

AN ASPECT OF SERVICE-SERVING

Hello, Friends. No, the title is not a typo. I suppose it's a variation of what I heard early on, that "you're either in AA or you're around AA." Those who are in AA and serve our fellowship tend to be the ones who stay sober, at least from what I've seen; and while this article is for all of us, it's particularly written for the GSRs, and for those who will step up as GSRs in the next rotation.

2020 has been a challenging and sometimes brutal year. For AA members it has been a time of upheaval, sudden and enforced change, new frontiers, sickness, and sometimes death. Doors have been closed and opened – a perfect example are virtual meetings, which for some are a source of annoyance (or worse), but for others are an incredible blessing. Money issues for individuals, groups and all other aspects of AA are pressing. The list goes on.

There is a Solution; and it starts with all those who serve.

For the past few months, I've referred you to Concept IX, the "Leadership Concept", and its four touchstones: Tolerance, Responsibility, Flexibility

and Vision. Perhaps at this time, as trusted servants we can get behind another principle of leadership, one that is necessary (and critical) in times of crisis, loss and even disunity, and one that all of us need to give AND receive. That principle is healing.

For those of you who will stand as your group's next GSR, remember: you will carry your group's voice and its heartbeat to the service structure. You will be the messenger of AA's information and evolution back to your group. You will be the guardian of its Traditions. Additionally, you will be a leader in your group as it moves in whatever direction it chooses to go. Because you will be serving, and a healing influence.

When the load gets heavy go to Bill W.'s final

sentence in Concept IX: "We thank God that Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed with so much leadership in all of its affairs." Because in AA, leadership is serving.

*In Love and Service,
Tom B., Alternate Delegate Area 49-SENY, Panel 69*