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DELEGATE's Corner

One of my favorite authors is a Buddhist nun who tells the following story (if you know the story, please excuse my poetic license in changing the details):

"I was asked by the leader of the monastery to speak about several spiritual topics during the three-day retreat. I put on my finest robe and proceeded to talk about several topics throughout the day, playing the bigwig in front of the assembled audience. On the second day, I came prepared and headed to the front of the monastery to begin teaching, when the leader stopped me and said he would rather have me sit in the crowd this morning and participate as a student. I had just settled into my new role as a little wig, when after lunch he surprised me with a new request to lead the afternoon discussion. After several days of this, up-and-down, big-wig-little-wig, seesawing, I burst out with: *Well, what am I? Am I a big wig or am I a little wig?* (not her words). His response has very often helped me in my role as trusted servant in AA, when he said: *Well, you have to learn to be big and little at the same time!*"

You know, we have a term for this in AA; it's called being *right-sized*, which is a measure of our humility. I believe this is what past trustee, Joel C meant when he said: "When it comes to service, you have to *do* it, but not *want* it." In other words, we should not be overly ambitious in our roles and trusted servants. If I approach everything as if I'm an upper-case DELEGATE (as opposed to a lower-case delegate, or not a delegate-at-all), I'm bound to be indulging in an ego-feeding proposition. Knowing myself, it's one of the reasons I rarely mention General Service or my role as delegate in it. I think I was able to go two years without my 20-person homegroup knowing I was alternate delegate, and if not for another's excited announcement following last year's election, they would not know today that I

AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15— Sunday
Area Service Committee
District 15

April 05 — Sunday
Pre-Conference
District 5

May 17 —Sunday
ASSEMBLY—DEL SHARE
District 18

June 14—Sunday
Area Service Committee
District 3

July 12—Sunday
FORO
District 22 & 9

August 09—Sunday
Area Service Committee
District 2

September 13—Sunday
ASSEMBLY
District 12

October 11— Sunday
Area Service Committee
District 14

November 15—Saturday
SERVATHON
District 25

December 11—Sunday
Area Service Committee
District 4

am quietly serving as your delegate when I need to and as your coffee person when I don't.

____ In Love and service,
Ed



**"Made a decision to turn our will and
our lives over to the care of God
as we understood Him."**

Being convinced, *we were at Step Three*, which is that we decided to turn our will and our life over to God as we understood Him. Just what do we mean by that, and just what do we do?

The first requirement is that we be convinced that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success. On that basis we are almost always in collision with something or somebody, even though our motives are good.

This is the how and the why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work. Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal; we are His agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most Good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new and triumphant arch through which we passed to freedom.

When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed. ...

We were now at Step Three. Many of us said to our Maker, *as we understood Him*: "God, I offer myself to Thee-to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!" We thought well

A.A. HISTORY MARCH

March 1

1939: Readers Digest failed to write promised article on A.A.

1941: Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. A.A. membership quadrupled in one year from 2,000 to 8,000.

March 3

1947: Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of A.A., began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.

March 4

1891: Lois Wilson was born.

March 5

1945: Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of A.A. members.

March 7

1940: Bill and Lois visited Philadelphia and attended A.A. group.

1941: Boston newspaper reported any drunk who wanted to get well was more than welcome to attend A.A. meeting at 115 Newbury St., 8 PM Wednesdays.

March 9

1941: Wichita Beacon reported on an A.A. member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.

March 10

1944: New York Intergroup was established.

March 11

1947: A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of A.A.

March 12

1940: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.

March 14

1941: South Orange, N.J., A.A. held an anniversary dinner at Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.

before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.

- Alcoholics Anonymous Pages 62 - 63

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"Our membership ought to include all who suffer alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

"This is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous *so long as he says so*. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule.

"Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the brother alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any half-way mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize

A.A. HISTORY MARCH ... continued

March 15

1941: First A.A. group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

March 16

1940: Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St. NY, (which was nearly destroyed on September 11, 2001.)

March 18

1951: Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.

March 21

1881: Anne Ripley, Dr. Bob's wife, was born.

1966: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.

March 22

1951: Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.

1984: Clarence Snyder, founder of Cleveland A.A. and author of "Home Brewmeister," died at 81, 46 years sober.

March 23

1936: Bill and Lois Wilson visited Fitz Mayo (*Our Southern Friend*) in Maryland.

1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi.

March 25

1898: Jim B. (*The Vicious Cycle*) was born

1965: Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.

2005: Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL -
See Memorial at

<http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.html>

March 29

1943: The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.

1947: First A.A. group was formed in London, England.

We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity.

"Let us of A.A. therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive, and never exclusive, offering all we have to all men save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life --and a useful one!"

Bill W.

The A.A. Grapevine, February, 1948

"To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. —the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives— with a traditional "Right of Decision."

3



- ✓ Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"?
- ✓ Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?
- ✓ Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

March 31

1941: First A.A. group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

1938: Clarence Snyder "Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions had his last drink.

March without specific dates: continued

1941:

- Second printing of Big Book.
- First prison A.A. Group formed at San Quentin.

1945: "March of Time" film was produced and supervised by E.M. Jellinek and produced by NY A.A. office.

1946: The Jefferson Barracks A.A. Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought to be the first ever in a military installation.

1949: Dr. Bob considers idea of an A.A. conference premature. Officially held in 1950 -- A.A. International Conference.

1951: "American Weekly" publishes a memorial article for Dr. Bob.



"Wake up! The four horsemen are here."

—Mike S., South Bend, Ind.