

The Wagon Wheel

Idaho Area 18's Newsletter

Editor, Karen F.

August 2007

DISTRICT DONATIONS TO AREA

6/30/2006-8/14/2007

District 1	\$	2583.00
District 10		344.00
District 11		695.00
District 2		2423.22
District 3		204.30
District 4		930.40
District 5		1713.58
District 6		345.00
District 7		664.27
District 8		2659.84
District 9		544.15

EDITOR'S NOTE

Can you believe it's August? Summer is almost over. It's been very busy for me; I just finished my commitment with the Gem State Roundup. I was the chair for the registration committee, what a fun service position.

I'll tell you what, service is so incredibly awesome, and it sure helps me stay sober during hard times.

I also want to thank those of you who took the time in sharing your experiences with attending PRAASA.

I have one more newsletter to publish after this one and will then rotate out into a different position. I have been grateful for this experience and have learned a lot that I will be able to use in my life experiences having been a newsletter editor.

Here's something that I received in an email its titled God's Message. I heard the message and hope you enjoy it as well. Thanks again for giving me an opportunity to share with you all.

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. It gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very

wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so she was enjoying herself immensely!

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no

longer! She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? Look at it. He said. Read what it says. She read the words "United States of America" No, not that; read further. One cent? No, keep reading. In God we Trust? Yes! And? And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription it is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust is still in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me.

Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes,

God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient...

Help me make this last issue the best yet and send in your stories. Also, if your area is having an event soon please remit that as well.

Remit your story to: Idaho Area 18 Newsletter via the website address @ www.Idahoarea18aa.org.

There is a link titled Newsletter. You can also view recent issues.

**Karen F., Boise
Newsletter Editor**

MY PRAASA EXPERIENCE

Good morning everyone.

Karen F. has been asking for articles on PRAASA experiences and of course I got my in at the very last minute.

I went over to a Traditions workshop in Pocatello and on the way home I started going through the filing cabinet in my head about the experiences that I have had at PRAASA over the years. By the way the Tradition workshop at District 1 was fantastic. I very much enjoyed the panels and discussion that followed. Thank you for asking me to come over.

Now on to PRAASA or the long version of this is Pacific Regional Alcoholics

Anonymous Service Assembly. All the regions have a service assembly once a year. It is an assembly in which anyone whether they are involved in service or not can come together and participate in panels and roundtables on different topics from the steps, traditions, or concepts. This is a working assembly. There is a banquet with a speaker but no dance. Roundtables on the different service positions take place Friday and Saturday night after the speaker.

During the day there are panels in which everyone is sitting in a large room to listen and participate. The panels usually follow some part of the theme from the General Service Conference and usually consist of about 4 statements in which different AA members are asked to share on. They are covering topics from steps, traditions, and concepts and usually are pertaining to problems or current issues that are going on at the time. After the panel participants are done, it is opened up to the audiences and they can go to the microphone and to ask questions or share. It is a great opportunity to learn how to get up in front of people and talk. This has been a great arena in which to continue to learn about this program. It has been amazing to see, learn and participate in what a big deal this program is. They usually have a Delegates, Trustees, and Past

Trustees panel. Listening to these people share their experience, strength, and hope who have given so much of their time, effort, experience, and money to this program has truly been a spiritual experience. I have learned so much from these panels I can only hope that when it is time to call this life quits that I can have maybe 10% of what some of these individuals have.

In the evening they have Roundtable discussions. They have roundtables on Delegate, Alt Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, H&I, CPC/PI, Archives, DCMs, etc. I know that this past two years the Area Chair roundtable was very informative. We have established an e-mail communication in which I have made some good contacts and friends. You get to hear about other areas concerns and problems. I have gotten ideas and answers to problems that I had no clue how to begin to walk through. It stops a lot of the reinventing of the wheel. I have been amazed at how many people from different areas are so willing to help in any way they can with different concerns. I also needed to see how our area really has fewer problems that some of these areas have.

I recently counted up the number of PRAASAs that I have been too. I have been to 18 of them in the time I have been sober. I am not saying this to impress anyone as I

am not into that kind of stuff. I do want you to know that since my 1st PRAASA which was one of many that I paid my own way to, I have received so much more in return than what I put out. When I started do General Service work, PRAASA has been one of the best teachers at learning about service that I have ever found. When I got sober there were no service sponsors. I never heard the term. Some of the individuals that I have met at PRAASA have definitely filled that spot, even if there is no title between us except friend.

PRAASA has been extremely spiritual event. I remember one PRAASA when AA members from Japan had come to PRAASA to gain information of the service structure of this program. They openly and humbly expressed how they had come to learn. They were working on their General Service Office, establish their service structure, and had gotten their own Big Book translated into Japanese. I will never forget their willingness to learn all they could. They wanted all that this program had to offer. I was at another PRAASA when the Japanese members were back and they talked about the problems they had had with translation -they had inadvertently translated their Big Book into the wrong dialect. The meaning to the words in the Japanese Big Book had some different

meanings from the English version Big Book. Hearing how they dealt with all of this was such a spiritual high and it was humorous. The bottom line was they were sober, the program was working, and their fellowship was growing there.

I head at our 2007 Spring Assembly that some of you where upset that you heard nothing about PRAASA. I think it is great that you want to learn more about this and get the most from your money. I am more than willing to participate or help in workshops on PRAASA topics. Whenever I have gone to a PRAASA I have always included something in my reports that I have given at whatever business meeting that I am participating in. I have gotten the feeling at times that no one wanted to hear about PRAASA. I will not fall for that assumption again.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve. I do not mean this as some canned statement. In whatever service position I have done, I have ALWAYS received more back than was given. Thank you for my life and showing me who I really am. Yours in service

Janice McCauley
Idaho Area 18
Chairperson

MY EXPERIENCE WITH PRAASA

Several members at the last assembly asked about the value of sending trusted servants to PRAASA.

From my experiences, both funding my own trip and representing and funded by the Area, it has been a remarkable enlightenment of the world of service. The excitement and intensity exhibited by those attending was an inspiration by itself!

When I went on my own I began to see the scope and value of service work and the need for it to maintain, not only my own sobriety, but to ensure the program of Alcoholics Anonymous will be around for future generations as it was for me when I so desperately needed it.

When sent by the Area to expand my service as archivist the results were even better. With out the Area's support I doubt I could have made the last PRAASA. Some of the benefits include the following: Establishing new contacts with other archives for help with ours and to help with theirs since it is all AA history we're trying to preserve. This includes trading items that are more appropriate in one archive then another, learning new cataloging and filing methods, input in areas such as protecting anonymity, recording oral histories, what is appropriate to display or

collect and ways to educate an archive committee on AA's history and archival methods. Also discussed are ways to stimulate interest and participation in our history.

Other service areas having similar results can only be helped in carrying the message. PRAASA can especially help those who rode into service on an AA rail car and didn't get the experience, strength and hope from those who preceded them. It may not always be apparent how this wealth of information and inspiration is passed on but it surely is.

Grateful to be in service,

Geoff H., Nampa

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS CORRECT

If I had let my first PRAASA experience influence my impressions of what PRAASA could/would/should be I would never have attended another. The year I sobered up, 1985, PRAASA was held in my then-hometown of Pocatello; however, that was in March and I came to the program in April and wasn't introduced to PRAASA until 13 years later. I attended my first PRAASA in Boise in 1998 as District One alternate DCM, and I was asked to chair an archives round table. When I said I knew nothing about archives, I was told all I had to do was facilitate the meeting. HAH! Tell that to a

room full of bloodthirsty archivists who pounced on me the minute I entered the room, expecting me to have answers or at least information. These folks were on a mission to request that GSO add archives to the roster of special service committees; they were busily writing a proposal and expected me to provide input and direction. I was totally out of the loop and wound up literally in tears.

Thanks to a year of healing while PRAASA went to Hawaii, I was able to persuade District One to fund me as DCM to the 2000 PRAASA in Ogden, Utah – right in my backyard. There the fire was lit and I attended every subsequent PRAASA until this year when circumstances required I be elsewhere.

So what have I gained from these assemblies of benefit to Area 18? First of all I gained a solid understanding of what it means to be in general service. Your trusted servants at this level have the often unrecognized job of ensuring AA will remain as it was established in the early years, that we will continue to abide by one primary purpose, that we will adhere to the traditions carved out by often painful experience – in short, they work to maintain the integrity of AA.

Is this some sort of ego trip? Never has been for me. Those same old boys who sweat blood and tears to put “this deal” together also

talked about ego deflation at depth. One of the many quotes I picked up at PRAASA – I don't remember which one and it really doesn't matter – is that service rendered with ego is political; service rendered with love is spiritual. I have a deep and abiding love and respect for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is absolutely no doubt I would not be alive today were it not for AA.

However, I digress. Back to the benefits to be derived from attending PRAASA: next in importance is networking face-to-face with members from other areas serving in the same capacities. Invaluable information comes back to Idaho in a better understanding of one's service position and the exchange of information among areas. Tangible results follow. The GSR handbook came to Idaho from a sharing session at a PRAASA. So also did the realization that maybe Area 18 should be filing income tax returns. The exchange of area guidelines (or bylaws or handbooks – like "a rose by any name," these are just some of the names other areas attach to what we call guidelines) is another tangible. Although different ways may not always be better, sometimes they are, and this information can be gained at these service assemblies. By the same token, other areas learn from us. With the advent of the

Internet, trusted servants have been able to set up e-mail lists and continue to network after they return home. While some results are tangible, many more can't be measured – that doesn't mean they don't exist.

The benefits to the individual are equally important. There is a spirit of camaraderie that can't be matched anywhere. I met countless members of Area 18 at various PRAASAs and became friends with many of them, as well as becoming better acquainted with folks I already knew from area service. This benefited me personally when I moved to Boise a couple of years ago and had a readymade group of program friends.

Few will have all expenses paid to these events; the last PRAASA I attended I went on my own dime – just as I plan to do when I go to Anchorage next March. Whether area budgets too much money for too many people to attend PRAASA isn't a question I can answer. Like the commercials say, for the trusted servants who attend with a desire for information to do their jobs better, to gain an appreciation for service, and to bring back the enthusiasm to spread that information and appreciation ... the experience is priceless.

Jo P., Boise

THE SPIRIT OF ROTATION

AA Grapevine Magazine
Vol. 53 No. 1 June 1996

One of the most valuable resources of any organization is the experience of those who have gone before. The sharing of what they've done right, and the sharing of the mistakes they've made, becomes a solid foundation for continued healthy growth. Because of the wise and spiritual principle of rotation, we in Alcoholics Anonymous are blessed with a constantly vital and always growing pool of people whose primary aim is to serve the AA Fellowship. They are willing to share both success and failure in order to preserve what we have been given. How then can we continue to benefit from the experience of those who have rotated?

My understanding of rotation has led me from one service job to another. I don't believe rotation means "I quit." I don't think rotation means "I've done my time, now it's someone else's turn." I do believe rotation means that "I have made my contribution in this capacity. Where can I be of use next?"

I feel a deep need to pass the message on. I have an obligation to the new person to pass on the message of recovery, but my obligation goes beyond today. It extends to those who will come through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous fifty

years from now, when I am dead and gone. Part of our message must be how to preserve this precious gift so that those yet to come will have the same change at recovery and life we had.

From the beginning of AA, the concept of sponsorship has been one of our most important means of passing on experience. My early sponsors lovingly showed me simple and direct steps I could take that would produce very specific results. They demonstrated these results in their lives in such a way that I wanted what they had. I followed their suggestions and got the same results. I began to recover and walk the spiritual path as they did. How nice it was to have someone who had been over the path before to show me the rough spots and to explain the new things that were happening to me. When the time came, my sponsors shared with me about serving the Fellowship. I was to do for the new people what had been done for me. I was to make my time and my experience available.

One of the things I like best about spiritual people is that they are seldom rude. They don't often demand their own way, nor do they seem to be driven by a need to be right all the time. They do seem to be around and available, but usually wait to be asked. As I've gone from service assignment to service assignment, I've found that those who preceded me were

always willing to share with me, but they also allowed me to make my own mistakes. They told me what they had done, what had worked, and what had not. Often when I would go to my service sponsors, they listened, then said, "Let's see what the manual says" or "How does that idea fit the Concepts?"

A "loving invitation" always seems to work with me. So perhaps one of the best ways for us to continue to benefit from our rotated servants would be to request that they put on a workshop at an assembly or be on a panel with others who share their experience. I once heard that the condition of the "bleeding deaconism" was caused by service people who got out of service. I don't need a title, but I do need to be involved. I love the action of service. I love service people. I would be less if I couldn't participate. If this is so for me, then perhaps it is so for others. I need to ask them to continue to be part of my service life so that their precious learning is not lost. When I'm allowed to help plan a function, I try always to give out those "loving invitations." I need, and have, service sponsors. I call on the phone or stop by and visit. I don't always agree with my sponsors, but I always listen. But there will be nothing to listen to if I don't ask.

As is usually the case, the answer to most of questions

is in the question itself. "How can we continue to benefit from the experience of those who have rotated?" The best way I can think of to benefit from their experience is to be certain that they are a part of mine.

Don P.
Aurora, Colorado

LOVE FINALLY REALIZED TO LATE

Caught up in the game
nothing to real, broken
promises, shattered dreams
the e cycle never ends

Mistresses' area many
loved ones cry, aint no
mystery we all just want out
piece of the pie.

Look at the moon. Wish
upon a star. Money lost so
long but love takes you far.

Do you love me, is it real?
Nothing but love for the
game is all that I feel.

Fantasies, broken promises,
shadowed thoughts, no time
for love, no time for you,
such a tragedy, such a loss.

The rules of the game are
simple, live or die.

I live for the moment and
love passes by.

All is lost, no where to run.
I die like we lived my hand
on a gun.

Tears of sorrow fill my
eyes, last thoughts of you my
love, good bye.

Floyd W., Boise

WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRINK

For the longest time I knew that I would be drinking as soon as I had an opportunity. I had a fairly normal childhood although I lived under the shadow of my older sister, in my parents eyes, or so I thought.....I was never smart enough, pretty enough or obedient enough. I was a tomboy and loved to play outside all day instead of doing homework or baking cookies. When I turned 13 our family moved to Idaho, we had been living in Guyana, South America since I was 5: my parents were missionaries. I couldn't cope with the change and began to withdraw within myself and my dad and I started to fight a lot.

As soon as I moved to College another girl and I bought cheap wine and got drunk, she got sick but I loved it! I had had a nice boyfriend but I broke up with him and sought out some more exciting guys who hooked me up with all sort of drugs and alcohol. My self-esteem was so low that I

would do anything when I was under the influence.

At 22, I fell in love and got married to a fellow drinker.....8 months later we had a cute little baby girl, then another little girl 5 years later. It was a crazy house with all the drugs and alcohol, the fighting, the long....weekends, the hangovers, the strange bedfellows. We knew something was not right but I think my husband and I thought it was the other person's fault. Not ourselves or the alcohol. I thought if he would just change everything would be okay.

Into or 12th year of marriage he did find AA, but things still weren't right in our home. He said "Janet you're sick too, you need to go to Al-anon." So I did for nine months, but I was still drinking and not having any fun at all. A year later through the influence of a female friend, my husband had met in the program I walked into my first meeting of AA. I cried through the whole meeting, I don't know if they were tears of relief or because someone brought me a cup of coffee. Anyway, I could really relate to what

everyone said and I knew I had found my answer. That was Jan 14, 1993.

AA has given me a new life that I never thought was possible: working the 12 steps has cleared up my past. The meetings, slogans, prayer, meditation and a relationship with God help with daily living. Working with another Alcoholic makes me feel a part of. Fellowship within AA gives me a replacement for the fun I used to have and I have rediscovered pastimes I used to enjoy. I never want to go back to that old life so I keep going to meetings and try to change a little bit everyday.

My husband and I have been married now for 28 years, we had a boy when I was 2 years sober. Our daughters are married and doing well, we have made our amends to them.

We started taking our family back to church and it's a good habit they all still continue.

Life has it's ups and downs but it is not the roller coaster it once was. Thank God and AA.

**Thank you
Janet W., Nampa**

Idaho Area 18 Fall 2007 Assembly and Convention

October 5, 6, 7, 2007 - Burley, Idaho

“Our 12th ^{Step} Responsibility: Are We Going to Any Length?”

Hosted by District 10 @ Best Western Inn (208)678-3501 Burley, Idaho

Friday

- * 10 am Golf Scramble at Burley Muni
- * 1 pm Registration until 9 pm
- * 1 pm Alcathon continuous thru Sunday at 10 am
- * 7 pm AA Speaker---Mike B. from Twin Falls, Idaho
- * 9 pm Area Service Roundtables

Saturday

- * 7 am Registration until 6pm
- * Continuous Alcathon until Sunday at 10 am
- * 9 am Business Meeting/Elections
- * 9 am - 3 pm Panels and Meetings

* *Noon Al-Anon Luncheon with speaker Vicki H., San Jose, CA*

* 6 pm Saturday Night Buffet Banquet & AA Speakers Jay & Cecelia S., Pioneer, CA

*** 10 pm Dance to CROSSFIRE!!**

Sunday

- * 9 am Spiritual Buffet Breakfast with AA Speaker Laurie L., Boise, ID
- * 10 am Alcathon ends

For more information call: Rick D. (208) 316-0449 or Doug S. (208) 731-8165 - District 10 Co-Chairs

Detach registration form and mail with check or money order to: 2007 Area 18 Fall Assembly, P. O. Box 542, Jerome, Idaho 83338. We will confirm by postcard or E-mail to avoid postal cost.

Pre-Registration 9-1-07 Registration after 9-1-07 Name _____

_____ \$13.00 General _____ \$15.00 General Address _____

_____ \$22.00 Sat. Banquet _____ \$25.00 Sat. Banquet

_____ \$14.00 Sun. Breakfast _____ \$15.00 Sun. Breakfast

Phone _____

_____ \$16.00 Al-Anon Lunch _____ \$18.00 Al-Anon Lunch

_____ \$5.00 Coffee mug _____ \$5.00 Coffee mug E-Mail _____

_____ \$5.00 Dance _____ \$5.00 Dance (please add your district # and circle if in service)

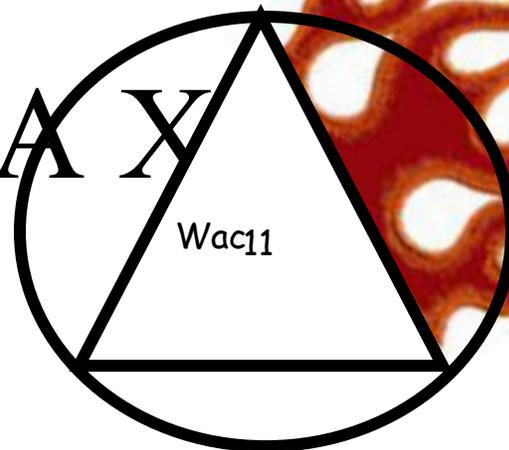
AA: District # _____ GSR DCM CM D PD

_____ \$ TOTAL _____ \$ TOTAL Al-Anon: District # _____ GR DR

WACYPAA XI

Boise, ID

January 18-20, 2008



Western Area Conference of Young People in AA

Rocketed into a Fourth Dimension Alcoholics Anonymous Pg. 25

Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside

2900 Chinden Boulevard
Boise, Idaho, 83714
\$89.00 per night Single/Double/Quad
Tel: (208) 343-1871
1(800) 222-8733

Contacts:

Chair/Casey
(208) 713 0302

Outreach/Robbie
(208) 919-4972

Registration/Shannon
(208) 841-4167

www.wacypaa11.org

WACYPAA XI Pre-Registration Form

Pre-Registration \$20, \$25 at the door.
Please have your pre registration in
the mail before December 31st

WACYPAA Registration
P.O. BOX 4231
Boise, Id 83716

Name _____

Phone _____ Sobriety Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____ Zip _____

Email _____

I would like to be a WACYPAA Volunteer

I would like to help with Outreach

[] I would like to donate money for a newcomer to attend WACYPAA \$ _____

UNITY DAY PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2007

STOREY PARK—MERIDIAN, ID

(Corner Main Street and Franklin Road – next to Meridian Speedway)

Fun for THE WHOLE FAMILY

11:00am 'til 9:00pm

GAMES

Softball volleyball horseshoes swimming

AA Speakers to Be Announced

We Need Potluck Side Dishes (Salads, Desserts, etc.)
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs Provided By Your Host Districts
Beverages Will Be Available For Sale

Contacts for This Event are:

Margie P—466-2801

Sharon & Greg B—322-1948

The Bear Lake Bash

September 7-8-9

At the East Shore Campgrounds
held on the shores of Bear Lake, South of Montpelier

There are nice hookups here and some have water and
electric

For information Ed at 847-1685 or 221 0370

If you're having an event and would like it to be listed please send me a copy of
your flyer via email boisekaren@hotmail.com