

# The Wagon Wheel

Idaho Area 18's Newsletter

Editor, Karen F.

May 2007

## DISTRICT DONATIONS TO AREA

6/30/2006-4/30/2007

District 1	\$1,720.67
District 10	314.00
District 11	495.00
District 2	1218.62
District 3	156.05
District 4	590.40
District 5	1311.21
District 6	237.05
District 7	410.25
District 8	1861.43
District 9	484.15

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I want to welcome all of you to the Idaho Area 18 Spring Assembly of 2007.

I also want to thank all of you who took your time in sharing a little about yourself with us in this newsletter. People have submitted their stories for us to enjoy and I want to thank you again.

Well, I made it! I will graduate next weekend. But I will not be walking with my class because a few of us

were chosen to represent Boise State University at the National Leadership Conference held in Manhattan, New York. I am so excited about this opportunity and I would have never have seen this day if it had not been for Alcoholics Anonymous.

I began this sobriety journey in May of 1998. Yes that means I celebrate my 9 years of sobriety while in New York. Who would have thought? All of you have probably felt the same way. There have been times that I wonder if I would make it through the night and other times wondered if it was worth it.

I remember asking my sponsor at 5 years sober "Is this it?" "Is this all there is to sobriety?" I am sure you know what she said to me next. "Let's start over in the steps..." The journey is so worth it. Don't give up just keep coming back.

Remit your story to: Idaho Area 18 Newsletter via the website address @ [www.Idahoarea18aa.org](http://www.Idahoarea18aa.org).

There is a link titled Newsletter. You can also view recent issues.

**Karen F., Boise  
Newsletter Editor**

## MY TURNING POINT

I was raised in a conservative religious home. Actually, several conservative religious homes, since we would move every three to four years so that my father could work at another church. When I was 15, we moved again, this time to southern Florida. This transition marked a turning point in my life.

For the first time I experienced what it was like to be a minority. At school I met a diverse mix of people that were raised differently from the way I was. Among my new friends were people who had integrated booze and dope into their everyday lives.

In the beginning, it seemed like it was "just fun" to drink and drug with my new friends in Florida. Drinking provided me with a sense of

relief I hadn't known before. Parties and drinking became my focus. Soon I was skipping school, drinking and getting high. I also started going to bars at 17. Soon passing out and blacking out were all too common. To overcome my shame, I worked hard at school and work to make up for the skipped days, and I would go to church and act like everything was cool. Thus began the never-ending cycle of drinking, covering up, attempting to make up and being ashamed.

When I was 18, I moved to the northwest for college. My drinking continued. At first I wrote off my binging and losing a few days as part of the college experience. But every once in a while, I would wonder if I had a "drinking problem" and I would try to control my drinking or stop altogether. The longest I stayed sober was six months during my junior year. Whenever I wanted to slow down or quit, this was the memory I would hold onto. At the end of that six months of sobriety, I got drunk, went home for the summer, and starting to drink on a regular basis again.

Despite all my drinking, somehow I earned a degree in education that I never used. I either sabotaged or flat out didn't take teaching jobs that were offered to me.

During the next 10 years I

lost relationships, jobs, made a few cross-country moves, and drank. By my early 30s, I was confused. I certainly could run triathlons; I had started my own business – why couldn't I get the drinking under control?

One day during one of my daily binges, a friend I used to drink with came by and talked to me about her sobriety. It wasn't the first time AA had been mentioned to me, but it was the first time a sober alcoholic had talked about her own recovery with me. It took another couple of weeks of drinking for me to finally ask my friend to take me to a meeting. She suggested I go to AA with an open heart and open mind, to try to stay sober for 30 days, and to go to meetings every day. Sceptically, I attended my first meetings, always sitting in the back and remaining silent.

I wish I could say I got a sponsor and jumped into AA with both feet, but for me it was the "sometimes slowly" way. I knew I was an alcoholic and I could not stop drinking on my own, but I was hoping for the self-help version of AA nonetheless ... maybe a program requiring less interaction and relying on workbooks. In no time, I self-helped myself right back into drinking. I quickly learned, though, that drinking still didn't work, and I came back to AA – this time with questions and a willingness to

ask someone to sponsor me.

I slowly did what was suggested and started taking the Steps. If I could have drawn the Step process out any longer, I would have. Thank God, there is no timetable for the Steps and coming to understand God. Alcoholics Anonymous let me come back when I was drinking and skeptical and when I was sober and skeptical. They said, "Keep coming back".

**Lori W., Boise**

## **GIVE ME BACK THE GOOD OLD DAYS!**

### **Change – Adapting to It in the Workplace and in Life**

#### Introduction

"Change" happens whether we like it or not. Life is about change, both personally and in the world around us. How will we react if our personal life, our work life, or our environment changes? Do we "go with the flow" or "fight" for the way we want? This is an article on my personal philosophy based on my own experience and what I have learned in the Program, not some deep intellectual thoughts out of a book.

#### Definitions of Change

The act, process, or result of altering or modifying: *a change in facial expression.*

The replacing of one thing for another; substitution: *a change of atmosphere; a change of ownership.*

A transformation or

transition from one state, condition, or phase to another: *the change of seasons*.

### Normal Reaction to Work Changes

I want the organization to go back to the way it used to be.

If I get a new boss, he won't understand what a good job I do. The new workers will take years to figure out the system and they will make my job harder.

If he (she) is going to do what I used to do, they probably will get paid more than I.

### What will I do?

Get angry and take it out on my family and co-workers or get drunk over it.

Complain to my boss that the new person is not "cutting it".

### Kinds of Change

- Layoffs
- New Boss
- New Responsibilities
- New Computer System
- New Procedures

### My Experience

My experience before retiring on disability was in middle management with several companies. I have gone through most of the situations and reactions mentioned above. What I have discovered over many years – being diagnosed with MS, getting divorced, and then gratefully finding

Alcoholics Anonymous – is that most of the stuff that happens today I have no control over, so the simplest way of dealing with it is to accept it and try to do the best that I can. Obviously, this has not always been easy. The method that is working for me today is having some sort of personal support system. Family and church are a very important part of my system. The most important part of my life today is the program of Alcoholics Anonymous where I can go to receive the "wisdom to know the difference" from others' sharing about how they have dealt with all kinds of changes.

Something I have also learned that makes my life more complete is that I need many YOU(s) in my life, because I get really tired of ME a lot of the time. That is why I am active in service, volunteer in the Community Service Division of the Meridian Police and at Peregrine Elementary School. I am a member of the Idaho Athletic Club and look forward to seeing my friends there. As a result I feel better. My wife and I travel to visit our kids and grandkids and take other trips and plan to do so as long as we are able.

Thank you for allowing me to share a little of myself in hopes that something I do or have done will help you to figure out how to deal with

any of the changes going on in your life.

"It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory."

~W. Edwards Deming

**Rick P, Meridian**

## **COULD I REALLY BE AN ALCOHOLIC?**

I started drinking at the age of 15 years old, and I was a blackout drinker from the beginning – but it was only every now and then and I don't really remember much of the early days any more. I am not sure why I started to drink – I mean I had unresolved issues like everyone else and had bad things happen when I was younger. I do know I didn't like the taste of alcohol but loved the way it made me feel. My whole being was numb to life and to my emotions and feelings. When I hit 21, my drinking got somewhat worse. My 24th birthday stands out and from that time on.

I remember drinking and drinking and I just could not get enough in me, and my friends had to drive me home, and everyone was scared I was going to die of alcohol poisoning. I woke up the next day and felt somewhat sick, and off I went again. From that point on I could never get enough and almost always scared the people I was with by all the alcohol I could consume. My blackouts

got worse, longer, and more often. I started waking up in different places than where I started drinking and with different people. At times I had no idea where my car was, where my friends were, and had bruises all over my body. I quit getting sick and drank so much that I felt sober; only later did I realize that I could easily have drunk myself to death or could have died if I had fallen asleep. I had my drinks spiked a few times, and to this day have no clue what happened, losing 4-6 hours of time. I got a DUI, and my parents bailed me out. I cried that night. Then I threw a huge party at my parents' house. I moved out and drank even more. My friends or men I would meet in the bars would drive me home. I've had guns pointed at me, been beaten up, and other terrible things happened. I would party all night, then go home, clean up and go to work. I drank on my lunch hours, and sometimes I would go straight to work from a party. Toward the end of my drinking career, I could no longer hold jobs, keep a place to live, and lost what "friends" I thought I had. Then my sanity left. I was out of control and crazy. I was married for almost a year to a man I met at the bars, and I had a brief time of sobriety. I had to be sober most of the time due to the abuse that went on. I was scared if I drank then I would definitely not be able to defend myself

and would surely die. When I got divorced, I really went crazy with drinking and men. I was doing "slow suicide," and my behaviors got riskier and riskier.

In 1995 I was introduced to AA, not sure exactly how (memory loss was part of the side effects of my drinking), but I believe it was my mother and facing the consequences of my DUI. I remember my first meeting. I took my grandmother, because I was scared and had no idea what I was going to be facing. My idea of people in AA was old men who just came out of the gutters with tattered clothes, bad breath and mean. I was surprised when there were men and women who had good breath (ha ha), nice clothes and welcomed me with open arms. I stayed sober for 3 years but 2 of those years I was dry and drank again and again and again. Each time I went back out, it took less time for me to lose everything or go crazy. I always relapsed over small things, and I always quit going to meetings first. It took me a long time before I became willing or capable of being honest with myself and forgiving myself. I finally quit coming to AA to socialize or look for men. I came back the last time because this truly was the last house on the block and I was going to die either by drinking or my own hand.

This last time coming in is my turning point in which I learned to take the program seriously and to do all that is suggested. I have 3 months sober this time and was insane and not sure I could recover and planned to kill myself unless God intervened and could not get anyone to sponsor me. I remember being in my room and standing in the middle of the room, wanting to die if I could not stay sober and wanting to die if I could not drink again. This was a new kind of despair I hadn't experienced, and I said, "God, if you are there and you want me here on this earth, then please do for me what I can't do for myself and save me from myself".

Then the phone rang. It was the phone call that saved my life, offering me help. The lady on the other end of the phone said, "We can see you today, and something told us we had to call you now". Talk about a miracle. Then I got an email telling me this woman would sponsor me. My sponsor has taught me so much about myself, this program and a higher power that I could never repay her. She was my Eskimo, and to this day God continues to put Eskimos or angels in my path.

I have a newfound respect for this program and understand that in order for me to stay sober day after day, there are certain things I

must do. I go to a meeting every day, I sponsor other women, I work the Steps, I call my sponsor, I pray and meditate, I have found a higher power of my understanding, I stay familiar with the Big Book of AA, and I stay in the middle of AA and no longer live on the outskirts of the program.

My program is not perfect, but my foundation is strong. I still have fears, but I know today that drinking is no longer an option and there is nothing, absolutely nothing that a drink will fix or make better. Sobriety has helped me to repair the broken relationships in my life. My family now trusts me and my life is becoming more and more stable. But I have to work for it, and every day AA becomes more a part of my life. It works – it really does. I know what it's like to do this program in a fog.

Today I am doing this program awake, and it has taken on a whole new meaning and look.

**Lori D., Meridian**  
**11/24/05**

## **WHAT IS CPC/PI? WHO CAN BE A CPC/PI REP?**

What is CPC? CPC is not the drug PCP. CPC does not stand for Climate Prediction Center, nor is it AA's Main Computer (Compaq PC). CPC stands for **Cooperation**

## **with the Professional Community.**

What is PI? PI is not a mathematics symbol used to measure circles. PI is not something you have with coffee that is spelled PIE. In A.A. PI does not stand for Politically Incorrect as it does on HBO. PI stands for Public Information.

CPC and PI are two separate functions. In Idaho Area 18 they are combined to create the CPC/PI committee. CPC/PI is divided geographically East and West (like H&I). CPC/PI West consists of Districts 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11, which includes all of Treasure Valley, Magic Valley, McCall, Sun Valley, and all points in between. CPC/PI East consists of Districts 1, 6, 7, which includes Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Salmon, Carmen, and all points in between.

The CPC portion of the committee provides information about A.A. to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession. This includes health care professionals, educators, clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders, military, industrial managers, and others in the field of alcoholism. Information is provided about where we are, what we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do.

Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with PI service is to

carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, CPC/PI representatives convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that you see and hear on your local station are a PI function of AA.

To serve as a CPC/PI representative for a group or district, an individual should:

1. Have a desire and willingness to be of service to A.A.
2. Be open-minded and want to learn while serving as a CPC/PI rep (training provided).
3. Have a home group.
4. Have a sponsor.
5. Have completed all 12 Steps.
6. Have a clear understanding of all 12 Traditions.
7. Know what the 12 Concepts of World Service are.
8. Have been selected by their group or GSR for a group level rep.
9. Have been selected by their district or DCM for a district level rep
10. Have 1 year or 2 years of sobriety (depending on your group or district guidelines).
11. Be aware of all published group, district and Area 18 Guidelines.
12. Have time to spare to spend 2 to 3 hours a month attending a CPC/PI meeting as well

as group and/or district business meetings.

If your group or district does not have a CPC/PI representative, maybe YOU should STEP UP and let your GSR or DCM know that YOU would like to SERVE. Of course, it is always a good idea to let your sponsor know first. There is lot of work to do in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, and both CPC/PI West and East need your help. More to come in future issues of this newsletter.

**Rodney N.  
Idaho Area 18 CPC/PI**

## **TURNING POINT IN SOBRIETY**

Hi there, I'm Larry J., alcoholic, and I woke up breathing and sober this morning, 11/01/06, now 16 years today of sobriety, by the grace of a power so much more powerful than I, and the program of AA. I wish to express a great big "thank you" to all of AA for these 16 years of life for I know I would have died drunk long ago.

Turning points in recovery – my gosh, I've had a bunch. Came to AA in 1987, went to a lot of meetings, practiced the 13th step, got a BB, didn't read it (too corny), no sponsor, no home group, just a lot of meetings. After 11 months I knew that though there were some real neat

folks in AA, I was unique, and I could prove I could drink and have a manageable life. So being non-alcoholic, I quickly came down drunk and stayed there for 2 1/2 years. Finally one Friday night, sitting on "my" bar stool, a power greater than me got me out of that bar halfway through my second drink (now that's alcohol abuse, not finishing your drink). I knew I could not drink away the fact that drinking had finally got as bad as not drinking, and I had two choices left – either drink and die or go back to AA and try to find a life.

That same HP got me back to meetings, though at 3 months I was still real shaky, still doing it my way. Then the 800 pound monkey finally got my attention in the form of a little gal driving a large car, very drunk, hitting me headon in my pickup. Totaled my hot rod truck and got a busted and dislocated hip, terrible nerve damage behind that joint. Hospital 10 days and two months, hot pool therapy, month in the weight room, AA visitors, a lot of praying and intervention, finally asking Bill Q. to sponsor my sorry butt (he had been waiting for me to ask). ASK – ass saving kick!

At 6 months I could finally get to Serenity Hall. I got a home group, started to work on my selfishness by making coffee, chairing some

meetings, greeting folks, reading the BB and 12 x 12, and doing the stuff that turns a drunk like me into a real alcoholic ... I've always wondered – did the drunk driver save my life? Hmmm! It takes a bunch of pain to get me to pray for willingness to change and take the Steps, but at that time I guess I got about as much as I needed. Haven't wanted to drink since then and still don't want to today. Don't have to worry about tomorrow because when I wake up in the morning, it will be today again!!

Wonderful moments in sobriety – I'll never forget Guido giving me his nine year coin on Sunday of the Boise assembly that fall on the first weekend of November.

Thanks again, AA, which I love so much – the only place I ever fit (and my son now has 11 months – got my fishing partner back – he's now making coffee for AA).

**Larry J., Rigby**

## **AGAINST ALL THE RULES**

Your husband gets out on parole facing 7 1/2 years. He decides to get romantic in the middle of winter (snow on the ground) and go have a fire on the lake. We stop and get a six-pack, which we know is against all the rules, and proceed to have a

disagreement, under the influence. Things get out of hand on the lady part, who gets stumbling drunk, and it turns into a "disturbance" that gets the whole apartment complex involved.

He gets taken back, apologies all around, but he's back in prison for years because the authorities don't believe the drunken wife fell down 13 concrete stairs on her face and got a black eye. There's a little more to it, but that's the guts of it.

Wife checks into rehab. It doesn't seem to matter to the authorities. \$6,000 later and on the right track, the only thing that matters to the parole board is that something happened. Lesson in the adjustment period of one left on the outside to do, and one on the inside that can't.

Then the lady's mother dies, and the whole thing is complicated by the things one needs to do for family. There are things to be done on the government, real world levels that are immediate and required and don't have a thing to do with anything else or how you are feeling. Emotions are of no concern; it's a challenge to take care of business and settle it all, even when your parents planned and made it easy. The only thing that stays bright in the picture is the love of your family, friends, husband, and Jesus, who sustained you.

You made it through the worst of situations by belief in his purpose and the one the higher power chose as the path to take.

In this crazy world, there is no other way to face reality than sober. It's a gift to be healthy and enjoy the social purpose of giving to each other. Finding that higher power – God-Jesus – It's all in those names. It's conscience and right to stand up and say the truth in all situations. It's accepting what is said as said. So say what you mean and mean what you say. Accountability is a valid way of life, so think out of yourself and always think of others.

We can, I can't. Just for today.

**Sandi T., Calif.**

## **RAISING AREA CONSCIOUSNESS?**

During the past few months, one of my recurring resentments is bugging me again. I find myself annoyed and irritated by our pervasive use of the word "assembly" to refer to a social weekend. In the AA service structure, an assembly can be one of two things – a gathering to conduct business or the body assembled to conduct that business. Period.

This issue came up again for me when I received a

program for the upcoming event in Pocatello, called an assembly and listing such events as assembly dance, assembly banquet, etc. The only thing about the weekend that is an assembly is the business meeting. Then I erupted with one of my harangues when I saw a preliminary announcement for the 2008 spring gathering in Ontario, also referred to as an "assembly" – I apologize to the Districts 11 and 9 committee. I have listened carefully to myself and I refer to these events the same way. It is a mis-speak throughout Area 18 that those in service (who should know better) have passed on for many years.

Looking through my old rants I found a talk given at a workshop in Bellevue in 2005 when I was area chair. There I defined an assembly as "the gathering of the area committee and the GSRs – the full-bodied assembly," whose "primary purpose ... is to involve the groups in the general service structure. These assemblies are the groups' opportunity to let the voices of their individual members and their group consciences be heard at the area level and be carried back to G.S.O. We also hear reports from all members of the Area Committee (and) conduct area business."

When I worked on these events in the past, events I insisted on all printed

materials using the words assembly/convention or assembly convention (no slash). The Area 18 Guidelines also contain “assembly/convention” guidelines and use the word “assembly” only to refer to the body of members.

Only the GSRs and the area committee take part in the assembly. Everything else during the weekend is the convention - golf tournament, panels, meals, speakers, dance, alkathon, ice cream social, and whatever other social activities are held.

In my years of area service, attending PRAASAs and networking with other areas’ trusted servants, I found only one other area (Iowa) that holds a convention at the same time as the assembly. In other areas, assemblies conduct business in meetings that can range into the wee hours of the morning to conclude whatever business is on the agenda. Sometimes a dinner is held, with or without a speaker. Sometimes ALAnon holds an assembly at the same time.

In most instances, these assemblies are to disseminate information on the General Service Conference and make recommendations to the delegate to carry to the conference. Most areas spend a great deal of time discussing the conference agenda. Have those in service in Area 18 lost sight of the

responsibility we have to ensure the integrity of AA and to ensure that AA will survive as the founders established it? If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it? In Area 18, it’s getting bent.

Do we have fun? You bet! That’s what conventions are for. Held separately from assemblies, they can be enjoyed by every member of Area 18, and Area would not have to pay for anyone’s participation (similar to the Gem State Roundup). Area 18 could save a ton of money by holding separate business meetings. There are trusted servants who look forward to “assemblies” as expense-paid weekends, claiming they shouldn’t have to pay to be of service. IMHO, paying for convention activities – panels, banquets, speakers – is not paying to be of service. It’s being self-supporting. On the other hand, paying to attend a business meeting is paying to be of service – GSRs are required to pay the convention registration fee even if the business meeting is the only event they attend – this is a practice that should stop.

In AA as in most other areas of life, the bottom line always seems to have something to do with money. We have a Seventh Tradition addressing this issue – have we lost sight of that, too? After all these years, I am still naïve enough to believe that the bottom line in AA

should be spiritual.

If you want to go to an assembly, get into general service. If you want to have fun, go to the Roundup. You will be asked to pay your own way and you’ll have a delightful weekend. Trust me on this. And FWIW, the Roundup is not an assembly without the business meeting – it’s a convention without an assembly.

**Jo P., Boise  
Area 18 Bleeding Deacon**

## **SHORT AND TO THE POINT**

My drunken story is literally short and to the point. I don’t know why alcohol became my drug of choice because it simply wasn’t around the house and no one in my family drank.

I discovered alcohol at 15 while hanging out with friends, and it was magical. When I drank, fears and awkwardness disappeared – I felt empowered. This reaction was immediate and occurred on my first drink. I also got drunk the first time I drank.

Looking back it amazes me that I was even able to get alcohol because of my illegal age and lack of funds. Yet I managed to lie, manipulate, and hang out with people who drank in order to support my habit. Every time I drank the goal was to get drunk and feel fearless, powerful, and

“bullet proof.” As time went on and I continued to heavily binge drink, it became harder to experience these feelings. With every drunk I chased that magical state of being but could not reach it.

Eventually the feelings were replaced with depression and a suicide attempt. This attempt failed, along with my so-called friendships. I went off to college with a new boyfriend, a new start and absolute freedom. It was great at first – lots of parties, booze, pot, and sex. However, just like before, my drinking started to destroy the relationships in my life. I just continued to drink as much as I could whenever I could.

At this point I became a blackout drinker and the goal was complete oblivion. The euphoric feelings were replaced by depression and neurotic behavior. After a second suicide attempt, my parents put me in a private mental hospital. This sounds very posh except for the fact I had to clean up before the insurance ran out or I was on my own. The hospital’s psychiatrist gave me tests, and I was too stupid to answer “no” to the drug and alcohol questions. At the end he told me I probably had a drinking problem.

I was shocked and relieved at the same time. There is a lot of mental illness in my family and I just assumed

that I was just like the rest of them; the last year had certainly felt insane and out of control. The hospital introduced me to AA and for the first time in my life I felt like this is where I belonged. However, that was a huge disappointment and simply unacceptable for someone my age. At 20 years old I was sober, unhappy being a recovering alcoholic, and too scared to drink because of the consequences.

The next 4 years were a different type of insanity and misery. I would get a sponsor and do Steps 1-3 and start on Step Four. However, I would not finish Step Four because of my fears and because I could not accept that I was alcoholic. There had to be another solution and there was: get a new sponsor and start over with Steps 1-3.

This insanity lasted for 4 years until I simply broke down and started to plan another drinking binge. The pain and craziness, even though I was still sober, had become intolerable.

Blessedly, God stepped in, and something inside my head said, “Go to one last AA meeting.” I did and passed when it was my turn to share. Fortunately, Navy Seal Ronnie called me on my bullshit and said, “You look like shit and you need to share.” This was, as the book says, my jumping off point, and all resistance to AA and

being an alcoholic was lost. Since that day, I have had one sponsor, completed the Twelve Steps and continue to hold service positions in the program.

This year, I will celebrate 18 years of sobriety and I thank God for those years and the blessed years to come.

**Amy B., Boise**

## **MY FRIEND BILL**

This is not really a story about my recovery as much as it is a story of some of the blessings and gifts that have been given to me and of a special person that came into my life in my early sobriety.

I met Bill when I began my journey in AA in 1991. I was around Bill and Claudia in meetings and AA functions for about six years when Bill had a truck accident, although not hurt the cause of the wreck was found that Bill had a brain tumor. After several operations and a lot of bad times we lost Bill. Bill spent his last time working and helping others every way that he could until his death.

Shortly before his death I celebrated my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and Bill passed me his chip. He told me about its history and of the people that had held it before me. I assured Bill that I would always keep it and cherish it. Bill gave me that special little grin of his and told me that if I was

going to keep it I would have to give it away. I had kept my medallions up until that time, but taking what he said to heart I began giving them away to a very special person that I had met, she is another story and a blessing in my life.

After Bills death we had an AA service for him, played some of his favorite Rock and Roll music, we laughed, cried and said good by to a friend. Claudia told us that Bill had donated his body to research in hopes of helping with a cure of cancer. His eyes were given to two teenagers that had been blind sense birth, today they can see.

As time passed Claudia met and married another man (another Bill) and life went on. Six years after Bill death his ashes were returned to Claudia and at an annual camp out in the mountains some of us gathered and left the others, we drove up a road until we came to a mountain meadow that was full of wild flowers and there were mountains any direction that you look

Claudia had asked me if I would scatter Bill ashes the day before, I spent a long time thinking of what I'd say and how I would do it wanting to get it just right. We walked out into the meadow of flowers and every thought that I had so carefully planned left me and

I couldn't remember what I wanted to say but as usual if I get out of the way God will be there for me. God took over and I spoke some of Bill and some of the things that I knew about him. It seemed as God took over and I threw the ashes skyward and said "Bill go home". Out of the still, a gentle breeze started and we stood there in silence watching the ashes drift away.

Tracy read from a book and Claudia's new "Bill" read and talked some. We circled and as only a bunch of drunks can do we sang "Amazing Grace". We didn't know all of the words but it didn't matter as we were all crying any way. We formed and circle and said the serenity prayer, hugged, cried and left Bill to his mountains that he loved and with his God.

I later wrote down the names of the ones that were there and for some reason counted them. There were twelve of us, now there was no list, no one was invited, some didn't even know Bill, and we just seemed to gather it was like God had chosen the ones to be there.... Coincidence? Claudia related a story that had taken place several years ago before Bill passed away. Seems as a drunk had wrecked his pickup near their home and the drunk beat on the door waking them up. Bill dressed and gave the man a ride home, He told Claudia that he

had talked AA to the man all the way home and that "someday we'll see that guy in the program." That drunk that Bill took home that night became Claudia's "second Bill" and is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I don't believe in coincidences in AA, I think that is only God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. If you're new or relatively new in the program Please stick around and watch the miracles in your life unfold before your eyes. AA is not about "not drinking" it is about living life on life's terms. God bless and keep you all and I'll keep coming back if you will.

In memory of Bill Bonham,  
Feb 27, 1957-Sept 19 1998.

**Ed J.,  
Montpelier, Idaho**

## **WELCOME TO ROBERT H. CPC/PI EAST**

My sobriety date is May 23, 2000.

I registered (with G.S.O) and started the Grace Group with 10 months sobriety. I suppose as a reward for my labors, I was elected as GSR of the Group. That rotation lasted 8 months and I was re-elected GSR of the Grace Group partly because of the short length of that term and

possibly because I had the most sobriety of the group members. - A whopping 19 months! At that time I was asked by the DCM to be PI/CPC chair which I accepted.

The challenge was more than I anticipated but the

rewards were awesome. Two rotations later, I was again asked by the DCM if I would Chair the District I PI/CPC Committee. I am currently serving in that position.

I also consider a large part of my service work as being a sponsor, taking meetings into the Bannock and Caribou

County Jails and answering the District AA Hot Line.  
Thanks,

**Robert H., Grace**



# AA Events



## 1st ANNUAL The Steps Come Alive

*The Twelve-Step Workshop for Men and Women  
from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*

*Presented by*

**"PATTI O."**

from Laguna Niguel, CA

**June 2nd, 2007**

**Saturday 9:30 - 12:00 - 1:00 - 4:30**

Encouraging our Sister Program Al-Anon to participate in this workshop

Registration Fee: \$10.00 if postmarked on or before May 2, 2007; \$15.00 at the door.  
REGISTRATION will not be accepted without payment.

REFUNDS Are NOT AVAILABLE. If you have registered and are unable to attend,  
give or sell your registration to a friend.

Registration will begin at 9 am.	Pot Luck Breakfast	Lunch 12:00- 1 :00 (included in registration)
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Questions? Contact Cindy H.

Or e-mail us at: [stepsalive@hotmail.com](mailto:stepsalive@hotmail.com). Mail your check and registration form to:  
The Steps Come Alive PO Box 7134 Boise, Idaho 83707

Name:		Email Address:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Daytime Phone:		Evening Phone:	
Registration Fee: \$10.00 postmarked on or before May 2, 2007 \$15.00 after May 2, 2007			

# Gem State Roundup 2007

FRIDAY August 3, 2007

Golf tournament - River Birch Golf Course Shotgun

Registration Noon—10pm

Hospitality Room 3pm—10pm

Archives 2 pm—6 pm

Panel discussions/workshops

Kickoff Meeting 6:30—9pm

**Al-Anon Speaker: TBA**

**A.A. Speaker: Cliff R.**

(37 yrs) Oceanside, Ca.

**Comedian: Steve Smith**

(As seen on HBO, Comedy Central and MTV) 10pm

## SATURDAY, August 4

Registration 7am—7pm

Hospitality Room 7am—11pm

Archives 10 am—??

Panel discussions/workshops (AM)

Al-Anon Luncheon 11:30a.m.

**Speaker: Dawn C.** (48 yrs) Chicago, IL.

Panel discussions/workshops (PM)

A.A. Banquet/ Speaker Meeting 6:00pm

**AA Speaker: Tom I.** (50yrs) Pinehurst, N.C.

Raffle

**Dance w/ Rock'n Rooster 10pm — 1:30am**

## SUNDAY, August 5

Hospitality Room 8am—Noon

Archives

Spiritual Breakfast 9 am

Closing Meeting 10 am

**AA Speaker: Sandy H.** (23 yrs) Pocatello, Id

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_

zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email for confirmation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home

Group \_\_\_\_\_

AA \_\_\_\_\_ Al-Anon \_\_\_\_\_ Alateen \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Guest under 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration\* \$22.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required for meal purchase

Before July 1 for only \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship (help another) \_\_\_\_\_

Alateen or guest under 12 \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Al-Anon Luncheon \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet \$24.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Check one Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Special Diet \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Meal Deal (all 3 meals) \$49.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Comedy Night per person \$ 7.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dance per person \$ 7.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Couple \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirts \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Size \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee Mug \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Golf Tournament\*\* \$65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Limited to the first 60 registrants

Online Registration information: [www.gemstateroundup.org](http://www.gemstateroundup.org) and further information

**Make check payable to and mail form with check, money order or cc info to:**

Gem State Roundup

P.O. Box 44176

Boise, Idaho 83711-0176

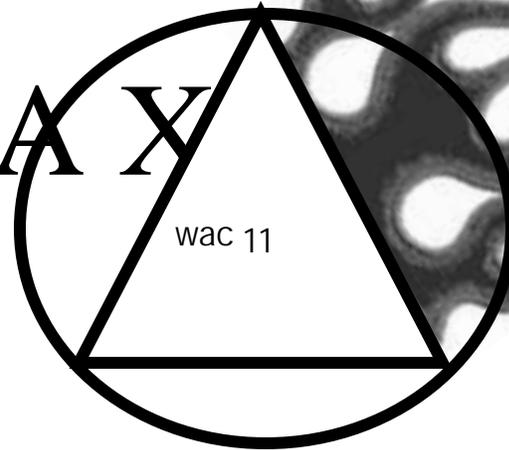
**For more information call:** Marge P. (208)466-2801 Karen F. (208)713-2150

Marlis (208)362-2008 or for Golf-Pat W. (208)830-5517

# WACYPAA XI

Boise, ID

January 18-20, 2008



Western Area Conference of Young People in AA

## Rocketed into a Fourth

**Dimension** Alcoholics Anonymous Pg. 25

### Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside

2900 Chinden Boulevard

Boise, Idaho, 83714

\$89.00 per night Single/Double/Quad

Tel: (208) 343-1871

1(800) 222-8733

### Contacts:

Chair/Casey

(208) 713 0302

Outreach/Robbie

(208) 919-4972

Registration/Shannon

(208) 841-4167

[www.wacypaa11.org](http://www.wacypaa11.org)

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## WACYPAA XI Pre-Registration Form

Pre-Registration \$20, \$25 at the door.

Please have your pre registration in  
the mail before December 31<sup>st</sup>

WACYPAA Registration

P.O. BOX 4231

Boise, Id

Name \_\_\_\_\_

83716

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I would like to be a WACYPAA Volunteer

[ ] I would like to help with Outreach

[ ] I would like to donate money for a newcomer to attend WACYPA \$\_\_\_\_\_

# UNITY DAY PICNIC

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2007**

**STOREY PARK—MERIDIAN, ID**

(Corner Main Street and Franklin Road – next to Meridian Speedway)

Fun for THE WHOLE FAMILY

11:00am 'til 9:00pm

GAMES

softball volleyball horseshoes swimming

AA Speakers To Be Announced

We Need Potluck Side Dishes (Salads, Desserts, etc.)  
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs Provided By Your Host Districts  
Beverages Will Be Available For Sale

Contacts For This Event are:

Margie P—466-2801

Sharon & Greg B—322-1948

# WACYPAA Presents

## A Night of Poker.

When: May 19th 2007  
7:00 PM

Where: The Red House  
200 Myrtle  
Boise, ID 83702

This is an all ages event.  
\$5.00 Unlimited buy-in for the first hour  
Elimination play after that.



## **The Whiskey Mikes Campout**

June 22-23-24

At the Big Springs Campgrounds Sponsored by the Lava Liberty  
Bell group of Lava Hot Springs

For more Info call Gary or Katherine at 776-5435

## **The Alred Campout**

July 13-14-15

At the Alred Campgrounds South of Afton Wyoming  
you can Ed for info 847-1685 or 221-0370

## **The Bear Lake Bash**

September 7-8-9

At the East Shore Campgrounds  
held on the shores of Bear Lake, South of Montpelier

There are nice hookups here and some have water and  
electric

For information Ed at 847-1685 or 221 0370

If you're having an event and would like it to be listed please send me a copy of your flyer via email [boisekaren@hotmail.com](mailto:boisekaren@hotmail.com)