

WAGON WHEEL

IDAHO AREA 18 AA NEWSLETTER & BOLETÍN



"WE HAVE FOUND MUCH OF HEAVEN
AND WE HAVE BEEN ROCKETED INTO A
FOURTH DIMENSION OF EXISTENCE OF
WHICH WE HAD NOT EVEN DREAMED".

OCTOBER 2026
EDITOR: NICHOLAS II E.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the October 2026 Newsletter!! Since August, we have continued to make some changes to the format, both in print as well as digital. One thing you may notice if you are reading our digital edition is that we have split our Spanish and English versions into their own standalone editions. This change, hopefully, will create less confusion for both English and Spanish readers. Included in this edition are pieces on personal recovery, service across the Area, upcoming events in Area 18, and even some fun new additions. I wanted to thank all the people who helped make this Newsletter happen. The contributors for their writing efforts.

Heather S. for her work on translation. And Angela D. for taking over the overall creative direction of this edition. I look forward to feedback from our fellowship on what you want to see from your Newsletter moving forward.

-Nick E.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Greetings Area 18—

It is with a broken heart that I write to you. As many of you are aware, a tragic event occurred in Twin Falls on August 1st, and our dear friend Christopher “Toph” C. lost his life. Toph was an integral member of Gougers Gulch Group, District 10, and Area 18. He had a true servant’s heart—whether he was supporting his brothers at Renaissance Ranch, serving as GSR for Gougers Gulch, or suiting up and showing up for anything related to service within Area 18 as a whole.

Our hearts are heavy as we send our love and prayers to his family. As Chair, I believe it is important that we honor all those we have lost this year in Area 18.

With a broken heart, but in grateful service,

Janae M.

Idaho Area 18 Chairperson

Panel 76

PRAASA COMING BACK TO THE TREASURE VALLEY

PRAASA 2028

Put it on your calendar: PRAASA is coming to Boise in March 2028!

The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) rotates among the 15 Areas of the Pacific Region and has been held in Area 18 only four times since 1968, most recently in 2013.

The PRAASA 2028 Planning Committee, chaired by Past Delegate Garren T., invites members throughout Area 18 to get involved early by showing up, participating, spreading the word, and sharing in the excitement. Hosting PRAASA is a unique opportunity to welcome A.A. trusted servants from across the Pacific Region and showcase what makes Area 18 such a shining example of service, unity, and recovery.

Save the date and stay tuned for future opportunities to volunteer and help make PRAASA 2028 a memorable experience for the entire Pacific Region.

ABOUT PRAASA

The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is a mix of panel presentations, roundtable discussions, open mic sharing, and speakers. Many attendees also come for the great fellowship and bonding that takes place with others from the same service Area and with new friends made from other Areas. Topics for the presentations and sharing are focused on general service.

PRAASA is held prior to the General Service Conference and includes topics that will be discussed at the upcoming conference along with issues that are of interest to members involved in general service.

Roundtables provide an opportunity for members to discuss topics with people who have the same service position, like the Corrections or DCM and GSR roundtables, or who are interested in a particular topic such as Newsletter, Grapevine or Information Technology.



- SERVICE SPOTLIGHT -

CPC/PI

COMMITTEES MAINTAINING MOMENTUM ACROSS AREA 18 -NICHOLAS E.

The Panel 74-76 rotations have seen a dramatic uptick in CPC/PI (Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information) efforts on both the East and West Sides of Area 18. Whether it be planned presentations to professionals where they work, managing AA booths at local events, or keeping literature racks filled in offices and centers across Idaho, CPC/PI committees continue to ensure the hand of AA is available for all who seek it or may benefit from its message. In an effort to increase awareness, spotlight their efforts, and build momentum, we reached out to the members doing the work at all levels of the service triangle to learn more about the work that CPC/PI committees are doing across the Area. The responses from across the Area were immediate and overwhelming.

Like most work in general service, CPC/PI work starts at the group and local level. Volunteers are actively participating in CPC/PI related activities in every District across Area 18, whether through group appointed positions, District positions, or volunteers with the Area committee. Area 18 (spanning from Eastern Oregon to the Wyoming and Utah borders) encompasses Urban, Suburban, and Rural communities, and the CPC/PI efforts across the Area seem to be as varied as the populations they serve.

On the East side of the Area, the District CPC/PI reps have been collaborating and supporting each other but mostly working independently to serve their Districts. Up in District 6 they have had a presence at events such as Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Fest while continuing to place literature in medical offices and healthcare facilities. District 1 reports participating in five local events including the Idaho State University Health Fair and Pocatello Pride. District 1 has also been collaborating with 12 to try to get more of a CPC/PI presence in the Southeast part of the Area.

On the West side, CPC/PI efforts are continuing to expand. Volunteers have participated in numerous community events including Recovery Rally, Boise Pride, STAY Mental Wellness Rally, the Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency, and several recovery-focused community gatherings to name just a few. It was reported that CPC/PI West has had a presence at well over 20 events in just 2026 with many more already planned. These events provide opportunities to answer questions, distribute literature, and help ensure A.A. remains visible and accessible to those who may need it.

As we start to transition into the second half of the Panel 76 rotation, one theme is evident across all levels of CPC/PI service: the need for volunteers and the spirit of rotation. As outreach efforts grow, committees are building sustainable systems through training, shared responsibilities, outreach materials, professional information packets, and stronger connections with groups and districts. The goal is to create strong, self-sustaining CPC/PI committees that continue beyond any one rotation. Based on the responses received from across Area 18, that goal appears well within reach.

(Please stay tuned for a digital special edition Wagon Wheel where we plan to take a deeper dive into all the work that CPC/PI is doing across Area 18.)

- FROM OUR MEMBERS -

SPIRITUAL UNITY -NIHOLE W.

When I first walked through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous, I was the definition of a lone wolf. I believed that my problems were entirely my own, that my suffering was unique, and that I could engineer my own way out of the darkness if I just tried hard enough. Like many of us, my disease had completely isolated me. Alcoholism creates a prison of the mind, where ego rules and fear dictates every move. We become disconnected from the world, from our loved ones, and from any sense of a Higher Power.

When I first heard the word "Unity" in AA, I was skeptical. To me, unity sounded like conformity. It sounded like an institution, an organization, or a rule book. But as I sat in those chairs, week after week, I began to realize that unity in AA is something entirely different. It is not an organizational mandate; it is a spiritual necessity. It is the very bedrock upon which our personal recovery stands.

To understand spiritual unity, we have to look at the architecture of our fellowship. AA is built on Three Legacies: Recovery, Unity, and Service. They are represented by the three sides of the AA triangle. If you remove any one of those sides, the entire structure collapses. Our First Tradition states it clearly and bluntly: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity." Think about the weight of that statement. It does not say personal recovery depends solely on working the Steps. It does not say it depends only on your connection to a Higher Power. It says your personal recovery, your very life, depends upon AA unity.

True unity cannot exist without humility. In our literature, Bill W. writes extensively about how the greatest threats to AA unity are the forces of human ego: our desire for power, prestige, property, and praise. Spiritual unity requires us to lay down our weapons of judgment and ego. When we practice humility, we stop trying to control the group. We learn to listen to opinions we disagree with. We learn to vote in a business meeting, accept the group conscience, and support the outcome whole-heartedly, even if it wasn't the choice we personally wanted. That is spiritual unity in action. It is the quiet surrender of "I" for the sake of "We." This means that spiritual unity is not forced from the top down. It rises from the bottom up.

When a group faces a problem, we don't look to a boss to fix it. We gather together, we pray, we discuss, and we listen. In a true spiritual group conscience, we are not trying to win an argument or defeat an opponent. We are collectively trying to find the will of a Higher Power for our group. When we achieve unity through a group conscience, it is a profound spiritual experience. We witness a room full of opinionated, headstrong alcoholics come to a peaceful, unified decision. That is not human engineering; that is grace.

Because we are human, our unity will be tested. Externally, the world is deeply divided by politics, religion, culture, and social status. It is easy for the polarization of the outside world to bleed into our rooms. This is why our Traditions guard our boundaries so fiercely. Tradition Ten reminds us that AA has no opinion on outside issues and must never be drawn into public controversy. Why? Because the moment we take a side on an outside issue, we divide the rooms.

Inside our rooms, our only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. It doesn't matter who you voted for, what your bank account looks like, or where you sleep at night. When we sit in an AA meeting, all those external differences melt away. We are just alcoholics trying to stay sober and help another alcoholic.

Spiritual unity means actively protecting this sanctuary. It means refusing to gossip about other members. It means choosing not to bring controversial outside topics into our shares. It means focusing entirely on our primary purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Spiritual unity is not a static thing. It is a living, breathing responsibility that must be renewed by every group, every day. Every time you set up chairs, make coffee, welcome a newcomer, pump the brakes on your own anger during a business meeting, or choose to call a sponsor instead of acting out, you are actively investing in the spiritual unity of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are the caretakers of a legacy that was handed down to us by those who came before. They sacrificed their egos, their ambitions, and their comfort so that AA would survive for us. Now, it is our turn. Let us guard our unity as if our lives depend on it—because they do. Let us keep our doors wide open, our hearts humble, and our focus entirely on the newcomer. When we walk together in this spirit, there is no burden we cannot carry, no sorrow we cannot survive, and no alcoholic we cannot reach.

SUPER FUN WORD SEARCH

Y T R Y T I M Y N O N A P R A Y E R U R
P E H Q Z T R A D I T I O N S L L V E J
S A J L S E C N A T P E C C A B F F O V
Q Y T C A E E S O W Q N R A A G Q E S H
I K R V A U R C U T T Q C I T S O N G A
W N O E W F T E K B W W S K Y C B U A P
X R Z O V I S I N R M E E T I N G B M P
S D G E B O S E R I O D L X J R F M E R
C W U M E G C D R I T Y B V H T Q M N I
N O D R F Q I E O V P Y W K E V I E D N
P M N K C E L B R M I S W E L R Y D S C
R E D C S C I L O H O C L A N Y R I E I
W W S S E L R E W O P V E K W F O T T P
B O M Y V P S U O M Y N O N A H T A A L
C A L A M I T Y F W T K N O Q O N T G E
B E L I E V E S P E T S G R L N E I E S
J D E D N I M N E P O X L K L E V O L C
H I G H E R P O W E R C U A M S N N E K
E S S E N G N I L L I W E B B T I V D S
I D A H O K U E G A R U O C A Y X Q I N

Alcoholics Anonymous Anonymity NewYork

Acceptance Courage Wisdom Meditation

Prayer Powerless Amends Meeting Inventory

Spiritual Principles Concepts BigBook Serenity

Service Willingness Honesty Openminded

Agnostic HigherPower Delegate Idaho Calamity

Recovery Traditions Steps Twelve Akron Believe



HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

If you'd like others to read this newsletter, please feel free to direct them to our Area 18 [website](https://idahoarea18aa.org/)
<https://idahoarea18aa.org/> > Area 18 Information > Area 18 Newsletter

There's a form you must fill out to join the distribution list, which includes your name and email address. My goal is to grow our readership, but I need your help to do it!

If you have an article to submit or a topic you'd like to read about, please let me know. You can also attach a file if you're willing to submit something. Thanks for reading!

Let's connect!

newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org



**A special thank you to
Heather S. for helping us with the Spanish
translation of this newsletter!**

newsletter@idahoarea18aa.org

PROTECTING THE MIRACLE

October 10 @ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm MDT
New Hope Church of the Nazarene – Boise
8585 W. Overland Rd, Boise, ID, United States

TAC WORKBOOK STUDY

October 14 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm MDT
Meeting ID: 528-899-7606
Password: BBPage420



TRIVIA NIGHT - 12 CONCEPTS

November 7 @ 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm MST
Alano Club
3820 Cassia St
Boise, ID 83705

PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM

December 4 – December 6
Wyndham San Diego Bayside
1355 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA



2027 SPRING ASSEMBLY AND CONVENTION

April 30, 2027 – May 2, 2027
Nampa Civic Center
311 3rd Street, South
Nampa, ID

PASSA 2028

March 9, 2028 – March 12, 2028
Boise Center
850 W Front St
Boise, ID

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