

The Wagon Wheel

The Official (Unofficial??) Newsletter of Idaho Area 18

MAY 2005

NEWSLEADER, SHIRLEY S.

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It looks like it's going to be a great assembly. The assembly committees do quite a job putting these assemblies together. If you see someone with a yellow ribbon, tell them thanks for all their hard work!! I love the words on the back of the program –

“Look back – and be Grateful

Look ahead – and be Hopeful

Look around – and be Helpful.”

Good advice for all of us, whenever, wherever and whatever!

Jim's report from New York should be fun and heartwarming. Since this is his final GSO report, does this make him a Lame Duck Delegate? A little quacky? He's just ducky and I think he's represented us well. You've already convinced me my opinion is not important, but I like to express it anyway!

I will miss seeing all of you. I'm blessed to have been invited to a 50th anniversary party of some very dear friends who knew me when I was drinking and love me anyway! Sobriety has made it possible for my and my family to go. Thank you all for that.

Some of you have been wonderful about sending stories in for the newsletter. The tray is empty and ready for another one. Perhaps you've dreamed of being published somewhere. Get out the pencil or keyboard, and get to writing. Only two chances left to get published in The Wagon Wheel!!!

SEVENTH TRADITION

1/1/05 to 4/17/05

District 1	599.41
District 2	1,816.03
District 3	156.00
District 4	480.00
District 5	445.97
District 6	342.90
District 7	68.40
District 8	1,211.19
District 9	230.00
District 10	240.00
District 11	85.00

Some groups must be barely supporting themselves. After paying group expenses, setting aside for GSR's expenses to come to assembly, and keeping a prudent reserve, if there is any left, send it on! Use the addresses below. Please remember, it costs GSO over \$100.00 a year to maintain each group. So is your group really self-supporting?? Put an extra buck in the basket. **12th Step work begins with the basket.**

Addresses to send your 7th Tradition

District Treasurers - Ask your DCM
Area Treas: Box 296 Middleton, ID 83644
GSO: Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163

Please make sure to put your group # and District # on checks to Area and GSO.

I'm not copying all of Jim's report at the March Business meeting, but I am repeating some of the history he told of the International conventions.

"In 1950, at the 15th anniversary in Cleveland, AA members voted to accept the Second Legacy and the Twelve Traditions. Dr. Bob spoke for the last time. He dies shortly afterward. Five years later at the 20th anniversary convention in St. Louis, AA came of age with the founders turned over the future of the Fellowship to the members through the service structure and the General Service Conference. This feat is explained in the book "AA Comes of Age" and is a great book about early AA and what the co-founders of this program went through to make it a possibility for you and me.

In 1965 in Toronto, Canada, the attendees said for the first time the Responsibility Statement, written especially for that convention. But, it has become a statement of purpose for our program.

The 35th birthday in Miami was marked by a bittersweet moment when Bill W, terminally ill and not expected to appear rose to speak at

the Sunday spiritual meeting. Bill W died the following January.

In 1985, 45,000 members attended the international convention in Montreal. The House of Seagram's flew their flag at half mast as thousands of members of AA roamed the streets not partaking in any of the beverages they provided.

The International Conventions are far more than birthday or anniversary parties. They are a chance for AA's from everywhere on the planet to expand their view of the Fellowship and strengthen their own sobriety. They are opportunities to let the world know that AA is alive and flourishing as a community resource, locally and internationally.

From 1,000 members in 1950 to over 47,000 in Minneapolis in 2000, International Conventions have been a big part of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. If there is a possibility you can attend, please do so, you will not be disappointed."

Upcoming PRAASA's will be in Central California in March of 2006 and Portland OR March of 2007. Bids for PRAASA for 2008 were received at the PRAASA Business Meeting for Alaska, Eastern Washington, Burbank CA and Southern California. Jim voted on this at GSO and will have the results of the vote in his report from GSO. Perhaps Idaho Area 18 might be interested in bidding to host PRAASA 2009 or 2010. We hosted the last PRAASA in 1998.

WHAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS

A.A. IS A SPIRIT, IT CANNOT BE TOUCHED, NOR CAN IT BE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD.
IT IS AS WIDE AS THE WORLD, AND YET SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT SNUGLY INTO THE
HEARTS AND MINDS OF MEN AND WOMEN.

IT HAS BROUGHT LIGHT, WHERE DARKNESS DWELLED.

IT HAS GIVEN HOPE TO THE HELPLESS, AND HELP TO THOSE WHO YEARNED IN DESPAIR.

IT HAS TAUGHT PATIENCE TO THE HURRIED AND ACTION TO THE LAZY.

TO YOUTH, IT HAS GIVEN VISION, TO THE AGED, PROMISE, TO THE LONELY, COMPASSION
AND TO THE RESTLESS, REST.

TO THE SICK IT HAS BEEN A DOCTOR, AND TO THE DYING, IT HAS REVIVED THE DESIRE
TO LIVE.

IT HAS NO JUDGMENT AGAINST THE UN-TEACHABLE, NOR HAS IT PRAISE FOR THOSE
WHO LEARN.

FOR THE OUTCAST, IT HAS BEEN A FAMILY, AND TO THE CHILDLESS, IT HAS GIVEN
CHILDREN,

TO THE IGNORANT, WISDOM AND TO THE WISE, TOLERANCE.

IT HAS GIVEN TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN THAT WHICH IS MOST PRECIOUS – IT HAS
GIVEN THE LOVE OF LIFE, AND THE LOVE OF TRUTH, WITH ENOUGH LEFT OVER TO
SHARE WITH EACH OTHER.

1957 GRAPEVINE

Traveling and need to find a meeting?

The aa.org website can help.

The aa.org website has a list of central offices all over the world. It also has a link to many of them. Just go to aa.org, click on “Services for Members”, then click on “Contact Local AA” then, at the bottom of that page, click on “Central office, intergroup or answering service of U.S. and Canada” or click on “General Service Offices, Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services Overseas”.

The Service Manual is now posted on the Web.

The AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service” has recently been posted on the aa.org website under “Services for Members”. This should be a handy reference for GSRs who can’t find or haven’t yet received their own printed copy of this service manual.

The Wagon Wheel

No room for the Chrystal Ball!!!

Actually, the truth is, the new computer has no balls.

Madam Ez sez, "Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck!"

April 29 – May 1, 2005: Area 18 Spring Assembly, Boise. Double Tree Riverside. District 3 You're Here!!!

Remember the three "R's". Respect for self, respect for others, and responsibility for your actions.

May 21, Dist 6 AA workshop – Lunch, speaker, panels, raffle.
9:00 to 3:00 at the Serenity Hall.
Idaho Falls.

Memorial Day - BBQ in Weiser

June 4th – 2nd Annual H & I BBQ
At VETERAN'S Memorial Park – If you can help call Kerry@ 573-0679 or Pete at 412-7031. Buy a ticket even if you can't go!!

June 17 – 19: District 7 Annual campout – Green Canyon

Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.

June 30 – July 3: International Convention – Toronto, Canada.

Silence is sometimes wiser than the best answer.

July 15th thru 17th – The 20th annual Dist 9 campout at the upper Payette Lake near McCall.
May 2005

July 22-24 – Dist 10 campout at Boulder View Campground north of Ketchum

Romance in AA – the odds are good, and the goods are odd.

August 5 – 7(probably): Dist 7 Campout – North of Salmon.

August 26 – 27 Dist 3 Campout – Sawtooth Lodge in Grandjean.

The three most dangerous words for an alcoholic, "I've been thinking. . ."

August 21st, (I think) Area Business Meeting – Twin Falls.

Some people's bottoms are six feet under.

October – Area 18 Fall Assembly. Voting assembly for next rotation trusted servants. Burley– Dist 2.

Alcohol - an equal opportunity destroyer.

ONLY ONE ISSUE LEFT FOR CAMPAIGN ADS. SPECIAL RATES FOR EARLY BIRDS !!!

AA Has no fixed address. You CAN take it with you.

contributions to:

>wagonwheel_15@hotmail.com<

or 940-0647

Thank you so much!

2005

Twelve ways to tell the difference between your sponsor & your therapist:

1. Your sponsor isn't all that interested in the "reasons" you drank.
2. Your therapist thinks your root problem is your lack of self-esteem and your negative self-image. Your sponsor thinks your problem is yourself.
3. Your therapist wants to pamper your inner child. Your sponsor thinks it should be spanked.
4. Your sponsor thinks your inventory should be about you, not your parents.
5. Speaking of your parents, your sponsor tells you not to confront them, but to make amends to them.
6. The only time your sponsor uses the word "closure" is before the word "mouth".
7. Your sponsor thinks "boundaries" are things you need to take down, not build up.
8. Your therapist wants you to love yourself first; your sponsor wants you to love others first.
9. Your therapist prescribes care-taking medication. Your sponsor prescribes prayer making and meditation.
10. Your sponsor thinks "anger management skills" are numbered one through twelve.
11. Now that you haven't had a drink in six months, your therapist thinks you should make a list of all your goals and objectives for the next five years, starting with finishing up that college degree. Your sponsor thinks you should start today by cleaning coffee pots and help him/her carry a heavy box of literature to the jail.
12. Your sponsor will not lose his/her license if he/she talks about God.

Anonymous

The final test of will power is to see a friend with a black eye and not ask any foolish questions.

A man goes into a lawyer's office and says, "I've heard people have sued the tobacco companies for giving the lung cancer and McDonald for making them fat." The lawyer says, "Yes, that's true." The man says, "Well, I'm suing, too." The lawyer says, "Okay, McDonalds, or the tobacco companies?" The man says, "Neither, I'm suing Budweiser for all the ugly people I've slept with."

Burning the candle at both ends is a poor way of making ends meet.

No person is ever extremely useless. One can always serve as a horrible example.

Upon inquiring of a man who had reached the bottom of degradation from his long bout with alcohol, as to just why he did it, his answer was, 'he drank the way he did to prevent him from worrying about the wicked way he was living.'

No doubt you heard about the fellow who walked into a saloon optimistically and came out misty optically.

It was the first train ride for the two hillbillies. They wandered into the club car and cautiously ordered one bottle of beer between them. As one of them took a drink, the train entered a tunnel. He spoke to his friend in total darkness: 'Have you had a drink, yet?' "Nope, why?" 'Don't touch it. I just took one and I'm blind.'

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Two gentlemen were drinking in a cocktail lounge. One to the other, "What do you think of the AA outfit?"

Second one, "Oh, I don't know - they seem like a bunch of phonies to me. As a matter of fact, I don't think they have anything to offer me."

"Ya," said the first, "I couldn't stay dry either."