

DCM Report November 2022

Hello Fellow AA's

WOW! What an exciting time to be an active member in this awesome fellowship. I am not sure about you guys, but November always elicits from me that most hallowed of all meeting topics... Gratitude! From the time I was 3 ft tall, cutting and pasting together childlike renditions of the sacred turkey bird, the message of gratitude has been instilled in me. There were many years in my life, and I am sure yours also, when this most hallowed ideal became a mere wisp in the consciousness of my being. How could it be anything more? I was too busy thinking of my favorite topic, me. If in the off chance I happen to think of you in some grudge or long-standing resentment, it was always of your actions, or perceived actions and what they might take away from my life.

You have, one and all, had a spiritual experience during your time in recovery. Being so simple in their manifestation in our psyche, the ramifications can be earth shakingly dramatic to each of our realities. I still remember the exact moment, standing in a circle and holding hands while reciting the Lord's Prayer. It hit me like a ton of bricks, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us." I had been reciting this prayer for decades but could not comprehend the meaning of this message until that exact moment. Since that day, the world has never looked more beautiful to me. As the scales of pride and prejudice fell from my eyes, gratitude has taken its natural place, at the forefront of my mind and heart. Just a simple shift in consciousness, simple, yes but not easy. The results of this shift have left an indelible mark upon me, one that I would never change, even if I could.

I believe the above experiences have made me a better DCM than I could have been without them. That thought leads me to SWRAASA which was held in Tulsa Ok. Believe me, I had no idea what to expect from this event, only that I was expected to go and my tribe was not joining me. I was pleasantly surprised at the outcome. There were workshops, upon workshops all with the basic idea of carrying a message and aiding me in being a better reporter to district 2 and the 38 or so groups included their in. I gained some ideas which after speaking with some of the district 2 officers, were implemented, others discarded in favor of better ones, and some will be voted on in the next meeting. It is really about getting some insight from a wider sphere than just our district/ area on how to better report and carry the group conscience to the next level. Speaking of next level, I just ran across a 2019 GSC final report, titled Our Big Book- 80 years, 70 languages. Today, 3 years later, Our Big Book is translated into 73 languages. Just for a bit of perspective, I have been in group business meetings where fights have broken out over which coffee to buy, so that makes me realize that there are some pretty amazing people doing some fantastic work to make sure that the suffering alcoholic is able to get this life saving message, no matter what language he speaks.

The very next weekend of the 14, 15 and 16th was the Fall Voting Assembly in Round Rock. Once again this was an amazing experience. I thank God that I had just attended SWRAASA and had a stronger grasp of the AA service structure and what a trustee was, the difference between alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees and trustees at large. Jimmy Dean is currently our regional trustee. He is our outgoing alcoholic trustee overseeing the Southwest Region, which includes Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. By the way, Jimmy is an amazing speaker. If you get a chance to hear him, jump at it. Since Jimmy's term is up in March, our job at the voting assembly was to elect our Area 68 nomination for regional trustee. There were 3 past delegates that stood for the position. I carefully considered the qualifications for each and voted my conscience. Our nominee is[name here]. She is a past delegate, panel 68, and her qualifications were numerous, and she will be standing along with 15 other nominees from all the other areas in the region. We will have to wait and see.

Before wrapping this report up, I would like to tell you about a speaker we heard. Marita R is a trustee at large-US, and she has been invited to attend and participate in GSC meetings all over the world. She showed graphs and maps of where AA is located all over the globe. These were the blue zones, and the no AA zones were the yellow zones. The blue zones dominated the world map, but we were informed that even though many of the blue areas had AA, it was barely a showing with maybe only 1 meeting or maybe 2, sometimes to a whole country. Hopefully this news is encouraging to you all, as it is meant to be. As I mentioned earlier the Big Book is translated into 73 languages. In Canada alone there are 96 different languages spoken, so we have a way to go. Each translation of the BB costs around \$26,000 and takes around a year to complete. Marita also told a story about AA in Cuba. AA had been secreted into Cuba via the Catholic Church, and operated only under the protective wing of the church, but was not allowed to have meetings or conduct business outside the church. After 20 years of this a stranger showed up at their GSO meeting, when asked she stated that she was the minister of health for Cuba and since AA had saved so many lives they were now free to move about and operate openly in the country. This story gives me goose bumps every time!

Do you remember Jack Alexander? He was the famous investigative journalist for the Saturday Evening Post and thought that AA was a scam. He came to investigate and expose it for what it was. He listened to some of their stories and, through his article became AA's greatest promotor. You probably already know that part but, did you know that Jack later became one of AA's trustees at Large? Once again, the scoffer came to scoff but remained to pray. One, with purity of heart cannot help but fall in love with an entity of such loving principals and honest ideals.

Blessings to you all and Happy Thanksgiving

George Thomas

Area 68 District 2 DCM