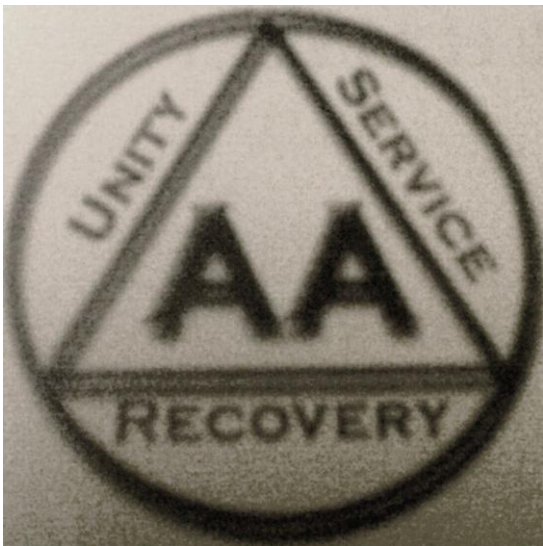




The Wagon Wheel Idaho Area 18's Newsletter

October 2012

Editor, Ralayne H.



The circle stands for the whole world of A.A. and the triangle stands for A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. Within our wonderful new world we have found freedom from our fatal obsession.

AA Comes of Age, p. 139

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough, and more.

It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, and confusion into clarity. ... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Submitted by: Marty H.

To help an alcoholically sick friend with whom I had been drinking with every night for the past three weeks, at his request I tried checking him into a rehab with a detox facility. But his belligerence towards the staff there got us both kicked out of the place. After chastising my friend for his hostile behavior towards the very people who were trying to help him, my well intended but misdirected sense of responsibility took over. I realized that it was up to me to help him.

Vaguely I recalled reading a syndicated columnist's response about an organization called the Al-Anon Family Group. My understanding was this organization helped family members and friends of alcoholics. How they helped I had no idea other than maybe physically restraining the alcoholic from drinking?

The local newspaper also published a weekly list and schedule of support organizations that included the next Al-Anon meeting, which I decided to attend. Attending the meeting I was immediately struck with the friendliness of these people before it even started. Once underway I listened to their "sharing" during which they described the alcoholics in their lives.

Upon listening intently to their descriptions it only took me about 15 minutes of their sharing to realize that the alcoholics they were describing also described me. After the meeting I politely thanked them for welcoming me to their meeting but explained I was probably in the wrong meeting and might need to attend an AA meeting instead.

To help me decide whether or not my drinking was serious enough to go to AA, I decided to return to the rehab center where just the previous night I was evicted due to my sick friend's rude demeanor. Amazingly, the same receptionist who gave us the boot was there. Upon receiving permission from her to ask a few questions of her, I launched into a near rant starting with explaining to her how much I drank, what I drank, how often I drank, whom I drank with, and when and where I drank. I followed-up by asking the question that prompted me to be there by asking, "Do you think I'm an alcoholic?" God was working through her when she gave me the best possible answer she could have when she said,

"I can't answer that question for you. But if you would like, my husband and I are going to an AA meeting later in the week and we can pick you. You can find the answer to your question there."

I told her it wouldn't be necessary for them to give me a ride and she told me the time and place of the next AA meeting that they would be attending. Although the meeting was four nights away the idea of not drinking until then actually posed a short period of relief for me.

Finally, Friday night came and I was to attend my first AA meeting at 8:00 p.m. in one of the local churches. To protect my "honored reputation" I parked my car about two blocks from the meeting place so that no one would know I was attending an AA meeting. At 7:57 p.m. I slowly strode downstairs to the meeting room not knowing what to expect. Although the walk down the stairway was not that long I had time to think to myself, "Brian, you've slipped to an all-time low. You're attending an AA meeting."

Looking back to then there were very few things I had an accurate and firm view of when it came to my life. But this was one of the few times that I was right – for me to walk through the doors of recovery I had to bottom out and hit a very painful low in my life.

So much for me has changed since that first meeting. I have remarried and have a daughter who is married to a wonderful man and who has brought grandchildren to my wife and me. I have people in life whom I can count on for help and counsel should the need arise. My family and I have reconciled and I have healthy relationships with them. I have the God of my understanding who has brought me guidance, peace and comfort that I never experienced before. And I have not found it necessary to drink since May 6, 1984, because of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and my willingness to live and work that program. It is true what the Big Books says, "...and great events will come to pass" for me and others!

Brian M.
Lunch Bunch Group
Idaho Falls

I found my Higher Power at an AA Business Meeting
 I was newly sober in AA and while I was active in service from the start– I was pretty slow with the step work. I remember following my Sponsor’s directions in going through the steps with her and even though I was beginning my 9th Step I wasn’t quite sure about **my Higher Power** or **my God**, I couldn’t get the “concept” down. The only thing I knew was that God or a higher power had a plan for me and the plan was to be a sober member of AA. I started off making coffee for my home group. After a several months my sponsor asked me if I wanted to go to the Turning Point’s Business Meeting – I responded, “Yes.” and promptly left the business meeting as Secretary for the group. (I think the term is “railroaded” – I even heard people making “choo - choo” noises)
 So, as Secretary I took minutes at the business meeting. At one particular business meeting I remember two men arguing. To this day, it is hard to remember what they were arguing about but I’m pretty sure it was the snacks and what type of candy/snacks the meeting should be providing. These two men were so angry. They both stood up and had their hands balled into fists.
 I was totally distraught and thought, “Any minute now – these two men are going to fight or starting beating each other.” I felt helpless. I thought surely there is something that can help. I saw the “12 Steps” and “12 Traditions” hanging in large scroll format on the wall. I quickly started to scan the Traditions. When I got to Tradition Two what stood out to me was, “**..a loving God** as He may express Himself in our group conscience...” I pondered, “**A loving God?**” and then I thought, “Wow! That sounds pretty good. I get to have a loving God, or a loving Higher Power. I like that!”
 Needless to say, I was side-tracked by my own thoughts and after I decided having a loving God or Higher Power seemed pretty awesome my attention was brought back to the two men that were ready to come to blows. When I looked at them they were HUGGING not fighting and PATTING each other on the back! I don’t know how that happened but I thought, “**WOW! This AA stuff and having a Loving Higher Power really works!**” Christelle L.



PRAASA 2013

Boise, ID - March 1st, 2nd, 3rd

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PRAASA 2013

Idaho Area 18 is pleased to host the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) being held March 1-3, 2013 in Boise, ID. Registration is not yet open, but check back often!

- [Only 137 days to go!](#)



webmaster@praasa.org

Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

Boise, Idaho, March 1st - 3rd, 2013

© 2010-2013 PRAASA 2013, Boise, ID

Announcement

Date: August 22, 2012

To: Members of the General Service Conference

From: Doug Richardson, Director of Staff Services

Dear Friends,

Applications are now being sought for a G.S.O. staff member. G.S.O. staff are members of Alcoholics Anonymous who rotate through the various assignments such as Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities, Literature, Conference Coordinator, etc. They also correspond with A.A.s on all aspects of recovery, unity and service. Additionally, they represent the General Service Office at A.A. functions throughout the U.S. and Canada and provide the primary staff support for the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference.

Desirable qualifications include excellent communication and organizational skills, good computer skills, as well as the ability to work independently and as a team member. A.A. service experience will also be taken into consideration in addition to a willingness to relocate to New York City, if necessary. A minimum of six years sobriety is required.

For additional information regarding the General Service Office staff member position, please see the February/March 2005 *Box 4-5-9* article, "G.S.O. Staff Member – A Job Like No Other," available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site at www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/en_box459_feb_mar05.pdf.

We will welcome applications up to *October 31, 2012*. We hope you will share the "AAWS Staff Application for Employment" with members who are interested in serving on our staff and meet the basic requirements outlined above.

Please do not e-mail applications.

Interested members may apply via postal mail or fax.

Office Mail: General Service
475 Riverside Drive,
11th Floor
New York, NY 10115
FAX: (212) 870-3003

Interested members may address any questions regarding the nature of the job to Rick Walker, Staff Coordinator at (212) 870-3124. Questions regarding benefits and related matters should be directed to Olga Mesonjnik, our Human Resources Director at (212) 870-3025.

Your friends here join me in sending love and gratitude to you, along with our warmest good wishes.

District 4 Archives
Lending Library

Now Available!

You can check out:

**Grapevines
Multi-Media
GSR/Trusted Servants
can check out a one-tub
display for a home
group event!**

**Contact
Connie S. – District 4
Archivist
208-891-8329**

*Contact your local District 4 Archivist
to view the archives anytime. You can
learn about home groups, service
positions, and read past newsletters,
and much more!*

The Archives is another tool to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The GSO Archives room was opened in 1975, and today, almost all areas and many districts have set up archival collections (Archives Workbook, pg. 9). District 4 is excited to have wonderful archives available to its members. We do not have a permanent place of display. In an attempt to create new ways to make the Archives available to the members, the Lending Library was started earlier this year. Members can check out Grapevines, Multi-Media, and GSRs/Trusted Servants can check out a one tub display for their group events. The Archivist is always open to bringing a larger display or coming to a group business meeting to answer any questions about the archives. Awhile back a fellow member told of a newcomer he had taken to see an archives display. This newcomer saw a picture of the hotel lobby where Bill W made the choice to look in the directory instead of heading into the bar. This member said that you could see the newcomer's face and how it made the experience of Alcoholics Anonymous that much more real. That what was written in the book of Alcoholics Anonymous really did happen. It is a fun and visual way to see "what it was like, what happened, and what it is like now (in AA and in your very own district or area)." Enjoy and thank you!

Good Morning,

My name is Jack and today I am truly a grateful alcoholic.

I am grateful to be alive and sober and also grateful for every drink it took to get me to the doors of

Alcoholics Anonymous. I am extremely grateful that I was in enough emotional pain when I got here

to be at least willing to be willing. I am grateful to be an alcoholic because had I not been and never

found AA I would have died never knowing what the word serenity meant much less enjoying it on a regular basis.

"We are not a glum lot". I love that statement from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The reason I came to my first meeting was because I could not stand what I had become and many

years before one of the first women to be a member in the Treasure Valley told my little high school

drinking buddy and I that should we ever need it there was a home for us called Alcoholics Anonymous. I have no idea why I remembered that for the next twenty plus years except there was a

higher power working in my life then and today.

The reason I have such a kinship with us not being a glum lot is because three ole gray haired

pranksters were laughing, joking and giving each other a hard time at the first meeting I attended. I

could tell they were sincerely happy. That and only that inspired me to attend my second meeting,

which incidentally I was lured to immediately following the first meeting by a young lady that spotted

me in the parking lot with my head on the steering wheel crying my heart out. She laughed and told me

everything was going to be OK and to follow her to a meeting. I almost bailed, but I had this thought

racing through my blurred brain that they had something I wanted even though I had no clue what it

was at the time.

I studied you folks for the next several months. What I saw was a percentage of you were laughing and

truly happy. I was laughing on the outside and dying inside---trying to look good at all costs but you

saw right through me and guided me toward the direction of true happiness.

Today I am one of those ole gray haired pranksters. My higher power and AA have given me a life far

more beautiful and gratifying than I could have ever imagined.

Thank you one and all and I do truly love you. Jack B.

PS: My High school friend and drinking partner now has a few years sober also. God bless his precious aunt for the few words of attraction years ago.

Why I Drank

I drank to be witty – and I became a bore.

I drank to relax – and I couldn't stop my hands from shaking.

I drank to feel good – and I suffered through sickening hangovers.

I drank to be happy – and it made me depressed.

I drank to be a good dancer – and it made me stagger.

I drank to be a good conversationalist – and I couldn't pronounce my words.

I drank to be sociable – and I became angry and resentful

I drank to help my appetite – and cheated my body of nutrition by not eating right.

I drank to be a good lover – and I couldn't perform.

I drank to show I was a man – and became a slobbering, bawling baby.

I drank to be popular – and lost my friends.

I drank to enjoy life – and contemplated suicide.

I drank for camaraderie – and drove everyone away from me.

I drank to escape – and built a prison for myself.

I drank to find peace – and I found hell.

17th Annual Gratitude Dinner!

Hosted by District 5

November 9, 2012

Boise First Community Center

Church of the Nazarene

3852 N Eagle Rd.

(Between Ustick and McMillan)

Questions contact: Bob R. 870-2259 or
Lee H. 906-5793

Doors Open at 5:00 PM

Opening Gratitude at 5:25

**Spaghetti Dinner Service Plus
dessert potluck**

Begins at 5:30

Speakers

AA- Emil B

AI Anon- Linda B.

Grand Prize Drawing

\$5.00 tickets – available at AA meetings

3 Grand Prize Winners !

☑ \$500 Gas Card

☑ \$300 Grocery Card

☑ \$200 Mall Gift Card

Live Auction

Silent Auction

Raffle

Hermiston AA Group Welcomes You To The 16th Annual Oyster Feed

**Potluck, Speaker Meeting and
Raffle**

Saturday November 3rd, 2012

Potluck Dinner : 6pm

Speaker: 8pm

Childcare Available!

Speaker:

Ralph W.

Los Angeles, CA

Hermiston Conference Center

415 S. Hwy 395.

Hermiston, OR

If your last name begins with:

A-H Please bring a salad

I-Q Please bring a main dish

R-Z Please bring a desert

* Utensils are provided, please don't
bring any.

* Tables will be assigned numbers to
randomly determine food line order.

For More Information

or Special Needs Contact:

Deana C.

541-571-8025

d.1971@live.com

To Donate Raffle Items:

Michael G.

541-571-5656

michael2g@msn.com