



# Quinte West Messenger

February 2010

## THE FINAL WORD...

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of the "Messenger" marking one year of publication. Having seen the publications of numerous other district and areas, I have witnessed the benefits of a newsletter and seen the active participation of their members in sharing the events and activities of their areas through an effective newsletter publication. Thanks to the dedication of a couple of our district members we have been able to share a few of the points of interest happening in our district .... but... many activities and events go unheard and unnoticed. Repeated requests through our district table for assistance with the publication have met with "Oh yes, I'll get a submission in to the newsletter right away"... but (second 'but').. it appears the interest in the newsletter project just isn't there. This reaffirms my belief that 100% of the service work in AA falls on 10% (or less ) of the members. For members such as myself who are absent from the district much of the time, it is an excellent means of keeping in touch with things back home and I will miss it... but (third 'but') I see no sense in continuing a project such as this without the support of the district members. Perhaps the project is ahead of it's time or another member may want to continue with the publication – I hope so. There is so much of interest happening in our district but (4<sup>th</sup> and final "but") so little of it being shared beyond the respective homegroups.

This will be the final publication by me and I sincerely hope someone steps up to the plate to continue with the project and you will have my support. Thanks again to the few who have helped with the previous issues.

...John S.

International Convention 2010 July 1 - 4,  
2010

San Antonio, Texas USA  
Eastern Canadian  
Regional  
Hospitality Suite



2010 International  
Convention  
San Antonio, Texas

Come on in...

**Wanted!!!**  
*Newsletter Editor:* Must have an interest in Service Work and activities and events in your district.  
If interested please see your GSR.



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Concept II

**From our DCM...**

*The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.*

Last month, I spoke about the fact that the authority and responsibility for A.A. lies in the collective conscience of the fellowship as a whole. While Concept I states, then, that the fellowship is in charge, Concept II states that the A.A. General Service Conference (GSC) is the “active voice” and “effective conscience” for the whole Society or Fellowship, if you will. Though this may sound contradictory, it is a matter of expediency.

If everything related to A.A. had to be resolved by the membership every time an issue came up, nothing would ever get done. Therefore, the day-to-day operation of A.A. is delegated to the GSC, which is comprised of our trusted servants. In fact, the GSC has been given complete authority for the maintenance of A.A. World Services, except for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter.

How is Concept II put into practice? As mentioned in last month's newsletter, each group elects a General Service Representative (GSR) from their membership. Every two years the GSR's meet and elect a delegate from their Area to represent them at the GSC. The Conference meets every April for a week. During this week, the work of A.A. is directed and thus the GSC is "*the active voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.*"

In essence, the GSC is kind of like a huge group conscience meeting where our trusted servants from all over meet together once a year to make decisions about the running of Alcoholics Anonymous. Of course, the GSC only meets for just that one week of the year. So, it is not only necessary for our trusted servants to act on the decisions made by the GSC in the running of AA but also that they use their judgement as trusted servants to act as “the active voice and effective conscience” of our program to the best of their ability when they are apart, too.

Though there is only “one ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience,” and our leaders do not govern, they **are** our “trusted servants.” As such, it is important for members to trust those who have been elected by the fellowship to guide us. This can be a difficult choice for alcoholics to make.

In my early years, I took a training course, "How to Delegate Without Losing Control." I learned how to let go and let things happen as they may. It was scary at first but, with practice, it became second nature. Then, when I came into recovery and was told to, "Let Go and Let God," that same panic returned. Again, with practice, I became comfortable doing that.

Bill W. knew that he and Dr. Bob, our co-founders, would not be around forever so, in consultation with many other early A.A. members, he wrote our basic text, Alcoholics Anonymous, the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts and many other articles upon which the foundation of our fellowship rests and upon which, in the confusing turns that our lives can sometimes take, we can place our trust. If all else fails, we can trust in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, its steps, traditions and concepts.

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### Concept II continued..

Concept II, in essence, tells us that we can trust our chosen representatives to decide for us what happens in the daily affairs of our fellowship as long as they do not act in conflict with AA Traditions, Principles or the General Warranties of the GSC. Those could only be changed under the authority of the membership at large.

It occurred to me during this writing process that Step 2, Tradition 2 and Concept II all share one similar idea. Do you see it?

- Step 2: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- Tradition 2: For our group conscience, there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants. They do not govern.
- Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

In all three, the shared idea is, “I don't have to be in charge.”

**Tom JC - DCM**



### *The Truth Hurts....*

Service Work in AA is like a football game: 20,000 spectators - who might benefit from a little exercise - are watching 22 players badly in need of rest (Joe S., Kerrville, Texas, March 2007)



The *Messenger* is published monthly by District 30 to provide members with information about events and happenings in our area. Member submissions are encouraged and may be submitted to:

[district30@quintewestaa.org](mailto:district30@quintewestaa.org)

Current and past issues are available online at our website:

[www.quintewestaa.org](http://www.quintewestaa.org)

Articles by members appearing in “The Messenger” are personal opinion and not necessarily the opinion of this newsletter, our groups, District 30, or AA as a whole. Personal opinion is our right as AA members and will be honoured and protected by this newsletter providing it is not detrimental to another member, group, or AA as a whole. As with any publication you may find articles you disagree with and we suggest you simply skip over them or if you feel inclined, submit your own views on the subject.

John S. - Newsletter Editor