

All yours OK welcome to panel 3 our reader for this panel is Devon C Aloha my name is Devin I am an alcoholic from Western Washington area 72 grateful to be here I'm reading a passage that was published in language of the heart it's a article titled rules dangerous but unity vital and it's from 1945 does Alcoholics Anonymous have a public relations policy is it adequate to meet our present and future needs though it has never been definitely formulated or precisely stated we certainly have a partly formed public relations policy like everything else in a it has grown up out of trial and error nobody invented it nobody has ever laid down a set of rules or regulations to cover it and I hope no one ever will this is because rules and regulations seem to be little good for us they seldom work well when we were we to proceed by rules somebody would have to make them and more difficult still somebody would have to enforce them rulemaking has often been tried it usually results in controversy among the rule makers as to what the rules should be and when it comes to enforcing an edict well you all know the answer when we try to enforce rules and regulations however reasonable we almost always get in so Dutch that our authority disappears a cry goes up down with the dictators off with their heads hurt and astonished control committee after control committee leader after leader makes the discovery that human authority be it ever so impartial or benign seldom works long or well in our affairs Alcoholics no matter if ragged are yet the most rugged of individuals true anarchists at heart of course nobody claims this trait of ours to be a sterling virtue during his first AA years every AA has had plenty of the urge to revolt against authority I know I did and I can't claim to be over it yet I've also served my time as a maker of rules a regulator of other people's conduct I too have spent sleep sleepless nights nursing my wounded ego wondering how others whose lives I sought to manage could be so unreasonable so thoughtless of poor me I can now look back upon such experiences with much amusement and gratitude as well they taught me that the very quality which prompted me to govern other people was the identical egocentricity which boiled up in my fellow A's when they themselves refused to be governed thank you OK thank you Devin now introduce our timer Jenna I'm sorry this thing didn't scroll for me OK Aloha my name is Jenna and I'm a recovered alcoholic my Home group is the firing line and I'm serving as DCM for District 5 in area 58 for this session each of the presenters will be given an 8 minute presentation the green light comes on immediately after the presenter introduces themselves the yellow caution light comes on after 7 minutes and the red light ends the presentation if the red light turns on you will thank the speaker with a warm applause if the presentation is being interpreted the time allowed will be doubled to 16 minutes with a yellow light at 14 sharing from the floor microphones will be time to two minutes and the yellow light comes on at 90 seconds the light at 2 and the red light at 2 minutes followed by a loving applause if the speaker is being interpreted the time allowed will be doubled for the time for 4 minutes with the yellow light coming on at 3:00 OK thank you Jenna to the right spot here OK so tech folks this strolling thing is not as easy as I was told I'm really I'm really glad I'm with family because otherwise I'd be really nervous OK um I'm going to go to this so our first presenter practicing concept 9 how well do our service organizations work together as nolfo G who is also going to be interpreted by Doris Aloha OK uh when I started soyal colico glasses are they also know everybody this is September Grupo la salida CA secretario de laria cinco del panel setenta cinco good afternoon my name is arnulfo and I am an alcoholic thank God I have not had a drink of alcohol today my sobriety date is September 22nd of 2002 my Home group is Grupo la salida and

upland CA and I'm currently the area of five secretary panel 75 oyster sobre la practica del concepto Nuevo explorar la ciente pregunta que tambien trabajan juntas nuestras organizaciones de servicio to day I have been asked to speak on practicing concept 9 and to explore the question how well do our service organizations work together El concepto Nuevo proviene de Los conceptos para El servicio mundial describen Los principios espirituales de servicio and alcoholic anonymous El concepto established umm when liderazgo de servicio en todo Los Angeles it's been stable paternostro futuro nuestro funcionamiento en El futuro concept 9 comes from the 12 concepts for World Service which outlines the spiritual principles behind our service structure in Alcoholics Anonymous concept 9 states good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety it's Rosa the rasgo noise optional as indispensable absolutamente necesario para colicos anonymous funcione ice mantenga seguro that's a powerful statement it tells us that leadership is not optional it is indispensable absolutely necessary for AA to function and remain safe Ferrell concepto Nuevo notre tonica mente sobre individuals and positioned the lead razov here and nuestros cuerpos servicio trabajan juntos como Flynn entrerrios la responsabilidad Lao torida ilan rendition de cuentas the concept 9 isn't only about individuals in leadership positions it also speaks to how our service bodies work together how responsibility authority and accountability flow between them antiques como sientes primero lo que realmente significa El concepto Nuevo segundo como estan de senas nostras organizaciones de servicio para funcionar puntas tambien estamos practicando realmente ESA cooperacion so I'd like to look at a couple of things one what concept nine really means 2 how our service organizations are designed to function together and three how well we are actually practicing that cooperation primero El concepto Nuevo sencillo Kelly de rasgos necesario la responsabilidad de estar Clara mente definida Lao torida de corresponde la responsabilidad ECM predev existir rendition de cuenta tamino recuerda de rasgo sibasa and la confianza boracho Solon Alcoholics Anonymous what concept 9 teaches us that leadership is necessary responsibility must be clearly defined authority must match responsibility and accountability must always exist it also reminds us that good leadership is based on trust and to trust and to trust the drunk who is in a only an area we trust the drunk OK and I'll colicos anonymous El Dorado no trata de controle de poder repito an alcoholic Cos anonymous E liderazgo no trata de control de poder citrata servicio nuestro servicio de confianza Fernandes custodios de una responsabilidad acido confiado por la comunidad OK and a leadership is not about control or power it is about service our trusted servants are not governors they are caretakers of a responsibility given to them by the fellowship El concepto Nuevo illegals those peligros only the razor devil donde Nadia say estades puesto asumir responsabilidad grupos in represent tension titos in activos or committess in activos concept 9 also warns us of two dangers weak leadership where no one is willing to take responsibility and overreaching leadership where authority exceeds its proper limits also groups without representatives know GSR's inactive districts and committees without chairs you only the Rascal access was limited apropiados estos condo and leader nomas propia conciencia enola Los demas equilibrium and overreaching leadership where authority exceeds its proper limits where a leader only listens to their own proper their own conscience and not anybody else's as all Punto those parent tendercare tambien trabajamos juntos necesitamos and nosotros nuestra estructura grupos individuals alcoholic anonymous distritos Arias la conferencia service generales la officina de service police are our World Service Inc our great banking proposito especifico to understand how well we work together

we need to understand who we are our server structure includes individual AA groups districts areas the general service conference the general service office AAW aid world services Inc a Grapevine Inc each has a specific purpose Los grupos eran El mensaje directamente Los al colicos Los distritos apoyando Los grupos la sari Arias cordina nicoletta nalos distritos la conferencia tuo como la voz actua como la colectiva de la comunidad corporativas en carga de la administracion la literatura yoto servicios groups carry the message directly to Alcoholics districts support the groups areas coordinate and connect districts the conference acts as a collective voice of the fellowship GS so and the corporate boards to handle administration literature and services none of these bodies exist independently they are independent El Punto tres cuando cuando trabajamos juntos cuando nuestras organizaciones de servicio trabajan juntas ciertas cosas evidente la comunicacion flyer claramente de Los grupos Asia Los distritos de Los exitos al azarias de la sarrias la conferencia de regreso when our service organizations work well together certain things are evident communication flows clearly from groups to districts from districts to areas and from areas to the conference and back again Los servidores de confianza entienden suspicions in respeto Las funciones hologramas cellar central autoridade lagada Las decisiones explica nose imponent l confianza incluso cuando aides acuerdos trusted servants understand their roles and respect the roles of others delegated authority is honored decisions are explained not imposed there is trust even when there is disagreement quando la cooperacion saludable Los grupos ciento in formados en lugar de conectados Los distritos centena puyos and lugarda is lados de la sarrias reciente confiado question nadas constantemente en la conferencia refleja la conciencia de la comunidad de lugar de la opinion focus when cooperation is healthy groups feel informed rather than disconnected districts feel supported rather than isolated areas feel trusted rather than second guessed and the conference reflects the conscience of the fellowship rather than the opinions of a few Pedro feels poor it's like communications interrupt for the sintos idiomas porlas comunio remote mas por la falta de servidores appliances Las Petronas Elias eclipse Los principios personalized eclipse principles to padrino and keynote capacitor pal servicio porque no this is no square garden collaboration but we also know that challenges arise sometimes communication breaks down such as language barriers some districts have different languages also community remote communities or the lack of servants sometimes rolls are misunderstood sometimes personalities overshadowed principles such as I'm going to vote for my sponsor or I'm not going to vote for him because I don't like him umm this tree toppers and things de participacion Los grupos de muerte de lo que sucede masaya de Negocios Los miembros pueden questionnaire decisiones El proceso de tras de la confianza military district may feel unheard by the area an area may feel frustrated with lack of participation groups may not understand what happens beyond their business meeting members may question decisions without understanding the process behind them when trust weakens cooperation weakens entonces como Nos vamos l honestamente podemos preguntarle Nos and westra sarrias ciento lupos conectados conestogas servicio masanja estan Los servidores de confianza poyatos sontra parente Las decisiones practi camos la rotacion parabita la concentracion people there importante la rotacion now you must servicio museums and collectors registrars no seamos port principios antes de personalidades so how do we honestly evaluate ourselves we can ask do groups feel connected to the larger service structure our trusted servants trained and supported our decisions transparent do we practice rotation to prevent concentration over power does the alcoholic say ohh there's nobody else when there are we guided by principles rather than by personalities sila Maria de la estamos practicando El concepto Nuevo if the answers are mostly

yes then we are practicing concept nine well it'll sino El concepto nunos evita practic Carlo you know the proportional description is Clara de Los precios efficio respetar Los manuales village servicio comunicare Enos regularmente clarida practical weirdo apoyar la ropa was put on tracer and if not concept 9 offers us direction for growth encouraging leadership development providing clear job descriptions respecting service manuals and guidelines communicating regularly and clearly practicing humility when we disagree supporting rotation so new leaders can grow OK in conclusion El consort so the service so no someone in la cima Simon Toro niveles cuando Nos grupos distritos Arias members la conferencia oficina servicios koparan confianza respeto mutuo al colicos anonymous mantiene fuerte in conclusion concept 9 tells us that good service leadership is indispensable not just at the top but at every level when our groups districts areas conference members and service office offices cooperate and trust and mutual respect AA remains strong al final El concepto noveno Tata solamente supera citrata de accion in the end concept 9 is not about structure alone it is about spiritual leadership in action Ecuador nuestras organizaciones the servicio veramente trabajan juntas beneficiario sufriendo and when our service organizations truly work together the real beneficiary is the alcoholic who has not yet found us gracias Aria de siete Hawaii gracias acada Uno dusters porsu tiempo servicio thank you area 17 Hawaii thank you for each one of you for your time and service I was gonna ask you that OK good thank you tech team OK our next presenter is Lisa aye umm all that trusted servants are we finding and keeping the leaders we need spell Aloha my topic is trusted servants are we finding and keeping the leaders we need my name is Lisa and I am an alcoholic when I was first given this topic my mind didn't go right to the finding part it went to the people that are staying here the retention it went to the people who've rotated out and still show up not because they're funded or on the area agenda but because they love Alcoholics Anonymous when they have that commitment to serve those past delegates and trustees have helped me grow more than they probably know they're quiet guidance their steadiness their perspective that has been leadership to me and it makes me wonder how do we grow more of that when I was first elected as my home group's alternate GSR I had no idea what I had gotten myself into I was almost two years sober I was pregnant and my Home group didn't choose me because I was the best candidate they chose me because no one else would do it and I said yes I was told I needed to attend district meetings and report back to my group and honestly that felt like a lot I remember walking into my first district meeting feeling like a stranger in a strange land or DCM ran that meeting with the sense of love and duty there was warmth there was purpose so I followed the joy at first I wouldn't ask any questions I assumed everybody else knew what was going on and later I learned that they didn't most of us don't when I finally found the courage to ask the questions the people around me scooped me up they helped me understand the process they made room for me I'm grateful they didn't overwhelm me in the beginning I was given bite sized pieces and I got comfortable where I was before I was shown what was next and that experience makes me ask are we overwhelming people there's so much to know and so much to do and yes we can do it all but not all not all at once and so when someone steps into service are we allowing them to focus on the job they have today or are we overwhelming them with everything they might someday do so maybe the question isn't just are we finding the leaders that we need maybe it's are we developing them Sometimes we're so grateful when someone says yes that we fill a seat without asking if they are willing and available do they have the capacity right now service is time-consuming we owe it to our members to be honest about what the job requires before they take it on and once they're elected are we supporting them tradition 2 tells us our leaders are but trusted servants they do not

govern and concept nine well we just heard a lot about concept 9 thank you that good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety leadership matters and a can have perfect structure and still struggle without good leaders So what is a trusted servant to me a trusted servant is the chairperson at my Home group that I trust to show up and lead the meeting and it's the people in these rooms that show up to bring the message back to our Home group a trusted servant listens before speaking they invite participation they practice unity develop others and they rotate with grace they serve from love not from ego and maybe most importantly they leave the room stronger than they found it concept 9 also teaches balance a trusted servant must be allowed the responsibility to act the authority to carry it out and accountability to the body they serve, if we elect someone and micromanage them that isn't trust if we elect someone and abandon them that is an either trust requires support without control are we choosing people who will listen who will consult who can make decisions when necessary and stand firm when guided by a principles a true servant leader seeks input weighs it carefully and acts for the good of the whole not to win not to dominate not to feed their egos but to serve when the guard changes are we allowing the new person to step fully into that role or are we hovering and comparing we don't have to do the job like the person before us the same job can be done differently and still done well leadership in a is not a personality it's a principle are we encouraging questions someone told me the most important thing to know in general service is the table of contents you don't have to know everything you just need to know where to find it are we creating rooms where questions are welcome do we invite the quiet voices to speak some of the most thoughtful ideas are sitting quietly at the table we talk about carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers but are we carrying the message to our trusted servants are we telling them spiritual growth happens in general service can be joyful and also really important thank you are we telling them thank you are we leaving them exhausted and discouraged burnout is real are we leading them to burnout or into inspiration are we loving about this work if you see someone who needs encouragement take their hands at the end of each rotation I pray God I'm willing to serve you in whatever capacity you see fit and I am completely OK if I don't get voted in show me where you want me and that doesn't mean I won't have feelings about the way things go but I really do mean it because this isn't mine this is ours and here I am 16 years later more in love with general service than I ever have been before because someone developed me someone made room for me someone let me grow I was not polished I was not trained and I wasn't even sure I was ready but someone created an environment where leadership could grow. Leadership in AA is not fully found fully formed it's developed so I'll leave you with this are we widening the welcome are we choosing leaders based on spiritual qualities not just availability do we make service work attractive or do we just complain about all that we must do once elected do we truly trust them are we building a culture where someone new maybe even someone who only has two years sober with the new baby at home can walk into a district meeting and fall in love with service because that's how we keep the leaders we need not by demanding more not by loving them into growth and I believe this with my whole heart the future of Alcoholics Anonymous isn't waiting somewhere ahead of us it's sitting quietly in the back of the room wondering if they belong thank you so much

Areas districts and intergroups sharing the load or protecting turf hello everyone my name is Joanne, and I am an alcoholic I'm currently serving as the alternate area chair and public information chair in BC Yukon area 79 this topic goes right to the heart of how we function as

trusted servants especially today building trust our areas districts and intergroups sharing the load or protecting turf this is not just an organizational question it's a spiritual one because whenever we talk about trust we're talking about relationships between groups between committees and between the people who show up to serve our service structure was never meant to be a hierarchy of segregated compartments it was designed to be a network a structure meant to complement and support each other in our primary purpose but over time as responsibilities grow and personalities enter the picture something subtle can begin to happen instead of asking how can we help we start asking whose job is this instead of sharing the load we start guarding our corner instead of collaborating we drift into silos why because we are human and we bring all of that humanness with us when we show up to serve I can only share on this topic from my own experience and when I sat down to consider what I might share with you today one thought kept repeating itself in my mind I'm simply not sure how an A member or any a service entity could be serving our common welfare and holding its turf at the same time they simply cannot exist in the same space I can't see how it's possible to hold position against those you intend to serve and create unity at the same time when areas districts and intergroups are working together you can feel it there's transparency there's communication there's a sense that we're rowing in the same direction there's purpose sharing a load looks like joint planning instead of parallel planning information flowing freely instead of being held tightly committees supporting each other instead of duplicating work a willingness to ask for help and a willingness to offer it it's not about the credit it's about our unity turf protection is rarely loud or dramatic it's actually usually quite quiet subtle sometimes well-intentioned it can sound like that's not that's our job not theirs that's not our job it's theirs we've always done it this way they don't understand how we operate and the biggest red flag when communication stops altogether when this happens it is the very people we are trying to reach that pay the ultimate price I walked into my very first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous 19 years ago I have only been sober for an 11 and a half of those years my inability to get sober in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous for those first eight years is not a failing of this program it is a testimony to just how powerful this disease really is meetings couldn't get me sober members couldn't get me sober books and pamphlets couldn't get me sober nothing it seemed could get me sober in 2014 I seemed hopeless what I needed was a change sufficient enough to bring about recovery from the disease of alcoholism a change that could only be brought about by a power greater than myself you told me I could have a relationship with this power and that relationship would bring about recovery you said in order for that to happen I would need to do the steps but in order for me to listen to you I had to trust you which meant that you had to conduct yourselves in a trustworthy manner and thankfully you did why because you followed our traditions and put our common welfare first you were the living example of our service concepts by respecting roles and responsibilities you understood rights of decision participation and appeal you knew how to disagree with each other without punishing each other and so the traditions and concepts actually played a vital role in saving my life before the steps ever could because in my darkest moment you became the safest place for me that is why our unity matters that is what our unity creates a place for our life saving message to reach those who desperately need it This is why it is important for us to be in a constant state of building trust with one another so we can share the load of work that needs to be done because lives are already depending upon it turf protection is fear based sharing the load is trust based and trust can't grow in the dark when we collaborate everything gets better more perspectives better solutions a more informed group conscience more transparency stronger trust more unity less drama more energy for the newcomer because that's where it

belongs sharing the load isn't just efficient it's spiritual it's humility and action trust doesn't appear because we talk about it like gratitude humility or even sobriety it can't be conjured without principled action it appears because we practice it inventory for yourself do we communicate early or after the fact if something affects another service body loop them in before decisions are made do we share information freely minutes reports calendars contact lists transparency builds confidence do we invite each other to the table joint workshop shared events cross committee collaboration have we clarified roles and responsibilities together not to draw lines but to identify overlaps where cooperation is needed and to avoid duplication of efforts where it is not do we assume good intentions most conflicts come from misunderstandings not malice do we celebrate each other's successes when one service body shines we all shine do we regularly ask this question what serves the newcomer best that question cuts through turf every time at the end of the day none of us own this work we're stewards not gatekeepers we're trusted servants not territorial managers our primary purpose is bigger than any committee district or area it's bigger than our preferences and our comfort zones it's bigger than ourselves why because lives depend on it my life depended on it if we want trust we have to give it if we want unity we have to practice it if we want collaboration we have to invite it the question isn't whether areas districts and intergroups should share the load the question is whether we're willing to let go of self-serving fear long enough to do it because when we do something powerful happens we stop guarding corners and start serving our fellowship we stop protecting turf and start protecting the newcomer we stop working in isolation and start working in unity this is how trust is built and when we are trustworthy we become a unified safety net for the person whose life depends on it what is more important than that thank you OK thank you Joanne our next presenter is. Cliff B.

Cliff B 7th tradition contributions do they reflect trust value or just what's left over?

Aloha PRAASA When I got up here I asked Jenna how much time I had and she told me that I had 8 minutes after I introduced myself so we'll get to that in about 10 minutes I'm a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous and my problem is Cliff thank you David uh ohh start timer so that I know how much time I have when I got here and signed our came to sign in I met Bob and Bob said you're sharing on 7th tradition contributions do they reflect trust values or just what's left over and I said what So what the hell does that mean but I don't know um I had spent 2 1/2 days preparing a different presentation I finished this presentation about 10 minutes before I came over here so I have no idea about the timing when I was 90 days sober I not my sponsor suggested that I go to blue hills treatment center in Hartford CT and tell my story I went there you know I honestly believe this is an honest program but I do believe that the passage of time has a tendency to embellish our stories so I went to that first meeting as our or the first time I shared my story and it was an awesome experience I got there their tapestries on the walls the there were candles and the lights were low and they had this big cushy chair for me to sit in so that nobody could see me shake and I told my story and it was an awesome experience so I'm back I told my sponsor that he said great because I've got another commitment for you second one was at the Anne Frank I'm sorry at the Shirley frank foundation in New Haven CT I went there and there was this sea of people and people in in bathrobes and paper slippers and there were thousands of them somewhere in the back Jesus was feeding people with loaves and fishes um and I looked at all of these people and it was a very um anyway they handed me a microphone and I said hi my name's no it was 14 years before I stood in front of a microphone and spoke again so we start there OK 7th tradition do they reflect trust value or just what's leftover the 7th tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous states every a group

ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions this principle is far more than what's left over after expenses it's the core spiritual and practical foundation of our fellowship AA deliberately chose to rely solely on voluntary contributions for its own members this keeps our fellowship free from outside influences strings attached to donations for the risk of corruption that could come from large gifts endowments or public fundraising early in India's history the fellowship experimented with outside money and saw problems like interference from donors who donors or disputes over funds so they rejected it outright when I was an intergroup Rep in with the Salt River intergroup in Arizona I we received the equipment but we were bequeathed is that a word OK we were bequeathed \$50,000 and we knew that we weren't supposed to take that kind of contribution so we got in touch with the general service board in New York and wound up giving back 40,000 of the \$50,000 that that we were bequeathed and the reason for that was to the 7th tradition the goal in a is corporate poverty barracks expenses plus a prudent reserve not wealth or accumulation so does this reflect the does this reflect trust values or leftovers it's not just what's leftover contributions aren't scraps or afterthoughts and members are encouraged to give regularly and responsibly whatever they can afford even small amounts to cover rent literature coffee and support broader services like intergroup subdivisions districts areas and general service and the general service office that help that helped carry the message to the suffering Alcoholics worldwide leftover funds after group expenses are often passed on through the service structure not hoarded it's my personal belief that like all politics or my personal belief that policy like politics all politics is local I believe that we need to spend more of our resources on the at the sub district level and at the district level and allow those or those levels to move the money down the pyramid as they don't need them too often our GSR's aren't getting to assemblies because they can't afford it while our groups are sending money to area or to New York I believe that we should first send money to our sub districts so that we can get our GSR's two assemblies and our group's voices can be heard you're kidding OK in a literature the principle behind the 7th tradition is responsibility money and spirituality do mix here contributions are a way to express gratitude take ownership and ensure the hand of a will always be there to support the next alcoholic without compromise it's ultimately about preserving the fellowship's freedoms spiritual focus and ability to help others through active voluntary participation rather than massive leftovers or external internal or external entanglements the basket doesn't the basket isn't a bill it's a spiritual connection that unites individuals and groups worldwide it reflects the value we place on the life we were given back thank you OK thank you Cliff our next presenter is Dan M communications breakdown our groups hearing from service bodies or tuning out hi everyone I'm Dan I'm an alcoholic I have the profound honor of serving as panel 76 delegate for area 92 my Home group is Northern Lights and Spokane WA and by the grace of higher power and this fellowship I sobriety date is January 10th 1979 we're here today to talk about communication specifically our groups actually hearing from their service bodies where have they simply started turning out or tuning out excuse me and efforts to handle the business of Alcoholics Anonymous I always try to keep the spirituality of the program at the absolute forefront of my mind it is after all a spiritual program that saved my life the power of a is practically implemented through the 12 steps or 12 traditions and our 12 concepts but to make those concepts work we rely on one very fragile very vital thing and informed group conscience a massive part of our group conscience relies on how we discuss and share information it's incredibly helpful for me to remember that sharing my informed opinions with my fellow a members of a lot like doing a fifth step when I share honestly openly and accurately with another alcoholic whether we're sitting in a meeting or hashing things out in a

business meeting that phone ability allows God of my understanding to actually participate in that discussion I found that when I keep the spiritual principle in mind I can feel completely at peace when action is taken even if I personally voted against the outcome so first I need to be honest with some things I know I have not always taken the time to be informed and worse being uninformed has rarely stopped me from loudly expressing my opinion when I act that way it doesn't promote spirituality and me and certainly does not promote it in anyone else it's actually like those times when I'm spiritually disturbed but instead of taking my own inventory I just want to air out my resentments in those moments I'm not looking for solutions I'm just looking for hostages I want to find other people to agree with me as Alcoholics were masters of rationalization I can easily rationalize my anger into a fantasy telling myself I just have deep passion for the good of a I can even justify attacking other members of the program who happen to disagree with me I mean isn't that what social media is for because of this communication breakdown we start to hear the rumor mill chill churn all the things I've said in meetings and the things I've heard other old timers over the years say you may have heard some of these too like they got rid of the 24 hour day book because there was too much God in it the plain language book is a secret effort to get God out of here the change in the preamble that's just a trying to go walk and get God out of the program I even heard at a meeting the chair announced that they had free literature in the back but also added it's from the 1970s and it'd be nice to get rid of it the most heartbreaking example for me happened in a meeting packed with newcomers another old timer some someone with time like me shared how he was terrified he was going to end because of all the drug talk allowed in some meetings as he spoke I looked around at the newcomers and thought how terrifying that statement would have been to me when I was newly sober imagine you finally drag yourself into the doors of A and finally find a tiny glimmer of hope and a guy who has been there for decades tell you that the whole thing's falling apart and going away all this chaos all this fear is because I and others like me don't make the necessary effort to be informed about what actually is going on so how do I make commands for my past behaviors in this in service like most amends with people I love usually it takes more than one attempt to get it right my first attempt looks something like this I would take all the information I gathered pass it to other general service workers maybe read a little bit of it myself I'd rationalize that I didn't need to deeply inform myself because I trusted them to do the right thing and that worked great right up to until they did something I didn't agree with and then the resentment was back my next attempt was a little better I passed on all the information I actually read it myself but then I sat back and watched others I watched him either not pass it on or pass it on and not read it at rationalize it's in God's hands but deep down I was playing the martyr I resented the uninformed members mostly because they didn't didn't feel like they appreciated all the hard work I did my last attempt when I'm practicing now looks a little different I get informed but I did not I don't just dump raw data on it information on groups and expect him to care if you just dump data on them they'll tune out instead I help to put some context to the information and try to explain why it's important how it impacts the alcoholic who still suffers and why the higher power needs to be present in all the discussions and decisions when I'm clear on how the 12 steps work and service structure I can be helpful and part of the discussion without portraying myself as some kind of authority just because of my experience my sobriety time or my service position I'm a work in progress on this last attempt but like in all things in a when I asked for help I get a lot thank you thank you Dan OK let me find where we're at here we're not going to have conversation I can make the announcement OK Bob's got an announcement Aloha everybody I have good news and bad news and a bunch of announcements the good news is that we have the traditional Sunday what's on your mind the bad news is so that

we can do dinner on time we're not going to have Mike after this we would love to hear what you have to say but we would ask you to put it in the ask it basket or come on Sunday because dinner starts in about 5 minutes next door we are getting everything back on track with the timing so thank you for understanding we do want to hear what you have to say so here are the announcements 1 is dinner will open at 5:00 right next door so if you have a Friday night dinner ticket please go on over there if you are a smoker they have asked us to let you know please do not smoke on this property you must go out to the actual St. which is the one that that comes up and down there not the road that runs here in the hotel but actually off the property we are and again let me apologize for any tech glitches with the translation we are working on that and they hope to have a solution with a little more AA oriented language next there will be coffee outside after dinner for \$3 I believe it is and it will also be there tomorrow morning