

THE WAGON WHEEL

OCTOBER 2003

NEWSLETDITOR, SHIRLEY S.

Hello again. This is probably the last issue of the Wagon Wheel. Whoever the new chairperson appoints may change the name if he or she chooses to. There is nothing written in stone regarding the name or content of the newsletter. This is my last chance to get political. What are they going to do? Fire me!!

As you already know, this assembly is an election assembly. Every one who has ever been on the area committee is eligible to stand. The full-bodied assembly will choose our trusted servants for the next two years. Have you been thinking about who you think would be good in the elected positions? (Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer)

I would like to say thanks to all on the committee. It has been a joy to serve with you all. I could compliment everyone on the committee, but it would take up too much space. I have to give a special thanks to Tony who kept the meetings moving along and on the right track. He even managed at times to keep egos in check. Some one said in our district meeting, "Everyone should go to an area business meeting. It's proof that everyone isn't well yet." How true, how true!

Some proposed changes will be voted on. Does proposed mean a proposal, or a proposition? I want to be there. It's been so long since I've seen a proposition, I need to see what it's like! I'll pass on the proposal.

Thank you for your trust, and once in a while a good comment on this opportunity to serve Area 18. This has been a great committee. I'm proud to have served on it. Who knows what lies ahead. I may go back to being the most important member of AA, an alcoholic, a member of my terrific home group. SLS

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Group Contributions by District:

District	7/1-01-6/30/02	7/1/01-6/30/03
Dist 1	1,517.41	1,597.10
Dist 2	3,015.22	3,313.58
Dist 3	412.74	575.70
Dist 4	876.20	507.56
Dist 5	566.24	670.30
Dist 6	655.00	796.77
Dist 7	855.57	838.00
Dist 8	2,558.19	1,590.11
Dist 9	253.10	252.81
Dist 10	448.00	1,319.00

Jean, bless her heart, has been so kind to get me figures at the last minute every time I've called.

Finances this year are looking much better.

Contributions for 7/1/02 to 9/26/02 - \$1,179.01

Contributions for 7/1/03 to 9/26/02 - \$2,827.38

WAY TO GO!!! Let's keep it up. Our balance this year is \$4,449.68 above last year at this time.

One last time: If your treasurer is keeping more than your prudent reserve, get the funds sent in to District, Area, and GSO, Or get a new treasurer. Nuf said!

Addresses for 7th Tradition:

Dist Treas: Ask your DCM.

Area Treas-Box 2841, Hailey, ID 83333
(Until 1/01/04)

GSO - Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163

(Please be sure your group # is on your check or money order to receive proper credit.)

*When you're voting, watch for the
"circle flies"!*

LAST NIGHT'S MEETING

by Lowell N. Ashton, ID

During this morning's quiet time, I started wondering if I needed to go to last night's meeting? I'm over 13 years sober, have some serenity in my life, am active in district and area service work, have a wonderful family and a great job. All of this I know with certainty I owe to AA.

My wife made a promise to me early in sobriety, when I was doing what my sponsor said, and going to a meeting every day, that she saw the change in me and would never ask me to stay home from a meeting. But this morning, I started wondering - did I need to go to last night's meeting?

If I had not gone to that meeting, what would have happened? Would I have drank - probably not. Would I have lost some degree of serenity - probably not. Would I have quit doing service work - probably not. Would I have lost my family or my job - again, probably not. Then what would have happened if I had missed last night's meeting?

I would have missed Dianne; 3 weeks out of jail, newly sober and celebrating her 40th belly button birthday with a call from her mother. I would have missed Wade and Les, driving 170 miles to the meeting because they had not been there for awhile. I would have missed Jim talk about relapsing after 28 years, starting with not going to meetings. I would have missed Joe and I.P. Bill realize the promise of loosing "the fear of economic insecurity". I would have missed Bill share how he was able to hand make gifts for his grandchildren, something that they will always have to remember him by. I would have missed John sharing 45 years of sobriety, a day at a time.

But, I have learned that I only have today. I can't live in yesterday, nor can I

worry about tomorrow. God has given this day as a gift to me. What I do with it is my gift to Him.

So I think I'll go to tonight's meeting. Maybe I'll hear West Bill share about the love of his kids. Maybe I'll hear Marty and Patty share about their three years in recovery that started with AA being brought into prison. Maybe I'll hear Steve, with his old Big Book, share about the wonders of a God of his understanding. Maybe I'll finally hear that new woman share for the very first time and I certainly don't want to miss that! Maybe I'll hear you.

But I'll be able to stay sober on more day listening to experience, strength and hope being shared; because that's what happened when I went to last night's meeting!

MY UNCLE WILLY WAS ARRESTED FOR SELLING HOME-STILLED WHISKEY. HIS LAWYER PUT HIM ON THE STAND AND ASKED THE JURORS TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT HIS CLIENT. "NOW LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY," CONCLUDED THE LAWYER, "YOU'VE LOOKED CAREFULLY AT THE DEFENDENT. CAN YOU SIT THERE IN THE JURY AND HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT IF MY CLIENT HAD A QUART OF WHISKEY HE WOULD SELL IT?" HE WAS ACQUITTED.

A CONTINUOUS LOOK AT OUR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, AND A REAL DESIRE TO LEARN AND GROW BY THIS MEANS, ARE NECESSITIES FOR US. WE ALCOHOLICS HAVE LEARNED THIS THE HARD WAY. MORE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE, OF COURSE, IN ALL TIMES AND PLACES HAVE PRACTICED UNSPARING SELF-SURVEY AND CRITICISM. FOR THE WISE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT NO ONE CAN MAKE MUCH OF HIS LIFE UNTIL SELF-SEARCHING BECOMES A REGULAR HABIT, UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO ADMIT AND ACCEPT WHAT HE FINDS, AND UNTIL HE PATIENTLY AND PERSISTENTLY TRIES TO CORRECT WHAT IS WRONG.



Madam Ez says service work will keep you sober. Get involved, and give back to others what has been given to you. Pass it on. Everything looks impossible to someone who never tries anything.

October 2003

Oct 3-5 Area 18 Assembly in Burley - Election Assembly

Oct 10-12 - Men's Second Annual Retreat - McCall

For more info - Chris 634-0533 or Rob 634-9570

Oct 17-19 - 5th Woman to Woman

*For more info - Robbin - 463-0616
Anne - 880-4461 or Traci - 841-8001*

2004

Jan 11, - Area 18 Business Meeting with new Area Committee

March 21 - Area Business meeting - Twin Falls

April 30, to May 2, 2004

*Spring assembly - Ramada Inn Chubbuck (Pocatello), ID
Hosted by District 1*

A farmer got pulled over by a state trooper for speeding, and the trooper started to lecture the farmer about his speed, and in general began to throw his weight around to try to make the farmer uncomfortable. Finally, the trooper got around to writing out the ticket, and as he was doing that he kept swatting at some flies that were buzzing around his head. The farmer said, "Having some trouble with circle flies there, are ya?" The trooper stopped writing the ticket and said "Yeah--if that's what they are --I never heard of circle flies." So the farmer says --"Well, circle flies are common on farms. See, they're called circle flies because they're almost always found circling the back end of a horse." The trooper says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. Then after a minute he stops and says, "Hey, wait a minute, are you trying to call me a horses ass?" The farmer says, "Oh no, officer. I have too much respect for law enforcement and police officers to even think about calling you a horse's ass." The trooper said, "Well it's a good thing." and goes back to writing the ticket. After a long pause, the farmer says, "Hard to fool them flies though."

%%%%%%%%%

I wanted to talk of humility, but I was afraid I wouldn't have a big enough audience.

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Summary of Conference Procedures

Generally speaking, we follow *Robert's Rules of Order*, and proceed on as informal a basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. However, over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to *Robert's Rules*, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the Traditions.

It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience.

Conference Quorum

A Conference quorum—two-thirds of all registered members—is required to conduct Conference business.

Committee System

To the extent possible, important matters to come before the Conference will be handled via the "Committee system." This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during Conference week. Each Committee considers carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection.

The final order of Conference business will be consideration of any floor actions that have been submitted in writing. All floor actions will be heard unless there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider a proposed floor action, which is not debatable and will require a two-thirds vote to carry.

General Rules of Debate

(agreed to at the beginning of each Conference)

- People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and are called on in order.
- Each person may speak for two (2) minutes.
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.
- Voting is by show of hands.

Calling the Question

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate. A motion to call the question:

- Must be made in order at the microphone.
- Requires a second.
- Is not debatable.
- Requires a two-thirds vote.

Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, a two-thirds majority. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a two-thirds majority.

Because the number of members present in the hall during the week of Conference varies from time to time, the phrase "two-thirds vote" is taken to mean two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, as long as the total vote constitutes a Conference quorum.



Reconsideration

After voting on a matter of policy, the losing side will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. A motion to Reconsider a vote must be made by a member who voted with the winning side, but it can be seconded by anyone. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of a two-thirds vote, the majority may speak to their position, and the motion to Reconsider must be made by someone who voted against the motion—in this case, someone who voted against the motion would be on the prevailing side.

- Only a simple majority is required.
- No action may be reconsidered twice.
- If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and con, is resumed. (Conference members are urged to limit discussion to new considerations of the question under debate.)

Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion (postponing discussion to a later time during the same Conference):

- Requires a motion and a second.
- Is not debatable.
- Needs only a simple majority to pass.

Tips, Hints, and Words of Caution

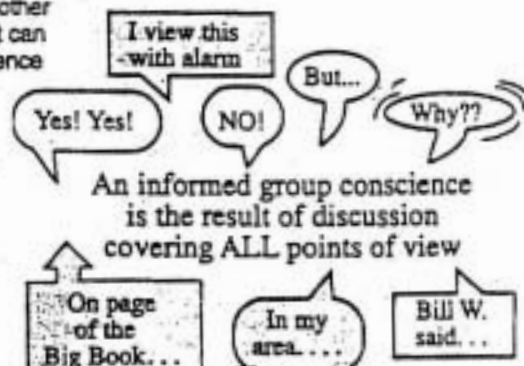
Full discussion of a recommendation should take place before the vote. Premature actions (e.g., amending motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question) can divert attention from the subject at hand, thus confusing and/or delaying Conference business.

Everyone is entitled to, and should, express his or her opinion. However, if your perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mike and say it again.

Remember, too, that saving "minority opinions" for after the vote, when there is

no rebuttal, is another time-waster, for it can force the Conference

body to reconsider a question that might well have been decided the first time around if it had been thoroughly examined from all sides.



My Story - Shirley S.

Where do I begin? We've probably all asked ourselves the same question. I was the sixth and last child born into a religious family. There were four boys, then my sister, then me. I joke that she was spoiled because she was the first girl, and I was spoiled because I was the last born. She jokes I kicked her out of the crib and have been getting my way ever since. There is truth in that statement! We have a very loving relationship. No matter how low I got, she always loved me unconditionally. I have learned now, that my whole family did. I just didn't feel worthy of their love in my drinking years. I interpreted their sadness for disapproval.

There was always that "lesser than" feeling in me. I needed to be prettier, funnier, braver, and more loved. Most of my friends had started drinking earlier and I was the designated driver, long before it was fashionable. In my senior year, I chose to take that first drink. I visited some friends in another town where no one knew me. Had a couple of beers (I think, maybe it was Sloe Gin) and I was funny, pretty, brave enough to dance, and everyone loved me. What a feeling! There's something in this crazy mind that makes me feel I always have to catch up with others. It's fine if you're in a footrace. I was in a self-imagined contest to have as many drinks as my friends had enjoyed. Well, it wasn't long before I passed them and didn't even know it.

I went off to college in Twin Falls, worked and went to school. As I think back on those years, the one thought that comes to mind is "I don't remember". I remember the beginnings of lots of parties, but never the middle or ending. I was a black-out drinker early on and thought it was normal. Some where along the line I realized it was too embarrassing to ask what happened and hoped (?) someone would tell me. It wasn't always good news.

After three years in Twin Falls, most of my friends were moving to Boise, so I followed them. Somewhat of a geographic obviously. Twin Falls had not been good to me. My heart had been broken and of course, I had embarrassed myself by some very bad choices. Somehow, my pants were always connected to my wrist. After quite a few twitches of the wrist taking drinks, my pants fell off.

Boise was fun for about three years! I should have gotten a DUI so many times while living there. Of course, I had my favorite bar and spent lots of time there.

When I turned 21, my roommate wrote me a letter telling me "the road of life is not paved with bars". She was not a drinking buddy, she was and still is a very special friend. Every once in a while I read that letter & marvel at her wisdom, (and my lack of it).

After three years, I moved to Reno. Wow, 24-hour drinking. What a concept. It doesn't take long to find that favorite bar to make new friends in. After being in Reno three years, I made another big change. I met a truck driver that delivered produce to where I worked. Three weeks after our first date, I TOLD HIM we were getting married. It took about three months to be able to get married. He had to get divorced first. I was his eighth wife, so I'd go around singing "I'm Shirley the eighth I am, Shirley the eighth I am, I am (Old Herman Hermit's song!) He never really did like that! I pretty much quit drinking while I was married. We had a beautiful daughter together. We moved back to my home town. The old urges started to surface. I had always liked to dance, and really wanted to dance. He

wanted no part of it. I started feeling sorry for myself, (imagine that). He drove truck so was gone a lot of time. Being bored, lonesome & wanting to drink is not a good combination for staying married. We divorced after 7 1/2 years. My daughter was five and her life really changed. I didn't even think about what I would do for work. I knew I would get by. I always had. I started bartending. I was wise enough to know I was always going to be in the bar, so I might as well be working there. That was fun for about 5 years. That is when the pain-wrist connection really became noticeable and a problem. I remember trying to count the number of drinks it took me until I wouldn't remember anymore. It never worked. Obviously, drinking was becoming more problem than fun. I would abstain for a while and tell myself there was no problem. Inside I knew better, but it is so easy to still that small voice inside.

When I was in the fifth grade, I told my teacher I wanted to be a lawyer, a ballerina, or a lady wrestler. Becoming an alcoholic was never part of my plan. Along with becoming an alcoholic, I came closer to being a lady wrestler than anything, but that is a whole other story.

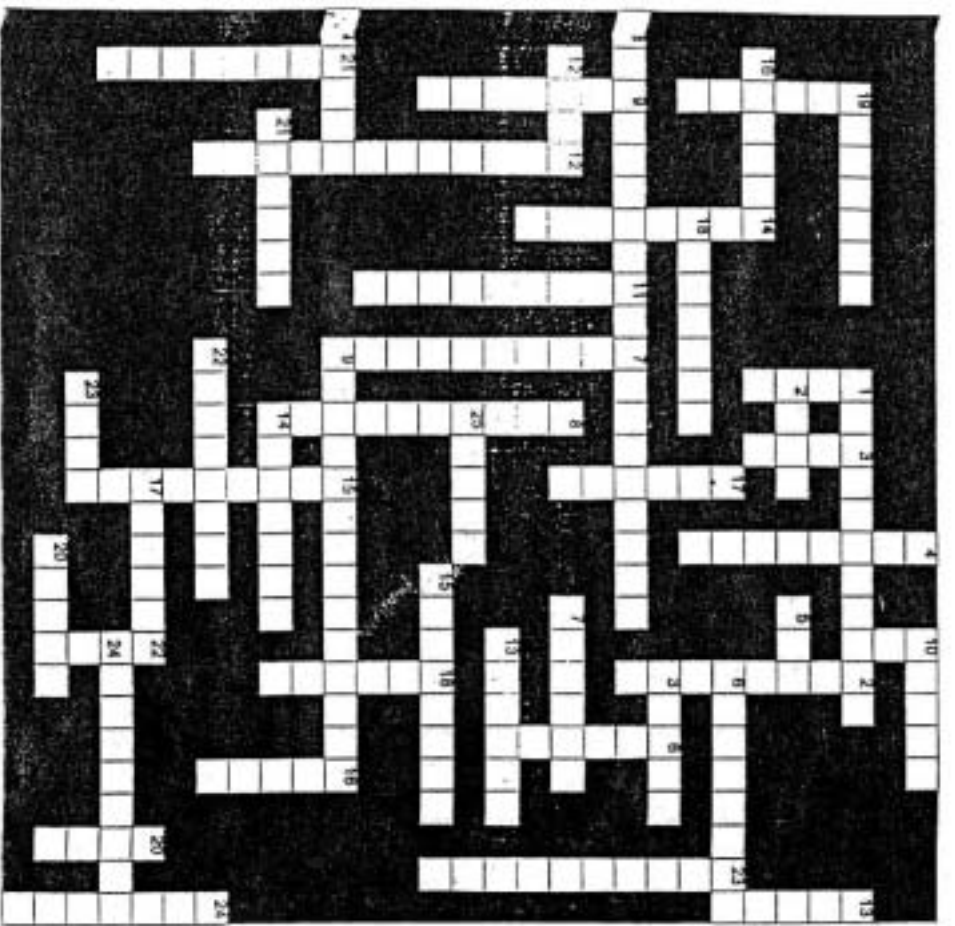
New Year's eve of 1989, I took the bus to Spokane to spend it with the current boyfriend. I had to catch the bus at 9:00 am to come back home. What an idiot. I grabbed a beer, to drink on the bus and ended up sitting by a recovering alcoholic. I didn't drink the beer, instead talked to him about recovery. He was in his first year and was moving to Chicago even though he was advised not to make any big changes. He was nice, I wished HIM luck as we parted ways. I actually didn't drink for a few months. He had nourished a seed that had been planted long ago. But I still hadn't had my last drunk, drink, whichever. I don't remember what got me going again that year. Heck, it could have been watering the lawn.

That summer I started seeing some one who had an ex-wife and was trying to get back with her, but he still spent time with me (Secretly, of course). One Sunday morning he drove by my house, and there was a different pickup in my drive way. He called later and was very hurt. This was after he'd gotten back with his ex! I couldn't bear the thought of hurting him. I was sick, hungover of course, and sick that I had hurt this person that by now was back living with his ex-wife. That day October 29, 1990, I looked at a reflection in a kitchen appliance and said, "Shirley, you're an alcoholic and you have got to do something." The following Tuesday I went to my first AA meeting.

About six months later, he (the guy that was with his wife) did something that made me want to drink. I didn't drink. At that time I realized I had to NOT drink for ME, not anyone else. Not even my beautiful daughter whose life had been influenced so much by my misbehavior. Everyone benefited by my putting AA first in my life.

I have been able to go back to the church of my youth and now feel like I belong. I also belong in AA. What a wonderful feeling it is to belong. I now own a home, a decent car and work steadily at two jobs. I can see my family's love when I see them. My daughter is married now, went through her own bout with drinking, and now has a beautiful daughter. Thanks to AA, my darling granddaughter never has to see her mommy or her grandma drunk. What a blessing! My Higher Power is God, and I am so thankful for the second chance I've been given by God and by you. Thank you all for my sobriety.

Shirley S.



DOWN

- 1 Hungry, angry, lonely, tired
- 2 Step seeking through prayer & meditation
- 3 _____ thanks
- 4 Peace
- 5 Twelve of them
- 6 What we ask God to do with our defects of character
- 7 The Fourth Tradition says each group should be this
- 8 Above personalities- 12th Tradition
- 9 More than we think we have
- 10 Honesty, open-ness, willingness
- 11 _____ contact with God
- 12 Premeditated resentment

ACROSS

- 1 Greater than us
- 2 The more you give, the more you get
- 3 Step where we make a decision
- 4 Tradition addressing our common welfare
- 5 Step admitting our powerlessness
- 6 The tradition stating our public relations policy
- 7 For friends & families of alcoholics
- 8 A program for recovering alcoholics
- 9 Declining outside contributions
- 10 A funny tool
- 12 Experience, strength & _____
- 13 What we need to be with God, ourselves & others
- 14 Tearing flesh
- 15 Are these extravagant, _____ ? We think no
- 16 Inventory Step
- 17 Don't Even know I am lying to myself
- 18 Why do I do what I do?
- 19 As sick as our
- 20 Tense feeling that can destroy
- 21 Happy, _____ and Free
- 22 Guides for Service
- 23 False evidence appearing real
- 24 Keeping people at a distance
- 25 Step cleaning up the wreckage of our past

- 13 Step admitting we were wrong
- 14 To be humble is to have _____
- 15 Letting it go
- 16 Harsh self-criticism
- 17 Talking to God
- 18 One who lives in Self Pity
- 19 Came to Believe
- 20 Turned it over in the 3rd Step
- 21 In to me see
- 22 _____ and let _____
- 23 Our unity depends upon our adherence to these
- 24 Step Guide

9
D
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B