

Why Service?

- I go to meetings...
- I work the steps of AA
- I have a sponsor
- I have a sponsee
- You want me to do more?



Why Service?

- What's in it for me? (I'm selfish and self-centered.)
 - (You will grow)
- How much time is involved? (That depends)
- I don't know how to do this? !!!!!
 - (You'll learn)
- I don't know anyone. (You'll meet them)
- What if I make a mistake? (You can't break AA)



Why Service?

- Why Do We Need a Conference?
- By Bernard B. Smith – nonalcoholic architects of the Conference structure answered this question below in 1954):
“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.”

Why Service?

- We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.
- We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unmasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that AA never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.

Why Service?

- When I first read this I cried. Yes, I did. I felt so much gratitude it was unbelievable.
- When Bernard B. Smith wrote about “We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism” I was reminded of my own family.
- I serve A.A. because I want A.A. to be there for my family if or when my family needs it. Also when your family needs it.
- It’s really that simple.
- I’ve got recovery and I can serve.

Why Service?

- So what exactly is service?
 - Opening up a meeting hall.
 - Making coffee.
 - Being a greeter.
 - Chairing a meeting.
 - Cleaning up after a meeting.
 - Going to the District's monthly meeting.
 - Attending an Area Assembly
 - Being a sponsor
 - Taking a meeting into a jail, treatment center & nursing home.
 - Serving on a SERVICE COMMITTEE

Why Service?

- What is a service committee?
- I wouldn't know what I should do!!!!
- The Northern Illinois Area has a handbook which explains the duties and responsibilities of all of the committees.
- Plus, there are others that have done the work and would be happy to help you on your way.

Why Service?

- From Language of the Heart (writing by Bill W. – July 1955)
- Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that AA's 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 will die.
- Hence, an AA service is *anything whatever* that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer – ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy. (Recovery, Unity and Service)

QUESTIONS

