

The Wagon Wheel **Idaho Area 18 Newsletter**

March 2021



Editor, Margie P.

Hello Idaho Area 18 A.A. and beyond readers! I thought I would give you all a break from reading what I think and bring you some thoughts from the committee. We will start with our Delegate in this issue. Thanks for taking this ride with me!

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



Some thoughts from your Idaho Area 18 Delegate Thad N.

The Practice of substantial unanimity and our common welfare

Substantial unanimity, and the striving for it, are concepts we often hear about in Alcoholics Anonymous, and one that relates directly to our Traditions first tradition, “Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends on AA unity”. The word unanimity (noun) is typically defined as “agreement by all people involved; Consensus.” In the context of alcoholics anonymous, at any level of our service structure this, in action, is represented by two thirds, or more, majority on any action. What makes this type of decision making possible is communications among the member of the decision-making body, in other words, talking to and communicating with, each other. One of the great attributes of this type of decision making is that, even in the rare circumstance when a bad decision is made, there is little or no finger pointing or “I told you so’s”, we learn from our experience and move one with a new decision. with a high degree of unity. This idea also goes beyond voting on a particular action, it also speaks to the formulation of the “informed group conscience”, or If you like, group consensus.

As we start to see signs of recovery from the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, with vaccines more widely available and warmer weather on its way,

I cannot help but look forward to spending time with my fellows in larger and larger groups. One of the decisions we as an Area have the opportunity to wrestle with is whether or not to have an in person Fall Assembly. A lot of variables and questions arise in my mind regard to our upcoming Fall Assembly, should it be in person, virtual or hybrid? The State of Idaho may allow us meet in the numbers needed to have an in-person Assembly and Convention, but just because this may be allowed by late summer, does not necessarily mean that this is the best decision.

Over much of the last year the questions with regard to COVID-19, of meeting in person or not, social distancing, masks or no masks, have become quite divisive both in Alcoholics Anonymous and the public at larger. With numbers of COVID cases in our state declining and vaccines becoming increasingly available, the answers to these questions tend to be a moving target, and more will continue to be revealed. As we go forward, my hope is that we as a fellowship in Idaho Area 18 talk about this in our groups and districts and provide our group consciences to our trusted servants Assembly planning committee members with an eye to what is the most inclusive path forward, and then trust our trusted servants to act on our behalf. If we continue to practice our principles contained in our Traditions, Concepts and Warrantees, and continue to strive toward the goal of substantial unanimity, I have faith that even in the event of a poor decision, it will still be the right one. How we treat each other is more important than what we get done

In love and Service

Thad N. Delegate, Idaho Area 18



How to conduct a discussion

See 'Sharing Sessions' S40 in 'AA Service Manual'.

- Have a chairman and timekeeper
- Have a note taker
- Contributions time limited - one to two minutes
- Can only speak once until everyone who wishes to has spoken
- Chairman ensures everyone is asked if they want to speak
- Concept XII - continue discussions until substantial unanimity is reached - never less than two thirds majority for major decisions except in emergencies.



Christmas in April in Alcoholics Anonymous

By Brenda M.

"It's the most wonderful time of the year.." Isn't that a Christmas song? Ha! It is like Christmas, for it's so exciting... this time of the Annual AA General Service Conference! For gifts, we got (as we do each year) a 1,000+ page document of agenda items and their backgrounds! Woo hoo! This is so big it needs a dropbox file all of its own! Sigh. What does all this mean and what does it have to do with our primary purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics achieve sobriety? Well, EVERYTHING, of course!

Before Bill W. left his body, he wanted to ensure that the program that developed as a result of his and Dr. Bob's actions, would continue for the future. How could this business keep going after they were gone? Simple. Create a General Service Conference (GSC) to be the guardians of the traditions and to be the voice of the group conscience of our AA fellowship as a whole. This would keep A.A. functioning on a permanent basis for hopefully, the eternal future. The General Service Conference consists of: Area Delegates, the directors and A.A. staff of A.A. World Services, Incl, and A.A. Grapevine Inc., and the trustees. The GSC operates all year round, however once a year - the Conference gathers for a meeting (usually in New York City) to review and take any needed actions to help groups "Carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers". This year, 2021, will be the 2nd consecutive year that the conference will meet virtually, online, April 18 - 24.

Right now, this moment is so exciting because from now until the day/time our Delegate, Thad N. logs into the Zoom Room of the Conference, each and every member of A.A. can let their voices be heard on any or all of the conference agenda items! This is it folks! All across the A.A. fellowship in the United States and Canada, Areas are having Pre-Conference Workshops sometimes for a day, a weekend, or even 3 weekends... where the agenda items are reviewed, and the conscience of Districts and groups are presented! Individual A.A. members are even free to contact their Delegate directly to voice their ideas and thoughts on agenda items. This is all about demonstrating Concept IV, "The Right of Participation", and KNOWING, FEELING, without a fathom of a doubt, that we,

the members of A.A., we are the owners of this business, we are small (or big) business owners! We behave as Trusted Servants - trusted to serve our fellowship by conforming to the 12 steps, 12 traditions, and 12 concepts of world service. What walking miracles we are! Each one of us has our stories of drinking ourselves into oblivion, of behaving in ways that we are not proud of when we were practicing drunks. Now, 300 of us, may gather at an Area Assembly, sit together in the same room, and somehow, in a day, we conduct business, make decisions, and are productive in helping this business keep it's lights on! How does that happen? It happens at Area Assemblies and imagine the process at a national General Service Conference! It must be amazing to experience! The idea of a bunch of drunks actually coming together and being productive members of society! Wow! Yes, there are those who simply attend local A.A. meetings and wish not to be involved in "politics", work with newcomers, and not be involved in General Service at all. Many of us sponsor others to give to them what was given to us on a one-to-one basis, and that is enough. Then there are those who for some reason or another see the BIG PICTURE - our connection to A.A. as a whole - and how important each one of us is in the running of this business... how important our voices are... and the next few weeks is the time to let our voices be heard!

There will be some major agenda items being discussed at this year's GSC, one of them is: "Consider a request to revise the first 164 pages of the Big Book". (This could include changing the existing pronouns to gender-neutral pronouns!) Yikes! That would be a big change! So, tell our Delegate, Thad N. what you think about this! He wants to hear from all of us!

I love Alcoholics Anonymous! It has saved my life. When I use the word, "it", I mean the spirit of the fellowship, the kindness, compassion, unconditional love I have experienced in these rooms. I have experienced a love I have never known just by sitting next to people who practice this program in their actions. I have experienced patience, tolerance, and laughter with people of like-minds and hearts. This, this here, now - even on "Virtual Reality", is where I get my medicine for my disease. The new technology of online meetings this past year has deepened my spiritual awakening as it has confirmed that true recovery, sobriety, and serenity is Inside... "We found The Great Reality deep down within us..." (pg. 55 Big Book). Even though we do not meet in person, for one hour, I am in the presence (virtually) (on a screen) of my people, my tribe, and I know I am loved because they are a reflection of Divine Light! I used to get physically embraced with affection at meetings, and now, I close my eyes and I can FEEL the SPIRIT of A.A.. - the Sunlight of the Spirit, without the touch, because just like a Higher Power, "I can't see you, but I know you are there!"

This is why we need to keep Alcoholics Anonymous going... just as Bernard B. Smith said in 1954: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery, we do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life..."

Finally, the A.A. Service Manual, under Concept XII, Warranty six says:

"Freedom under God to grow in God's likeness and image

will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous.

May our General Service Conference be always seen

as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.

To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve

is truly the freedom by which we live -

the freedom in which

we have

our Being."

So, yeah, what a gift... freedom! What a present we get to unwrap every day we stay sober, one day at a time. I have been given so much by this program and our fellows, that if there's anything I can give in a demonstration of gratitude for this new life, I shall give to the best of my ability! What an honor to let this voice be heard, to give what is needed, at this time, to help the next suffering alcoholic who walks through our doors... So, Thank You, Bill W., Dr. Bob, and those who have walked before me... Merry Christmas in April! "It's the most wonderful time of the year"!

In Service,

Brenda M.



Big Book & A.A. History Quiz #2

1. The Oxford Group changed its name to what in 1938?
2. What is the name of the “certain American businessman” who also helped Ebby 12 step Bill W.?
3. How many steps were there before Bill W. wrote the Twelve Steps?
4. Dr. Bob said there was two things needed to start a new group in A.A. What are the two things?
5. In the chapter “More about Alcoholism”, there is a story about a car salesman named Jim who went out looking for a prospect to sell a car. What did he pour his whisky into?
6. How many members did A.A. have when the Big Book was written?
7. Dr. Paul O. wrote a story that has been included in the story section of the Big Book. He talks of a concept that was the answer to all his problems. What is the concept?
8. What was the name of “Alcoholic Anonymous Number Three”?
9. What is the number of the AA post office box at Grand Central Station post office?
10. There are three sides to the A.A. triangle. What are the words beside each side of the triangle?
11. A.A. publishes a daily meditation book. What is it called?
12. On the second page of “A Vision For You”, p. 52, what is mentioned is as a sufficient substitute for liquor?

Answer Key

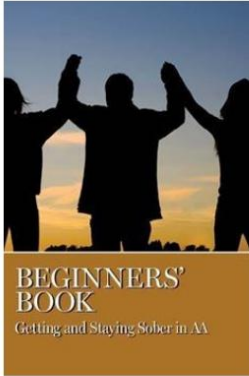
- 1. The Moral Rearmament**
- 2. Roland Hazzard**
- 3. Six**
- 4. A resentment and a coffee pot**
- 5. Milk**
- 6. More than 100**
- 7. Acceptance**
- 8. Bill D (Dodson)**
- 9. Box 459**
- 10. Recovery, Unity, & Service**
- 11. Daily Reflections**
- 12. Fellowship in A.A.**



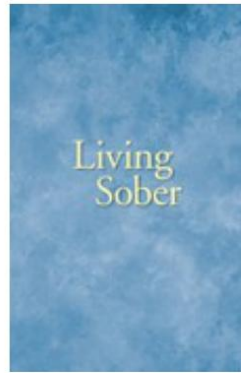
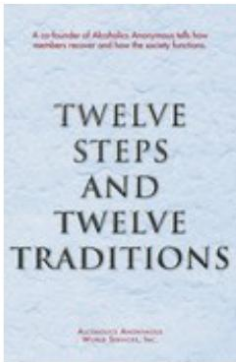
Send Stories and announcements to :
newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org

Upcoming 2021 Events

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



**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

DISTRICT 3 SPRING WORKSHOP

The 12 Traditions: Why It Works
April 3rd, 2021 11:00-1:00

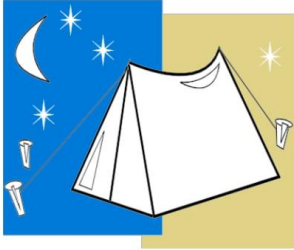
Panelists: Lisa P Traditions 1-4
Mia L. Traditions 5-8
Richard M Traditions 9-12

ZOOM INFO:

Meeting ID: 815 3147 7624
Passcode: 452316

For more information contact
Suzanne A (208)605-2301





**Macks Creek Campout
Lucky Peak Reservoir**

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

**Begins at noon on the 11th 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, March 23, 2021 / 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 834 4239 4760 Password: 164

District 3 Spring Workshop – The 12 Traditions: Why it Works
Saturday April 3, 2021 – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 815 3147 7624 Passcode: 452316

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 May 2021!