

Good afternoon, my name is Conrad, and I am an alcoholic. I am Sober today by the grace of God and the miracle of Alcoholics Anonymous. My sobriety date is June 26, 2002. My home group is Principals Before Personalities in Burien, WA. We are a Big Book study group; we meet on Tuesdays at 7pm and we are a one-hour meeting.

So today we are here to talk about service. So, what exactly is service? One definition is: The action of helping or doing work for someone or an act of assistance. Now let us talk about service in Alcoholics Anonymous. My definition of that is giving back that what was given so freely to me so that the still suffering alcoholic has a chance for that very same gift.

Now about our topic for today. Are we being creative in making AA service appealing and motivating members to participate? So, as I began my service journey it was due to good sponsorship. I watched my sponsor's passion followed his guidance and it rubbed off on me. We are in changing times. AS our membership has become younger and tech savvy it has changed how we communicate and interact with one another. Where we used to go to a service event and pass a piece of paper and have a conversation now, we text it, send an email or some other form of digital information transfer rather than walking 20ft. With that we lose an opportunity to pass on our experience and joy of service on an intimate level. So now it is my or our responsibility to incorporate our personal experience and passion for service into digital form or in other words get creative.

In the past few years and leading up to the time of Covid AA has had to adapt to a new environment. We have had to embrace technology to help us keep our primary purpose. Where we used to say hey get in the car and come on there's food, we now pass out a number with a password and say come join us for a minute or two. We entice our friends and sponsees saying here is an opportunity to get involved, meet new people and expand their AA experience. Personally, I think the appeal and motivation comes when others see our joy and excitement in giving back. But with that being said we, as alcoholics in service in this new age it still comes down to how we convey and express the needs the joys and rewards of service that helps motivate others to want to take part and get involved.

So, this topic is asking for some kind observation or conclusion which I am not sure I am able to do accurately, but after having this conversation with several people we did come up with this. Through these trying times in society AA has come up against new challenges and avenues for growth. We have had to learn new skills and with that has come new and exciting service opportunities. Just like in my area we have created new committees and chairs which creates new opportunities to serve which in turn is appealing to some and motivating to others. So, I guess in reality we are being creative by incorporating these new entities into our service structure.

When I said yes to doing this presentation, I started looking for numbers and figures about service in Alcoholics Anonymous to either verify and or give evidence that we were doing this thing, but after thinking about it I realized it wasn't about the numbers. I looked at the reasons why I loved service so much and realized it was about the desire and willingness to serve. What drives us to serve the greater good and give of ourselves. What ignites the spark and what keeps the flame alive? I have to say that in the beginning of my time in service I had no idea what I was doing or why. But as time went on, I realized that I was doing what those before me had done to make this wonderful gift available. I began to have a sense of purpose; I became accountable to others. The longer I stayed around the more I noticed qualities in others that I desired. Service has a way of bringing out the best in us. These are the things that made service appealing to me and motivated me to continue to participate. I believe that it is our responsibility as past and present servants in AA to put these qualities on full display for those around us to see. In that way we provide the spark for others. I figure by this time you can recognize a reoccurring theme. I could go on and on about what service has meant to me and many others, but we all know what that looks. Upon closing I would like to say that I feel everyone in service today is doing an outstanding job in shining a bright light and doing the work of Alcoholics Anonymous. They are the ones who are truly creative, and it is that creativity that is making service appealing to the newcomer and motivating many others to participate.

On a lighter note, being a typical alcoholic it's hard for me to talk for any length of time if I'm not talking about myself, so with that I would like to thank you all for being here and the committee for allowing me this opportunity to be of service.