, Eleven and Twelve
- Concepts two, four and six
- Area 26 Classifieds/Events

The goal of Kentuckiana News is to inspire recovering alcoholics through articles on AA topics that share the experience, strength and hope of AA members.

The topic of our Winter Issue Jan.2017 is Building friendships through AA Sponsorship and Service. Articles will include Concepts 8, 9, 10 and Step 1

Please submit your articles for the Winter issue to Kentuckiana@area26.net

Deadline for article submission is Dec 1, 2016

ON TOPIC: "A.A. members through the years have found it important to belong to *ONE* group which they call their 'Home Group'"

It took me nearly 4 years in sobriety before I found out what a home group actually is. The words "Home Group" was always a common term that I heard in meetings, and I just formed my own opinion of what one is (Kind of like how I used to work The Steps). I remember my first home group meeting; it was in a women's treatment facility with 100 women in it. I had arrived. The only problem I found about that home group was that sobriety was not sexually transmitted. No matter how much work I put in, I could not screw myself sober. My definition of sober today is "Being comfortable living in my skin, being me". After a hard bottom in sobriety, I finally got a sponsor who shoved our Big Book up my backside until I could read it from the inside. Then with the help of Jay D., a past delegate from TN, and Garwood F., a past delegate from Southwestern Ohio, they started teaching me A.A. Service...Our 3rd Legacy.

The first things they had me read over and over were the pamphlets *The A.A. Group* and the *Twelve Traditions illustrated*. I quickly started to get all sorts of questions answered that I had always had uninformed members tell me about. Page 15 in our A.A. Group pamphlet states "...A.A. members through the years have found it important to belong to *ONE* group which they call their 'Home Group'". I used to be that guy that said, "I have three home groups" or "All the groups are my home group", which is code for "I don't know what a home group is." I had previously belonged to a group in the town, which I live, until I had felt like I was being spoon fed religion via "The Big Big Book says..." I have yet to walk into a central office or see online from AAWS where we produced anything called the "**Big Big Book**". I didn't go back for several months, until I had worked through some very painful stuff in Chapter 4 of our book.

When I did make it back, I tried to bring up our Traditions in a business meeting, and it was not well received. Their reasoning was 'The book says that we have respect for other people's opinions'. I countered that yes, we do have respect for other people's opinions, but it does not say anything about sharing religious books or religious viewpoints. As a matter of fact on page 28 at the end of that very same chapter it states that 'we think it no concern of ours what religious bodies our members identify themselves with AS INDIVIDUALS. This should be an entirely PERSONAL AFFAIR which each one decides for himself in the light of past associations, or his present choice.' And I also referred them to the

long form of our 10th Tradition and page 34 in "As Bill Sees It". I was there to clean up my attitudes and actions, but they had expected me to apologize for standing up for the literature. I will never apologize for being an A.A. member talking about our literature in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. That was when I made a decision to leave that meeting.

About a year later I had moved out of town into a more rural area that had no meetings. Two other guys joined with me to start a meeting there that is still my home group today. There were no Big Book studies in this small town and we were going to start the first one. Turns out, there was a meeting in that town almost twenty years before. We used their old literature that was still in the church basement and took on their group number with AAWS. We had our first meeting on June 9th and started at the front cover of the Big Book. Shortly after, one guy stopped showing up to the meeting. It took us about a year and a half to go through the book the first time, as we stopped and discussed each paragraph and looked up any words we did not understand; and some we did understand, just to be sure. But somewhere in the middle of this, I had become our GSR. I became GSR because the group said since the meeting was my idea, that I should take on the responsibility. I recognized that the GSR position is vital to any A.A. group. 8 months before I had started learning how important service is; I had been invited to an Area 26 Meeting by Kenny B., our delegate, over a resentment that I had about our Tri-State Convention. Several Traditions were broken so that we could have it.

I had started attending district meetings, and honestly I had no clue on what was going on there. And it wasn't because I didn't know what service was. It was because I had a basic understanding of the Traditions and almost everything that was going on was in violation of our Traditions. There was talk of Thanksgiving dinner and how the treatment centers could help us cook the turkeys and pull off all the work that A.A. members did not seem willing to do themselves. The District binder was full of Recovery center stuff and old grocery lists from a past DCM. Other than that, these "district meetings" were nothing more than gatherings for the bleeding deacon's social interactions and planning picnics. I remember coming back to my home group thinking that I didn't even know why we were meeting there; nothing was happening. It was just a bunch of alcoholics sitting in small groups talking amongst themselves and over others the whole time. So I had just about decided to stop going when I was encouraged by our Delegate, my grand-sponsor, and a few other old-timers to keep going. After

just two months of being GSR, which I knew nothing about, I was voted in as DCM of my district.

At that time 4 other members had joined our group, while one walked out to never return. Then we were down to 3 members when the other 2 stopped showing up. Now we were at two home group members. At this time the other member could only come every other Monday night, due to his work schedule. I was the only one who showed up to open the doors for about 4 or 5 meetings out of the year for the first two years. I was taught by my sponsor about commitment and that if I were to start this new meeting, that it was my responsibility to be there every night for at least the first two years. So, when nobody showed up, I stayed from 6:00pm until 8:00pm (Yes, our meeting is an hour and a half, and I do show up 30 minutes early to my home group). Some nights were just me reading the book alone and some nights that one other person would show up and we would have some of the best meetings between the two of us. One of those nights sitting there alone, a man showed up from the other end of the state of Kentucky. He had just come to town after a divorce from his wife and was on the verge of drinking. He asked if the meeting was over and my response was "No, it's just getting started."

After those first couple of years I thought for sure this group would never last. Even though I would tough it out, I just didn't think anything would come of it. Today, I understand that God hires the home group members who are supposed to be there, not me. We do not solicit members by running to other groups and asking others to come join our group. I now understand that a group that LIVES by A.A. literature will not only survive but prosper and grow. The only thing we do is read the literature, move our sober feet and talk about our group as if it were the best home group in the world, because to us, it is.

If I don't feel this way about my home group, then I ask my group:

- What can we do to make our home group the best home group?
- What can we do to create attractiveness and unity?
- Is our turnover rate with newcomers excessive?
- Is our group doing everything we can to carry THE message inside and outside of our meeting?
- Are we just hoping that newcomers walk into our doors by chance or are we going to hospitals, jails and the like to find them?
- If a newcomer walks into our meeting, do we ignore them? Or do we go sit next to them and welcome them with a cup of coffee?

- Are we getting a good cross section of our community? That includes, LGBT's, Atheists, ALL different races, men and women?
- Does our group do a good job in assisting the wife or husband of the alcoholic?
- Do we have newcomers and older members all involved with a service position?
- Do we elect members into service positions that are responsible to do that position? Or do we vote in the guy in the bathroom who doesn't even want to do anything anyway?
- Does our group contribute regularly to G.S.O, Area and District levels and Central Office?
- What exactly has our group done in the last 3 months to carry the message?

Our group today has 5 active home group members, and everyone in the group has a service position. I am currently our DCM for District 17, and I make the coffee before we read A.A. Comes of Age. This is done an hour before our meeting starts. We have a GSR with almost 4 years of sobriety and also currently serving as our District 17 Treatment Committee chair. Our treasurer has 6 months of sobriety, is doing well, and attends Area meetings. Our secretary has 6 months of sobriety, is the alternate secretary of our district and also attends Area meetings. Our greeter and dictionary person has 8 years of sobriety and loves being of service whenever he can.

Members from our group regularly get together and travel to other meetings in other Areas and Districts, and we always go for coffee and food after meetings (Friday night is catfish night in District 31). We close our meeting with the responsibility statement as reminder to stay all inclusive. We are the No Nonsense Group from Area 26, District 17 which resides in Owensboro, Ky. We meet on Monday evenings at 6:30pm and study the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous until 8:00pm. If you're really interested, come an hour early for coffee and read A.A. Comes of Age or any other conference-approved literature we may be studying at the time. We welcome all in the A.A. family to come at least once and visit.

Yours in Service,
Eric B.
District 17 DCM

MEET THE AREA 26 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Grapevine

Hi, my name is Joy; I'm an alcoholic, and Area 26 Grapevine Chair! My sobriety date is 02/11/2000. My home group is the "Cane Run Road Group" that meets on Gars Lane in good ol' Louisville, KY.

I began my adventures in service work back in 1991 through another Fellowship (where I earned a black belt). I started out as one of the folks who set up and broke down the home group. Later I became the group's cookie girl, and made sure the coffee was ready to go by 7pm. A few years later I began chairing home group meetings, eventually becoming a GR (Group Representative), and then a DR (District Representative). Also in the early 90's, I began carrying the message of hope into JADAC by chairing Family Day meetings once or twice every month; this I did for about 10 years until the Family Day program ended in 2012.

Service work in AA again started the same way...getting involved at group level. I have been the GSR for a few home groups, the Treasurer for The "We Care Group", and a volunteer cook for the Care Center (around 8 years)...lots of carrying the message at the counter with newcomers! Once firmly in AA I began attending District 10 meetings with my sponsor who was DCM at the time. Unfortunately, shortly after, she had to step down in mid-term. Nick S., the Alternate DCM, took the DCM position, and I was asked to be the Alternate DCM. Later I was tricked into being the next DCM after Nick S. fulfilled 2 terms...something called "rotation". Much to my surprise I was elected for a second term as DCM term by something called "succeeding myself" (I have Roberts Rule of Order and an ol'timer Bill C. to thank for that lol!). I have completed a term as District Secretary, and served as the LCM for the Northside of our District. I am the current District 10 Archivist, and have held this position for a minute now...enjoying every second along the way!

Anything I can do for AA is a service and a gift to my sobriety. Sometimes my finances are very tight, and life on life's terms makes participation a little rough. However, I do not let any of those things stop me; it never stopped me from taking a drink. Occasionally I have reached out to the Area for help with lodging in advance, and the rest God has always provided. With the life issues - keeping my commitment to AA, the Area, my District and my home group has proven to be a safe haven. There are friends with smiles, jokes and hugs waiting for me. Hey, I even get to spend the night in a hotel room which feels like a vacation away from it all. I am truly blessed to be part of the Area 26 AA family. Thank you for asking me to serve. Joy, Area 26 Grapevine Chair



Registrar

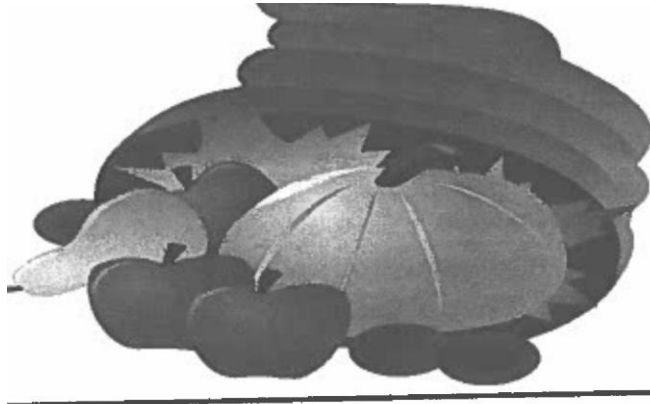
My name is Jason and I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is 4-2-09. Gary F is my sponsor and Dick H. is my grand sponsor. I had a cousin carry the message to me for many years prior to my last drink. Once I was incarcerated he asked me if I was willing to go to any length. I said yes. He asked me if I was willing to change everything thing? I said yes. He brought me to northern Kentucky from Lexington and began to show me how to stay sober.

I went to my 4th AA meeting and met my sponsor, who is still my sponsor today. He is a great example of a member who told me to make his meeting my Home group, and I did. 6 months sober the guys and gals told me I was the GSR. I asked what was that they told me to go to district meeting on first Wednesday of the month and they would tell me, as they laughed. Then told me I was going to keep them sober. I could not understand how I was going to do that! I showed up at district meeting and along with my GR duties they suggested I get a committee. Public information was open so I was the GSR and pi guy for my district. After completing my duties my group said I would be a good inner group rep. So I did what they said. After that commitment was completed I went to district were they elected me to be the DCM. After completion of my DM duties I was asked to become area 26 registrar.

I am blown away how AA has shown me how to live. My relationship with my God is stronger than ever. I ask him each day to keep me sober and show me what to do. I married a fellow member few years ago who has three children. I adopted the youngest child and love the kids like my own. I have seen miracles in my life and others. God is real and I thank AA for introducing me to him daily. Thank you for my sobriety.

Jason T. Area 26 Registrar

Stump the Chump



- **Why do our Area officers and Committee Chairs get 2 votes? One at their home group and a second at the Area.**

This might seem confusing to a lot of people. Everyone in AA has a voice and a vote at their Home Group, whether it's about a group conscience decision or about changes being made to the Area structure. At the Home Group we vote on who will represent our group. This person is called a GSR or Group Service representative. They take our thoughts or votes to the District meeting which is chaired by a DCM or District Committee Chair. The District is made up of specific zip codes. At the District meeting they talk about things that are happening at the meetings in that district and one vote gets taken to the Area. The Area has a Delegate that takes our votes to the General Service Conference. At the Area there are Chair people for the different Committees, ie, Treatment, Correction, Grapevine, CPC, PI and Special needs. These people vote for their committee. This might look as if they have two votes but what they have is a vote for their specific committee. All of this is explained in the Pamphlets: **The AA Group**, which is free online at AA.org.
- **What do you do if a person comes to your meeting drunk?**

It is always a good idea to have this discussion as a group about what people think should happen when this occurs at their meeting. Usually the person just shows up drunk and just sits there quite. Sometimes the person talks interrupting and a few of the home group members have to ask the

person to step outside with them. If the person gets violent police might need to be called. It is our way of life to show love and compassion and usually things work themselves out.

- **Where can I find a history of the AA Program and what they went through in the early years?**

AA Comes of Age, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers and As Bill Sees It are three of my favorite.

If you have a question that you have been wondering about please email Kentuckiana News at Kentuckiana@area26.net

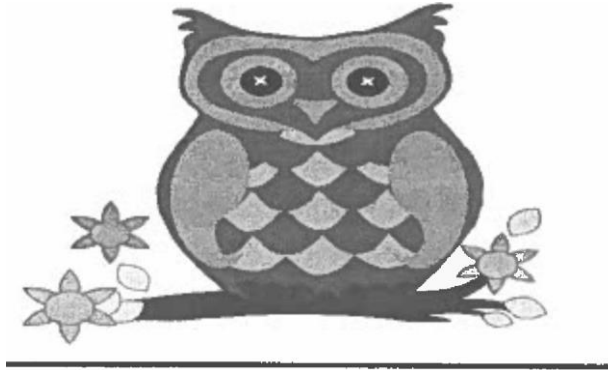
From the desk of the Archives Chair

History of Hikes Point Group

Louisville, KY

1. Starting in January 1962, a small group met in the basement of Meadowview Pres. Church, 2944 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville. The group originally met as a discussion meeting with Mr. Mac, Mike E, Harold M, Mort W, Martin A and Tom R were among those that attended the first meeting.
2. Hikes Point was the first Thursday night meeting in the Louisville area outside the Thursday night meeting that was held at the Token Club on Baxter Ave.
3. The meeting was moved upstairs, as a speaker meeting, shortly after the start up meeting.
4. The 8:30pm start time was decided on so those that attended could have time to spend with their families before coming to the meeting.
5. The upstairs meeting room was used for the AA meeting. Al-anon and Alateen used the rooms in the basement for their meetings. Al-anon still meets in the basement.
6. By 1969, the group had approx. 50-90 people at the AA meeting every Thursday night.
7. In the early days, the group **gave** a red chip for 30 days of sobriety, a green chip for 90 days, and a blue chip for 6 months.
8. Meeting chairmen for the group were elected and served for 6 months. The first three months they helped set up the meeting and attended the monthly Steering Committee meetings. The second three months they selected the speaker and chaired the meetings.
9. There was always much fellowship at Hikes Point both before and after the meeting. Seldom was the church locked up before 10pm.
10. A very large percentage of the early group members were strong AA supporters and helped many other recover. They had long lengths of sobriety before they passed.

TRADITIONS



TRADITION 10

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.

This tradition is the "mind your own business" tradition. It helps A.A. to stay out of a very controversial and contentious world. A.A. doesn't have an opinion about the current election, the new road to be built, or which is the best hospital in town.

In an editorial given by Bill W., for the Grapevine in 1948, he writes about how the traditions will preserve the AA movement to have a long and useful life. He goes on to write "...to that end, none [of the traditions] could be more vital than "...tradition 10..." (A.A. Grapevine, September 1948). It is vital because it deals directly with the subject of controversy. Bill speaks to how A.A. is to defend itself against controversy that is responsible for tearing nations, communities, and even family's apart. Tradition 10 is our shield against being a controversial tragedy.

Although A.A.'s can have strong opinions about the world we live in, Tradition 10 reminds us to leave it at the door. Don't bring it into the meeting-it's an outside issue. As usual, Bill knew what he was talking about. Out of A.A.'s growing pains came the traditions which keep A.A. **growing**. Tradition 10 helps to keep us out of the public eye so A.A. can continue to do what it does best-present a solution for alcoholism.

Susie G.

District 12 GSR for Thump This Big Book and the Twelve-n-Twelve

TRADITION 11

Tradition Eleven: *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.*

"There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us." This still holds true for well over 50 years. I know when I first came to AA back in the mid-eighties the only thing I was looking for was the pain of losing my family the feeling of being useless to go away. The thought of publically identifying myself or even the notion of Identifying myself as a member of AA was somethings I was not ready to do. Fast forward to the present- It would've been hard to imagine that "I" would be or could be a catalyst for someone's recovery verses their demise.

The term "social Media" references numerous web sites and links where people from around the world can post information about themselves. Even though most would not like to believe this information sometimes once intended for a select few, does leave the protected realm of our immediate family and friends. A new comer fresh out of treatment and knowledge of the 12 Steps and hearing the "Other Stuff" being read at meeting may think, why not let everyone know how well I am doing. Sure the ex-boyfriend or wife would really like to know how well thing are since I went through treatment and just picked up a thirty day chip. The new comer may also think of posting a picture of their token with the words "To thine own self be true" Surely this wouldn't hurt. Could this be considered promotion rather than attraction?

When I was drinking, everybody knew I had a problem, should I brag about the fact that I am an AA Member and sober? The answer is for the good of the Fellowship, what would happen if I got drunk? Look at him AA does not work!

Now having multiple years in the program I can be just as guilty of some of these examples.

- Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
- Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
- Am I careful about throwing AA names around- even within the Fellowship?
- Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering alcoholic?
- What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
- Is my sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

Would any of these seem attractive to me during my early days of recovery?

As an active member of AA how can I best promote the 11th Tradition? Leading by example, discussing the "Other Stuff" which is being read at our meeting? Raising my hand if willing to be a sponsor? The basic fact is, I could not work the steps by myself and for me I could not understand the 12 traditions by myself either. Sponsorship should not stop after the steps.

Brian J, District 4 DCM

TRADITION 12

"Anonymity ;s the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

The practice of anonymity has always held extreme importance. There has always been a social stigma about a being a drunk. When first coming into the program, I was ashamed that I had this disease and believed "normal" people in my life could never understand. I was fearful that if people in my community found out I was an alcoholic that it would affect not only my employment opportunities but also how people treated me on a daily basis. Protecting the anonymity of every AA member is vital for the survival of the fellowship. Confidentiality is indispensable. It's doubtful that many people would stay in Alcoholics Anonymous if they didn't feel their presence and personal stories would remain private, between only those members in the group.

When the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous was published In 1939 there was a strong fear that anonymity of the group's members would be easily broken as the fellowship grew. Problems arose early in AA's youth when members of Alcoholics Anonymous would hear the personal recovery story of another AA member, leave the meeting space and then share with others what they had seen and heard in the meeting. More issues emerged when "AA show-offs" rushed to tell anyone who would listen the miracle they were because of the newfound program. More often than not, when a member was looking for public recognition because of their new found sobriety, they drank again. When people saw the person who had been flaunting there success in recovery drinking again, they lost faith in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. These issue lead to broken trust and a lack of confidence in AA. This tradition was established not only to protect every member of Alcoholics Anonymous, but also to protect the fellowship as a whole.

Maintaining anonymity on a personal level is essential, but anonymity should also be kept at the public level of press, radio, TV, films and other media technologies. Before the internet this portion of the tradition was well defined in the Twelve and Twelve, asking that no names or pictures be used in press, radio and films. If the member who publicly promoted AA were to drink again it could cause great harm to the fellowship.

In the new age of technology it is likely that we have all witnessed someone breaking their anonymity on social media. There exist tremendous amounts of controversy surrounding this issue. Some people believe it is ok to post in social media forums as long as you are in a private group, others believe in zero tolerance and that AA should never be mentioned on digital forums.

According to an article published in the A.A. Guidelines on aa.org; "We practice anonymity on public websites at all times." When using social media or any other type of digital forums, it is highly suggested that members assume that no publication is private and will always be accessible on a public level. Even posting recovery related materials without mentioning AA can Inadvertently break a person's

anonymity. **Breaking** anonymity on this level can easily break the anonymity of others in the fellowship as well. Therefore, every AA member has a great responsibility when using any type of digital media.

Below are just a few helpful pieces of literature if you have any questions about anonymity.

AA Twelve and Twelve: The 12th Tradition

AA Guidelines Internet www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-18_internet.pdf

Understanding Anonymity www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-47_understandinganonymity.pdf

Emily H., DCM district 20

Funny jokes or not!!



- A skeleton walks into a bar and orders ... a beer and a mop.
- How many Al-anons does it take to screw in a light bulb?

None... they let it screw itself

- What is the difference between a dog and an alcoholic?

The dog stops whining when you let him back into the house

- Only an alcoholic asks...I wonder if there is a margarita somewhere out there thinking about me too.
- 7 course Irish Meal...6 Pints and a Potato

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

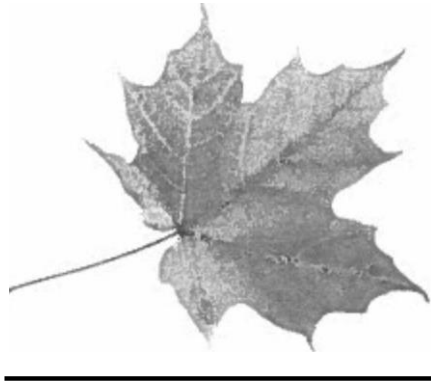
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DR.JEKYLL
RIGOROUS
AWAKENING
ANGER
GEOGRAPHIC.CURE
WILLING

DUBIOUS
PROPULSION
ADVISOR
LOADED
MEMORIZE
FEARLESS

REPARATION
SORDID
WILLIAM.JAMES
MAINTENANCE
JITTERY

CONCEPTS



Concept 2

"THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF AA, HAS BECOME, FOR NEARLY EVERY PRACTICAL PURPOSE, THE ACTIVE VOICE AND EFFECTIVE CONSCIENCE OF OUR WHOLE SOCIETY IN ITS WORLD AFFAIRS."

This is a very powerful statement, found in the AA Service Manual. Its development, explained In the Service Manual, Is a prime example of how AA truly works-at every level. Bill W. explains how in the beginning the two groups [New York and Akron] authorized him and Dr. Bob to create over-all services which could spread the AA message worldwide. Bill felt that trusted servants needed to be found for this job, so aboard of trustees was formed to oversee the management of world services. As time went by, the Trustees became responsible for the publishing of and the revenue from the Big Book. In 1941, when AA groups began sending contributions to the board, the Trustees became completely In charge of the World Services monies, with Bill, at the time, as an advisor. The board eventually was in charge of public relations and the Grapevine magazine.

This does not put anyone or anything in 'charge' of AA. This allows AA to be run, to be functional at the global level. It only gives them immediate responsibility over AA. The ultimate responsibility belongs to us. recovering alcohol/cs. always.

We see our ultimate service responsibility working at the Conference. As always, we followed Dr. Bob and Bill W.'s example. When they found they could not do what needed because of the amazing growth of AA they sought out help in the form of the trustees. As recovering alcoholics, spread over the world, we needed a way for our voices to be heard. So we choose people In our own groups to be a part of the Intergroup-IGR and the district-GSR. At the district level, we choose someone to represent us at the Area level-DCM. At the Area, service is what happens and we choose a delegate to represent

us at the Conference. Nothing Is decided until all report back to the simple yet powerful AA home group.

I never understood how the "business" of AA was accomplished until I became a part of the service. I find myself amazed at how AA developed and how It continues to grow. The fact that one recovering alcoholic has a say; In fact, the most Important say, In what happens to our society Is amazing to be a part of and to witness.

Susie G., GSR District 12

Concept 4

Concept 4 throughout our conference structures to maintain at all reasonable levels a traditional right of participation taking care that each classification or group of our world servants she'll be allowed a voting representation is reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Participation

Everyone can vote and therefore all can truly Participate when the time comes to ballot. There are no Superior, no Inferiors, and no Advisers.

In the early days the AA headquarters was run on authoritarian and institutional lines. The result was often grievous trouble and misunderstanding. It was out of this rough going that the principle of participation finally emerged. This lesson was learned the hard way.

Today and for many years the participation of every recovering alcoholic has a vote.

For no matter how small the voice, everyone is a part of the growth of AA, no one Governs over No one, in AA. It is united we keep AA growing alive and well. For many of us when we become a part of the growth of AA, and Participate when there is something that needs a vote, We join In with thousands of other of recovering alcoholics to make a decision to be a part of trying to keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive for thousands of others that will need Alcoholics Anonymous in years to come also for thousands of us today.

I'm very grateful for concept IV. That teaches me how small I may think my voice is I have a right to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous. A program that with God the head Alcoholics Anonymous. The spirituality of the program I fit in with all of you today.

So I will close with This, If you are new to Alcoholics Anonymous keep in mind that if a recovering Alcoholic like me. Never felt like I belonged anywhere. And today I may only be one small voice today I can share that voice and try to stay in the middle of Alcoholics Anonymous. But when there is something to vote on and with the unity of AA if I choose to I can be a part of no longer a part from.

So if nobody has told you they love you today I do and there is nothing you can do about it.

Vickie L. DCM

District 26

Concept 6

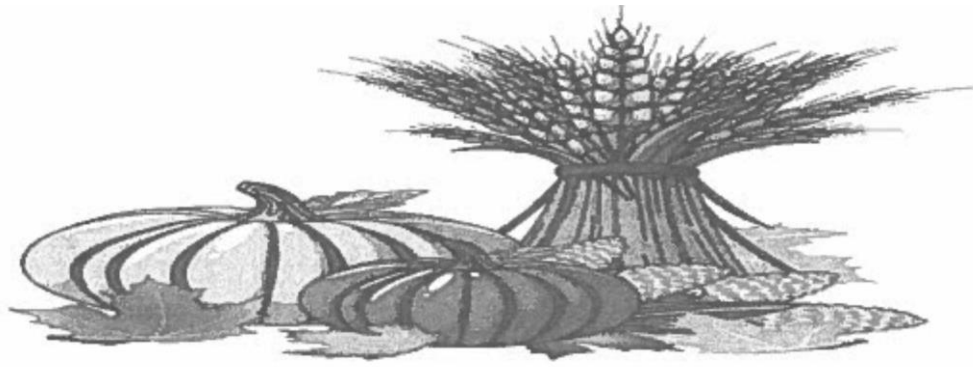
A month ago I was asked by the chair to write an article about Concept VI for the newsletter and of course my initial reaction was "sure no problem." That was quickly followed by the realization that although I have read the concepts several times both at meetings and in the service manual I didn't have much of a working knowledge of this concept. After going back and doing some research on this concept as well as the others I was left with the question; how does this translate to the district level? Concept VI states:

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The service manual describes the Trustees as the most influential group of world servants that we have next to the Conference. Therefore choosing these Trustees is not an easy matter. As outlined in the service manual "we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at the top effectiveness over the years to come." If this much effort goes into choosing Trustees then I had to ask myself are we putting this much effort into choosing our trusted servants at the Group and District level? I know have heard several times in District 23 from a new GSR that they showed up to a group conscience and walked out the new GSR. As matter of fact, this is how I became DCM of District 23. This lends to several questions like when voting for service positions are we taking the same careful considerations that are taken when choosing Trustees? Are we informing new GSR's what they are signing up for? Are we providing them with the literature and support after they take office? As DCM's are we making sure that GSR's are informed about what is taking place at Area and GSO? I know for myself these questions have given me something to think about and more importantly more work to do.

In Service, Jason E

DCM District 23



EVENTS ACROSS THE AREA

AA 2016 SOUTHEAST
REGIONAL FORUM

DECEMBER 2-4, 2016

ORLANDO, FLORIDA
ORLANDO MARRIOTT LAKE

MARY

The pink can

**Help supply AA approved literature
to jails and prisons by placing a
donation in the pink can located in
your meeting rooms**

LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN
YOUR DISTRICT FOR THE MONTHS OF
FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL!! WE
WILL PUT IT HERE ON OUR EVENTS
PAGE.

If you have a friend or
sponsee that is celebrating
a significant amount of
sobriety put it in the
Newsletter.

*Kentucky Conference of Young
People In AA 2016 November 18-20
at The Fern Valley Hotel and
Conference Center 2715 Fern Valley
Rd, Louisville, KY 40213*

More info: www.KCYPAA2016.org

"A BIG BOOK STUDY" **WE HAVE RECOVERED** with
Peter M. and Marion W. of Boca Raton,

FL Dec. 2-4, 2016 Lexington, KY

Full flier on Area 26 website