

The Problem with A.A. is...

After I gave a report about the 61st General Service Conference tonight, I was asked if there were any fights at the conference this year. To say it was a peaceful, love fest would be lying, but I don't like to elaborate on the conflicts when I report about service work. When I was newly sober, I remember hearing about all the 'politics' in service work which made it unattractive to me and I don't want to propagate that common misconception. However, as a trusted servant, it is my job to answer questions honestly.

Before I gave my answer, I wish I would have said what I heard a Colorado delegate say, "The only problem with A.A. is that it is chock full of alcoholics". And then I would add what my sponsor says, "We are *not* all spiritual at the same time".

Getting over my fear of confrontation has been an important part of journey in recovery, as well as service work. When I complained about being uncomfortable with the occasional arguing at business meetings, my sponsor would say that both people are passionate about Alcoholics Anonymous and are just trying to voice their beliefs about what they think is best for AA. As I tried to listen with an open mind, I often traced the passion to fear. I could recognize what a corroding piece of thread fear has been in my life which allowed me to listen more compassionately.

I am grateful that I was willing to fill the role my Higher Power assigned by saying yes to A.A. service opportunities. The longer I stay sober the more excited I get about the path in front of me. So far, it has been beyond my wildest dreams, and I have faith that as long as continue this journey, I will continue to live life happy, joyous and free.

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