

# Connections

*Promoting unity with each other, our home groups, and AA as a whole*

August/September 2011

Volume 3

District 10's Newsletter

Issue 7

## AA's Spirit of Rotation Means Letting Go and Letting God

Following is a talk that was given by Lauren B, Panel 51 Delegate from Montana, at the 52nd General Service Conference on the "spirit of rotation" and the concept of "letting go." This talk appeared in the 3rd quarter, 2006 issue of the *Margenser*. It is condensed for the purpose of fitting it in our Newsletter.

"At the 1955 Convention in St. Louis, Bill W. passed on to the fellowship the responsibility for the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. Just imagine how difficult that must have been for Bill. He formalized the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts and wrote most of our literature. He set up our service structure and helped make AA available worldwide. He was the driving force behind the movement, and now he was letting go of the reins and allowing the Conference to act in his stead.

"In our book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Bill describes the emotion and challenges of stepping down as a leader of Alcoholics Anonymous and speaks about AA being safe in the hands of the fellowship, even from him. Bill knew the pitfalls of having a person in a position of power in AA and of the problems it could cause within a group, district, or area. He knew how easy it could be for any one of us to be deluded into thinking we are an expert, that we have some measure of importance, and that we don't have to abide by the group conscience because we know better. He understood that rotating leadership is best.

"The spirit of rotation means more than just giving up the title of a service position. Rotation means truly letting go of the control and the actions. It means allowing new GSRs, DCMs, Committee Leaders, and Officers to make mistakes without criticism and do their jobs without undue influence from those who have rotated out of those positions. It means allowing the entire service structure to operate with God leading the way by expressing Himself in our group conscience.

"The benefits of rotation are very real and practical. The benefits to the individual are beyond our imagination because we know that anything God has in store for us will be better than anything we could have planned for ourselves, and when we make ourselves available for service, we have new opportunities for growth. We can't move forward if we are still clinging to our present conditions. We don't know what God has planned for us, but we'll never find out if we are not willing to let Him guide us further down the path.

"By rotating out of a service position and truly letting go of the job, we open ourselves to an ongoing spiritual awakening. In effect we are saying to our Higher Power that we finished the job laid out for us and are ready for what He wants us to do next. Bill set the example for all of us, and the challenge for us is to follow his example."

This talk expresses my feelings regarding this topic of rotation. With His help, we will need to continue to allow God through our group conscience to lead the way.

In loving service,  
Pat H., DCM, District 10

## And now some *Grapevine* wit

**Heard at a meeting:** "I started out as a social drinker. Then I had my second drink."

*James H. Ontario, Canada May 2008*

## Have *Connections* submission?

Please submit it to heller1936@comcast.net or pass it on to your home group's General Service Representative.

## **A Simple Kit of Spiritual Tools Big Book Study to be Held**

Scott L. and Joe C. share their experiences of over 50 years in recovery as well as a comprehensive Big Book Study on October 1– 2 at the Elks Club, 289 Willowdale Drive in Frederick.

Tickets are \$10 for the two days. On Saturday, the event begins at 6.30 pm with coffee and fellowship. Then at 7 pm, Joe and Scott share their stories.

On October 2 the event begins at 8.30 am with a Big Book Workshop which runs until 12:30 pm. All sessions will begin on time and attendees are asked to be seated 5 minutes before they commence. For tickets/questions email [wciactivities@gmail.com](mailto:wciactivities@gmail.com).

## **Donate to The Baltimore Intergroup Council Online**

The Baltimore Intergroup Council now has a way for folks to donate on line. Simply go to their site at [www.baltimoreaa.org](http://www.baltimoreaa.org), click on the "Contribute Online" button then follow the steps. And we all know how easy following the steps are. There are options for individuals, groups and "faithful fivers".

## **Show Me The Money**

District 42 will host a workshop, *Show Me the Money Managing Money in A.A.* on September 17, at Community United Methodist Church, 1690 Riedel Road in Crofton.

The workshop will run from 11:00 am. to 3 pm. Lunch will be provided for a \$5 donation. Visit their website at [www.mdaadistrict42.org](http://www.mdaadistrict42.org) for more information.

## **To Group Treasurers**

Maryland General Services is asking that you please remember to put your 6-digit GSO Group Number on all correspondence to Maryland General Service, Inc. Maryland General Services' Mailing Address is: Maryland General Service Inc. P.O. Box 701, New Market, MD 21774

Next District meeting: Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30, St. Luke's Church Hall, 7001 Harford Rd.

## **Letting Go and Letting God**

How often do we try to create God in our Image? How often do we say, "My God is going to be like this?" Or, "My God will do that?"

I am often guilty of this in my life. The Third Step of Alcoholics Anonymous states, "Made a decision to turn our will and out lives over to the care of God as *we understood him.*"

When we are new, we don't understand God well. Or worse, we have an understanding of a God in our past that was harmful or hurtful. We may have a fear or hate of God that blocks us from His grace.

We are often quite confused. Still we work on turning our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him at the moment. As we re invite God into our lives, we don't know Him very well. Our perception of Him could be so many things to us, whether good or bad.

In sobriety, we need to meet God as He truly is. God is good, God is Love. He is a God who has a plan for our lives. We may not know these plans, but we must rely on God. We can no longer be like the actor in the play who wants to run the whole show. Even though we may be well meaning, the show will not come off well. As a result, the show will not come off well and we will place ourselves in a position to be hurt.

Relying on God, no matter how little understanding we might have at the time, will free us of self. As we continue to pray, read, and meditate on God, we will gain further understanding of Him.

We need to remember however that God is not a short order cook, creating whatever we tell him to. God is God. We don't get to pick and choose what we want God to be. We need to meet God as He is and grow with him from there. Then our understanding of Him will grow.

When we turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood him*, this is where we will gain more and more peace in our lives. This is where we grow in our relationship with Him. We will learn about and understand God more. We will grow in His will and enjoy peace and serenity.

Once again, God is God. We cannot change Him. He can and will change us. We must let Him each day. Only when we let go and discover God for who He is and rely on Him will we know peace.

*Submitted by Mike M.*