



IDAHO AREA 18 AA  
**WAGON WHEEL**  
NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 2022**

**EDITOR CHRISTELLE**

## **HELLO THERE**

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

I'm Christelle, I'm an alcoholic. I hope you all have been having a good summer and are staying sober. Here's August's issue of the Wagon Wheel this issue's topic is about how service helped our writers stay sober.

Thank you for viewing and/or downloading the newsletter!

**Responsibility is a gift; and although we are not obliged to received it, we will never come to know the peace, assurance, and love of a vital sobriety until we do.**

**AS BILL SEES IT p. 177**

### **THAT QUOTE AND SERVICE**

Service does really help alcoholics in recovery feel connected. I'm remembering when I first got sober - The meeting I was attending was at 5:30 and I felt so out of place. There was a great deal of long term sobriety and most people were dressed in either suits with ties or business casual, and just getting off work. I was washing dishes and baking in a restaurant. I showed up in cut-off jeans, doc martins and men's undershirts.

Even though I continued to go to that meeting - I never felt connected. I did eventually get a sponsor. Once we started step work she asked me if I'd be interested in making coffee for the meeting one day a week, and me being a "people pleaser" and not wanting to upset her said, "Yes".

I honored my service commitment. I showed up early, made coffee, set out the cups, creamer, sweetener each week. Sometimes people would show up early and say hello and ask me how many days I had or how I was and then we'd commence to small talk. I'd never done that before. Not having much in a way of social skills (I still don't) I was able to connect with a few people. After I made coffee I really started to feel like I was a member and part of the group. I felt responsible and loved the connection and began to love the people in that group.

So if you aren't feeling connected, get a home group and start making coffee or chair a meeting!

Best wishes. Christelle!

## **THE SPONSEE BECOMES THE SPONSOR BOB B.**

It may have been too soon for me to become a sponsor but I was asked and I agreed. I still had a hangover from being in the corporate world carrying a certain amount of responsibility for the performance of others. When Frank asked me to be his sponsor I jumped right into a leadership mode. I was going to do this right and march through the "teaching" of the steps. Among the myriad of problems that I created with my ego driven approach was expectation that Frank would buy in to my approach. He didn't.

Frank continued to drink and I continued to chase him, attempting to "fix" him. It became a continuous circle. He drank and I kept trying to turn him around. At long last, I went to my sponsor with my dilemma. He responded with a simple solution. He told me to leave Frank alone; stop getting in the way of his addiction and allow him to find his bottom wherever and whenever he decided. I was not his keeper and it wasn't my responsibility to get him sober. I was there to help if requested and to be available if asked. It was difficult for me to admit that I wasn't the Mr. Fixit that I thought I was. It was among the most important and humbling early lessons I learned in AA.

I have had other sponsees since Frank. And have learned lessons from all of them but none more important than the lesson Frank taught me.

Cont' page 4

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching out, palm facing up, against a blurred background of green leaves and sunlight. The hand is the central focus, with fingers slightly spread. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of green and light, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**"ALLOW MY AA BROTHER TO  
FOLLOW HIS OWN HEART."**

## The Sponsee Becomes The Sponsor Cont'

Frank finally was able to stop drinking, "through the Grace of God" as he put it. He found a new sponsor that he worked with diligently. He went through the steps slowly and carefully, threw himself into service, led meetings, and has had several successful sponsees.

Frank died recently at a hospital in northern NY state. He was serene and sober when he passed and had a five year chip in his hand. I was among many who loved Frank as a brother. Frank, once sober, was a kind, generous and loving man. A true testament to God's Grace in action. I have had other sponsees since my days with Frank but I endeavor to always remember the lesson that Frank taught me. Be available, give humbly and always remember that my purpose is to give of myself and to step back and allow my AA brother to follow his own heart.

Bob B.

## **A LOVE LETTER TO AA ANGELA D.**

Here's the thing: I am selfish. I was more selfish when I was drinking than I am today. But I am still inherently a pretty selfish person – with or without alcohol. Before getting sober, I was so terribly selfish that I did not care who I harmed, offended, neglected, or inconvenienced. The only thing that mattered to me was me (and my next drink.)

Though my selfish nature is a part of my character today, I have an outlet that allows me to transform that selfishness into loving and useful purpose: the gift of service work. Service work takes my selfishness and transforms it into grateful participation within the fellowship, my family, and my community. When I got to the rooms of AA I was given such a caring welcome and I felt as though I was being retaught and reborn and recreated through the generous guidance of the fellowship and my sponsor. I was guided through the steps in such a patient manner. I was welcomed to share, and read, and chair, and go to lunches and coffee dates with other women. I was then given the opportunity to serve as the entertainment chair for the Gem State Roundup, and from there my love for service grew and grew. I was useful. I was connected. I was able to give back.

## Love Letter To AA Cont'

I like to think of service work as my love letter to Alcoholics Anonymous. The program gave me the tools I needed to be an attentive mommy, a faithful partner, and a trustworthy member of society. As the result of these steps, I have had many spiritual experiences that have brought me closer to a Higher Power that continues to work in my life. I will forever and ever be grateful for this program and the most loving way that I can think to give back to AA is to continue to be of service. While selfishness is still a defect that I continue to work on with my Higher Power, my selfish thoughts and actions become less and less the more and more I make myself available for service. I will never be able to say "Thank You" enough for the life that Alcoholics Anonymous has given me. But, one day at a time, I can add to that love letter by sharing when asked, opening a meeting room, making coffee or stacking chairs, serving Idaho Area 18, or any other act of service that I get the opportunity to gratefully fulfill.

Thank you for this life

Angela D.

LOVE LETTER





## **HOUSEKEEPING STUFF**

I am always looking for submissions! Email me please. I know that typically I will be asking two people each newsletter 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). 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:

**Only a gift given in love and gratitude  
is blessed to the giver and precious to  
the receiver.**

AA GRAPEVINE DAILY QUOTE BOOK p. 94

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **15th Annual South Central Idaho H&I Awareness Picnic**

Saturday, August 20, 2022- 1:00pm-4:00pm Shoshone City Park

## **Online Study of Area 18 Guidelines**

Hosted by Marti H. and Thad N.

Wednesday Nights 7pm Beginning August 24!

Zoom - see Area 18 website for more details

## **2022 Gem State Round Up**

August 27, 2022

Jordan Ballroom, Boise State University, Boise ID

Online Registration now open at link above!

## **AA On the Rocks September Dinner and Speaker Meeting**

Saturday, September 3, 2022

Dinner 5:00pm/ Speaker 6:00pm

Caldwell Church of Christ 4012 S. 10th Ave. Caldwell, ID

Speaker: Scott S.

## **2022 Unity Day Picnic**

Saturday September 10th, 2022

5:00pm-Dark Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion, Boise

Hosted by Districts 3, 5, and 8

## **2022 Pacific Reginal Forum**

September 16-18, 2022

Marriot Downtown at City Creek Salt Lake City, UT

## **2022 Fall Assembly & Convention**

September 30 - October 2, 2022

Boise Riverside Hotel, Boise ID