

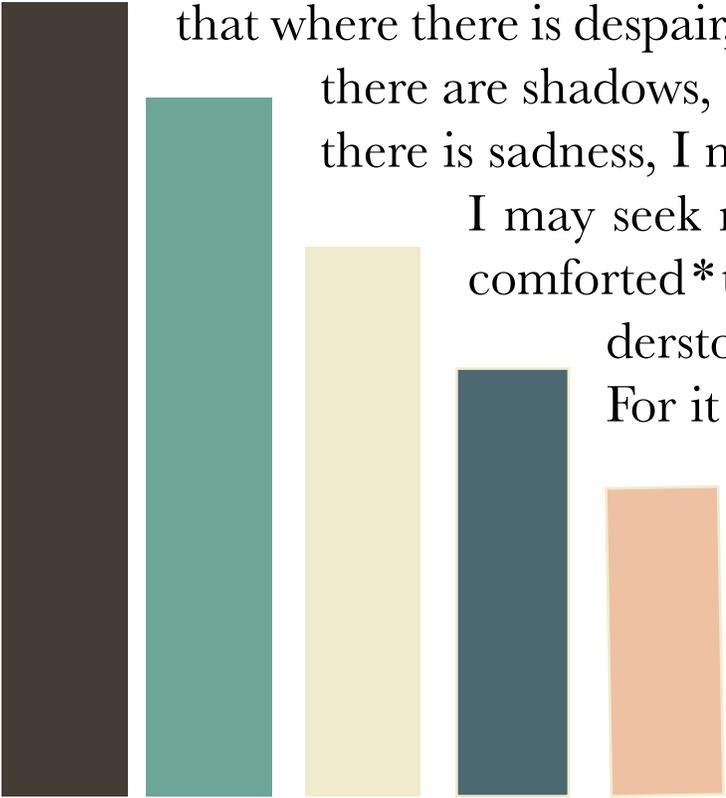
THE WAGON WHEEL

5.12.2017

IDAHO AREA 18 NEWSLETTER

EDITOR, ANGELA D.

THE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS



“Lord, make me a channel of thy **PEACE** * that where there is hatred, I may bring **LOVE** * that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of **FORGIVENESS** * that where there is discord, I may bring **HARMONY** * that where there is error, I may bring **TRUTH** * that where there is doubt, I may bring **FAITH** * that where there is despair, I may bring **HOPE** * that where there are shadows, I may bring **LIGHT** * that where there is sadness, I may bring **JOY**. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to **COMFORT** than to be comforted * to **UNDERSTAND**, than to be understood * to **LOVE**, than to be loved. For it is by **SELF-FORGETTING** that one finds. It is by **FORGIVING** that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one **AWAKENS** to Eternal Life. Amen.”

WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR TRIANGLE?

THE GRAPEVINE - JANUARY 1968

This year has been the tenth year of my sobriety, one day at a time. I am not hesitant to share this news, because I have learned that not one of these miraculous days is to my credit: ad maiorem dei gloriam—"the greater glory to God."

This tenth AA birthday is especially distinguished by marking my fifth year in Omaha, Nebraska. I moved here from New York City when I was five years sober and wondered how the heck people could stay sober here, because it was so different from the way they do it in New York.

One day in particular, I was lamenting the local customs, when a new Omaha friend suggested that I might value Nebraska AA more after living with it for as long as I'd lived with New York AA. Therefore, I should stay sober a while longer, so I could make a fair comparison (a cunning, baffling, and powerful approach!).

Well, five years later I am glad to report that over time I have found considerable happiness in Omaha. As for a comparison between Omaha and New York AA, there is no comparison. The local customs differ to suit the local alcoholics.

During my early days, I often referred to life in recovery as "Twelfth Step Living." Several years passed before I realized that a fulfilling sobriety involves more than Twelfth Step living. Actually, there are thirty-six principles to be practiced, all of which were hammered out over time as the result of practical experience: Twelve Steps for personal recovery, Twelve Traditions for group unity, and Twelve Concepts for world service. The Three Legacies of AA—Recovery, Unity, and Service. While newcomers are the lifeblood of the program, the Three Legacies are the operative heritage of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Surrender, faith, confession, restitution, ego-deflation, and other principles that strengthened personal recovery among early AAs, are handed down through the Twelve Steps of Recovery.

Self-sacrifice, humility, tolerance, and singleness of purpose are among the measures that proved to foster unity within AA groups; they are handed down to other groups through the Twelve Traditions of Unity. And practices that contribute to smooth service operations—participation, rights of decision and appeal, discussion and vote—are passed on through the Twelve Concepts of Service. One day during the past year, I looked carefully at the symbol of Alcoholics Anonymous: There was a triangle, symbolizing the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, inside of a circle, which stands for the world at large. The three sides of the triangle represent the Three Legacies—Recovery, Unity, and Service.

The symbol was old and familiar—I'd seen it pictured on the back of AA Conference-approved literature for ten years, and on sobriety medallions since moving to Omaha in 1983. The triangle in the circle was not new to me, but during my tenth year of sobriety, I suddenly saw new meaning in it by recognizing what variety of triangle had been picked to represent Alcoholics Anonymous and the Three Legacies—an equivalent triangle.

Equilateral triangle: one having three equal sides.

It struck me that AA's Three Legacies are symbolized by equal sides, to express the equal importance of Recovery, Unity, and Service in a sober life.

With the help of a dictionary and a high school math text, I read up on triangles and considered the Three Legacies throughout my sobriety.

During the first three years of my sobriety, my personal relationship to those legacies would have been symbolized best by a scalene triangle: one with three unequal sides, which looks awkward and lopsided (a fair description of how I felt during early sobriety). The longest side would have represented, "Recovery."

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In those days, God gave me the grace to embark upon physical, mental, and spiritual recovery by not drinking a day at a time, going to AA meetings, and learning to eat and sleep. I got heavily into the Steps, because I was desperate to be changed.

The next-longest side of my personal, scalene triangle would have represented, "Service." Although I had never heard of the Twelve Concepts until I was seven years sober, I gave service from day one—led by the example of many devoted AA members in New York City.

Then the shortest side of my scalene triangle would surely have been, "Unity." It meant nothing to me, and I was not openminded or willing to learn about it or its Twelve Traditions.

Between about four and seven years of sobriety, my personal triangle shaped up into the isosceles variety, with two equal sides of "Recovery" and "Service."

During those years, I grew much stronger in Alcoholics Anonymous. The crying jags tapered off, and the God of my understanding consoled me during daily quiet times. Working with others taught me how to trust, and working the Steps put distance between me and who I had been as a newcomer to the Fellowship.

The shortest side of my personal triangle was still "Unity," though it was more developed by that time. Through Service, I had learned something of the Second Legacy, because Service required that I try to get along with others—the beginning and the essence of Unity.

No more the lopsided scalene polygon of the past, my personal triangle was looking pretty good: a sleek isosceles with two tall and sturdy sides. The remaining side was admittedly short, but at least it was solid and well-formed.

I was happy, too—easily happier than I'd ever been before in my life—but some aspects of happiness were missing. (It stands to reason, looking back. After all, the Traditions of Unity include principles such as humility, tolerance, and singleness of purpose. How happy could my sobriety be without these?)

Between seven and ten years of sobriety, my personal triangle has gone from a sleek isosceles to a gestating equilateral—somewhat misshapen as yet, but vital in transformation.

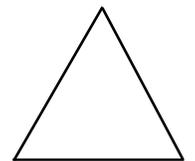
You see, among the many gifts that I've received in Alcoholics Anonymous during the past few years, the greatest has been learning to better cherish AA's Second Legacy of Unity. It happened in Omaha by getting to know and practice the Twelve Traditions. Therefore, I am delighted to have gotten sober in New York City and am equally delighted to be living sober today in Omaha, Nebraska.

If any dogged newcomer has actually read to this point, I applaud you. This article may seem bewildering, but please do not fret over it. Stay away from the first drink, just for today, and go to lots of AA meetings; you may find a reason to join us, and someday give freely of what you find.

For you longer-timers, I wish to close with a story shared by Marie S., which gave me hope about "double digit" sobriety. It concerns an exchange she had with her sponsor, Alabam C., who got sober during the early 1950s.

When she was twelve years sober, Marie was rambling on to her sponsor about trudging the road of happy destiny. Alabam suddenly cut in to say, "You know, baby, I listen to you, and you talk like the best has already happened. I've been your length of sobriety, and I'm here to tell you the best is yet to come."

Anonymous
Omaha, Nebraska



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PRAASA PRESENTATIONS

FROM BECKY H. & BARRY S.

REGIONAL FORUMS, SPECIAL FORUMS, AND LOCAL FORUMS- WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, nonalcoholic AA Trustee. They are designed to be weekend sharing sessions that enhance and widen communication among service-minded AA members and representatives of the General Service Board, the General Service Office and the Grapevine. The Forum is not a decision-making body, no formal actions come about. Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.

For myself, I recognize that one of the primary functions of GSO is to enable the AA message to be carried through its services. Meeting attendees from the GSO staff help me better understand GSO's capabilities and responsibilities. It also gives me a formal opportunity to voice any questions, concerns, or suggestions on how they might be more effective in what they do. My experience has been that the GSO staff in attendance exemplify humility and are indeed trusted servants enabling the message of love and service to be carried.

Special Forums are designed to fill a need for improved communication among Area Committees, Districts, and Groups, strengthening services through cooperation. Sessions are called for a specific purpose, to discuss issues that are particularly sensitive or thorny, where a problem has reached difficult proportions at the service level involved, and options to surmount the challenge need to be thought about. Each participant will receive "food for thought." Often it will be found that a group conscience has emerged. Sharing is captured in final reports and distributed to all attendees. Regional Final Reports are available on the G.S.O. website.

Local Forums offer a unique opportunity to bring Forum information to members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods, under-served A.A. communities or our own local communities, sharing experience, strength and hope in those who have not yet discovered the magical feeling of unity. Local Forums can be requested by any A.A. entity; the request does not need to come through the general service structure.

World Service has served as a forum for the worldwide sharing of experience and ideas on ways to carry the message of recovery from alcoholism. It has been described as a living and growing exchange of experience, capable of responding to the ideas and needs of A.A. worldwide and to reflect a final vision of A.A. co-founder Bill W., who believed there could be "one world of A.A." to assure that help would always be available for sick alcoholics wherever they are or whatever language they speak and that could cross all barriers of race, language, religion and culture that "divided and shattered the world of our time,"

We come to Forums and we meet each other, other members, and we learn about the rich variety of service opportunities that our Fellowship offers. Whether we are new to service or have been sober and active in service for years, the Forum experience is a wonderful way to learn and share about our worldwide, life-saving Fellowship. Presentations and workshops will cover practical "how to topics" as well as themes related to recovery, unity and service. Forums provide a great opportunity for members to exchange, spiritual principles, practical experience, and communication—one alcoholic talking to another. Whether it is a one-on-one chat during a coffee break, asking a question at the microphone during a sharing session, putting a question in the Ask-It- Basket or just absorbing information, it is the vital link for all of us in A.A. Each member's attendance at these Forums helps to further our primary purpose— staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. What's In It for Me?

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continued'

I have the opportunity to be an example of an enthusiastic Forum attendee and be an example of our program of attraction. I have the opportunity to communicate the value of Forum participation, and how powerful word-of-mouth sharing can be. I can let others know you don't have to be in General Service to attend, to enjoy and to contribute.

I am part of and I play a small role, but our General Service Board and two corporate boards are concerned with the breaks in our lines of communication; they can't solve the problem alone. They need our thoughts, our creativity, our energy, and most importantly, our action.

"Who is responsible to provide this awareness?" The answer is, "I am responsible". If I believe that Forum attendance is of value and the issues are important, then I must be honest and open with my beliefs. I must be willing to share my excitement about what's going on, and get others engaged; to share about this world of service inside our Fellowship.

Bill W. urged unity and said in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, "The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has." For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come." The first word in the First Step is "We," not "I." There is this miraculous force formed by the unity in A.A., and from our love for our fellows and for our principles. Individuals cannot survive on their own, that survival depends on cooperation with others and continuous unity.

Forums are a wonderful way of providing this, a wonderful opportunity for a tremendous experience to grow both spiritually and emotionally.

Alcoholics Anonymous has literally saved my life. And, even more, you all have shown me how to live. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Becky H.

Good morning, my name is Barry S. I am the alcoholic Panel 66 Delegate from Idaho Area 18. It is my pleasure to further serve the Fellowship as the Chairperson for the Conference Agenda Committee.

Like the other Panel 66 Delegates, I have been asked to share on the topic, Lessons from past PRAASA's on Supporting Our Future. I believe the best example I have for this topic involves the 1993 PRAASA in Juneau, AK that I did not attend.

In January of 1993 I took over as the GSR for the Tuesday Night Serenity Group in Caldwell, ID. I was told to show up for the District 4 meeting on the second Saturday of each month. This I did. It was at this meeting that I met the people that were going to change my life forever. In January and February there was a lot of discussion by a group of five servants about a conference they were all going to in March that had a name much too long to remember. They were all super excited to be making this journey even though most of them had never been to a Pacific Region Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly.

I remember showing up to the March district meeting and being very aware of an energy I had never felt before. The five people from my district that had met all of you in Juneau were visibly different. Each of them seemed younger, healthier, and more alive than the people who had been here the month prior. Something had happened to them. They told stories of the people, the meetings, and the round-tables as if they were the only source of real

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happiness in the entire world. When one would get done the next would start in. By the end of the meeting I was convinced,

"I WANTED WHAT THEY HAD!"

For the next ten months they shared their personal and group experiences from PRAASA every time they shared.

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I wanted the experience to happen to me so badly that I cleaned up the financial wreckage of my past by January 1, 1995. It was at this point that I was able to commit to going to Tacoma for PRAASA 1995.

Early Friday morning, the first weekend in March, I got in the car and went for the ride of my life. I learned that weekend about all of you. Alcoholics Anonymous became big to me. I don't remember many details from that weekend. What I do know is that I was asked to read a portion of Chapter 5 at the banquet Saturday night. I set at the head table next to then current Pacific Regional Trustee, Julien R. and started a friendship that lasts to this day. When I was introduced to read, the chair of the meeting found out it was my sobriety birthday and had the room sing happy birthday to me. By the time I got to the microphone I was shaking so hard I am not sure I read any of How It Works correct. So I believe that PRAASA supports our future by being here. The effect it has had on my life is shared by almost everybody who has ever attended. I was not catapulted into the fourth dimension by PRAASA. I was served up by a rocket launcher into galaxy far away from where I stood in Tacoma. And this I share every time I speak of you. Happy 50th PRAASA, may our creator continue to bless the Pacific Region.

Namaste

Barry S.

Area 18 Delegate

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER MELISSA S.

Dear Members of Idaho Area 18,

I would once again like to thank you for entrusting me to serve as your Idaho Area 18 Treasurer. It is an honor and a blast! I thought I would take a minute to update you on our commitment to send our historical amount of \$1,600 to the General Service Board to offset our Delegate's expenses to attend the Annual Conference, plus an additional \$5,400 in an effort to be self-supporting. Are you sitting down? According to my calculations, we – and when I say “we” I mean “YOU” – are going to meet that commitment! To date we have submitted the following to GSO:

		Remit to GSB	Balance Due
Area 18 Annual Commitment			5,400.00
Remittances			
8/26/2016	Check #1957	664.68	4,735.32
10/12/2016	Check #1975	1,132.51	3,602.81
2/26/2017	Check #1993	900.00	2,702.81
3/19/2017	Check #2017	900.00	1,802.81
	Remittances to date:	3,597.19	
5/14/2017	Proposed Contribution	900.00	902.81
6/30/2017	Proposed Contribution	902.81	-

As you can see, you have sent \$3,597.19 so far, and we are scheduled to send \$900 in May and the balance of \$902.81 in June, prior to our 6/30/2017 fiscal year-end! And, looking at our projected contributions and commitments, it appears that will be very possible. I am in awe . . . you made up your minds to be self-supporting, and you are doing it!

Yours, in service,

Melissa Schwan, Treasurer

Idaho Area 18

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

IDAHO AREA 18

Idaho Area 18
Income & Expense Report
July 1, 2016 through April 23, 2017

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Assembly Yield	6,208.13	Alternate Delegate	761.84
		Archives	356.05
Contributions:		Chairman	729.64
District 01	1,686.55	CPC-PI East	497.51
District 02	3,274.87	CPC-PI West	658.54
District 03	1,137.03	Delegate	4,213.85
District 04	865.50	GSO-General Conference	3,597.19
District 05	3,343.91	Finance Committee	715.94
District 06	888.16	Grapevine	822.74
District 07	1,640.13	Newsletter	671.48
District 08	3,065.80	Operational Expenses	2,913.00
District 09	640.73	Secretary	1,056.69
District 10	1,318.32	SICYPAA Liaison	773.84
District 11	228.88	Treasurer	1,059.79
District 12	15.00	TSNAC East	505.76
Other Contributions	265.00	TSNAC West	414.24
Total Contributions	18,369.88	Webmaster	825.69
Total Income	<u>24,578.01</u>	Total Expenses	<u>20,573.79</u>

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hi! My name is Angela. My sobriety date is 7.22.2014. I recently graduated from Boise State with a degree in Communication and Media Production. I am absolutely thrilled and incredibly grateful for this opportunity to work on The Wagon Wheel. I look forward to creating the next two newsletters for this amazing Fellowship. I would love to receive your stories of experience, strength and hope, as well as pictures, jokes, and announcements for future Wagon Wheel publications. Please send what you'd like to share to: newsletter1@idahoarea18aa.org

For an electronic version of this Wagon Wheel, and past newsletters, please visit: <http://www.idahoarea18aa.org/main/wagonwheel.htm>

Thank you again for letting me be of service, and I look forward to reading all of your Wagon Wheel submissions!

*Angela D.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCI TSNAC Workshop

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 11:00 am
 Magic Valley Fellowship Hall, 801 2nd Ave N., Twin Falls, ID

2017 Area 76 Fall Convention

November 3, 4, 5, 2017
 Ramada Plaza, 2009 South Douglas HWY Gillette, WY

TSNAC Awareness BBQ

June 3rd, 2017 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Kleiner Park, Meridian, ID

Lollapalooza III of AA

March 15-18, 2018
 Hotel ML, Mount Laurel, NJ

Founders Day Picnic and Campout

June 9th - 11th, 2017
 Mack's Creek Campgrounds, Lucky Peak, ID

District 7 Luau Party

June 24, 2017
 Green Canyon Campground, Newdale, ID

Young People in AA Soberlution

July 28th - 30th, 2017
 Fairbridge Inn Suites, Idaho Falls, ID

Teton Canyon Campout

August 25th - 27th, 2017
 Reunion Flats Campground Site #C, WY

SAVE THE DATE - 2017 Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly

October 6, 7, 8, 2017
 Burley Convention Center, Burley ID

May Word Search

G	S	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	E	F	N
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HOME GROUP
 SPIRITUAL
 BIG BOOK
 SERENITY
 MEDITATION
 RECOVERY
 ANONYMOUS
 AMENDS
 ATTRACTION
 HIGHER POWER
 FOUNDATION
 UNITY
 TRADITIONS
 HONESTY
 ANONYMITY
 MEETINGS
 SERVICE
 STEPS
 PEACE
 FREEDOM