

District 55 Newsletter

4th Quarter, 2022
[read online: district55aa.com](http://district55aa.com)

The Spirit of Rotation

"...the Group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants. There is the sometimes thankless privilege of doing the group's chores...the committee gives no spiritual advice, judges no one's conduct, issues no orders...and so they make the belated discovery that they are really servants, not senators. These are universal experiences. Thus throughout AA does the group conscience decree the terms upon which its leaders shall serve...the bleeding deacon is one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him, who constantly connives for reelection to office...Nearly every oldtimer in our Society has gone through this process in some degree. Happily, most of them survive and live to become elder statesmen. They become the real and permanent leadership of A.A. There is the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge and humble example that resolve a crisis. When sorely perplexed, the group inevitably turns to them for advice. They become the voice of the group conscience; in fact, these are the true voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. They do not drive by mandate; they lead by example." AA, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p.134/5

Two years ago I reluctantly raised my hand to serve as District 55's newsletter chair. Sobriety has taught me countless lessons, one of which is to be open to embracing what is unfamiliar and uncomfortable. Service work at home group level was something I was very familiar with, but this was the first time I would be serving at district level.

The hesitation was not about being of service in A.A. or at district level necessarily – it had to do with being of service in this particular capacity. Having never created a newsletter of any sort before, this was new territory. Technology and computers in general are not my strong suit. Two years later, I can't say that I feel much more competent in that area! But, I can say that I stumbled through it and managed to have fun when I remembered to let go of my insecurities and expectations. After all, we are called to be trusted servants, not trusted experts. 😊

Reflecting on the quote above and on my belief regarding the principle of humility – if we are serving, there is no room for ego. If my purpose is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and to help other alcoholics along the way, then the work I do has little to do with me and everything to do with the cause I am supporting. To that end, I admire and applaud A.A.'s way of operating – discouraging any member from ruling the group they serve by promoting the

spirit of rotation. When we pass the baton, we are given the opportunity to trust and let go. When the baton is passed to us, we can ask for help and be reminded how it feels to be a "newcomer" of sorts again.

Bill W. warned us about becoming bleeding deacons - one who looks for validation and is less likely to listen to others - one whose ego gets in the way. Instead, we are encouraged to be elder statesmen - one who helps quietly and leads by example, one who focuses on spiritual principles and searches for the guidance of a loving higher power. I know that at times, I miss the mark in this regard. Learning how to trust God and the group more than my own opinion doesn't always come easily when the two do not line up. The more I listen, the more I learn.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow recovering alcoholics for electing me, entrusting me with the newsletter and especially, for serving with me. We didn't always agree, but we found a way to suit up, show up and to keep District 55 afloat after a pandemic - which has been no easy feat! May we all continue to find ways of serving the fellowship of A.A. and one another, with a loving God as our guide.

Kelly P.

District 55 Newsletter Chair

Have you ever wondered what it's like to serve at district level?

District 55 still has openings:

-SCHEDULES CHAIR

-CI-PCP CHAIR

Come to the next district meeting to find out more! We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall in Sequim.

Visit District 55's website for our most up to date information regarding meeting schedules:

District55aa.com

Visit Area 72's website to see what is happening outside your neck of the woods:

Area72aa.org

DISTRICT 55 UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK FEAST

DECEMBER 25, 2022

3:00 pm with Meeting to Follow

American Legion, 107 E. Prairie St.

Sequim, WA

WISHING TREE

located at American Legion

w/tags for kiddos/families that could benefit during
the holiday season.

Want to donate a gift? Please call or see:

Kimberely P. 360-797-4385 or

Melissa L. 360-460-5022



New Year's 2022 Alcathon

Bring a dish to share and ring in the new year with your A.A. family!

Meetings will start at 5:30 pm, December 31st and will run every hour until Early Birds @ 7:00am on New Year's Day.

Location: American Legion Hall

Happy New Year



2023

The District 55 Activities Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm at the American Legion prior to the monthly District meeting. *All are welcome and encouraged to join!* Can't make it to the meeting, but still want to be a part of the FUN that District 55 creates? Contact Melissa L. by email: melly0535@gmail.com or phone/text: (360) 460-5022.

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