

## Courageous Conversations

I applaud you all for the way you show up every month and at every assembly, ready to discuss whatever it is before us. Some of you have shared with me your take on our August Area Committee Meeting. Let me share with you mine...

What I saw was committed trusted servants with heavy hearts, but a commitment to share their truth. What I felt was the warmth of your love for A.A. And, what I heard was your honesty and your understanding of our great responsibility. As a testament to the A.A. way of life, it was astonishing.

I am blessed to serve with you.

I am also grateful that our Area is healthy enough not to shy away from courageous conversations.

When I got the chance to reflect on things, I asked myself the question, “where else could such an issue be discussed with such quiet dignity?”

Our twelve-step program of recovery was (and remains) revolutionary in suggesting that we need both prayer and meditation to lead to a “conscious contact with God as we understand Him.” New motivation from a deeper source has the potential to strip away ego and attachment. I hope I remain receptive to this cleansing power.

I’ll leave you with another quote from our co-founder Bill W., this one from pages 127-128 of Our Great Responsibility:

“During the production of that [big] book, I saw human nature at its most sublime, and I also saw it at its worst and most sordid. [...] We had quarrels about money; we had quarrels about prestige; we had the bitterest quarrels over the most magnificent passages in that book. [...] If we hadn’t had any trouble, we wouldn’t have gotten any book. So, it takes the absolute and the relative, the divine and even the sordid, to make this very important product: progress.”

I have faith in our higher powers to show us the way.