

Alternate Chair Report

Fall Assembly

September 17, 2016

You've given me many opportunities to make decisions. At times it seems that I am the answer man. The one that has the answers. All that I really have is the experience you all have given me. You've accepted me as I am and have given me the opportunity to be a leader. Bill W., describes leadership in Concept 9 of our Service Manual as "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need". One line in that essay is, "We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us".

Another line in his essay that stands out to me today is "Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to the effect: Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example". In effect, we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us".

This seems to be a tough task for me. I have read a lot of guidelines this year. The Service Manual included. At times, I feel, that these guidelines are mandates. That they need to be followed to the letter.

I'm learning that it's just not true.

Another line in Concept 9 is: When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker, and he exercises no judgement of his own, well, he really isn't a leader at all.

Since the last committee meeting I've been given the opportunity to participate in the State Conference, 4 Big Book planning meetings, 2 Spring Assembly Conference committee meetings. We have some great leaders here and some yet to come. All we need is the experience.

Looking forward to participating in the "Where in AA Do I fit in" Workshop on September 25th with Districts 40 & 41 in Lombard.

Thank you for your Service.

Steve M