

Our Traditions are set down on paper. But they were written first in our hearts. For each of us knows, instinctively I think, that AA is not ours to do with as we please. We are but caretakers to preserve the spiritual quality of our Fellowship; keep it whole for those who will come after us and have need of what has so generously been given to us."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1950, "AA Is Not Big Business", The Language of the Heart Grapevine Quote - June 25.2024

I read this quote this morning and it fits in quite nicely with Delegates Corner this month. AA does not need me - But I sure do need AA!

I've been thinking about responsibility lately. I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that... I am responsible. What does this actually mean? Responsibility - the ability to respond!. Responding to life thoughtfully, using our principles as we wander through our recovery journeys. No longer reacting without thought or awareness. Thank God for that! My goodness what a different life we have now compared to where we used to be. Not to say life is a walk on easy street now, but we have tools and a fellowship so we are no longer alone when faced with life challenges.

I got to attend the Cooperation with Professional Communities Luncheon held before our Annual Gratitude Round up at the Glenmore Inn this past June 14th. There were about 19 enthusiastic AA members and 40 Professionals attended the information session. We heard a speaker give an excellent outline of what AA does and what AA does not do, as well what AA can do to help the professional when a client is seeking a way out. You can participate in CPC as well by letting your own Dr or a Professional know about the AA Websites, local and aa.org to guide them to some resources we have.

We have a solution, and it works! We are protecting this solution when we are being responsible to AA. We step up to be of service, self sacrifice! We give of ourselves without the slightest thought of return. Being of service to this program that has brought to us a way of life that has changed our lives, is our way of saying thank you. We do have a way out! That was actually discussed as a title of our Big Book originally! But at the time there were a bunch of books called the Way Out - and so to keep it simple we settled on the Big Book.

We all take a turn at the many different opportunities to be of service. We put our hands up or say yes when invited to participate in an AA request. We each do our part to help our great whole. And as we grow and evolve through this giving of ourselves we find some decent self respect. We take on a commitment. We do what we say we are going to do. We do the job to the best of our response ability. To get a healthy self esteem - we do esteem-able things!

So we take on a service position, whether its becoming a GSR, a committee member, an Intergroup Rep, put your name on the 12 Step list, scope ice cream at a round up! - does not matter what you do its how you do it! HOW - Honestly, Open-mindedness, Willingness.

And we stick with the commitment for its whole term, don't quit even when you want to! Stick with it for only that term! Then rotate on and find something else to do. This is called the spirit of rotation and it protects us from ourselves. Us all or nothing folk, we like to think we know

something. We are healthier, when we are humble, when we allow ourselves to grow and experience new things. When we don't know the outcome. When we don't need to be "right" and can open ourselves to learning to love and tolerate others. Find a kindly view. Presume goodwill.

No matter what job we do for AA to show our gratitude, it has to start with the first day on the job. When we don't know what we are doing. Just like when we first got sober! We had to ask for help. That's humility, not knowing, trusting that the answer or the solution will be there. Faith in fear, not the most comfortable feeling for sure, but as we let ourselves have the first day on the job we find there is the help we need. Whether it's by asking someone who has done the job before or reading it in the Big Book, the Service Manual or a pamphlet like the AA Group, but we find some direction to take. And through taking direction we grow and learn, evolve.

And then you get to pass it on! Share your experience which becomes strength and you can offer real hope! Beautiful!

Remember the Western Region is having a Grapevine Challenge - sign up for the Grapevine App or get a subscription for a new member or birthday gift for a sponsee! Then let our Area grapevine Chair know - grapevine@area78.org

Also make sure you download the free meeting guide app, this is owned and operated by AA and it is also evolving to be the place you can go to find news about AA as a whole. Right now under the "News" button you can find the most recent Quarterly Finance Report!

Happy Summer Area 78! Check out our area78.org website, where new information from our General Service Office is posted. I hope to see you at one of the many campouts that Districts all over our Area are hosting! Join us on the road of Happy Destiny!