

**Delegate's Corner**  
**December 2018**

Where does the desire to serve in AA come from? Recently my work with others has had me re-reading the 12<sup>th</sup> Step and the 1st tradition in the 12X12. In the 12X12, talking about the first tradition it says on page 130: "The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made- that most alcoholics cannot recover unless there is a group...It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not." Serving others starts out as a life or death matter.

I remember my original motive for being of service in my home group was to keep me sober so I would not die of alcoholism. A purely selfish motive at first I will admit. But as I worked through my steps while I was attending and serving in that home group that first year of sobriety, something happened to me by the time I reached the 12<sup>th</sup> step. On page 106 of the 12X12 it says, "When the 12<sup>th</sup> step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it." Somewhere between steps 1 and step 12, that purely selfish motive turned into a love of service. I was receiving much more than I gave. The spiritual awakening that was promised to me in the steps had produced this love of AA and service and carrying the message. Not only did I get to live and not die from this terrible disease, I got to be transformed spiritually and then have the joy of watching others come back to life while working these steps.

Dr Bob said this about the 12 steps in his farewell talk: Our 12 steps when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service". Love and service became love of service. As I leave this service position, I am so grateful for all my experiences in service. There will be another service position. I just don't know what yet. But I am sure there will be joy watching you serve.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Joann L.

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