



March 2012

The Wagon Wheel Idaho 18's Newsletter

Editor, Ralayne H.

Home of PRAASA 2013

I am excited and very humbled to be appointed the 2012-2013 newsletters editor. It has been a couple of years or so, since I was part of the area committee and it feels great to be back with my peers. I see this as a “getter done” committee and I am proud to be a part of. This is an awesome opportunity to grow! As we gather information to be shared and enjoyed within the fellowship, let’s be more tolerant and loving to the new comer. Especially to this novice editor who is so willing to “getter done right”. Please, send me anything worth sharing; your experience, strength and hope; what is going on in this great fellowship as a whole.
Yours in love and service,
Ralayne H.

Contact Information:

- ✚ Send stories or other contributions as e-mail file attachments to the Idaho Area 18 website at idahoarea18aa.org (click on “WAGON WHEEL Newsletter” in the left column, then on the “click here” button on the right (Please put the words “WAGON WHEEL Submission” in the subject line.)
- ✚ Sail mail – Ralayne H.
10674 Lakeshore Dr. Nampa, Id 83686

Hi every one. Garren forwarded this a couple of years ago and I just ran across it. I thought you might enjoy. Love you all—Jack; and I thought it worthy-
Ralayne

Old AA Preamble - 1940

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves.

We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure.

Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment with which we are familiar,

permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A.A.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover.

An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A.A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form.

The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A.A. is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it.

We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set our tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation. I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment.

We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit, in fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A.A. Big Book.

If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought you one. Read it, study it, live with it, loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be an A.A.

Editor tid-bits:

Big Book page xix, forward to second edition: the conviction grew that A.A.'s had to hang together or die separately. We had to unify our Fellowship or pass off the scene. Today the remarkable unity of A.A. is one of the greatest assets that our Society has.

Unity: We all have work to do. We have to work together to make the AA family succeed. Thankfully it's not something we can do by assignment; it's a matter of the heart.

Part of being teachable is remembering that there's always something I don't know that I probably need to know. To be teachable requires desire, attention, participation and application of principles learned.

Idaho Area 18 AA Spring Assembly/Convention

May 4, 5 and 6, 2012

Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age

**Idaho Area 18 AA Spring Assembly - Hosted by
District**

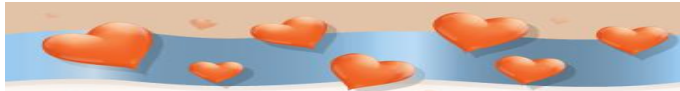
3, Boise Idaho, May 4-6, 2012 at The Riverside
Hotel,
2900 Chinden Boulevard, Boise (208) 343-1871.

Contact

Shannon C. at (208) 340 – 3794

or peace121902@live.com or Jay F. at

jay@qqe.com



Anonymity and Electronic Media

I would like to talk about protecting the fellowships anonymity on the internet. After my recent blunder with archive photos on the virtual tour web site I've been paying closer attention to what I do and what is going on with Face Book, My Space and other social networking websites. I am going to identify a couple of examples but there are many others.

Recently there has been a photo of the circle and triangle associated with Alcoholics Anonymous. When moving your cursor across the photograph, member's full names are highlighted and below the photograph, member's full names are again listed. Some of the names listed are Area committee members. I feel having full names is a very real threat to our anonymity, particularly when names are often associated with full face photos. The circle and triangle doesn't afford any real protection of anonymity when combined with full names or full face photos. With membership in A.A. over 2 million, numerous movies and documentaries about A.A. and family and friends of A.A. members, there is nothing really covert about posting the circle and triangle or "Friends of Bill W."

I recently witnessed a long time career severely damaged and possibly destroyed when his full name was posted with the AA symbol. The internet is a public forum and clearly the safeguards understood by A.A. members regarding anonymity in the rooms of AA, must also be applied outside the rooms of AA. I don't have anything to do with Face Book, yet I have a copy of the Face Book page first mentioned.

Another example is the constant stream of full face photos tagged with full names sent out from the assemblies, PRAASA, etc. even while the function is still in progress. Other people or AA identifiers may be in the back ground of these photos.

I personally believe it's a poor example to have so many of the Area's trusted servants, some of the most ardent protectors of the Traditions, identified with their full names and photos associated with A.A. symbols, etc. out on the Internet like they are. Some of the names recently posted are.....

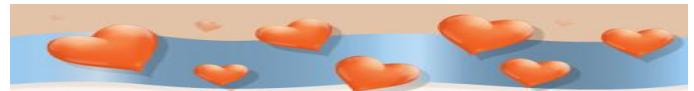
It is my hope the committee will take notice of the situation and will help spread the word to be more vigilant about protecting each other's anonymity (Tradition one) and prevent any other member's livelihood from being destroyed because they made a decision to join our fellowship, There will be little attraction to join us on the road to happy destiny if one's anonymity is not protected by other member's. Perhaps the cavalier attitude of posting people in AA related circumstances, no matter how cleverly disguised needs to be

more frequently and seriously discussed among our fellowship.

Invariably when I mention this topic, people expound on how they feel about their own anonymity, but they continue to miss the point. It's about not using OTHER member's full names and photos and doing what is possible to minimize these occurrences, be it notifying others when this happens, not being part of it and especially mentioning this at assemblies etc., or where ever else this should be mentioned. I hope this topic will strengthen our efforts to respect traditions 1, 11 and 12 of our program.

"The AA Guidelines on the Internet state "An AA Web site is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and therefore requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press radio and film."

"Our growth made it plain that we couldn't be a secret society, but it was equally plain that we couldn't be a vaudeville act either." Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page 185.
Geoff H. rip 10-11-2011



Greetings, Idaho Area 18 AAers...

Unity. Our first tradition reminds us that without it, our individual recovery could very well be put at risk.

I'm writing in hopes that all of us can better apply the principle of unity when it comes to the GRAPEVINE, AA's remarkable meeting in print. Here are a few personal suggestions:

1. We should spend the 8 cents a day it costs to subscribe to the GRAPEVINE, even if our self-centered stinking thinking is trying to convince us that we can't possibly afford that \$28.97 a year. Why not just mooch a copy from someone else in your home group, right? Well... That thinking has resulted in the GRAPEVINE running in the red for a long time. And when the GRAPEVINE isn't able to be self-supporting, that says something about the overall Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Together, we can contribute to putting the GRAPEVINE back on solid financial ground.
2. Take the time to contribute your experience, strength, and hope – in written form – to the GRAPEVINE. You don't have to be Ernest Hemingway to submit a piece -- the GRAPEVINE's talented editorial staff can make any of us look pretty literate! Unity in this context means being willing to be a contributor.

- Volunteer to chair a GRAPEVINE meeting at your home group. Read a story of your choosing from a current or past issue, and use the content of that piece as a catalyst for discussion. The GRAPEVINE brings such diversity of experience, strength, and hope – why not use it!

Thanks for listening...and more importantly, for taking action. Look for a subscription card in any newer issue of the GRAPEVINE, or go to aagrapevine.org and subscribe online.

I'll end with a Quote of the Month I ran across in an 11-year-old GRAPEVINE that I was reading this morning:

“One drop of mist against the face can convey as much as all the sermons ever preached – if the heart is open.” *-Best of the Grapevine*, Vol. 2, pg. 81.

In love and gratitude,
Brad P.
Idaho Area 18 GRAPEVINE committee chair

Area 18, 2012 Committee & Full Body Assembly Business Meetings

- **March 18, 2012 - 10:00 AM** Twin Falls @ (CSI) College of Southern Idaho
- **May 5, 2012, Spring 2012 (Full body Assembly business meeting)**, Boise, ID - Double Tree Hotel Riverside
- **August 19, 2012 - 10:00 AM** Twin Falls @ (CSI) College of Southern Idaho
- **October 13, Fall 2012 (Full body Assembly business meeting)**, Sun Valley, Sun Valley Resort

DISTRICT DONATIONS TO AREA

Year to date 12/31/11	
District 1	\$2,387.42
District 2	3,080.28
District 3	843.88
District 4	1,211.25
District 5	2,934.89
District	875.21
District	750.00
District 8	2,573.61
District 9	894.00
District 10	1,555.00
District 11	352.50
District 12	180.00
Gem State Round-up	1,122.80

By Harmon V, The Turning Point

Are we watering down the program by carrying “our” message instead of the AA message? On page 89 of the *Big Book* it says “*Carry this message to other alcoholics!*” So what is this message? Once again the answer is in the *Big Book*. It is self evident. On page 60 of our text it says “*Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*”...so simply stated the message is this: if you take the first eleven Steps of the Program called Alcoholics Anonymous as outlined in our text you will have the spiritual awakening promised in Step Twelve. This will allow the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole. In other words, we can become a recovered alcoholic from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. That is the AA message, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else! There is NO other message

of Alcoholics Anonymous. If we portray an another message than previously stated, not only are we watering down the Program, we are changing it. When our message was the same as stated in our text book our recovery rate was 75%. (Forward To Second Edition page number xv). (Now our recovery rate is estimated at 5%. (Ed Note: 5% of everyone who comes, not those who really try) What has happened? It is easy to see what happens when we carry “our” message and not the AA message. Our text tells us “The message which can interest and hold these alcoholic people must have depth and weight.”(The Doctor’s Opinion page number xxviii-4th Edition). With that being said, the depth of the AA message is knowing the AA Program, and the weight of the AA message is living the AA Program.(As it is in the text.) We must remember sometimes “our” message could carry the disease of alcoholism, while AA’s message (The Big Book) always carries the message of recovery. Isn’t it about time OUR message is the same as the AA message?

- PRAASA 2013- March 1-3, 2013 in Boise, ID
- Idaho Area 18 Spring Assembly- May 17-19 in Pocatello, ID
- Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly/Convention- October in Burley, ID

I hope to see each of you at these events.

The 2012 General Service Conference’s topic is “Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age” is a great reminder to all of us in Alcoholics Anonymous of the need for vigilance for A.A. in all of our affairs. The founders of Alcoholics Anonymous could not have dreamt of a time when technology would be so advanced that individuals could communicate any place on the earth in real-time. With virtual meeting spaces and social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace members of Alcoholics Anonymous need to be aware of the need to protect A.A. and others from harm by guarding the anonymity inside of A. A.’s Tradition 12 states, “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our tradition...” reminding us for the need of humility in all of our affairs including those of a digital nature.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by e-mail by clicking on the “Contact Us” link on the Idaho Area 18 website at idahoarea18aa.org.

In closing I would like to share one of the greatest truths in my life. On page 25 Bill wrote, “The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous.” With each passing day I come to see this to be truer and a source of greater comfort and joy. May the God of your understanding continue to bless you and those around you.

Love and Service,

Barry S.

I would like to start by welcoming all of you to Idaho Area 18 of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is Barry S. and I am proud to be serving for you as your Panel 62, Idaho Area 18 Chairperson. It is truly a privilege to serve Idaho Area 18 and Alcoholics Anonymous in this and any manner. I look forward to learning and growing with each of you during this next two year rotation.

Over the course of this rotation we will have the opportunity to serve for and with each other many times. Here is a list of important dates during Panel 62:

- Idaho Area 18 Spring Assembly/Convention- May 4-6 in Boise, ID
- Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly/Convention- October 12-14 in Sun Valley, ID

**Special Needs Committee Meeting 2nd
Wednesday of every month at 7:30! –at
various locations within our service area.**

Area18.specialneeds@gmail.com

What is “Bridge the Gap?”

The purpose of Bridging the Gap is to provide a “Bridge” for treatment facility patients (both in-patient and out patient) and inmates soon to be released from jail or prison, that reaches from their treatment to AA meetings in their home communities.

AA bridging the gap is a group of alcoholics helping other alcoholics.

We are part of AA and are not connected with any treatment facility or institution.

AA Bridge Volunteers are “bridges” to the AA community. We introduce the newly released alcoholic to other winners so they have a broad, healthy base for their recovery program. Men meet men and women meet women. Like all 12 step work there is no payment for this work. It is suggested that our volunteers have at least one year of sobriety.

A volunteer of Bridging the Gap commitment to service consists of introducing the new member to AA groups and meetings in the local community. It is suggested that the volunteer commit to at least 3 to 4 meetings over a two-week period. We don’t offer or employ any other service unless we personally want to perform such service.

Information is given to the volunteer about a treatment facility patient or an inmate who has requested to go to an AA meeting with another member who lives in the community. Or, as requested by an inmate or treatment graduate, a “Bridge” person can be arranged through

the liaison. Bridging the Gap supports that very important first step for alcoholics who have just been release from a hospital, treatment center or correctional facility. By providing a temporary contact, Bridge the Gap helps newcomers make the transition to Alcoholics Anonymous into his or her home community.

Bridge the Gap-TCP
P.O. Box 4521
Boise, Id 83711

25th Annual Men’s International Conference
“ Singleness of Purpose” , April 19 – 22,
2012. Orleans Hotel and Casino 4500

Name of event: 25th Annual Men’s
International Conference

Dates it will take place: April 19- 22, 2012
Location: Orleans Hotel and Casino

City and State: Las Vegas, NV

Mailing address: IAAMC Las Vegas,
POB 50335
Henderson, NV 89106

e-mail address: contact@iaamclasvegas.org
website: <http://www.iaamclasvegas.org>

Ted Barnes
Chairman, Public Relations Committee
(702) 562-1827

dlprof@earthlink.net
“ It works – it really does.”

