

Delegate Report
San Diego Imperial Alcoholics Anonymous
Area Committee Meeting

November 19, 2020

These past few months have been heavy with details of need and special action. I have asked that each of you in some way reach out and inspire leadership in unique ways due to these unique times. And for that I am grateful. Thank you!

Tonight, however, I don't have much to report.

We made through our 5th Assembly of our service year together mostly unscathed and without too much anxiety or frustration.

So as I have begun to meditate on where we've come and where we're going, I just wanted to share some of those contemplations.

In our 4th Step we are introduced to dozens of questions that draw us into reflection and consideration and hopefully guide a realization of past behaviors and objectionable characteristics. And the 9th of 9 questions tucked into our Sex Inventory asks us, "what would we have done differently." Its from this question that a new ideal is born. A new way of thinking, seeing, speaking and acting. A pathway towards growth and healing. This question can be applied to all that we do and as we look forward to our Area Inventory, I hope that we can each be guided by this question. What can we do differently? What new ideal can guide us and shape our shared and most sacred purpose as we look into 2021?

Each of us is but a small part of a greater whole; a larger truth; a bigger purpose. Our way of life and of loving one another must continue or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. This we owe to 2021.

This year has been rough. In a lot of ways, one of the most challenging years our fellowship has known since the earliest days of its beginning. And next year will probably be tougher, wrought with its own challenges and tribulations. However there is nothing that we cannot overcome so long as we stay together, so long as we continue to sacrifice self for a shared experience in unity; in community.

I was saddened that at the end of our assembly, we were either introduced to or reminded of a sense of being amongst us that feels marginalized, disenfranchised from our structure and proceedings, challenged to be heard and fundamentally left out of; not included.

If true unity is to be our guide, then maybe its time for many of us to listen to those who are handicapped and struggling to engage our fellowship effectively. If we are to be truly guided by an ideal, an ideal upon which we all can all agree on, then maybe it will require those that are heard from the most, or have the slickest of technological tools at their disposal to actively listen to those who are barely connected and literally isolated.

We must become willing to trade our problems for their possibilities.

We must humble ourselves before one another, set aside old ideas and actively listen, especially to those that are communicating from a space of hurt.

Let these principles guide us as we look forward to our Inventory together buoyed by the hope that a divine and loving expression will express itself through us. An expression that will inspire and support us as we look forward. An expression that will bring us direction and enthusiasm as we reach the hand of AA towards the suffering of alcoholism into tomorrow and throughout our year ahead. This we owe to 2021.

In the immortal words of Rudyard Kipling:

“If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: ‘Hold on!’

...

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it...”

I pray you know satisfaction in the work that you have done to this point.

However, know this: The heavy lift is yet to come.

We can do it. So long as we do it together.

My prayers are with you and yours this Thanksgiving Holiday.