



The Three Legacies Of Alcoholics Anonymous: Service

The Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous are Recovery, Unity, and Service. These legacies have been passed down to us from the cofounders and old timers of A.A.

- Recovery is contained in the Big Book and Twelve Steps.
- Unity is contained in the Twelve Traditions.
- Service is contained in every act which helps A.A. function or which carries the A.A. message to those who need it.

SERVICE

Each group has but one primary purpose -
To carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Whenever anyone reaches out anywhere,
I want the hand of AA to be there and for that,
I am responsible

FOREWORD A.A.'S LEGACY OF SERVICE by BILL W.

from Appendix A, AA's Service Manual

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer — ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.

These services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas, or A.A., are utterly vital to our existence and growth. Nor can we make A.A. more simple by abolishing such services. We would only be asking for complication and confusion.

Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A.

The most vital, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole, namely: the General Service Office, A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., and our board of trustees, known legally as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our worldwide unity and much of our growth since early times are directly traceable to this cluster of life-giving activities.

CONNECTING WITH AA PRINCIPLES



Writing Exercise - Three Legacies Service

- 1 There are many ways to be of service in AA. What's your favorite way?**
- 2 What are good guidelines to follow on a 12th Step Call?**
- 3 What will you find at the Intergroup office on Kilgore? Google it. Write down 3 things that surprised you.**