

THE WAGON WHEEL

MARCH 2004

Hello again! Once again I'll be hoping for your contributions. I still want to say thanks to those that contributed last term. There are several ways any member can contribute to the newsletter. First, snail-mail, (1102 Tendoy Ave. Salmon, ID 83467), or call me (940-0647) and I'll give you a fax number or e-mail, at the following:

< wagonwheel_15@hotmail.com >.

Contributions for any newsletter need to be to me at least two weeks prior to the Area Business meeting. I can usually make room for them.

I still plan on listing the donations to date by district. I was just too late to get the figures before this had to be to the printer. If you want to check your group's contributions, just ask to see the report given to your D.C.M. at Area business meetings. Make sure your group is sending anything above the prudent reserve to District, Area, and G.S.O. The percentages you send are decided by a group conscience.

Guess what! You're going to get to listen to me harp about the 7th Tradition again and again and again! I have copied a pamphlet from GSO. It is on page 4. It answers questions for all of us. Meanwhile,

Addresses for 7th Tradition:

Dist Treasurer: Ask your DCM.
 Area Treas: Box 296 Middleton, ID 83644
 GSO - Box 459, Grand Central Station,
 New York, NY 10163
 (Please be sure your group # is on your check or money order to receive proper credit with all funds sent in.)

EDITOR, SHIRLEY S.
 INDEX

Page 1	Editorial Ramblings
Page 2	Web page - It's working!
Page 3	Madam Ez's Crystal Ball
Page 4	Memo to an A.A. Group Treas.
Page 5	Various Plagiarizing
Page 6	Info on <idahoarea18aa.org>

The 2004/5 Area Committee

Delegate	Jim M.
Alt-Delegate	Tony T.
Chairperson	Jo P.
Secretary	David F.
Treasurer	Janice M.
H & I West	Steve A.
H & I East	Gary P.
CPC/PI West	Vic A.
CPC/PI East	Bill H.
Grapevine	Wade H.
Archives	Berry W.
Newlsetter	Shirley S.
Dist 1	Joe J.
Dist 2	Bill S.
Dist 3	John V.
Dist 4	Ralayne P.
Dist 5	Jeri T.
Dist 6	Angela H.
Dist 7	Bill G.
Dist 8	Rodney N.
Dist 9	Rob R.
Dist 10	Rocky R.

The web site was open for two days when it received the following from the "outside world".

*I don't know what's appropriate but I wanted to let Dad's friends know that Jackson (Jack H) passed away Saturday Dec 8, 2003 peacefully at home. AA is what helped keep my father alive and sober.
PLH.*

The reply from a web team member to PLH:

PLH: This was forwarded on to me from the webmaster. I don't know what, if any, response you'll receive from our Area website about your notice of your father's passing. We're new at this web thing and don't know what the rules are, but I did want to share with you my response to the webmaster. I knew and loved your father. A couple of years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. Your dad and I shared a lot together about dealing with illnesses.

I, apparently have overcome my cancer. I almost wish I could say that I wish your dad could have overcome his. I say "almost" for two reasons. Number one is that I try to no longer question God's will for me. The second is that My dad outlived my mother by years. I don't believe there were many days during that 13 year period, that at some level he didn't wish he could be with her. I think your father held similar feelings towards your mother. Today, they are together. While I miss my father terribly, I am so happy that my parents are once again united. I didn't reach that point without first having to deal with the pain of my loss. My thoughts will be with you as you pass through this period.

Response to web team:

Jack was a member of my home group. I was told at our last Friday night meeting that his time was short. He's been in poor health for several years. The last two years, he spent more time in the hospital than out. Meetings were carried to him into the hospital, and to his home when he was out. On many Tuesday nights, several members of our group would meet at Jack's home.

Jack lived with his son, PLH and PLH's wife. PLH would carry his father and his wheelchair to meetings whenever

Jack felt he could make it, and for whatever length of time Jack could last. Over the last few months, that was usually no more than half a meeting.

Jack endured a lot of emotional as well as physical pain. He had lost both his wife and oldest son while a member of AA. Last month, at Jack's last meeting with us, he celebrated his, I believe, 24th AA birthday. PLH brought him into the meeting and instead of leaving and returning later to pick up his dad like he usually did, he hung around to say a few words in acknowledgment of his father's accomplishment. And. . . . as a thank you to Alcoholics Anonymous.

As PLH began speaking, I began to cry, as did PLH and most of the other members in attendance. What struck me was how many other thousands of family members of AA's must feel the same measure of gratefulness to our program that PLH was expressing. As an alcoholic, my default mode is to think only about me. Yet, what about my parents, who I know cared at least as much about my sobriety as I do? And my brothers and sisters, and my children, and my spouse? While we have not yet, and may ever, worked out all the issues between us, at least we have that chance.

PLH says he doesn't know if his actions in notifying us, his father's friends, of his passing is appropriate. I don't know either, but I know what I feel. His desire to let us know about his father speaks volumes about the love they shared, and about restored relationships. My only response to his expression of gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous is to tell him how grateful we are that HE is grateful. I will miss his father. He was my friend.

Web Team Member

What a miracle!! The web site had been open barely two days, without any kind of advertising. How did PLH find the site? SLS



Madam Ez says "My husband and I divorced for religious reasons. He thought he was God, and I didn't!"

March 21 - 10:00 am - Area Business Meeting - Twin Falls

Quoting one is plagiarism.
Quoting many is research!

April 17- 4th Annual Mini-Conference
on the 12 Concepts - 2:00 pm,
Potluck at 5pm/ Speakers Mtg at 6pm
104 S. Kimball - Caldwell

*April 30, to May 2, 2004
Spring assembly - Ramada Inn
Chubbuck (Pocatello), ID
Hosted by District 1*

*To be a reflective person is to
acknowledge that there is room for
growth and change in our lives.*

*June 17 - Deadline for agenda items for
Aug 15 Business Mtg.*

**AUGUST 4 - DEADLINE FOR
AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 2
FALL ASSEMBLY BUS MEETING**

**AUGUST 15 - AREA BUSINESS MEETING -
TWIN FALLS**

**Ever stop to think, and forget
to start again?**

**OCTOBER 1-3 - FALL ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS MEETING IDAHO FALLS**

**The only way to become less
controlling is to see the advantages
of doing so. You have to see that
you can still get your way when it's
necessary, yet you will be less
personally invested.**

**NOVEMBER 11 - DEADLINE FOR
AGENDA ITEMS FOR JAN 9 AREA
BUSINESS MEETING - TWIN FALLS.**

I took an IQ test and the results
were negative.

**January 9, 2005 - Area Bus
Meeting - Twin Falls.**

PROCRASTINATE NOW!

**If you have any events planned this
summer, please get them to me a
few weeks before the assembly.
Otherwise, it will be too late to get
them in the Wagon Wheel.**

<wagonwheel_15@hotmail.com>
or (208) 940-0647

Don't take life too seriously, you
won't get out alive.

Memo to an A.A. Group Treasurer

The position of group treasurer is one of the most responsible positions in the group and requires accuracy, attention to detail, and accountability to the group as a whole. While there is no standard length of sobriety necessary for a member to take on the position of group treasurer, many groups suggest that the treasurer should have a reasonable period of sobriety (at least six months to a year or more). It is also suggested that group treasurers be well grounded in the Twelve Traditions and be familiar with the principles and practices of the group itself.

When the basket is passed at an A.A. gathering, members make a very special contribution to the effective functioning and well-being of the Fellowship as a whole — a contribution that is not just a financial one. When members put whatever they can into the basket, this is a direct way of making sure the group will survive and continue to carry the A.A. message to newcomers and oldtimers alike. But A.A. members not only put dollars and cents into the basket, they are also investing their support and trust.

Duties of the Group Treasurer

The general duties of a group treasurer can be summarized as follows:

- **Collection:** The traditional means of assuring that the group is self-supporting is to pass the basket. Since there are no dues or fees for A.A. membership, those members attending the meeting are asked to make a voluntary contribution to help cover the group's expenses. Typically, after the basket is passed, the group treasurer takes custody of the money collected.

- **Safeguarding:** The group treasurer takes reasonable precautions to safeguard the group's funds. Many groups keep the group's treasury in a bank checking account in the group's name, often requiring at least two signatures on all checks. This provides security against accidental loss; it also provides ease of disbursement and a continuing record of income and expenses. Monthly bank statements are normally sent directly to the group treasurer who can bring them to the group as needed.

- **Disbursement:** The group treasurer is usually the person responsible for paying the group's routine bills and for keeping accurate records of the group's funds. The treasurer needs to be well informed about how the group's money is spent and should have addresses and mailing information for all A.A. service entities that the group contributes to.

- **Reporting:** Most groups request a treasurer's report and all relevant documentation at regularly scheduled business meetings. This way, all group members can stay informed about the financial health of the group and make group conscience decisions about how the funds should be spent.

Where Does It Go?

Money contributed at A.A. meetings belongs to the group, so that it may serve A.A. as a whole. Group funds are used in a number of ways throughout the Fellowship, always with the aim of making more and better Twelfth Step work possible. From A.A.'s earliest times members have been providing financial support to make sure that individual groups survive, that newcomers have a way of contacting A.A., and that accurate information about A.A. reaches prospective A.A. members. When an A.A. member puts money "in the basket" it helps to ensure that A.A. groups will be able to maintain a meeting space, that telephones will continue to be answered at intergroups and central offices, that prisoners will get Big Books, Loners will get letters, newcomers will get pamphlets and meeting books, and that professionals interested in alcoholism will get answers to their questions about A.A.

First, the group's basic needs are met, such as providing for rent, literature, refreshments, insurance, and any other relevant expenses approved by the group conscience. Then the group can participate in the financial support of the Fellowship as a whole by sending money to various A.A. service entities: their local intergroup or central office, the General Service Office, their area and district, and whatever is appropriate in their locality.

These service entities do much of the work of A.A. and, like the group itself, need money to function and survive. These entities utilize contributions in a number of different ways, always with the aim of carrying the A.A. message.

As co-founder Bill W. wrote in 1957, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every A.A. member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and our bills paid."

Having a Prudent Reserve

Most groups try to have a financial reserve which they can draw upon in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, such as an increase in the group's rent or the sudden need to purchase a new coffeepot. There is no predetermined amount for such a reserve, but most groups try to put aside enough money to cover at least one to three months' operating expenses. The group itself usually determines the actual size and scope of the prudent reserve. It is important, however, to remember that this reserve is not an operating account and is intended to cover extraordinary fluctuations in income or expenses.

Spirituality and Money

While much of the work of the group treasurer involves a lot of details, it is important to remember that the money the treasurer is often so busy overseeing serves a very spiritual purpose within the Fellowship: it allows each group the opportunity to fulfill its primary purpose, that of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is the fundamental work of A.A., and to ensure that the hand of A.A. will remain outstretched, the group must find appropriate means of keeping its doors open. The group treasurer is an important part of this Twelfth Step work.

Additional Resources for Group Treasurers

Treasurers may have questions not answered in this brochure. Such as: How do groups set up a bank account or get a tax I.D. number? What about group insurance? Does it matter if the group can only send a very small contribution in support of A.A.'s essential services? Where should contributions be sent? Do you have to be an accountant to be a group treasurer? What is the Birthday or Anniversary Plan and how can members be a part of it? Is there a limit on the amount a member can contribute to A.A.?

A number of these questions and suggested answers about group bank accounts, insurance, and A.A. essential services may be found in the pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix," and in A.A. Guidelines on Finance. For information about the Twelve Traditions of A.A. and how they apply to finances, see the pamphlet, "A.A. Tradition — How It Developed." Also, the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" discusses the role and qualifications of treasurers and how they fit into the A.A. service structure. Additional copies of these items may be obtained by contacting the General Service Office in New York.

This is service material
prepared by the General Service Office.

A.A. General Service Office, Box 459,
Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

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The A.A.W.S. Newsletter released Dec. 11, 2003, tells about Elaine and Greg from G.S.O. traveling to India for the 32nd Conference of A.A. in that huge country. Elaine attended a planning session in Geneva Switzerland, and she received the Polish version of the 17th World Service Report, and they received information about the existence of the third A.A. convention in Muscat, Oman, in the Middle East. A.A. is everywhere.

Also in the report, unaudited results for the ten-month period ending October 31, 2003 reflected:

Total revenue - \$8,100,800.

Total Expenses - \$8,634,900.

Net Loss - \$534,000.

When they pass the basket, at least donate the cost of a drink!!
A.A. saves lives, including yours.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

SYMPTOMS OF INNER PEACE

Be on the lookout for symptoms of inner peace. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to inner peace and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions.

This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs to look for:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love offered by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

The town drunk went to see the doctor. "I hurt all over my body," he complained. He laid his finger on his left shoulder. "When I touch myself here, it hurts." Then he put his finger near his heart. "When I touch here, it hurts." Then, he put his finger on his thigh. "When I touch myself here, it hurts." And so on. "No matter where I touch myself, Doc, it hurts something awful. Please, what's wrong with me?"

The doctor said, "You have broken finger."

Twelve Qualities of Sponsorship

1. I will not help you to stay and wallow in limbo.
2. I will help you to grow, to become more productive, by your definition.
3. I will help you become more autonomous, more loving of yourself, more excited, less sensitive, more free to become the authority for your own living.
4. I can not give you dreams or "fix you up" simply because I can not.
5. I can not give you growth, or grow for you. You must grow for yourself by facing reality, grim as it may be at times.
6. I can not take away your loneliness or your pain.
7. I can not sense your world for you, evaluate your goals for you, tell you what is best for your world; because you have your own world in which you must live.
8. I can not convince you of the necessity to make the vital decision of choosing the frightening uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of remaining static.
9. I want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend; yet I can not get close to you when you choose not to grow.
10. When I begin to care for you out of pity or when I begin to lose faith in you, then I am inhibiting both for you and for me.
11. You must know and understand my help is conditional. I will be with you and "hang in there" with you so long as I continue to get even the slightest hint that you are still trying to grow.
12. If you can accept this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be, mature adults, leaving childishness forever to the little children of the world.

Idaho Area 18 Web Site

How to Submit Items for the Area 18 Web Site:

AA Groups/Districts and Intergroups/Central Offices within Area 18 may submit event information to be displayed on this web site, keeping in mind AA traditions (please read the excerpt from the web Guidelines below): location, time, agenda, registration form, etc.) for the following types of activities:

- a. A.A. general service functions (quarterlies, assemblies, conferences, special forums, workshops, etc.)
- b. Fellowship activities (roundups, speaker meetings, picnics, dances, campus, etc.)

From the Area 18 Web Guidelines:

1. Anonymity will be preserved and protected: the names of individuals and individual phone numbers, postal and e-mail addresses will not be displayed on the Web site (Traditions 11 and 12).
2. There will be no endorsement or affiliation with non-A.A. Entities (Tradition 6).
3. The A.A. Preamble will be prominently shown on the home page of the Web site.
4. The Web site will not link to Web sites not sponsored by bona fide A.A. service entities.
5. Autonomy will be respected: Home Groups, Districts and Intergroups/Central Offices will decide for themselves what information they do and do not want given on the Web site, as well as the extent of their participation in the Area Web site activity (Tradition 4).

Please send us an e-mail about the event or announcement you want listed on the web site. Please include your name, group and a phone number when submitting information. Thank you.
fellowship@idahoaarea18aa.org

Idaho Area 18 Web Site Meeting Directory

Currently the Area 18 web site only contains meeting information for Southern and Eastern Idaho within its database (though it does link to the Treasure Valley Intergroup meeting directory as well as Area 92's data base for meetings in the rest of the state). The meeting information should be confirmed by the groups in each District for accuracy, if possible.

We are in the process of adding the meeting information for the remainder of the state into the database.

It is the intention of the web team to display meeting information in a manner that is consistent with the groups wishes. At this time we have not consulted with most AA groups whose meeting information is in the database to confirm their wish that it be included. It would be helpful if the question could be asked at the District level and if there are groups that do not want their meeting information to be included in the database they can contact us to have the information removed.

We would also request that new meeting information and modifications to current meetings be submitted by Group GSR's or by District DCM's when appropriate. On the web site there will be further information on how to submit new or modified meeting information.