



The Wagon Wheel Idaho Area 18's Newsletter

Editor, Ralayne H.

Home of PRAASA 2013

2012 PRAASA Presentation

When I received the loving invitation from Gail to present this topic on Panel 7 – Diversity – Are We Inclusive? Members with Physical Disabilities, I was immediately struck with fear and butterflies. This really loud voice said to me, “WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY?!?!?! ” HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GATHER INFORMATION TO TALK FOR 10 MINUTES ON SOMETHING YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT?!?!?” But, from past experiences, I know that this is the voice that I should never listen to. Then the voice of reason and a Higher Purpose kicked in and kindly and calmly said, “You can do this and you will learn how to be of service to those with Physical Disabilities.” So, my first question was, “What actually defines physical disabilities?” Physical disabilities would include those who may be hearing-, visually-, or speech-impaired, those who are homebound, chronically ill, those who use wheelchairs, walkers or crutches, and those who are developmentally disabled or who suffer from brain damage, stroke, etc. Imagine having these types of challenges and trying to find a meeting that could accommodate these special needs. Imagine if there was only one meeting a week that could provide you access? So, are we inclusive for those with special needs? I'd like to think so, as I walk down the stairs of the church to my home group. Wait a minute? If there

was someone in a wheelchair wanting to attend this awesome meeting, they wouldn't be able to make it down these narrow, dimly lit stairs! Five years ago when we started this meeting, special needs access may not have been considered. And though we can't accommodate every special need for every person, at least we can have an awareness of what special needs are and how we as individuals and groups can help.

Tradition One - Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity, comes to mind and the story of Eddie Rickenbacker and his courageous company when their plane crashed in the Pacific. Like us, they had suddenly found themselves saved from death, but still floating upon a perilous sea. How well they saw that their common welfare came first. None might become selfish of water or bread. Each needed to consider the others and in abiding faith they knew they must find their real strength. In order to create unity and strength within the fellowship, we **MUST** consider **EVERYONE** who is among us, including those who have disabilities.

What does the General Service Office offer for our members with Special Needs?

First of all, there is a multitude of audio-visual Conference-approved literature and other literature available for the alcoholic with special needs. For the blind or visually impaired alcoholic, the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the Daily Reflections: A Book of Reflections by AA Members for AA Members and a number of pamphlets are offered in Braille. The Big Book and the Twelve Steps and

Twelve Traditions are also available in large print as well as audio cassettes and CDs.

For the deaf or hearing impaired alcoholic, the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are available in American Sign Language (ASL) on DVD or VHS. There are also a number of AA videos and Conference-approved AA public service announcements that are closed-captioned as well as service materials in illustrated, easy to read pamphlets.

The Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook is also available and can be ordered through the General Service Office. It contains details on how to get a Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee started in your area and has many suggestions on how the committee and groups can communicate and help those with special needs. Information on the workbook and the conference approved literature can be found on the Alcoholics Anonymous website at aa.org. If you have any questions about special needs, email the General Service Office's special needs desk at specialneeds@aa.org.

Services and materials offered may also include the Loners/Internationals Meeting (LIM), a newsletter for AA members who are in isolated areas, at sea or home or hospital bound (known as Homers) or deaf and stay in touch with other members by mail and newsletters. Many AAs also share via computer bulletin boards and on-line meetings. If the deaf alcoholic has access to a computer with a camera and internet, there are face-to-face American Sign Language AA meetings as well as other different language meetings. The on-line meetings and information can be found at aa-intergroup.org. I went to the site and was really surprised to see all that was offered.

What can individuals or groups do to help our fellow AAs with special needs?

Individuals and/or groups can assign a 'helper' for the blind or visually impaired newcomer that can guide them through the meeting place until the surroundings become familiar. Equally important is that the meeting room should always be set up exactly the same way or the blind or visually

impaired members should be alerted to what is different.

For the deaf or hearing impaired, bring an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter to your meeting, if possible. An ASL interpreter may be hard to find and they can be costly. There are alternatives to try which do not include costs. Try to find a qualified ASL interpreter within AA who is willing to volunteer their services. Also, high school or college students of the language may do it for free just for the experience. It is important to acknowledge that the professional ASL interpreter adheres to a strict code of ethics which will assure the confidentiality of the AA meeting. Many deaf or hearing impaired can speech read (read lips). To make speech reading work, the meeting must be aware that the deaf or hearing impaired person is in attendance, the meeting is well lit and the speaker is in view.

Another option is through a Telecommunications Relay Service or TTY (Teletypewriter or Text Telephone) if it's available in your community. Dial 711 to reach the service and as one talks, the operator types the message for the AA member. There is no charge, except for long distance. Information on this service can be found in the front section of the phone book under "Services for Customers with Disabilities". The phone book I found has an entire page of information explaining the services and phone numbers for each.

For the homebound member, AAs can take a meeting to their home or hospital room. For those who are not confined to bed, AAs in their group often drive them to and from meetings, install wheelchair ramps over steps to the meeting room and arrange the room so that there is ample space for wheelchairs and/or walkers. It is also important to make sure restrooms at the meeting place are wheelchair accessible as well.

For the developmentally disabled members, the home group can have a Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book study. Members will read aloud portions of the literature and discuss what was just read. Individuals can even take the time to sit and read literature with someone – an awesome act of kindness and selflessness!

Last fall, a number of AA members in our community began to gather and discuss the special needs in the Boise, ID area. The committee is structured to address accessibility special needs at conventions, assemblies and meetings.

There is also a sub-committee called Special Needs - Compassionate Friends of Bill W. Their focus is to update the meeting schedules with identified wheelchair accessible meetings. They are also taking meetings to people that are homebound or in the hospital and providing transportation for those who are not able to drive due to the disability (and not because they lost their driver's license☺).

Though the committee has not had a lot of requests at this time, word is getting out these services are available to those in need. The committee not only works with the local Central Office but also with the Area's H&I (Hospitals and Institutions) and CPC/PI (Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information) committees.

Though they have just begun, the committee already has about 30 volunteers who are ready to serve. Make that 31!!

Our experience, strength and hope is the most important thing we have to share and can be conveyed in the many ways as mentioned above. But remember, "the language of the heart" can be heard, seen and felt by all members, including those with physical disabilities. A friendly smile, handshake or hug can make all the difference in the world to someone who is struggling to stay sober for just one day.

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that; I am responsible.

Thank you, PRAASA for the opportunity to serve!!
Shannon

All A.A. progress can be reckoned in terms of just two worlds: *Humility and Responsibility* Our whole spiritual development can be accurately measured by our degree of adherence to these magnificent standards.

As Bill Sees It, p. 271

As your Newsletter Editor I anticipate a great number of articles coming in for publication. I have only Shannon's well written article for submission.

I read a wonderful article in the January issue of the Slippery When Wet about being a hitch-hiker. Sadly, I found myself relating to the hitch-hiker in many facets of my life. However, self-knowledge is the mainspring of my program. When I am aware of a need to change I have the tools of the program to make the change possible, but my experience here has taught me that I first must become aware of the need. Most of you know it long before I do. I am so grateful for the program of Alcoholic Anonymous. It has been a life changer for this recovering alcoholic. I am excited to be involved in service again. I will get out there and beg for articles and information and not be a hitch-hiker for the August Newsletter.

Ralayne H.

Ok, I decided to put the article in, in case you do not get the Slippery When Wet from TVICO. Keep reading!

Easy Does It

The Hitch-hiker

With his thumb, a hitch-hiker says, "You furnish the gas, you furnish the car, attend to the repairs, and the up-keep, supply the insurance, and I'll take a ride with you. But don't forget, if you have an accident, I'll sue you for damages." Sounds pretty one-sided, doesn't it? This brings up the thought of the hitch-hikers that seem to be found in many AA groups. They seem to say, "You furnish the meeting place, pay the rent, make sure the lights are on and the coffee pot is full, do all these things and we'll go along for the ride. However, if things don't suit us, we will complain, criticize, and probably hitch-hike to another group." These people are really cheating themselves and our fellowship is the poorer because of their lack of genuine commitment.

We must get involved to get the most out of any group that we join, and by the same token, we must get involved in order to give up as much as we are able to the group. It can start so simply: help get the meeting room ready, clean up after the meeting, talk with newcomers, chair a meeting, share at meetings, etc. These simple things will help us to feel a part of and get involved. To keep what you have, you have to give it away. When we start "carrying the message" in some manner, we start seriously practicing the Twelve Steps and begin to move onto solid ground in our sobriety.

Let's not be hitch-hikers and gamble on safely getting to our destination, but rather, let's pay for our ride and go first class....

(Reprinted from the Silver Dollar Newsletter and the Slippery When Wet TVICO Newsletter)

As I was going through my husband's pockets before donating, I found this paper and I felt it had a place here. Thank you for allowing me to keep coming up with 'my Geoff's stuff as I miss him dearly.

OCT 29, 1881 - Roland Hazard Loom, an important link of AA's beginning by bringing Elby into the original group

OCT 30, 1928 Bill W. began trying to stop drinking

OCT 1937 Meetings are being held at Bill & Lois's home in Brookline

OCT 1951 Drinker Award awarded "for outstanding contributions to public health"

OCT 2002 4th edition 1,225,000 sold

GOD CALLING - Early Daily Readings

A WAY OF LIFE - WILLIAM OSLER - CONCEPT OF (1) DAY @ A TIME

"THE LOAD OF TOMORROW ADDED TO THAT OF YESTERDAY,
CARRIED TODAY MAKES THE STRONGEST FACTOR."

FRANK BUCHANAN - LOOK @ HIS DEFECTS, ADMITTED HIS FAULTS ; SHARED IT W/ GOD ; ANOTHER HUMAN BEING
EARLY 1940'S

BARBECUE

9TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL

BBQ AND POTLUCK

SPONSORED BY

WEISER PROGRESS GROUP

SATURDAY MAY 26th

NOON

WEISER MEMORIAL PARK

HAMBURGERS-HOTDOGS-
DRINKS FURNISHED

PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR
JUST SHOW UP

FOOD GAMES RAFFLE MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER

FOR INFO CALL 550-1432 or
550-7014

MENS RETREAT

"3 DAYS AND 12 STEPS"

"IT WORKS-IT REALLY DOES"

5th ANNUAL GIFF'S CABIN RETREAT

AUGUST 3-4-5

GIFF'S CABIN CUPRUM IDAHO

DIRECTIONS: Turn left in downtown
Council on Council-Cuprum Rd. Go
past Cuprum 4 miles on Indian
Creek. First driveway on left past
second bridge. "Decora" Town site
sign across from driveway. Follow the
paper plates from Cuprum.

\$25.00 REGISTRATION FEE COVERS
MEALS FROM FRIDAY NIGHT
THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING.
"PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION EARLY
SO THE MEALS CAN BE PLANNED."

REGISTRATION MAILING ADDRESS:

CARL "GIFF" GIFFORD

2904 BAIN RD

CAMBRIDGE IDAHO 83610

CALL:

GIFF G 208-550-0225

MIKE C 208-741-9865

So, this is A.A.....?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualifications for membership is that they can't hold their booze and don't want to learn how. It has no rules, dues or fees; nothing that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings, the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying that he doesn't know anything about the program except that it works. The groups are always broke, yet always seem to have money to carry on. They are always losing members but seem to grow. They claim A.A. is a selfish program but always seem to be doing something for others. Every group passes laws, rules, edicts, and pronouncements which everyone ignores. Members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing happened and are greeted accordingly.

Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and survive magnificently. Nothing in A.A. is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God made us, He made our laughter too. Perhaps He is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things run right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe He is pleased, not with perfection, but because we are trying to be nobody but ourselves. We don't know how it works but it does and members keep receiving their dividend check from their A.A. investments.

ANFITRIONES VOLUNTARIOS PRAASA 2013 Y
FUTUROS ANFITRIONES

QUIEN?

ANFITRIONES VOLUNTARIOS PRAASA 2013 Y
FUTUROS ANFITRIONES

QUE?

JUNTAD DE ANFITRIONES VOLUNTARIOS
PRAASA 2013

CUANDO?

ASANBLEA DE PRIMAVERA DEL AREA 18
Hotel Double Tree Riverside (Cuarto sera anunciado en
el lugar)

I en el, Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly

PORQUE?

Esta es una oportunidad de servicio (y conpanerismo
con)La Comunidad
Regional de Alcoholicos Anonimos
Para proporcionar informacion local y educativa en la
asamblea de servicio

Bienvenidos a:

A todos los que intencionalmente se apuntaron en la
asamblea del area 18 en el otono en burley

A todos los que vagamente se acuerden de haberse
apuntado en algo en la asamblea del area 18 En el otono
(Esta fue la lista de anfitriones voluntarios)

A todos los que no se acuerdan (lo hicieron)

A todos los que quieren apuntarse para ser un anfitrion
voluntarios para PRAASA 2013

Para estar preparado por favor traiga lo siguiente
Su nombre(su primer nombre e inicial de apellido)
Su informacion de contacto
Numero de distrito(1-12)

Se proveera ayuda con la information antes mentioned

PATROCINADO POR COMITE DE ANFITRIONES

PRAASA 2013

Janet H -713-8333

Kimmie P -353-4087

**PRAASA 2013 VOLUNTEER GREETERS AND FUTURE
GREETERS**

WHO?

**PRAASA 2013 VOLUNTEER GREETERS AND FUTURE
GREETERS**

WHAT?

PRAASA 2013 VOLUNTEER GREETERS MEETING

WHEN?

FRIDAY NIGHT MAY 4TH @ 9 pm
& at the
Idaho 18 Area Fall Assembly

WHERE?

IDAHO AREA 18 2012 SPRING ASSEMBLY
& at the
Idaho 18 Area Fall Assembly

Double Tree Riverside Hotel (room to be
announced on site)
& at the
Idaho 18 Area Fall Assembly

WHY?

This is one of your opportunities for service to (and
fellowship with) your **Pacific Regional Alcoholics
Anonymous** Community.

To provide local information and education at the
Service Assembly

WELCOME TO:

All who intentionally signed up at the Idaho Area 18
Fall Assembly in Burley.

All who vaguely remember signing something at the
Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly (this was the volunteer
greeter list).

All who cannot remember (you did).

All who would like to sign up to be a volunteer
greeter at PRAASA 2013.

All that signed up at the Spring Assembly (last night)

To be prepared please bring the following:
Your name (first name and second initial only)
Your contact information
Your District Number (1 – 12)

Help will be there to provide you with the above
information. .

SPONSORED BY THE 2013 **PRAASA** GREETING
COMMITTEE

Janet H – 713- 8333
Kimmie P – 353-4087

*One day at a time and it will
be PRAASA 2013!!*