



MAY 2022

EDITOR CHRISTELLE

HELLO THERE

Welcome to the Idaho Area 18 AA Newsletter Wagon Wheel Newsletter!

I'm Christelle, an alcoholic, and super excited to be the editor for the next two years.

As some of you can see I've already implemented a few changes. I wanted primary vehicle of the newsletter to be electronic, mobile friendly, accessible, I will also have a version available on the Area 18 web site and available in print for our assemblies.

Oh, and I also made a logo. (couldn't help myself).

Thank you for viewing and/or downloading the newsletter!

Faith is more than our greatest gift; its sharing with others is our greatest responsibility. May we of AA continually seek the wisdom and the willingness by which we may well fulfill that immense trust which the Giver of all perfect gifts has placed in our hands.

AS BILL SEES IT p. 13

THAT QUOTE AND SERVICE

I love the above quote, mostly because it is so true. The quote is about the service we alcoholics do in AA. Service is our greatest responsibility. I type this because I quite often forget. So please forgive me if you do not need reminding. I need to be reminded every day.

I get tied up in my daily routine. My work schedule often overwhelms me and sometimes I get thinking that my work, or my other obligations are as important and while they are important - my service to AA is priority. Because as you know without staying connected and helping others I would surely lose everything. Service isn't the easiest obligation in AA, but you can find some success - even a small amount of sharing with another alcoholic about sobriety is rewarding BUT that is not why we do service.

I've had some very challenging service positions in sobriety. I found the position of DCM to be immensely difficult. I was working to facilitate business meetings where the participants were very unruly and unpleasant but I also was able to attend PRAASA, which was very rewarding. I also served as Area Web Servant. I inherited a 12 year old outdated, antiquated web site that I received complaints about on a regular basis. I think sometimes we forget that we are all volunteering. I also write about this because I want to remind everyone to be kind to each other in service. I feel okay reminding alcoholics about that because we are all in this boat together! Remember volunteering is for fun and for free!

Best wishes. Christelle

GOD IS IN EVERYTHING WE DO IN AA
GARREN T – GOUGERS GULCH GROUP

Hey, my name is Garren and I'm an alcoholic. I wanted to take a minute and let you know about one of the many awesome things that has happened to me from doing service, more specifically General Service. It was kind of difficult to pick just one, but this story has a special place in my heart.

The 2010 PRAASA was held in Los Angeles. I was a newly elected Area Chair and I felt scared and under prepared for the position. That may ring a bell with some of you. That particular PRAASA held quite a few revelations for me and I could write about several things that changed me that I could write about. In fact, this is the second draft of this story. The first one started off with a different experience.

On Saturday night of the weekend I attended the YPAA workshop. It started after dinner and the speaker, maybe around 10 that night. Being that PRAASA was in LA, the room was full of young people from all over the region. I was attending for a couple of reasons. Area 18 was in our first year having a YPAA presence on the Area Committee and I wanted to know more about this service entity. The second was that I got sober when I was 26 and understood some of the difficulties of being young in the rooms and wanted to hear how "they" did it. I was sitting there, minding my own business, when my good friend Brian K came over by me and asked me to go with him to a meeting. By this time, it was after 11 and I had just put in a full day and was needing to get some rest, the next day was going to be a busy one as well. For those of you who know Brian, you would probably agree with me if I said he was persistent, lol. He asked me a few times and I kept turning him down, it was a midnight meeting he was wanting to go to. Finally, he more or less grabbed me by the arm and said get in the car. Reluctantly I did. There were a few others in the car besides us, maybe 5 or 6 in total. Away we went heading to this meeting which turned out to be right off Hollywood & Vine in downtown Hollywood.

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God Is In Everything We Do cont'

The meeting was held in an older 2 story strip mall. On the second floor there was an old theater with a stage up front. There was stuff spray painted on the walls, some of which I can't describe in this forum. Let's just say that it seemed obvious upon entering that chaos ruled here.

We arrived a few minutes late, despite the fact that Brian had driven like a mad man to get there! When we walked in someone yelled "Heads up! The DCM is here!" Haha, I was still wearing the suit and tie that I had on during the banquet. I'm assuming that I looked just a little bit out of place. The whole room was buzzing and there was no organization at all there. There were some people on the stage when we walked in, I think they were like 10 minute speakers possibly. The guy finished up what he was talking about and a young woman opened up the meeting for sharing. Several people shared and then it was my turn. I don't remember exactly what I said, something to the effect of just do the work and keep coming back and see where God leads you. Don't give up when it gets hard, lean on each other instead. I didn't think anyone heard a thing I said, because there was plenty of cross talk the entire time we were there. The meeting finished with the Serenity Prayer and we went outside. As I always do, I started putting my hand out to everyone there. That's been ingrained in me from early in my sobriety. There was a young kid there, maybe in his early teens. I said hi to him and encouraged him to stay focused on sobriety. He was with his mom and she thanked me for sharing what I had and for being kind to her son. I let her know that it's what we do in AA. About then Brian yelled at me from the street below. He was ready to go. Apparently, there was another meeting starting at 2 AM that we were going to. Whatever!!! I got back to my room around 5:30 that morning and had to be up at 7!

When I think back about that night, I see one thing. God is in everything we do in AA. God was in the middle of that unorganized mess, just as much as He is in my home group. It was such a huge eye opener for me. All I had to do was get an open mind and I could feel His presence. 12 years have passed now and the impact of that meeting still plays a part in my recovery. It's my reminder when I'm not "feeling it". Just open your mind.

Garren T

**CARRYING THE MESSAGE
TO THE NEWCOMER
THROUGH SERVICE
SUZANNE A. – DCM DISTRICT 3**

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

When I was just starting my AA journey, my sponsor impressed upon me the importance of service. She told me that I needed to jump into the middle of the herd and stay there. She also explained to me how being of service to other alcoholics would keep me sober. Being of service to others was not new to me, but the concept of not being taken advantage of was. There was always an ulterior motive for someone helping me. I found myself wondering why someone would want to help me get and stay sober without wanting something in return, so I asked her why she was helping me. Her response was that she wanted me to be happy, joyous, and free. That was it. There was no paying her or doing something for her in return. By helping me get sober, I was helping her to stay sober.

Making coffee was the first service position I had. Simple enough for a newcomer, right? After all, how much sobriety does one need to make coffee, and how was I being an example to another newcomer with even less time than I?

As time went on, different service opportunities arose and so did more opportunities to help the next suffering alcoholic, learning more and more that service is definitely an action word!

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THE HAND OF AA

Carrying The Message cont'

After all, what kind of message am I sending to the newcomer that walks into the rooms of AA if I talk about service, yet do not have any service positions? How can I impress the importance of service on a sponsee if I always say no when asked to help? I have heard a lot of old timers turn down service positions with the attitude of "Let the newcomer do it! I have done my fair share of service!" I have often wondered who is going to show examples of service to those new in sobriety if service positions are empty because someone is waiting for the newcomer to do it. How do newcomers learn to make coffee, become GSRs, or even delegates without someone showing them how to do it? Where would we all be today if Bill W. and DR. Bob didn't show the newcomers how to do service? AA would not have survived this long and been this successful if no one showed the newcomers how to be of service to the next person who walked into the rooms. Just think what would happen if someone walked up to you and gave you the tools to do brain surgery yet offered no guidance or instructions on how to do so. Sure, you could learn as you go, but wouldn't you like to know what you are doing? The future of AA depends on the old timers and the not so old timers, getting involved and showing the newcomers how to do different service positions. It doesn't matter how many times you have been a coffee maker or a treasurer, there is always something new to learn!

The best way that I know how to carry the message of service to the newcomer is to be of service to them, and to always remember that when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there and for that, I am responsible.

Suzanne A



HOUSEKEEPING STUFF

I am always looking for submissions! Email me please. I know that typically I will be asking people to write articles but would always love a submission. While bringing our newsletter into current industry standards I would also like to shorten and give length requirements (approximately 500-600 words) as I've also learned that sobriety has given us wonderful, full lives and I think we can keep your attention a little longer with shorter articles. So I'm going to try that to start. Also if you are interested in being on our email list and receiving a mobile friendly version a fill out the form on our Area website on the Newsletter page..

Emailing address is:

newsletter@idahoareal8aa.org

It has only been in the past few months that I have become interested in service work in AA. Before that, I was an AA barnacle, glued to my seat, criticizing the speakers and griping about the coffee. Now I'm on the other side of the squawks and bleeps, and I find, to my delight, I like it.

AA GRAPEVINE DAILY QUOTE BOOK p. 242

UPCOMING EVENTS

AA Service Manual Study

Led by former Area 18 Delegate Thad N.

Wednesdays at 7:00pm Starting January 12, 2022

Zoom Meeting- See Area 18 website for more information

Sobriety Birthday Potluck Dinner

May 14, 2022 - 6 pm

619 12th Ave. South, Nampa, ID

TAC Summer Picnic

June 4, 2022 - 12 pm

Veterans Park, Boise, ID

Macks Creek Lucky Peak Campout

June 10 - 12, 2022

Boise, Id - See Area 18 website for more information

District 4 Campout

June 10 - 11, 2022

Mountain View Camground

Owyhee, NV

Founders Day Picnic

June 11, 2022 - 12 pm - 4 pm

Veterans Park, Boise, ID

District 8 and Fall Assembly Planning Committee have service positions open.

Email district84U@gmail.com for more information.