

Kit

Keep in Touch

WITH SERVICE

Fall 2009

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South Carolina

On the Web at

area62.org

“I got it!”

I got it. It finally hit me yesterday when I was making coffee. My service work this month is making coffee for my home group. It all hit me when I was done yesterday. This is what I mean . . .



I got to the church to make coffee. There is a good feeling that comes with having a key to the church — it's that people are trusting you. I was kind of looking forward to it. I went to the room and turned on the lights. I started the coffee.

I then began to put out the boards. One has the Traditions and one has the Steps. I read each one, focusing on the Third Step. I began to think how I had applied that step in my day. I said a little prayer.

As I set up the room I was filled with gratitude. I was so thankful for my home group, AA, my sponsor, and my Higher Power. I was swimming in thoughts of where I was and where I am today.

I saw a reflection in the window of the door. It was of a guy, happy, smiling, and content. It was me.

One by one people started to come in the room and get coffee. I didn't tell anyone who made the coffee nor did they ask. They did like it though.

Being that I was there early I was picked to read in the beginning of the meeting. Reading makes me nervous, and it's a fear I am overcoming. I did pretty good. The meeting was great. I am lucky that my sponsor leads the beginner meeting.

When the meeting was coming to a close I began to break down what I set up. The old-timers started to notice me and began to come up and talk to me — asking me how I was, to keep coming back, keep doing what I'm doing ... you know. Everyone said there good-byes, and I began to close the church.

When all the lights were off, and I closed and locked the door, I saw a reflection in the window of the door. It was of a guy, happy, smiling, and content. It was me. I looked at myself for a second and

said a quick thank you prayer to my Higher Power. I left and went home.

All I did was make coffee. Anybody want a cup? lol.

Kris P.



The Third Legacy — Service

“A leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us naturally want to back him up and help him with his job.”

“I understand that service is a vital part of recovery but I often wonder, “What can I do?” Simply start with what I have today! ... The miracle of service is this: when I use what I have, I find there is more available to me than I realized before.”

Daily Reflections, p. 32

“Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people around us.”

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 77

“By our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified, and through our Third Legacy — Service — we shall carry the AA message down through all the corridors of time to come.”

The Language of the Heart, p. 134

“The great event of 1955 will be our decision to make this newborn General Service Conference a permanent part of AA’s life. This irrevocable step will mark the full completion of AA’s structure — Recovery, Unity, and now, Service. It will mark the day when, before God and the world, we declare ourselves fully responsible and come of age.

“Then the third and last Legacy — the Legacy of Service — will have passed from the hands of the old-timers — people like Dr. Bob and me — to you, who are the Alcoholics Anonymous of today and of tomorrow.”

The Language of the Heart, p. 137

“Our first General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous gathered at New York City in April, 1951 ... And we realized, as never before, how perilous ‘faith without works’ might really become. So it was, that AA’s group conscience hears its first high call to service...”

“The delegates could see far beyond the single AA and his particular group. In a flash, they took in the stark fact that AA as a whole must continue to function or else it might well suffer that common penalty of faith without works. Which is: disintegration. Gone was the

LEADERSHIP IN AA

“No society can function well without able leadership at all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. But we A.A.’s sometimes cherish the thought the we can do without much personal leadership at all. We are apt to warp the traditional idea of ‘principles before personalities’ around to such a point that there would be no ‘personality’ in leadership whatever. This would imply rather faceless robots trying to please everybody.

“A leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us naturally want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own — well, he really isn’t a leader at all.”

Twelve Concepts, pp. 38-39

comfortable illusion that should each AA group tend strictly to its own affairs God would then reward our shortsightedness by guarding AA as a whole entirely by himself — including our Headquarters, AA’s public relations, and the welfare of the millions who still don’t know. The delegates saw that this would spell faith without work and without responsibility. That could never be. Of course much work would always have to be done, much responsibility would have to be taken by many. To AA as a whole, every member would need to give a little ...

“In that fine hour the torch of Service did pass from the hands of us who are older to yours, which are younger; it passed to every oncoming generation of those children of the night whose darkness, God willing, shall be banished within the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous all through the bright years which destiny surely holds in store for us.”

The Language of the Heart, pp. 129-130

Area 62 Officers & Committee Chairs Share Accomplishments And Gratitude for Opportunity to Carry the Message of A.A.

Area Chairman David T

I guess when asked what benefit I have gotten from service as chairman of Area 62, the answer is the same I've had for other service positions I've held. I faced the fears and doubts I had about my ability to do as well as the last person did and proceeded on the faith that God will give me what I need to handle the challenges that come up. In the process, I learn that I'm far more capable than I give myself credit for and that other members are more supportive and understanding than I would have imagined. And hopefully, my service may have played some small part in helping another alcoholic find recovery in AA.

Alt. Area Chairman..... Jim S

As Alt Area Chairman, my position requires that I assist the Chairman in anyway there is a need and to also oversee the workshops at the Assemblies. I have been asked to sit in on the GSR meetings and guide them in staying on track so that all benefit from the time spent, where GSR's are relying and helping other GSR's throughout the Area.

I have been asked to sit in on the area committee meeting when an area committee chair could not be there. I was asked to do the Area 62 Inventory and compile the results for the area to review. I walk around the Area Assembly and do whatever is requested to assist and serve.

Like most positions that I have held, I was not sure exactly what I was getting into as Alt. Chairman. But once again, I was shown that I could serve the Area and learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous in South Carolina, as well as learning more about myself and this walk in sobriety. I have met wonderful A.A.'s across the state and found that we all have the desire to be sober and to give back to this Fellowship as best that we can.

Thanks to the Area Officers and Area Committee Chairs with whom I had the honor to serve on this rotation. Thanks also to the SC Assembly as a whole for the opportunity that you gave me. I am grateful for what I have been given — a wonderful life in sobriety and a way to give back so that others may also enjoy this life we all have been given. *Thank you!*

Alternate Delegate..... Cyndi F

When the K.I.T. Editor asked at the beginning of our term for an article from each of the newly elected officers, I declined because I felt I had nothing to say about a position wherein I had no experience. Had I whipped out a message in a bottle, I would have been in trouble with one of my mentors in service, Patty T. She heard me glibly claiming that the Alternate Delegate got to hear everything, but didn't have to do anything ... and promptly called me down.

I knew then, and I know better now from going through this term, that it is truly an honor and privilege to serve as the alternate for your Delegate, and there is plenty to do. Robert kept me up-to-date on all Conference, Regional, and Area concerns so that, if necessary, I could step into the boat and not be lost on the great ocean of General Service. That responsibility is awe-inspiring in itself, and as a participating member of the Southeast Regional gathering of Delegates—past, present and alternate, I saw how committed to serving our program and fellowship we all are.

Locally, as financial officer in charge of the Convention account, I learned how our State Convention runs, and how, with typical recovered alcoholic ingenuity, it can be self-supporting even in challenging economic times.

Approaching rotation from this office, I now see Concept X as more than simply equal authority matched to commensurate service responsibility, the responsibility of the group conscience as ultimate authority, and the responsibility of the trusted servant as delegated authority. It means to me that we work together to anchor our business needs in harmony with the Traditions of our organization through our General Service process and the hard-earned respect we grant our leaders.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn and to serve you.

Registrar Cis G

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably already know how wonderful it feels to experience the service, unity and recovery that is so beautifully combined when

you take part in area service (or any service, for that matter). I'd like to particularly address anyone that is considering standing for an area officer position. Here is a little of my experience, strength and hope.

Two years ago, after the elections had already begun, I decided to stand for Registrar. I really had not considered it before then, but it just struck me that it was a service that I could do, and I should stand. I spoke to my sponsor about it, briefly, and she encouraged me, so I stood and was elected.

In December, Cyndi F. was kind enough to travel to Charleston and spend some time training me (on the Area laptop at Starbucks). When my term began in January, I bravely attempted to do the necessary data entry. It can be difficult learning a new job in AA, and I have to admit, I had a lot to learn about the duties of the Area Registrar.

I learned better "asking-for-help" skills as a result of being registrar. I want to thank Cyndi F. and Graham (Area Registrar from Florida) and the kind folks at GSO for their patience and indispensable help. I had hoped that serving as registrar would be a good way to get to know more people in AA, and that happened and so much more than that.

I wanted to get the inactive groups out of our reports, and I think I've been able to do that — keeping the group data updated is definitely all about trying to hit a moving target. Rounding up group servants is like trying to herd kittens!

To the next Area Registrar, I offer my time, training and notebook full of notes on how to do the job. Just remember, every servant in AA begins a new position not knowing how to do it, and by the time your term is up, you know exactly how to do it. So don't worry if you think you might want to stand, but don't know how to do the jobs. That's what we are here for.

Archives.....John C

I would like to thank the assembly for letting me serve as your Archives Rep. I have learned so much about the importance of the history of AA in the state. Working with K.C. has been a hoot. He is a rock when it comes to the preservation of our archives and the power of anonymity.

We have made great strides collecting the histories of our SC old timers. We have gotten a new computer for the cataloging and collecting of archives information

I got to fellowship with some of the best sobriety in the state of South Carolina. And we did service together.

and fire proof file cabinet for those items that are irreplaceable. We hope to have a GSR bring to the floor in the October assembly a request that we are allowed to purchase more fire proof file cabinets. We also brought a new awareness to the committee when we visited the archives at our last assembly. This allowed the committee members to see how necessary it is that we obtain a larger repository for our State archives. We again are hopeful that someone will step up at the next assembly to ask for this change.

Alcoholics Anonymous has shown me that my job is to serve my higher power and my fellows. When you let me serve the assembly I got to do my job. I will be forever grateful and hopeful that I will be able to continue.

Arrangements.....Matt V

Like most of us I accepted this standing committee position somewhat reluctantly, probably because those that preceded me were so good at it. I had come to a standing-still place in my individual program when I was coerced into becoming a GSR and then appointed as Treatment representative in my district. Consequently I started showing up at Area Assemblies, where I was asked to fill the Arrangements Chair.

What I am trying to say is — this is about when the whole A.A. program, along with the Twelve Steps of recovery, really took off for me. I got to fellowship with some of the best sobriety in the state of South Carolina. And we did service together. It seems that the Twelve Steps are specifically for me, while the Twelve Traditions are meant for the group, and the Twelve Concepts are for all of Alcoholic Anonymous.

The Arrangements Chair basically secures a place for each assembly while setting things up and making sure the Host District has everything they need. In other words it is all about tables and chairs as well as more tables and chairs. We have a much better sound system than we did earlier, and I don't know where I would be without each district that has hosted every assembly. The Ramada has been wonderful, while I think they really like the thought of having a lot of

sober drunks hanging around enjoying the company of each other and everybody else. The space is not really that enormous but what there is seems to work out for everyone. We have a way of somehow practicing these principles in all our affairs which extends over to the hotel, and I think they appreciate that.

I really don't have much of an Arrangements Committee to help me, but other drunks are always insisting on helping me somehow, which is another sign of the kind of sobriety that drives all the way across the state to these assemblies. One time I did have a small committee to assist me on discussing some of the agenda items Robert H. needed to take with him to New York. I actually got a chance to stand up there and deliver a real committee report.

Another thing that has helped me is having people suggest how I might do things differently. I have tried some of these ideas and found them very workable for everybody. (This might seem a little untrue but never has anyone criticized me during all the time I have been doing Arrangements). I intend on taking the next Chair through the entire process almost like I was still doing it by myself so they realize that it does take a certain amount of work but is really very simple to do. It would also be nice if they considered a woman since the position seems to have been always done by mostly men.

There are a number of issues that have come up, like moving around the Area Assembly. That is truly a wonderful idea, but it took a lot of trial and error before I figured out what I was doing, not to mention the problem of securing a contract with an inexpensive place to meet.

If you don't want to help do tables and chairs it is also possible to assist your district when hosting an Area Assembly. I've seen a lot of new people get involved that way and watched them experience the freedom and happiness that comes with service work. Some old timers still go to meetings regularly but never do any service while seeming more restless, irritable and discontent at times than happy, joyous and free. Service is all about out-going love.

Corrections Tom D

The Corrections Committee has accomplished much during the past two years. I feel our most important accomplishments have been the following:

- 1) Contact with the headquarters of the South Carolina Department of Corrections. We have worked to make AA more easily access able to the prisons. We have the full support from the SCDC. They attended our workshops and encouraged us to participate to the maximum with our meetings.
- 2) The success of our workshops in Charleston, Columbia and The State Convention in Columbia 2009. Attendance and participation was well beyond expectations, with over 200 people attending the three combined workshops.

I believe that enthusiasm was the key word in our committee.

CPC Don H

Getting me to write about what I have done as CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) chair is hard. Building upon the successes of others mostly sums up what we've accomplished in the CPC Committee.

As a former perfectionist, I recognize the hesitancy in stepping out because of messing up. As I often tell the CPC Committee, "Who is going to know?" (Just do it, move on; it ain't nothing but a thing.) We all want to do CPC right. Interestingly, we do it right just by doing it.

Tapping into the vast experience of AA is what I have gotten from "doing" workshops. I no longer "lead" workshops; I teach others to do them. The goal is to channel the leadership there into wanting to share the information with others. That is different. That is why and how the workshops are interactive: one learns so much by actually "doing" something.

Every one has a story to tell. Couching the story in such a way to attract non-AA's to the concept of AA is key—no overkill, no hype—just genuine, off the cuff, sincerity. Remember, "we are not a glum lot" (Grapevine). That is hard to pull off; this is part of our challenge.

Another challenge is coordinating. Schedules are different. People are willing, yet private. What helped me is grasping the idea of "Symphony" (or big picture). Some years ago a district asked "What can one district do?" Others have asked, "What can one group do?" The answer lies in "marshaling relationships into a whole whose magnificence exceeds the sum of its parts," as Dan P. says, "to distinguish between what really mat-

ters and what really annoys is essential to the search for meaning.”

Area Assembly has been a focal point for the Committee. During the committee meeting here, we catch up on progress made throughout Area 62, upcoming events, plus, a workshop is offered. Topics vary, yet are hands on, interactive, how to, and useful.

It has been a pleasure serving with each and every one of you in Area 62. I trust you will continue to build on the successes of others and share your AA story with others. If I may assist, let me know.

Grapevine.....Holly K

Wow!!! Has it been two years already?

I've learned a great deal about working with other people in this time and most important about myself — you know it's all about me anyway. Seriously though, this experience has been very rewarding. I've gotten the chance to meet and talk with a lot of the assembly members I would not have just by attending the meetings. Everyone involved in the Area Assembly are dedicated to what they do. It grows within. Hope to serve you all again.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity.

K.I.T. NewsletterLyn N

The K.I.T. (Keep in Touch) is Area 62's newsletter. The K.I.T. chair is, in general terms, in charge of gathering material for the K.I.T., laying it out in a printable format, making arrangements for printing, then distributing the appropriate number to each district GSR at Area Assemblies.

Serving as the K.I.T. Chairperson for the last two years has meant a great deal to my sobriety. I have learned, in a much deeper way, the meaning of humility, courage, patience, and reliance on other A.A.'s and my Higher Power.

If courage is “feeling the fear and doing it anyway,” then I found some courage these past two years. When I faced the blank pages of the first issue and wondered how I was going to fill them, I had to trust other A.A.'s and my Higher Power. Both came through with flying colors. As time progressed, Robert and David helped in defining the role of the K.I.T. for this rotation as the voice of Area 62's service work. We have tried to report to you on the work of the Assembly and its individual

committees, with the ultimate goal of helping the still-suffering alcoholic.

Humility has meant accepting lack of perfection, not always feeling I hit the mark, and knowing that doing my best was all that was asked. I have heard that in any A.A. meeting something is said that is needed by at least one person, and likewise I trust that in any issue, something was said that was needed by another alcoholic.

Like all committee officers and chairs, I relied heavily on others to report on the service work being accomplished across the State. This has given me a booster-shot in trust and patience (not always my strong suit), and that has helped me as a person and as a recovering alcoholic and sponsor.

I am deeply grateful to the officers and committee chairs, who took the time to document the work of their office or committee for the K.I.T., to the committee members who assisted in gathering information and helped with distribution, to those who submitted articles about their experience in service work, and especially to you, for reading the results of our efforts. I pray that we have helped keep the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous there for the next suffering alcoholic.

Public InformationHerman R

I feel that for the last two years the Public Information Committee, though small in numbers, learned that Public Information is a much needed area for Area 62 to explore. In some districts the Committee purchased the PSI DVD, which will be aired on radio and TV stations. The purpose of the presentation is to increase awareness for those who have a problem with alcohol and to let them know that there is a place to go for help. “*When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible.*”

Treatment..... Randy S

For the past two years the Treatment Committee has reviewed and improved our ability to carry the message of recovery from alcoholism to various types of Treatment Facilities. We focused on remembering our primary purpose and encouraging study of the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Facilities.”

We distributed information to more than 100 Treatment Facilities about our Bridge the Gap pro-

gram and did our best to ensure personal anonymity with the endeavor. In our meetings we hoped to successfully answer many questions and helped form positive resolution to any number of problems.

I am grateful for this opportunity to be of Service.

Web Site Cecil R

The purpose of the Area 62 Web Site Committee is to carry the message of A.A. more effectively to its members and the general public. Over the last two years the Committee has implemented the following: upgraded the e-mail system of the web site; implemented an exit popup for links that take visitors away from our site; reiterated its commitment to the Area service structure and how the web site integrates group listings with it; resumed work on the development of a database-driven process for feeding information to the site; held training sessions for District web representatives; added the new at-large Spanish Linguistic District (90), and created a manual for web reps that includes a history of the work of the committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11-14, 2010

**63RD ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA
AREA 62 STATE CONVENTION**

A New Freedom

Landmark Resort • Myrtle Beach, SC

July 1-4, 2010

**INTERNATIONAL
AA CONVENTION**

San Antonio, TX

December 10-12, 2010

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM

Springmaid Resort • Myrtle Beach, SC

**More information at
area62.org**

NOTES FROM AREA 62 ARCHIVIST

“The basic facts of A.A.’s growth and development never can become distorted.”

Bill W. to A.A. Archivist Nell Wing

A lot has taken place in the Area 62 Archives in the last two years. At times I’ve felt like Nell when Bill told her “Now, Nell, you and Ed give what time you can to getting all this stuff in order. It’s got to be sorted out and then preserved.” Well, that about sums it up. All of the Grapevines have been preserved and inventoried as well as most of the Eastern, Western and Canadian Directories. The same holds true for the A.A. Service Manuals and General Service Conference Reports. A list of the items that the archives still needs will be posted on the areas web site in the archives committee section by the end of the year. The archives are still looking for missing Assembly minutes, Area convention flyers and programs. A list of those items will also be posted on the areas web site in the archives committee section by the end of the year. Group histories are still trickling in and we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.

There are several projects underway that are worth noting (other than preservation): The area assembly minutes and tapes are being reviewed and a document is underway that will chronologically show what motions were brought before the assembly and the resulting vote. This should help to reduce any confusion with the intent of past motions and allow us to see what topics have been of most concern to A.A. in South Carolina. The document will also reflect any group information listed, attendance and location. The traveling archive is being updated and is available for area and district events. And lastly, group histories, oral histories and speaker tapes from South Carolina A.A.’s are being inventoried.

On behalf of the Archives Committee, I want to thank everyone who has assisted us these last two years in obtaining past Area 62 assembly minutes, group histories, A.A. Grapevines, convention flyers and programs, oral histories of old timers, and other materials that we needed and were missing.

As always, thank you for your continuing support of the Area 62 Archives.

K.C.H., Area 62 Archivist

CPC Teams Present AA's Message to N.C. Academy of Physician Assistants

By Dennis H., District 81 PI/CPC Chair

You could feel the excitement in the air! The teams of South Carolina Area 62 and North Carolina Area 51, with the help of the District 81 CPC committee, joined forces at the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants 33rd Annual Summer Conference.

AA members met on August 17th at Kingston Plantation Resort around 7:30 am with the set-up team of Dennis, Ed and Bob, lead by Homer M. The team opened boxes of pamphlets, newsletters, flyers, flow charts, and A.A. literature.

On display was the Big Book, along with other samples of A.A. conference-approved literature. Our booth was ready at 8:30 am. Homer checked our display, went over the flow charts, and the pamphlets we wanted to hand out. We were armed and ready.

At 9:00 a.m. George and Derek showed up in business attire ready to go to work. Homer M. of Area 51 went through the presentation, using the flow charts to get out our message to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Our goal was to introduce the AA web site, AA organization and pamphlets, and to show that A.A. works with the Professional Community. We feel we met our goal.

Over 1,200 Physician Assistants from all over the country were exposed to our booth. We were asked hundreds of questions and given thousands of excuses of why clients couldn't go to a meeting. We explained the difference between a closed and open meeting, and what A.A. does and doesn't do.

Homer M. of Area 52 gave a Power Point presentation, and Patti and Julia presented personal stories, all of which hit a "home run" with everyone in attendance. The most important ingredient was that the Physician Assistants were able to meet "real" alcoholics.

District 81 dressed up and showed up. We had volunteers from Little River Group, Sun Fun Group, Back to Basic Group, and The Alano Club Groups. I would like to thank all that helped out.



My special thanks go out to Ed, Bob, George, Derek, Denise, Tommy, Claire, Sage, Richard, Kevin, Gregory, and Renee. They not only live the program of A.A., they show their "gratitude" in action.

I also would like to thank Area 52, and a special thanks to Homer M., their CPC Committee Chair for letting us be a part of a great way to practice Tradition Five and to do some Twelve Step work.

As Bill W. put it, "Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service that the AA Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither, and those who haven't been given the truth may die."

I have a heck of a lot more to say, but I'll pass.

Keep In Touch (Kit) is distributed at each Area 62 Assembly. Area officers, committee chairs, and A.A. members share about what is happening in service work around Area 62. If you have a story to share about exceptional service work that carries the message to the still-suffering alcoholic, please send it to 62kitchair@area62.org. KIT presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of alcoholism. Opinions expressed here are not those of A.A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous or the Area 62 Assembly.