

ROTATION

“The Spirit of Rotation is the Heartbeat of A.A.” I have heard this phrase often. It is a simple idea. We serve for a period of time and then we step aside and let another take our place.

As I worked the 12 Steps of Recovery, studied the 12 Traditions of Unity, and came to understand the 12 Concepts of Service, I volunteered to do my part in service to our fellowship. Initially I looked at it as a job. I will do the work, I will ‘suit up and show up’ for my term, and then I’m done. My experience changed my opinion. As I shared my service experiences with my sponsor, I realized that my sober life was expanding. I was learning how to ‘practice these principles in all my affairs.’ As a result, I continued to accept various service roles. I moved down the triangle of the A.A. Service Structure and ultimately have the privilege of being your Delegate, Area 56, Panel 74 and to serve on the Conference Committee on Literature. It has been a wonderful 2 years!

Now comes the hard part. At the next Area 56 Assembly on September 20th the main agenda item will be the election of new officers (Delegate, Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, Registrar, Treasurer, Recording Secretary) for Panel 76. Rotating out will be all the Officers of Panel 74. That means as of December 31st I will be out as Delegate. I must step aside. I must let go. On one hand, I am looking forward to less responsibility, but the flip side is I enjoy it and there is so much to do!

My service journey has enlarged my spiritual life. That was not what I expected. What will happen as I step away from being Delegate? From others’ experience, if I rotate out with grace and humility, all will be well. All of our steps require growth in humility; rotation does too. I have the opportunity to move back to the top of the triangle and focus on being a good member of my Homegroup. My plan is to become an example of what an “Elder Statesman” in A.A. looks like and to avoid becoming a “Bleeding Deacon”. As always, reliance on my Higher Power and the help of my sponsor and the fellowship of A.A., is needed one day at a time for that plan to happen.

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Service is where the fun starts!

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