

The Wagon Wheel

Idaho Area 18's Newsletter

Editor, John L.

HEADLINE NEWS: **Idaho Area 18 AA Fall Assembly will be held in Sun Valley on October 9, 10 & 11 2009. Don't miss this great Assembly and the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular Indian Summer of the Wood River Valley & Sun Valley!**

August 2009

DISTRICT DONATIONS TO AREA

1/01/2009-8/16/2009

Archive funds	\$	133.44
District 1		1,320.38
District 2		1,944.29
District 3		362.96
District 4		848.10
District 5		1,131.38
District 6		301.25
District 7		419.00
District 8		1,020.37
District 9		769.95
District 10		788.80
District 11		100.00
District 12		125.00
Seventh Tradition		335.80
Other		536.80
Total		10,136.72

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well August is gone and summer is soon over. Wow, where did it go? Now it's time to look forward to the Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly in Sun Valley. It should be a good one. This is the first time it's been held in Sun Valley for 20 years and it's at just the right time to enjoy the great Indian Summer weather & the

beautiful fall colors of this mountain community. It will be a real treat. You won't want to miss this opportunity; the Fall Assembly committee has negotiated outstanding rates on lodging and meals. See the attached flyer for details. A contact number for information on camping and alternative lodging is also available in the flyer.

The purpose of assemblies is, of course, to conduct the Area's business. I know your GSR's, DCM's and other Trusted Servants on the area committee will be spending much of their time in business meetings. If you're not a GSR or otherwise involved in the business meetings you might consider some other great opportunities to attend Alkathon meetings and roundtable discussions on a range of topics from H&I to the Spanish Language. Sit in for AA Panel Discussions on Saturday. And as always there will be some great AA and Alanon Speakers. Take the time and have some fun as well. Start on Friday with a golf scramble and then take in

the Saturday Night events including Contemporary Vaudeville and live music with dancing. Registration forms are attached to the newsletter or available on the area website at www.idahoarea18aa.org

Help me make the next issue the best yet and send in your stories. Also, if your district is having an event soon please submit that as well.

To send in your Newsletter story go to the Idaho Area 18 website:

www.Idahoarea18aa.org

There is a link titled *Wagon Wheel Newsletter*. Please submit articles and stories as a word document – You can also view recent issues.

Why do they always talk about money?

I was in a meeting the other day and listened to a lady share that she was in from Chicago on business. She has 5 years sober and due to some family issues really needed a meeting. She looked in the local phone book for Alcoholics Anonymous and called the number listed. She was met with the friendly voice of an A.A. member picked her

up and brought her to that meeting.

As she was sharing I started thinking, What if this service were not provided by our local Central Office? What if each group in the valley had its own hotline number – how confusing would that be?

Over the years I have listened to a lot of A.A. members and groups say, “Why do you need the services provided by the General Service Office, the Area Committee, my District Committee or even a Central Office?” “They don’t do anything for us! Let those who need those services, support them.”

In Concept I, Bill W. writes “The average member, preoccupied with his group life and his own ‘twelfth stepping,’ knew almost nothing of A.A.’s world services.’ Some 47 years later isn’t this still the case in a large percentage of A.A.’s members? I wonder how many of us would be sober today if the service structure set out by our founders was not put into place. Would A.A. have survived the deaths of Dr. Bob, Bill and all the first 100 people?

So what are the services our 7th Tradition contributions support throughout our structure? Let’s first look at some of the services that are provided by the General Service Board through the General Service Office in New York City. In Concept I again, Bill gives us a brief list of these services. He states that their job should include “writing of the uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling large numbers of pleas for help ...” He goes on to say

“... aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups.” He concludes this paragraph with “there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translation of our literature into other languages.” I don’t know about anybody else, but my home group could never take on such projects as these.

Now what is the role of the Area Committee, District Committee, Intergroup and Central Office in this structure? In 1950 the founders turned over Alcoholics Anonymous to the groups with the first General Service Conference. The A.A. Service Manual states at the beginning of Chapter Five, “Perhaps more than any other group of people in A.A., the area committee is responsible for the health of the Conference structure and thus for growth and harmony in the A.A. Fellowship.” The Area Committee and the District Committee is the road by which information of what services are needed by the members reaches the Conference, thus laying out the services to be provided by G.S.O. These committees along with Intergroup and Central Office also take on those bigger tasks such as Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, H & I, literature and phone services that the groups are too small to handle. All of these vital services have been requested by the A.A. members in their Home Groups to be done for them at their Area Assemblies, District meetings and Intergroup meetings.

There are those among us who faithfully and willingly discharge these services on our behalf without any need of fanfare or recognition. What they and ultimately the still suffering alcoholic need is your 7th Tradition Support. This support comes in two forms. First, A.A. should be self-supporting through its own contribution of willing servants. Get involved throughout the service structure. A.A. needs your talents to grow and continue to provide for those here now and those to come. Secondly, A.A. should be self-supporting financially. The services asked for have a dollar cost associated with their being done. And lastly, demand to know what is being done for you in A.A. Invite your trusted servants to your groups, stop them when you see them. Those who serve you and A.A. are more than happy to meet all reasonable requests for information.

In closing, ask yourself this simple question: Would I be sober today if the founders had not given us the service structure?

**Barry S.
Kuna, ID**

Grapevine Report May 2009

This is essentially the report I planned to give and did not at the 2009 spring assembly. It is altered somewhat but I believe it presents information that the GSRs should have regarding the expenditure of money by special service committees. I have deleted the information about the Grapevine,

which was included in the report published with the Spring Assembly minutes.

I recently was asked cynically what the Area Grapevine chair does other than travel to sunny California on the area's dime. Since that question – and even before – I've thought about how I want the money spent that I put in the basket. I always put in at least \$2, frequently more. At two to three meetings a week, that comes to a minimum of \$300 a year and actually much more. I trust each group treasurer to divide that money among the service entities and I trust Area is getting its share. When Area votes to pay expenses for any member of the Area Committee, that's my money as well as yours. Once we put it in the basket, it becomes A.A.'s money; however, we still deserve to know where the money's going.

Since January of 2008 I have attended four area committee meetings and three area assemblies for which expenses were reimbursed. My first presentation as Grapevine chair was at a District 3 business meeting, the only district business meeting I've been invited to although I have extended the offer at every area meeting and assembly. I have given presentations at pre-conference workshops in Nampa (twice) and Gooding as well as sharing that information with those who presented a pre-conference workshop in Idaho Falls this spring. I gave a comprehensive presentation on Grapevine at a District One workshop in Pocatello last September and this spring I took part in a service workshop at the District 5 Chili Cook-off in

Meridian and the District 11 7th Tradition workshop in Ontario.

I attended the Pacific Regional Forum in Spokane over Labor Day weekend 2008. I met Grapevine executive editor Robin Bromley, networked with other Grapevine reps, and attended the general sessions, which included many Grapevine topics. I also was secretary for a panel on apathy in A.A., which was chaired by the Idaho Area 18 delegate.

After lugging the Grapevine display to the 2008 spring assembly in Ontario, I thought about how this part of the job could be made easier for those who will follow me in this position and I requested funds to assemble a new display. The old one has been given to Archives and the new one was unveiled at the 2009 spring assembly in Idaho Falls. As I was buying materials for the display, I tried to keep costs low and considered constantly whether this is a justifiable expenditure of Area funds. You all can be the judge of that.

Now about PRAASA: Because of my hospitalization in March 2008 I was unable to attend PRAASA, the March '08 area meeting and a pre-conference workshop in Pocatello – I saved Area some money by being sick. Finally, this March yes, I did attend PRAASA in sunny California; however, I was not on vacation. The only things I did that came close to being a tourist were to eat Friday night dinner at a Chinese buffet and Sunday brunch at a yuppie feeding trough. I used my sky miles for the flight to and from Oakland, and I didn't even see the Golden Gate Bridge

or Alcatraz from the air. I attended every general session, the central office/intergroup roundtable Friday night and chaired the Grapevine/La Viña roundtable Saturday night. Robin Bromley hosted a luncheon for Grapevine reps. These events provided a wonderful opportunity to network with Grapevine reps from throughout the Pacific Region and to share experiences and challenges in fulfilling our service positions. I wound up with the notes from the roundtable and compiled a report that went to roundtable attendees, the chairpersons of the Grapevine board and the Grapevine Conference Committee, the PRAASA program committee, and Area 18 Grapevine reps.

I've put a lot of effort into trying to set up a network of Grapevine reps in Area 18. I welcome these reps to the Area Grapenet, supply them with information I hope will be useful, and answer any questions they may have. We usually hold roundtables at the assemblies. I've put out brush fires, answered a ton of questions, and carry subscription forms around in my car. I have reported at each area meeting and assembly on circulation numbers. Unfortunately, the June numbers for Idaho are down to 626 from 676 in April and down from 645 last June. La Viña numbers have increased to 19 from 18 in April and 16 in June '08.

That's how I've spent my time and your money the past 17 months. You decide whether it's been worth it.

**Yours in peace and service,
Jo P., Idaho Area 18 Grapevine chair**

Upcoming Events
Idaho Area 18 Fellowship and Service Announcements:

[. SICYPAA & The Grapevine: Toga! Toga! Toga!](#)

Friday, August 28th, 2009

[. Utopia Speaker meeting & Potluck!](#)

September 18th, Boise, ID

[. Snake River H&I BBQ!](#)

September 19th, Ontario, OR

[. 25th Annual Women's Retreat "A New Journey"](#)

September 11, 12 and 13th Lake Alturas N. Of Ketchum, ID

[. 11th Annual Bear Lake Bash!](#)

September 11, 12 and 13th East shore State Park, Bear Lake Idaho

[. Primary Purpose Service Workshop.](#)

September 12th, Boise, ID

[. SICYPAA 70's Dance](#)

September 12th, Nampa, ID

[. 62nd Anniversary Celebration!](#)

September 26th, Pocatello, ID

[. District 9 Sponsorship Workshop](#)

September 26th, McCall, ID

[. 2009 Idaho Area 18 Fall Assembly & Convention](#)

October 9, 10 and 11 SUN VALLEY, ID

[. 13th Annual Gratitude Dinner!](#)

Friday, November 6, 2009, Meridian, ID

[. PRAASA 2010 !!](#)

March 5th-7th, Los Angeles, CA.

Visit www.idahoarea18aa.org for flyers and more information on fellowship & Service events

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Idaho Area 18 AA members who have passed on in 2009

Susan T. -- 18 years of sobriety -- member of the Turning Point group, Boise

Jack B. – 54 years of sobriety – member of Idaho Falls Lunch Bunch Group and original member of Group #1, Idaho Falls

If you would like to honor a member that has passed during the previous year in the next Idaho Area 18 Newsletter please visit the area website and follow the link to the Wagon Wheel News Letter. Submit the member's name, years of sobriety and the name of his or her home group.

**IDAHO 2009
AREA 18
AA FALL
ASSEMBLY &
CONVENTION**



**SUN VALLEY
INN AND
RESORT,
SUN VALLEY
IDAHO**

Oct 9, 10 & 11

2009

"Our Commitment to Carry AA's Message - Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action"

FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 2009

Golf Scramble (See info. on back)
1 pm - 9 pm Registration, Sun Valley Inn
6:30 pm AA Open Multiple-Speaker Meeting
9 pm After-Meeting Roundtables:
GSR, DCM, H&I, CPC/PI
and Spanish Language
Alkathon: Friday noon - Sunday noon

SATURDAY, OCT. 10, 2009

8 am - 6 pm Registration, Sun Valley Inn
9am AA & Alanon Area
Business Meetings
10 am - 4 pm AA Panel Discussions
11:30 am Alanon Luncheon
Speaker: Doug B. Twin Falls ID
6-9 pm AA Banquet/Speaker Mtg.
Speaker: Lizz H. New York, N.Y.
9 pm Contemporary Vaudeville,
Live Music and Dancing

SUNDAY, OCT. 11, 2009

9 am AA Spiritual Breakfast
Speaker: Jerry C. Los Angeles, California

CONTACT INFORMATION

Registration:
Linda T. 208-720-8915 linda.thorson@gmail.com
Event Chairman:
David B. 208-720-2065 blampied@cox.net

Detach and mail with your check to: 2009 Fall Assembly, P.O. Box 2762, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

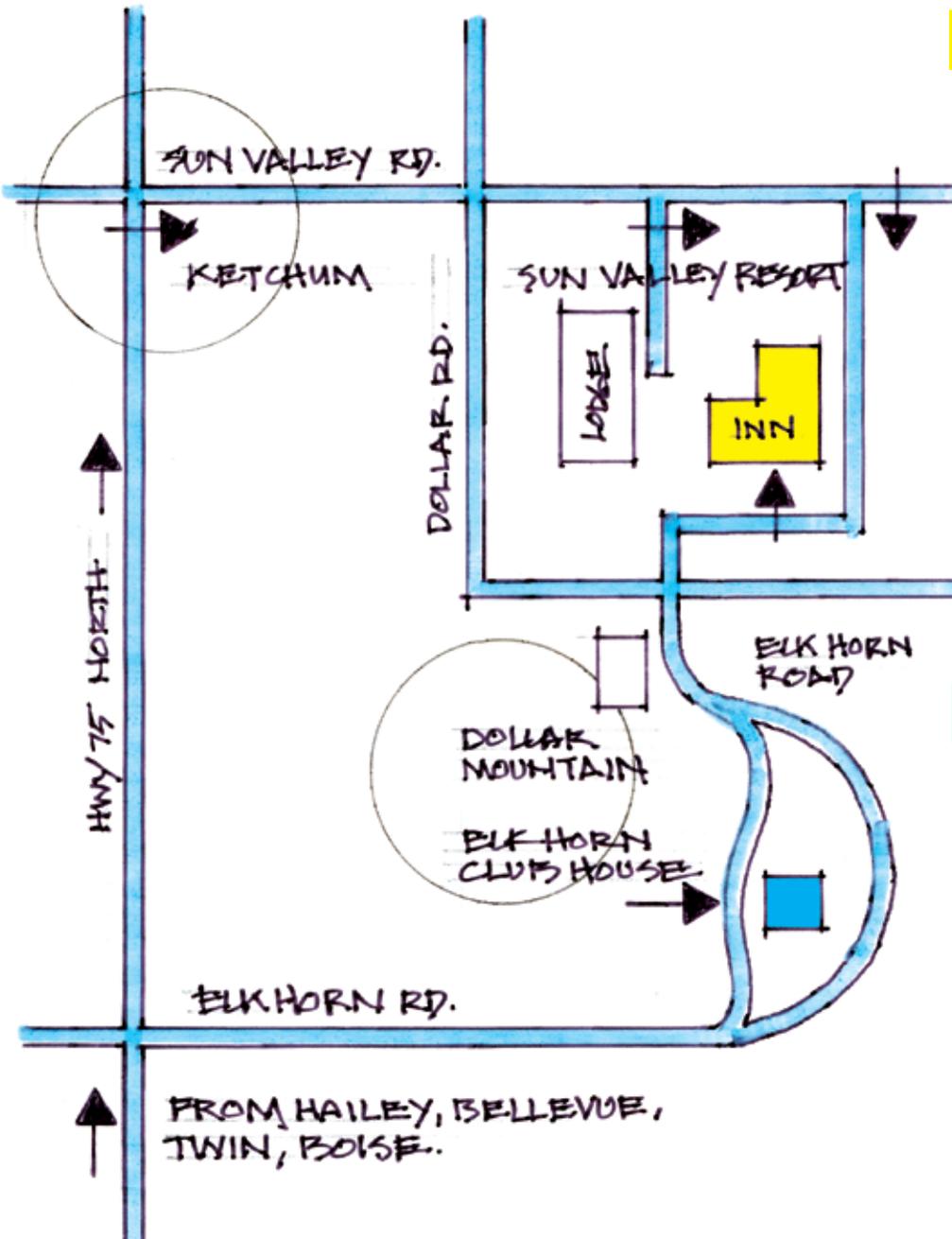
Please Circle One: AA Alanon Friend/guest

EARLY RESERVATION PRICING WILL END SEPT 1st!

Item or event:	Early (before Sept. 1st)	Late (after Sept. 1st)
Registration	\$15 _____	\$20 _____
Lunch Reservation	\$23 _____	\$28 _____
Dinner / Banquet Reservation	\$35 _____	\$40 _____
Breakfast Reservation	\$20 _____	\$25 _____
Coffee Mug	\$ 5 _____	\$ 5 _____
Total Amount of Check Enclosed	\$ _____	\$ _____

Name _____ Service Position _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-Mail _____

To avoid postage costs please include e-mail for reservation confirmation. Thanks!
Additional copies of this form, as well as a link to Sun Valley Resort reservations are available at www.idahoarea18aa.org



CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Please sign in at the south entrance of the Sun Valley Inn.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

call Sun Valley Resort
1-800-786-8259

Please request "Idaho Area 18"
Room rates! (\$115/night)

CAMPING/ ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATIONS

call Spooky T.
208-720-6872
spookysv@gmail.com

GOLF INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Please try to make golf
reservations by Oct. 1st!
call Ed S.

208-309-1662
eversiegel@aol.com

Check-in at the Elkhorn Golf
Course Pro Shop by 10:00 am.
Scramble starts at 11:00 am.
\$60 Green Fee includes
18 holes and cart.
Elkhorn is a Robert Trent
Championship Golf Course.

