

# The Wagon Wheel Idaho Area 18's Newsletter

May 2013

Editor, Ralayne H.

PRAASA 2013      Jodie R.      DCM District 10

This year's PRAASA was a really different experience for me. Last year was my first PRAASA and it was such a huge learning experience, almost overwhelming. This year, the experience was very different, of course. The topics for the panels this year seemed more cerebral to me whereas last year they were more visceral. In Boise, I had the honor of presenting a panel topic. Fortunately this was on Friday, as I could think of nothing else until that commitment was fulfilled. While listening to the panel presentations, I was somewhat distracted because I was acutely aware of cues and clues to the presenter's experience of presenting. I am glad I purchased the CD's because I will listen again to the presentations as they are a good source of information about our fellowship.

I was thrilled so many of Idaho Area 18 AA members were able to attend PRAASA, to look, listen and learn... *to experience* General Service and our trusted servants in action. I was delighted so many of our members offered their service. We all know (or have heard) service is a vitally important part of our program and our fellowship. And I like it cuz it **FEELS GOOD!** (so of course I want more!) But I must say I was not thrilled to see my name down as greeter for 7:30 a.m. (that's in the morning) on Saturday. It occurred to me to just not show up. I'm not proud of that, but I thought crossing my name out would be too obvious. Fortunately I have sponsees and friends watching me and holding me accountable when I might not do that myself. Jen expressed to me that I needed to set a good example for her. Damn. OK. So I was there, coffee in hand and yellow sash emblazoned across my torso,

guarding the middle door and guiding you to the side doors so as to not disturb the presentations. Isn't it funny how something so seemingly small can be so significant? I can get through the big stuff. We rally around each other through death, distress and discouragement. The world at large says 'don't sweat the small stuff', which is good advice. However, I have you to help me with the big stuff. It's the small stuff, like a 6:30 a.m. wake-up call on a Saturday, that can set me reeling. So here is my 'nugget' from PRAASA. As I know better I do better. The PRAASA Business Meeting was my favorite part of the whole experience. To experience 500 plus alcoholics come together and do business is amazing in itself. That we chose not to miss our Roundtables, but rather return to a *Business Meeting*, on a Saturday night, after a banquet and speaker... and then stay for hours... to me, that was incredible. I still hear, "Patience people, we will get there." To see folks exhibit grace in the face of frustration, wrestle with their egos and bow to the common good... who *are* these people? Each of these acts, although small perhaps on an individual level, when combined all together in one room, with one primary purpose, "to help the alcoholic who still suffers," afforded me a connection to every person present. I watched. I listened. I learned. **I EXPERIENCED LOVE AND TOLERANCE IN ACTION.** And because of this experience, I am able to do better in all my affairs. I am more able to stop stomping my feet and insisting on my way, to check my judgmental nature, to open my heart and to relax. I am more loving and I am more tolerant. I am not separate from you. I am a part of you. You are a part of me. This, friend, is a Spiritual Experience.

March 2, 2013

Hi everyone, my name is Garren and I'm an alcoholic. I am a home group member of the Hub City Group in Wendell, Idaho. We meet every Wednesday night at 8 in the Wendell Senior Center. Please come and join us if you get the chance.

My topic today is – Area Inventory – A Pat on the Back or Honest Appraisal. Hey, I have to be honest with you right now. When I received the phone call letting me know my name had been drawn to present I was elated. What a great honor and privilege to be a presenter at PRAASA. But when I read the email a few days later that told me of the topic my heart sank some...Area Inventory? That sounds as exciting as the discussion of how to assemble folding chairs. But my thoughts shifted within a minute or two when I realized the wonderful opportunity that had been given me. You see, Idaho Area 18 has an area inventory scheduled in May and the room has many members of our fellowship seated here today. Are you out there Area 18?

I think one of the first things that I should address is this – what exactly is an area inventory? I mean we've seen Group Tradition Checklists, but what is it that we are looking at when it comes to Area? The answer to that hopefully can be narrowed to this, are we effectively helping to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic? Are our groups being served as well as possible? And the biggie – Is the money from contributions being spent prudently and in the right places? There are more questions than these, but in the last area inventory I participated in these questions seemed to be in the forefront.

Alcoholics Anonymous' Tradition 9 says "AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve". Areas obviously must serve the groups and the districts, but in what real capacity? After all, it would be impossible for the area committee to go to every library to make sure they have a current copy of the Big Book, or for them to

meet with every jail administrator to tell them what AA is, and what AA isn't. And then there's getting PSA's on TV and radio, attending health fairs, helping those with special needs, representing the Grapevine and La Vina, taking meetings into jails and treatment centers, all of those things and more come from the top of our triangle, they come from the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, from us. Our area committee chairs and officers, while many do this important work as members, are essentially in a position to help with problems or concerns and to help be the conduit between sub committees or district committees. They may try to form committees and hold meetings to stay informed of what is going on. Their function is to help, but not interfere. Are our area committee members filling this role?

Areas were initially formed to designate borders for the membership within to have a collective voice, via their delegate. While that hasn't changed, areas have evolved into much more. With our various committees and sub committees, areas have become the focal point for the collection and dissemination of information. The effectiveness of all of this hinges on one very important factor – participation. If the groups decline to participate with the districts or the districts wane in their participation with area, the effectiveness of all lessens. It's only through complete participation at all levels that our full potential can be met.

All of this brings me to the next question I need to ask. Is an area inventory about how well the area supports the groups and districts, or is it about participation at all levels within the area? I have experienced times in General Service when there seemed to be an "Us vs. Them" mentality. The division has either been between the groups and area, or between members and GSO. The irony of all of this is that that separation... isn't real. We are area, we are Alcoholics Anonymous. How can there be any separation? We are a small part of a great whole. In my mind I see a thorough inventory looking not just at how well the area committee performs their duties, but also at how well the entire

area comes together in the legacy of unity and works to fulfill our primary purpose. Thorough personal inventories are a staple of our program. It is only by looking at all sides that we can see the big picture, our liabilities as well as our assets. Why shouldn't that same thoroughness apply to an area inventory? As an area we need to see our liabilities and our assets, and we need to try and understand why we have them. That can't be achieved without being completely honest. I have done personal inventories in which I wasn't completely honest, due to minimizing my mistakes, and as a result nothing changed. It was only when I became truly honest that change came about. That full measure of honesty must also prevail in an inventory of any group, district, area, and Conference. Without it there can be no real change, because we won't fully understand what that change must be. This isn't about pointing fingers and making excuses, it's about learning where we need to improve and how to do that. In AA we refer to that as growth.

AA General Service has some established practices that make us unique when compared to other societies or organizations. Our Third Legacy Procedure is a good example of that. Another is our practice of rotation every two years. Through the spirit of rotation we as individuals learn to grow in service and in turn others grow as well. One of the things I noticed about the upcoming General Service Conference inventory was that it spanned three years, which means two different delegates from each area will get to be a part of it. The last area inventory I took part in came in the last year of the rotation, as does the one we have scheduled for this year. What I saw, or think I saw (I can still get fancied or real mixed up) was that the issues that came up during discussion were lost in rotation. I don't think it was purposely, there were just new faces and new goals and the previous work was forgotten. As areas we have learned to mirror somewhat the structure of the Conference. Would a multi-year inventory be beneficial to us? Is spanning rotations to allow a fresh set of eyes and ears a good idea? Would a multi-year inventory ensure that we not only address our shortcomings, but also make

efforts to continue to develop our strengths? If we shouldn't rest on our laurels as individuals, it only makes sense that we shouldn't as committees.

Some of my favorite lines in the Big Book come on pages 152 and 153. It reads "...you will commence shoulder to shoulder your common journey. Then you will know what it means to give of yourself that others may survive and rediscover life. You will learn the full meaning of "Love thy neighbor as thyself". Another wonderful promise from the Big Book that hinges on our service to others. I want to thank each and every one of you here today for walking shoulder to shoulder with me. Even though I haven't met many of you here, we still walk the same path together. Your work does make a difference in someone's life. I would like to give you all a collective "pat on the back". Thank you for a job well done. God Bless!

My experience at PRAASA was awesome! It was my first PRAASA and I can't wait until the next. I usually don't like crowds and usually feel out of place, but with over a thousand people being at PRAASA I felt right at home. On the panel of past Pacific Regional Trustees I heard one of them say they didn't think they did a good job as a GSR. In the World Service Manual I read under Delegate to ask yourself how well did as a GSR. I think I might have done a better job, but I thought after reading that, I might not have a chance as Delegate. I only saw that one question at the time. So I was relieved to hear his story!

I was talking to someone and he had so much passion for the service opportunity he is doing and he was asking himself why am I getting it and others are dying. I remember asking myself this same question early in sobriety and someone told me why not me? I deserve it just as much as anyone else and I'm worth it! I shared this with him and we both shed tears. Thanks so much for letting me share this with you!

Love Misty

When I was only a year and a half sober – and still a total neophyte in learning how to *handle* that sobriety (i.e. how to find some peace and balance in life) – I was drafted into Area service, as your newsletter chairperson. In spite of a long career as the editor of a national magazine, I was scared at the prospect of taking on this new responsibility – scared that I'd let you down.

Then I heard something that rang true: “God doesn't choose the qualified, He qualifies the chosen.” Hearing that reminded me that I needed to remember – daily! – to apply Step 3 to my service responsibilities, as well as to the other areas of my life. I needed to turn my will and my service life over to his loving care.

No sooner had I embraced that notion than I learned that one of the ways my Higher Power planned on helping qualify me, was by making sure I attended the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA), held that year in Los Angeles. Although Area 18 could only afford to help with about a third of the cost of attending, that was enough to make it possible.

Once at PRAASA, I ended up attending – and chairing! – a roundtable with many of the newsletter chairs from around AA's Pacific Region, where I learned enough to make it through my two-year rotation without any major difficulties. The God of my understanding doesn't qualify us for AA service opportunities by waving some magic wand! In my case, I sincerely believe that Life chose – and continues to choose -- to use PRAASA to help accomplish that end.

I have a new Area service position now (Grapevine / La Vina Chairperson), and once again the recent PRAASA (in Boise) proved incredibly informative and helpful. At the Grapevine / La Vina roundtable, I learned that the Grapevine has financially been in the black for the last two years – finally! – and that La Vina is still firmly in the red. The latter is not altogether surprising considering that La Vina is still in its relative infancy, while the Grapevine has had

many, many years to grow, evolve, and garner more subscribers.

I also had the wonderful opportunity to wrangle a seat next to the Grapevine's executive editor, Amy B., at the Saturday night banquet. I got to know her a bit, enjoyed her company, learned a little about her many responsibilities, and shared with her how grateful we are here in Idaho for all she does and the quality magazine she helps to produce.

PRAASA is truly a gift that keeps on giving, and I would have been way poorer had I decided to sit at home waiting for God to wave a magic wand.

Thank you Area 18 for helping this recovering alcoholic learn what he needs to learn to be of greater service.

Your grateful, trusted servant...  
Brad P.

These valiant PRAASA attendees have stepped forward to share their experience at PRAASA in Boise 2013 and I thank you for making my task easier.

In my absence I can read the “nuggets”, feel spiritually inspired and be grateful to the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous.

My personal life is full of loss and grief again, as I mourn the loss of a niece and my sister.

I am here with you in spirit.

Ralayne H.  
Your newsletter editor

# Teton Canyon Campout 12 th Annual

Sponsored by Alta AA  
August 16,17 And 18, 2013

Reunion Flats Campground Site #C

Friday 7:30 pm meeting in place of Alta Church  
meeting

Saturday 6:00 pot luck dinner, meat provided  
Speaker meeting to follow

Sunday am fireside meeting informal

Some camping spots available at Site # C call:  
Directions from Driggs: Follow signs (East on Ski Hill Rd, just past  
Forest boundary turn up Teton Canyon Road, before Boy Scout  
Camp turn right into Reunion Flats Campground)

Dogs and kids welcome. Be sure to clean up after them and keep  
them from being disruptive during meals and meetings.

Nancy-Gail or Ed 208-456-2356, cell 208-390-9499 leave a message.

# MACK'S CREEK CAMPOUT LUCKY PEAK RESERVOIR

JUNE 7 – 9

HOSTED BY: INTERGROUP

UNITY, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN  
CAMP OVER NIGHT OR COME FOR THE DAY

FRIDAY NIGHT 6PM – SLUMGOLIAN STEW  
(PLEASE BRING ITEM TO ADD TO THE STEW)

SATURDAY NIGHT 6PM – GROUP BBQ AND POTLUCK  
(HAMBURGERS AND HOTS DOGS PROVIDED)

SATURDAY NIGHT 7PM – WHITE ELEPHANT RAFFLE  
(PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE ITEM)

SATURDAY NIGHT 8PM – BURN EM' UP MEETING  
(BRING PAPER W/ LIST OF THINGS YOU WANT TO LET GO OF)

SUNDAY MORNING 9AM – SPIRIT BREAKFAST  
(COME BRING LEFT OVERS AND LETS SHARE BREAKFAST)

SUNDAY MORNING 10AM – 50/50 RAFFLE

QUESTIONS AND DIRECTIONS CONTACT LISA P. 577-0303





the Boise Area Committee of Young People in AA

SOBERLUTION III July 5th, 6th and 7th

At the Red Lion Downtowner 1800 Fairview Ave. in Boise, ID!

Call 208-344-7691 for reservations and use group code "BOIS0704" before June 20th to get our \$74.95 discounted room rate!

Speaker Meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday! 24-Hour Alcathon Meetings! 80's Themed Dance! Karaoke! Pool Open until 2a.m.! and Much More!

Need more info? Have a question? Visit us at 'soberlution.org' or feel free to contact us!

Email: contact@soberlution.org Phone: 208-549-YPAA (that's 208-549-9722)

Pre-Registration

Registration is \$20 if mailed in with this form before June 20th and \$25 afterward. Please make checks payable to BACYPAA. Mail to: PO BOX 6444, Boise, ID, 83707

All Included Funds Exceeding the Cost of Registration and Merchandise Will be used to Sponsor a Newcomer's Attendance at Soberlution!

Name: Phone: Email: City, State: Sobriety Date: I'm Willing to be of Service at the Event! I'd Like to help Outreach Soberlution!

T-Shirt and Hoodie Pre-Order:

Please mark how many of what size and include funds to cover the total. Pre-Ordered items will be reserved under your name at the conference. A VERY LIMITED number of items will be available at the conference.

SHIRTS: \$15 each Mens: S M L XL XXL Womens: S M L XL XXL HOODIES: \$30 each S M L XL XXL

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS presents the

55th ICYPAA Phoenix, Arizona



AT THE HISTORIC ARIZONA BILTMORE

www.arizonabiltmore.com

2400 East Missouri Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016 USA

JULY 11-14, 2013



PRE-REGISTRATION: \$25 until Feb. 17 • \$30 after Feb. 17 You must register ONLINE to receive registration confirmation & receipt.

FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION & DETAILS VISIT: 55th.icypaa.org (No Refunds) Join our email list for updates!

Room rates for ICYPAA are \$99 per night. Group Rate: ICYPAA

To reserve your room call 1-800-hiltons or reserve your room online at www.arizonabiltmore.com

To pre-register by mail, complete & mail this form with payment to ICYPAA, P.O. Box 80116, Phoenix, AZ 85060 Make Checks payable to 55th ICYPAA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female

Please check one: AA AI-Anon Alateen SPECIAL NEEDS (please check, if applicable):

- I want to help with outreach for the conference
I want to be of service at the conference
I want to be added to the mailing list
Deaf Hard of Hearing Wheelchair Access
Other

For more info email contact@icypaahost.org To volunteer email volunteer@icypaahost.org

55th.icypaa.org

Please be sure to check all that apply and fill in the appropriate dollar amounts: Pre-Registration (\$25) \$ Scholarship Donation \$ Total enclosed \$

**Donations Requested for Raffle and Auction Home Group Basket Contest**  
**Contact: Kathleen 895-1221**

**Raffle Ticket \$10.00**  
**46" Sanyo-E Series TV**  
*ultra thin, energy efficient with auto adjust room lighting*

All proceeds benefit Hospital & Institutions  
 At last count we facilitate 116+ meetings a month @ over 17 Corrections & 12 Hospital & Treatment meetings a week  
 (Need not be present to win)

## TREASURE VALLEY H & I

### 10th Annual BBQ

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013**  
**BOISE VETERANS PARK**  
 (CORNER OF VETERANS PKWY & STATE ST)  
**12:00-5:00**  
 (FOOD SERVED UNTIL 4:00)



**Activities Includes:**  
 Entertainment, bounce house, crafts and outdoor games

BBQ Choice of One of the following:

Chicken, hamburger or hot dog

Includes: Buns, potato/mac salad, chips, salsa, coffee, koolaid & water

**Tickets \$5.00**

**(kids 12 & under free)**

**Sold Separately:**

Bottled water .50¢ ~ Soda \$1.00

### Volunteers Needed

Party planning, ticket sales, raffle/auction assistance, setup, cooking, serving, clean-up  
 For additional information please contact Michelle 631-3365 or Barbara 631-2321

**Bring your favorite dessert or side dish**

★★★★  
 ★★★★★

JUNE

14<sup>TH</sup>

15<sup>TH</sup>

16<sup>TH</sup>

★★★★★



**3. Fork Mink Creek, 3 miles off pavement**

### Contacts:

(Be sure to ATTN: 'Group 2 Campout' in email/call)

Information and help supply firewood or help **Volunteer** your services, call/email:

Mark M: 220-1210

Joe J: 238-1007  
 spiffer636@aol.com

To Donate **Raffle** Items, Text or Bring to:

Gerie E: 317-9740  
 littleanon@yahoo.com

**All groups can contribute!**



**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>**

### Group Dinner

pulled Pork barbeque, Dutch-Oven potatoes  
 coffee provided

**Everyone** please bring Side Dishes

Time: 5:45 p.m. Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>

Donations Welcome!

### A.A. Meeting to Follow

**C U THERE!!!**

### Raffle Items Needed

Tickets \$1.00 each or 6 Tickets for \$5.00  
 Buy tickets from Gerie E. (See Contact Info.)

BYO: Chairs, Card Table, Umbrella

Porta-Potties Available  
 This is Dry Camp  
 No Water



# District 9 Annual CAMPOUT

July 12, 13, 14, 2013

Note: 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend in July this year due to campsites availability!!  
Friday and Saturday Nights, Checkout by Noon Sunday



## Lost Valley Reservoir



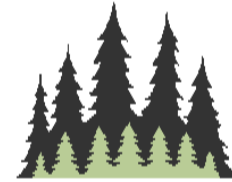
### Cold Springs Campground, Payette NF

Hwy. 95 between New Meadows & Council, Turn west 1 mi. south of Tamarack sawmill at Pineridge Store (Lost Valley Res Road) go a couple miles to top of hill, fork to the left & follow signs

- Campfire Meetings (Get schedule on arrival)
- Saturday Night Potluck & Barbeque (Meat Furnished)
- Bring your favorite side dish or dessert
- Pirate Raffle Saturday evening (Please bring one or more items to donate for the fun filled raffle!)
- Saturday Speaker Meeting 7:30 PM
- Sunday Morning Spiritual Potluck Breakfast, donate whatever you have to cook communally
- No Cost to Camp in Group Site but the District will appreciate any Donations

If you would like an individual campsite, please call 1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) for reservations or first come first served on site.

Contact Gordon H. at 365-8372, Darlene J. at 550-4229 or Dennis B. at 315-3506 if you need more Information!



Rexburg, Upper Valley Alcoholics Anonymous

## 2013 Green Canyon Campout

Fri. July 19	Campground Check-in	12:00pm and after
	Campfire Meeting	8:00pm
Sat. July 20	Potluck Dinner	6:00pm (Burgers, Hot Dogs & French Fries Provided)
	Raffle & 50/50	7:00pm
	Speaker Campfire Meeting	8:00pm
Sun. July 21	Potluck Breakfast	9:00am
	Campground Checkout	1:00pm



#### Campground Reservations

Green Canyon Hot Springs  
[www.greencanyonhotspring.com](http://www.greencanyonhotspring.com)  
208-458-4484



You will need to reserve your own R.V. or tent spots

#### Campground Rates

10% discount if you mention AA

Campsite (water & electric) \$18.50 + .50 per person

Campsite (water, electric & sewer) \$19.50 + .50 per person

Tent Site (water & electric) \$17.50 + .50 per perso

Limited FREE Tent camping around reserved pavilions & campsites, not in common areas.

NO ATVs allowed in campground

#### Swimming Rates

Single: \$5.25

Day Pass: \$6.25

Under 1yr: \$2.00

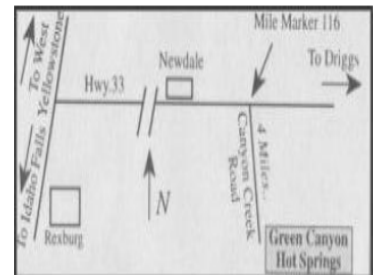


Call Lisa S. 705-2524 or Misty B. 243-4506

#### DON'T FORGET:

Raffle items, lawn chairs, repellent, food, beverages, jackets, blankets, fishing pole, towels, etc.

Special Thanks to the Weekend Warriors for doing all the cooking For us.





# **BARBECUE**

**9TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL  
BBQ AND POTLUCK  
SPONSORED BY  
WEISER PROGRESS GROUP**

**SATURDAY MAY 25th  
NOON**

**WEISER MEMORIAL PARK**

**HAMBURGERS-HOT DOGS-DRINKS FURNISHED**

**PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR JUST SHOW UP**

**FOOD-GAMES-RAFFLE-MEETING  
GUEST SPEAKER**

**FOR INFO CALL 914-6159 or 550-1432**

**2014 Pacific  
Regional Forum**

**Save the Date  
July 11-13, 2014**

**The Riverside Hotel  
2900 W. Chinden Boulevard  
Boise, Idaho**

**GSO (General Service Office)  
brings Office to Idaho.**