

DELEGATE'S CORNER JUNE 2025

Let's take a step back. Our service entities are made up of us – sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous working together to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic.

We have to remember to take care of ourselves in this process too. Change is not just adding new pieces of literature or creating new apps – we can take a deep look internally and see what systems and operations are no longer working, and have healthy discussion about where we want AA to go as our fellowship evolves, without losing or trying to erase our past.

My General Service Conference experience was viewed through this set of glasses.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship that has changed so many lives through its commitment to sobriety, spirituality, and mutual support. How can we, as members, make sure that we are using the Twelve Steps to nurture and sustain the spiritual well-being of our community at the group, district, area, and Conference levels?

AA inventory is a profound evaluation process that serves multiple spiritual purposes, including:

- **Assessing adherence to AA principles:** Are we, as groups, following the Twelve Traditions and maintaining the integrity of our fellowship?
- **Identifying areas for spiritual growth:** Are we highlighting our strengths and recognizing what is working well for us, in addition to areas that we could improve?
- **Promoting transparency and accountability** are we encouraging openness and honesty in communication and decision-making processes as a reflection of our spiritual values.
- **Facilitating the sharing of spiritual practices:** How are we communicating with groups and members to learn from each other and adopt new strategies that we are trying out?

The Twelve Steps of AA are a cornerstone of recovery. They can be applied at the group, district, and area levels. At the General Service Conference, we discussed ways to utilize the Twelve Steps to ensure the spiritual well-being of AA:

- **Step 1 - Admitting Powerlessness:** Encouraging members to acknowledge their struggles and seek support from the group.
- **Step 2 - Believing in a Higher Power:** Ensuring we are making our decisions through the group conscience.
- **Step 3 - Turning Over Control:** Promoting trust in the group's collective wisdom and trusting the process.

- **Step 4 - Conducting Personal Inventory:** Honestly evaluating our processes and procedures at all levels to identify areas for spiritual improvement.
- **Step 5 - Sharing with Others:** Encouraging open communication and sharing experiences to learn from each other and work together.
- **Step 6 - Being Ready for Change:** Embracing the willingness to adapt new practices and taking care that our principles guide us.
- **Step 7 - Seeking Humility:** Practicing humility in leadership and decision-making to maintain a balanced and inclusive environment.
- **Step 8 - Making Amends:** Addressing conflicts and misunderstandings promptly and effectively, with a spirit of forgiveness so that resentments do not cloud our judgement. Pause. Are we reacting or responding?
- **Step 9 - Making Direct Amends:** Ensuring that any harm done is rectified to maintain harmony and spiritual integrity.
- **Step 10 - Continuing Inventory:** Conducting ongoing evaluations of health and effectiveness.
- **Step 11 - Seeking Spiritual Growth:** Integrating spiritual practices into activities to foster collective growth and divine connection.
- **Step 12 - Carrying the Message:** Never forgetting our primary purpose, are we getting lost in the minutia? Always asking ourselves: how is this helping the still suffering alcoholic? Is our time being spent wisely?

We are not robots. We do not just complete tasks that are given – we need checking up on – we need to be treated with love and tolerance – how we treat each other is just as important as what we do.

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