

# **The Wagon Wheel Idaho Area 18 Newsletter**

**January 2021**

Editor, Margie P.



**"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"**

**Lao Tzu**

Note from the Editor:

Hello fellow Alcoholics. Thank God it is 2021 and the metaphorical “New beginning”. The beginning of the year calls for looking at where we are going and the steps we need to take to get there.

It is really so bittersweet, as I am looking forward to everything the new year holds, but saddened by what the past year gave and took from us. We lost several AA members here in Idaho Area 18 from Covid-19 in 2020 and one in particular has left many of us shocked and saddened. The one I am referring to is Past Idaho Area 18, Panel 62 Delegate, Brian M.

Brian sent an article to me in the beginning of March 2020 and I took some shortcuts to include it into the print version. But, as the pandemic took over, we as an area decided to not print the Wagon Wheel in paper form as we were not meeting in person and there was no way to distribute it. I could have fixed it when sending out the electronic version, but honestly, I just didn't think about it. After it went out, Brian sent me an email calling me out a little on my laziness. He did it in Brian M. fashion, with a little frankness and a gentle talking to. I would like to share his email to me with all of you.

*Hi, Margie.*

*Thanks for publishing my article. For your first try at assembling the newsletter you did a really good job.*

*Upon viewing the newsletter I noticed that you had removed most of my paragraph breaks. Because those breaks represent a transition in thought they are important to retain. Another reason I write in shorter paragraphs is for readability's sake. It's more enticing and easier to read.*

*I suspect there might have been a space issue publishing my article with the paragraph breaks as I had them. If so let me know next time I submit and I will either reduce content (if possible without altering meaning), or I will request that my submission be published in a subsequent edition. There is one more article I've been working on and am looking forward to sending it to you when it's done.*

*With Covid-19 running rampant I hope that you, Ken and your family remain safe and healthy. For me this is raising hell with my meeting attendance, which has been zero due to the social distancing guidance. But I know I along with other AAers (like you and Ken) can manage through this latest challenge using the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

*Thanks for your service.*

*Love and regards,*

*Brian*

I want to dedicate this issue to Brian. He has meant a great deal in my recovery and the lives of so many others. Brian had a way of keeping calm when things got tense in many situations. He taught me what it meant to be dedicated and give my all in service to others.

So, here's to you Brian. I am publishing your article with the proper paragraph breaks.

We will all miss you immensely.

Margie P.  
Idaho Area 18 A.A.  
Newsletter Editor

# Weaponizing A Tool of the Group Conscience

Brian M.

Coffee Break

Group Idaho Falls

Past Delegate

Panel 62

To me the Minority Opinion and Third Legacy Voting procedures really stand out. I have never seen anything like them used in either my professional life or my personal life, which includes membership in other voluntary organizations. If they are used elsewhere I am simply not aware of it.

But one tool that I find disturbing ONLY in its misuse is that of “calling for the question.” This is a motion in parliamentary procedure that when made is non-debatable, requires a second, takes precedence over all current discussions and must be voted upon immediately. This motion is intended to terminate further discussion/debate on a motion presently on the floor. When made it initiates action for an immediate vote when the discussion surrounding a motion on the floor has started to become repetitive and redundant. Obviously, its value shines in these scenarios.

I have occasionally witnessed prematurely calling for the question as a weapon to cut off discussion of a motion due to member impatience or not wanting a more comprehensive conversation on a motion. Thus, we who partake in this practice relegate ourselves to “contempt prior to investigation.”

This writing is not a general condemnation of this viable and worthwhile procedure found in Roberts Rules of Order. I am only troubled when this tool is improperly used thus stifling or preventing the voting members from having the opportunity to develop a fully informed decision.

We must also remember that the motion maker is not entirely responsible for starting a procedure that prevents other members from articulating their points. The voting body is equally responsible, for it votes on the passage or defeat of this motion. When the involved members vote prematurely to end the discussion, they too are responsible for this error in judgement and action.

My hope is that the Groups, District, Area and the GSC are mindful of not weaponizing this meeting procedure but instead take the necessary time to sufficiently (and sometimes painstakingly) discuss issues before calling for the question and subsequently voting in favor of it. I also hope that all AA servant leaders take the time within their respective service structures to share with their members the responsible and judicious use of such a valuable but powerful tool. Finally, I would hope the Area Chairs (now and future ones) take the time to explain to future Assemblies the weighty responsibilities that are involved when invoking this procedure.

Brian M.

*In Memory, Brian M, age 71, passed away from COVID-19 on December 13, 2020, at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho.*





## **A.A.'s 12 Concepts and You!**

**by Brenda M.**

**When I walked into the rooms of A.A. all I wanted was to learn how NOT TO DRINK, that is all. With the help of a sponsor and attending meetings and working the steps, I did just that, and what a gift. Many, many, many people are satisfied with that... attending meetings to maintain their sobriety and share their experience, strength and hope with the newcomers, with that being the extent of working the program. To them, service at the group level is "carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers," and that is all that is needed. So many, many people do not know that there is a book called, "The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the 12 Concepts for World Service". The sentiment is: "Eh, I don't need that. I'm not interested in serving 'The World' of A.A., I will never be a DCM or Delegate or Trustee. There is no need. I just want to stay here, at my home group and make sure we have a place for newcomers." Some groups choose this and do not even follow the Service Manual or the**

**Concepts to the point of not appointing a GSR to be involved at District level or assemblies. When a group chooses this route, it is considered a "Dark" group - not a part of A.A. as a whole. Yes, they are serving newcomers - yet are missing so, so much by not being active with General Service. This is detrimental to A.A. as a whole because the group members do not know that their voices are important - that once they get sober - their voices are NEEDED at The General Service Conference level where decisions are being made for the good of all of Alcoholics Anonymous, world-wide... to be here for the alcoholic still not born yet. Yes, every alcoholic is a member A.A., who says they are, who has a desire to stop drinking, and each single voice is needed. Some members never know this because they either do not belong to a group that has a GSR to inform them of this, or because they simply choose to "stay out of politics", and do not attend group business meetings. The only way group members hear of the 12 Concepts is through an educated and active GSR.**

**Why are the 12 Concepts important, especially to A.A. Home Groups? Because the Steps are for your Recovery, the Traditions are for Unity, and the 12 Concepts are for Service = Recovery, Unity, Service (what we find on A.A. coins)! Because in sobriety, at a meeting, a lot is required to provide the meeting space behind the scenes - the meeting exists because at one time, one person decided to "start a meeting". To keep a meeting going requires effort and action... Rent needs to be paid for a space, furniture is needed, newcomer packets, A.A. Literature and Anniversary coins are needed, etc. So how does this happen? Through working the 12 Concepts of A.A., through using the A.A. Service Manual as a guide to serving the newcomers and oldtimers! The 12 Concepts provide consistency for A.A. rooms all around the world. An example of how this applies to you is - let's say you attend a business meeting and**

let's say it is online, on the Zoom platform. If someone makes a motion during the meeting, and a vote is taken without presenting all the information and evidence to be taken into account on the subject, this is not in keeping with Concept #4, "The Right of Participation" and you are allowed to voice this and ask that all information, all views, all evidence and facts be reviewed before a vote, in order to have an accurate "Group Conscience", otherwise the vote is simply the result of a hasty decision, and perhaps one person's view. To go even further, let's say you're in the Zoom meeting and you begin to express this... calling for All information to be presented, and then the meeting Chair presses the "Mute" button on you so nobody can hear what you have to say (yes this does occur), this is not right. However, since you are muted all you can do is wave your hands on the screen and mouth the words, "Right of Participation". If the Chair continues to keep you muted and the vote is taken without your voice, again the group is not in keeping with Concept #4. Every A.A. member has a voice. Finally, let's say the vote is taken, and the Chair nor anybody in the group asks who is opposed. This is very, very important. This is about Concept #5: The Right of Appeal. By not listening with an open mind to a minority opinion, the Chair and the group has now entered into "Rogue Mode", muting a voting member, not allowing them to speak and participate in the vote is NOT listening to all views and does not represent a true Group Conscience, and is not allowing God to work through the voices of the group. There have been instances at the General Service Conference in New York when the vote was taken, passed, yet the chair called on the Minority Opinion to share, and that one Minority Opinion changes the whole vote in the other direction. Hopefully, being "muted" in a business meeting will never happen to you, but if it does, just know that the group is not following the 12 concepts, and you may want to start asking



questions, or find another group that knows what a true "Group Conscience" is. The action of a Chair pressing the mute button on a voting member is a form of "unqualified authority over others", and has no place in a group working together for the good of A.A. as a whole.

Yes, Concepts 4 and 5, "Right of Participation" and "Right of Appeal" (listening to the Minority Opinion) are pillars to A.A. General Service work. With that Minority Opinion, One voice, One quiet voice who shares why they are not in favor of a vote may provide that one little kernel of truth that everyone overlooked, or forgot, and shed light on the topic that nobody else considered! When this happens, God is at work in our Group Conscience. Now, a lot of times the minority opinion does not change anything, but it is important that every voice is heard and that ALL Information is presented because this gives the minority opinion a reason to easily accept the final decision - because their voice was heard. This is true Love, Tolerance, and Trust in a Higher Power.

**"The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action." -Concept XII**

**Brenda M.**

## **Big Book & A.A. History Quiz**

- 1. What is the name of the chapter that contains a list of the 12 steps?**
- 2 What is the name of the guy that came into Bill's kitchen and talked with him about a solution he had found?**
- 3 Who's opinion is given in the beginning of the Big Book?**
- 4 What is the only chapter not written by Bill W?**
- 5 Dr. Bob was a real doctor. What was his area of practice?**
- 6 On the first page of Bill's Story, a Hampshire Grenadier is mentioned. How did he catch his death?**
- 7 Did Bill Wilson's wife write the chapter "To the Wives"?**
- 8 What was the name of Bill Wilson's wife?**
- 9 How many pages are in the Big Book, not counting the stories or appendices?**
- 10 In what town did Bill W. visit on business and meet Dr. Bob?**
- 11 What is the name of the doctor who wrote the "Doctor's Opinion"?**
- 12 What was the name of the group that Bill W. was a member of before he formed A.A. with Dr. Bob?**

## **Answer Key**

- 1. How It Works**
- 2. Ebby Thatcher**
- 3. The Doctor**
- 4. "To Employers"**
- 5. Proctology**
- 6. "drinking cold small beer"**
- 7. No**
- 8. Lois**
- 9. 164**
- 10. Akron, Ohio**
- 11. William Silkworth**
- 12. Oxford Group**



Send Stories to : [newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org](mailto:newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org)

## Upcoming Events

Because of the COVID-19 Virus, Please Check Area Website to Make Sure the Event is not cancelled

# 2021

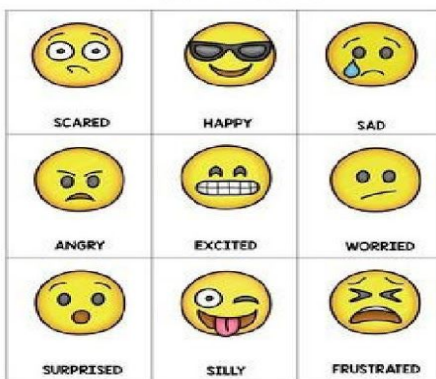


Yikes! What is that? A feeling? Oh No!  
Emotions? Oh No! Sober? Hmm...

DISTRICT 8 PRESENTS  
A ZOOM ONLINE WORKSHOP  
Saturday, February 13th:  
2pm to 5pm

WHEN CHOCOLATE DOESN'T WORK ANYMORE:  
DEALING WITH EMOTIONS IN SOBRIETY!

### FEELINGS CHART



2—3 p.m.

Panel One

3—4 p.m.

Women's Heart Group

Panel Two

4—5 p.m.

Lunch Bunch Group

Panel Three

Journey of the Heart  
Group

Zoom Meeting ID:

819 6698 5728

Password:

SoberOne!



"We will KNOW  
A new FREEDOM  
And a new  
HAPPINESS!"

-a 9th Step Promise

# NERAASA

February 26, 27 & 28, 2021

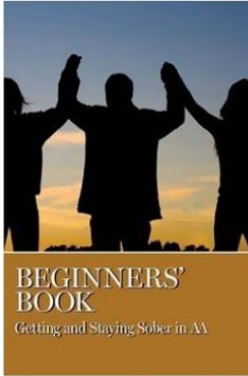
It's a Virtual good time!

If you wish to register by postal mail, pay by check and/or register multiple attendees, please let us know by emailing [info@neraasa.org](mailto:info@neraasa.org). Mail-in registrations need to be received no later than 1/30/21.

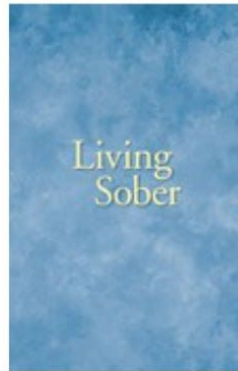
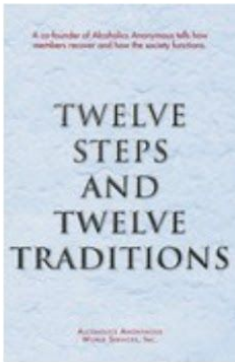
Welcome to 2021 NERAASA Registration! For the best experience it's suggested that you use either a laptop or desktop and have the latest version of Zoom installed. <https://www.neraasa.org/register/>

The banner features a dark blue header with the text "NERAASA 2021" in white and "It's a virtual thing!" in a smaller white font. Below the header is a green-bordered box containing an illustration of a hand holding a green banknote with a portrait of a man and the number "21". To the right of the illustration is an orange box with the text "INVEST IN YOURSELF! Attend the 2021 VIRTUAL NERAASA". At the bottom of the green box is a blue bar with the website "WWW.NERAASA.ORG" and "Questions? info@neraasa.org". A small text box at the bottom right of the orange box reads: "To be a self-supporting NERAASA, a modest registration fee is necessary to pay the expenses to produce a large three-day A.A. virtual service assembly."

Register here <https://www.neraasa.org/register/>



**CARRY THE MESSAGE—  
LITERATURE EVENT FOR  
ALL OF AREA 18**



Sponsored by TVICO

**Monthly events—4th Tuesday of the  
month at 6:30PM via ZOOM.**

**ZOOM Meeting ID 834 4239 4760  
Password 164**

Themed meetings ideal for:

- Those wanting to start literature centric meetings,
- Literature Reps to find out what 's new and what's in many of the AA publications,
- Anyone wanting to get more from their sobriety in service to others and Carry the Message



## **Macks Creek Campout Lucky Peak Reservoir**

**\*\*\*\*JUNE 11-13th\*\*\*\***

**Begins at noon on the 11<sup>th</sup> and  
ends at noon on the 13th**



**THIS IS A MIDTOWN GROUP SPONSORED EVENT, PROCEEDS WILL BE SPLIT TO GENERAL  
SERVICE COMMITTEES**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **RV CAMPING MUST RESERVE AND PAY IN ADVANCE**

- **First come, first serve for camping spots. *\$10 Suggested Donation for camping however any amount would be welcome.***
- **Come for the weekend or come for the day or evening**
- **Boat ramp and docks available, boats and water toys are welcome!**

**If you have questions, please call Lisa P. at (208) 577-0303 or Mark S. at (208) 559-5891.**



#### **DIRECTIONS**

**Macks Creek Campground and Picnic Area are located on Forest Service Road 268/Arrowrock Road just 4.5 miles from Highway 21. The campground is above the road with the picnic area/docks below against Lucky Peak Lake.**

**18 miles north on Highway 21 from Boise.  
Turn right onto Road #268/Arrowrock Road for 4.5 miles.**



**TVICO – Monthly Carry the Message – Literature Event**  
**4th Tuesday of the month – Tuesday, January 26, 2021 / 6:30 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 834 4239 4760 Password: 164**

**District 8 – When Chocolate Doesn't Work Anymore**  
**Saturday, February 13, 2021 / 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 819 6698 5728 Password: SoberOne!**

**PRAASA 2021 [Virtual]**  
**Friday, March 5, 2021 – Sunday, March 7, 2021**  
**Registration: [www.PRAASA.org](http://www.PRAASA.org) \$15.00 Registration Fee**

**2021 Pre-conference Workshop**  
**Saturday, March 20, 2021 / 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting – Meeting ID and Passcode Coming Soon**

**2021 Spring Assembly [Virtual] – Roundtable Meetings**  
**Friday, May 7, 2021 / 7:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting – Meeting ID and Passcode Coming Soon**

**2021 Spring Assembly [Virtual] – Business Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 8, 2021 / 10:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting – Meeting ID and Passcode Coming Soon**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Mack's Creek Campout**  
**Begins at Noon on Friday, June 11, 2021**  
**Ends at Noon on Sunday, June 13, 2021**



**See You in March 2021!**