



MARCH 2024

EDITOR TINA L.

HELLO THERE

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

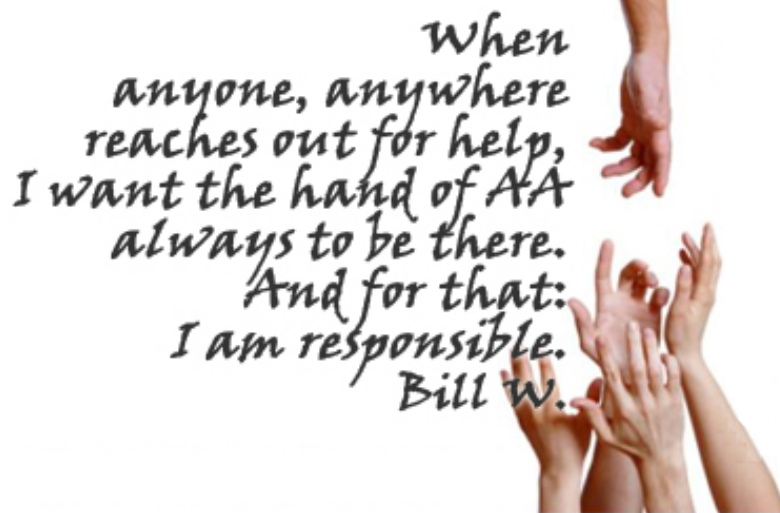
I'm Tina, an alcoholic, and I've been appointed as your Newsletter editor. I'm grateful to be back into service at the Area level, and am excited for what this rotation will teach me.

I want to thank you all for letting me be the Wagon Wheel Editor and if there's a certain topic you would like to read about or feel inspired to contribute, please feel free to email

newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org

In Service,

Tina L.



"As Bill Sees It" pg. 332

THAT QUOTE AND SERVICE

We've all heard or said the previous declaration at one time or another. The history of this well known statement is not as well known. According to The GSO Newsletter Box 4-5-9, the author is actually credited to Al S. It was written for the 1965 AA International Convention in Toronto. In a Grapevine article in October 1965 Bill W. did express his opinions on the declaration, and in 1971 the Conference recommended that, "The Literature Committee, following the general feeling of the Conference, reaffirm both the spirit and the wording of the "I am Responsible" Declaration from the International Convention held in Toronto in 1965."

Personally, learning that this declaration originated a whopping 59 years ago is astounding. These words perfectly encapsulate the spirit of service, and really reaffirms our primary purpose within AA. I have always been intrigued about other members' journey with being introduced to service and their journey throughout. This brings me to introducing our main article for this issue which was written by a good friend of mine, Drew G. He is a past DCM and current TAC West representative, please continue to read about his service journey.

Tina L.

OUT OF LOVE FOR THE PROGRAM DREW G.

My history with service is probably like that of a lot of others, in that I didn't fully understand it when I entered the program. I kept hearing about the importance of service, but didn't feel particularly useful. Fortunately, my sponsor was not a patient man and he had me into service immediately. I initially was thrust into a coffee making position for my new home group. It provided some extra accountability to force me to take a meeting when I wanted to take a meeting, and most importantly when I didn't want to. It gave me some small sense of purpose. It is amazing what a little hope and responsibility provided to someone as desperate as me.

A few months later I was informed that it was time to move on and give someone else an opportunity to serve. In a pattern that has carried on to every position I have ever held, I felt I had just gotten the position right. I felt that it was some sort of punishment and searched to find out what I had done wrong. It was at this time that my sponsor first explained to me this spiritual principle, the practice of rotation. He assured me that I was not rotating out of the rotation, but rotating on, and that there would be plenty of other opportunities if I remained willing. He was entirely correct, and all along the way I have found those who came before me eager to share their knowledge where I had none. Despite being someone who always thought he could teach a thing or two on how people should do things, I have entered most positions feeling totally unprepared. When I was first nominated for DCM, I begged off, informing the District Committee I was not ready. An old timer named Mac reminded me that it was the group that would decide if I was ready.



Out of Love for the Program cont'

I fully realized the healing power of service at a crucial time in my journey, after my mother died when I was only a year sober. My sponsor saw what I was going through, and given my experience in kitchens, he volunteered my name when a local event needed a catering chair. I relished the opportunity until I heard the budget. Feeding 650 people for \$800 was a foreign concept to me. A lovely woman who had done it for a couple years and was certainly ready to move on, didn't back away when I asked for guidance. I have tried to carry on that willingness in everything I have done since.

I have loved every position I've held in AA. By some miracle, I have even wanted to give a couple of them up. I have always relished the opportunity to show people how I did things, even when I knew they would choose to go a different way. As eager as I am to pass off my experience and knowledge, it sometimes falls on seemingly deaf ears. Many come in with their own ideas. Despite my big ambitions, I am always just a step in the process. Different approaches serve as the perfect case for getting new people and ideas into service. I myself have had to fight the fear of doing things in a different way. Introducing new ideas or what I believe to be more efficient methods sometimes seems like an insult to those who came before. In the end, rotation encourages active and energetic participation.

**“TO STEP
ASIDE IS
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ULTIMATE
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OF
HUMILITY”**



As I first learned more about how this program worked, the spirit of rotation seemed silly to me, and I thought it might be a primary reason why things happen so slowly in the program. It turns out this practice protects the program has worked for almost a century. I remember someone who mentioned that rotation reminds us we are not in the business of changing things, but rather that of changing people.

I practice most things based on observation of people who have the grace that I desire. I have watched as people have served and then moved on based not on any self-importance or recognition, but out of love for the program. I have served with people who I maybe would have wanted to stay in their position indefinitely. When I get wrapped up in personalities, I have even served with people who made me appreciate the right of rotation even more.

As I continue to strive to work the principles of my personal program into my service, concept 12 serves as great guidance: *“The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power...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, by substantial unanimity... and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.”* These are the words that guide me when I feel like I can fix the program single-handedly. When I hand things over I do so not to someone I think will carry on my exact work, but to someone of the group’s, and ultimately God’s, choice. To step aside is the ultimate practice of humility. The rewards for this service are spiritual, not authority or prestige. I have experienced those gifts in spades. Meetings and the steps fulfilled my early journey, and the maintenance required by steps 10-12 carry that on, but service to alcoholics and the program is what sustains me years later.

In closing, I am going to borrow from the writings of Scott H. in Area 79 British Columbia/ Yukon. *“I serve for the good of AA, I benefit in innumerable and immeasurable ways. You have taught me that to keep this gift, I must ‘give it away.’ I want this joy for others. For them to find it, I must move aside and make room.”*





HOUSEKEEPING STUFF

If you are wanting others to read this newsletter, feel free to direct them to our Area 18 website:

<https://idahoarea18aa.org/> > Area 18 Information > Area 18 Newsletter

There is a form to fill out to get onto the distribution list which includes first name and email address. If you have an article to submit, there is also an option to attach a file. Thank you for reading!

Emailing address is:

newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Annual Bogus Basin Pot Luck and BBQ
Hosted by 7am Zoomers
Saturday, March 23rd, 2024
10:00am-3:00pm
Bogus Basin Pioneer Condos
1751 North Bogus Basin Road 201A Building A
Boise, ID 83629

8th Annual Women's AA Brunch
Saturday, April 13th, 2024
9:30am-1:00pm
Boise Hilton Garden Inn
7699 West Spectrum Street
Boise, ID 83709

District 7 Workshop on AA Service: What's Your
Favorite Position?
Saturday, April 13, 2024
1:00pm-5:00pm
The Friendship Club
365 S 5th W
Rexburg, ID 83440

2024 Idaho Area 18 Spring Assembly
Hosted by District 7
May 3-5, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn, Idaho Falls