

"Our primary purpose it to stay sober and to help  
Others achieve sobriety."

# Slippery When Wet

## Treasure Valley Intergroup Newsletter

### Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



**1** Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



**2** Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



**3** Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



**4** Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



**5** Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



**6** If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



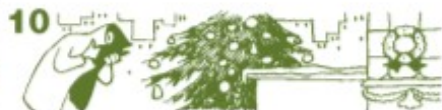
**7** Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



**8** Worship in your own way.



**9** Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



**10** Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."

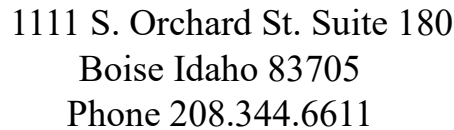


**11** Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



**12** "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

**"Serving the Greater Treasurer Valley Area AA Groups and Fellowship!"**



## Holiday Office Hours

If you have a meeting change, please fill out this form to keep our Meeting List up to date: <https://tvico.net/aa-meeting-news/> Thank you!





## ■ ICOAA Seminar:

### “I’m supporting them; are they supporting me?”

Sue C. is manager of the Rhode Island Central Service Office, which hosted the 36th annual Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S./AAGV Seminar, held September 29–October 2. “We put in a bid in 2019 to host the meeting,” Sue says, “and our intention was to do it in person.” It was, after all, to be the first ICOAA seminar ever held in New England. “We were going to have people come in on Thursday, see Providence, visit the local office, maybe take a trip to Brown University,” which hosts a collection of Dr. Bob’s papers, consisting of 5,000 items including two hundred books, dozens of pieces of memorabilia and several hundred manuscripts and photographs. Unfortunately, uncertainty surrounding the Delta variant forced the seminar steering committee to choose a virtual seminar, making it the second one ever held virtually (the first was hosted by Des Moines, Iowa, last year). Planning was time-consuming, but Sue had the help of Mary H. — “my right hand person”; Cheri J., of Kansas, Missouri, who did invaluable tech work; and Matthew C., central office manager from Ventura, California, who helped set up and troubleshoot the ICOAA seminar website.

Attending were 118 registrants (17 from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine) representing 67 different central offices, including six offices from Canada and one office in Auckland, New Zealand. In order to accommodate time zones and deal with online fatigue, the seminar was held from Wednesday until Saturday; lessons learned from the Des Moines virtual seminar were applied (break-out rooms instead of separate teleconference links for each meeting, as well as one big room where everyone could “sit and talk,” as Sue says). The workshops — all run by central office workers — focused on the Seventh Tradition in a largely cashless society; learning the all-important technical tools for today’s virtual A.A. world; planning annual budgets and prudent reserves; how best to keep groups informed, via newsletters, email and other types of outreach; and a good deal more.

The A.A.W.S./G.S.O. contingent gave a presentation followed by a Q&A Thursday night, with speakers that included General Manager Bob W.; Jimmy D. and Deb K. of the A.A.W.S. board; David R., Publishing Director; Malini Singh (nonalcoholic), Director of Operations; Margaret Matos (nonalcoholic), manager of the new Member Services department; and Craig W., G.S.O. staff on the Group Services assignment. Friday night it was Grapevine’s turn, with speakers Chris C., AA Grapevine publisher; Jon W., AA Grapevine senior editor; and Karina C., La Viña editor.

From the very first ICOAA seminar in 1986, the stated purpose of the seminars has been to provide a forum,

through workshop discussions and the exchange of ideas and shared experience, for those who labor on A.A.’s front lines. But the need to reconcile the problems common to most central office/intergroups with the services provided to the Fellowship by A.A.W.S., Grapevine and the General Service Board — especially since, structurally, the appearance of the first intergroups/central offices (IGCOs) in the 1940s predates the creation of the General Service Conference and the A.A. service structure — creates tension, tension that came to the surface during the seminar weekend.

“The IGCOs would like to be more involved in the Conference process; they would like better communication with the delegates; and they would like to be included or consulted when matters involving them or affecting them comes up, such as the Service Manual, beta testing, new literature,” says Craig W. “There is a perception that we would rather talk to the delegates than the IGCOs on a lot of issues. The General Service Conference process asks us to communicate with the area delegate and the hope is that the area delegate will carry that information locally. But we do see the necessity to communicate more on the matters directly concerning the IGCOs.”

The value of intergroup/central offices cannot be overstated, Craig says. “They are A.A., and they are on the front lines when someone needs help, buys a book or stops by for a pamphlet; they provide a conversation about A.A. and recovery, and about what’s going on locally.”

During the weekend gathering, some longstanding tensions boiled over, with intense criticism directed at G.S.O. staffers by a few of the IGCO attendees during Q&A sessions and at other moments during the seminar. “Some of the behavior toward staffers was hurtful,” Craig says, as often the criticism was leveled at matters beyond their scope. “To have so many staffers there to put up with that behavior is really not productive.”

Jimmy D., A.A.W.S. chair, agrees that the situation was difficult. “I have significant Dallas intergroup experience. I served two terms on that board, 20 years apart, and I chaired that board. I come from a place where I respect a certain level of frustration. Like everyone in A.A., those managers want to make sure that their voice is heard. But the tone and tenor of the discussion were not good. There was at times a snide, vitriolic type of environment.”

Like Craig, Jimmy understands the feeling among many intergroup/central office managers that there is a lack of communication or concern for the central offices on the part of G.S.O. “But there are certain parameters that, from a viability perspective, we can’t entertain at this point,” he says. “We eat hundreds of thousands of dollars for shipping each year to intergroups and central offices, and we’re happy to do that. We give the best pricing discounts that we can — quantity discounts — that most intergroups/central offices are able to make

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work. There are small intergroup and central offices that would like better pricing. They asked for the mixed-item discount last year and the board approved it, but we put that on hold so that we could do the shipping discount. And so on.

"In my opinion, frankly, dependence on literature sales is not healthy for G.S.O. and not healthy for local service offices, either. But that aside, we can all align ourselves with the mission of A.A. What seems to be most helpful is when we move the material concerns out of the way and understand that we both have the same objective. We fulfill different roles in that objective. G.S.O. is not equipped to hand off the Big Book and spend 15 minutes talking to the new guy about A.A. But intergroup and central offices are."

Jimmy, Craig, Bob W. and others stayed online after the presentations and workshops were done to discuss these issues with intergroup/central office managers — the "meeting after the meeting," as Craig says. "It was as late as midnight on the East Coast and six p.m. in Hawaii. We were able to connect and hear each other. The question came up, 'How come we never have one person we can talk to regularly? You're all always rotat-

ing out of your positions.' (Staff rotation is a recurrent complaint of IGCO managers.) And so I said, 'Maybe you should stop wearing us out.' That got a laugh. The point is, we want to continue to work together, to grow, to heal — and we all have to look at how we are communicating our expectations."

Colleen M. has been the Greater Vancouver central office manager for the last three years. The Covid-19 pandemic struck a devastating blow to her office, as it did to so many intergroup/central offices, which depend on physical human interaction to help suffering alcoholics and on selling the literature to help keep the offices afloat. "We shut down completely on March 13, 2020. People weren't allowed to come and hang out. Literature sales dropped drastically. Our heart is our phone volunteers, our volunteers who stuff envelopes, and the people who stop by for coffee."

Colleen has been to the ICOAA seminar every year since 2018. "It saved my life when I first started this job. It was total identification. You get in that tribe of people who understand what it is like to be a central office worker. We are very blessed, but it is a very unique position. The seminar is one of the few times, aside from

## ■ OIAA — Coming into its own

With all the tumult of the ICOAA seminar, not everyone noticed that there was a new, first-time attendee: Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA). Arising from a group that called itself "Living Cyber" in the mid-1990s, OIAA provided a centralized location where groups could come online and people could find them. Now with over 4,000 meetings, OIAA is essentially a worldwide online intergroup/central office, with the crucial distinction that it does not sell literature, has no brick-and-mortar presence and has an all-volunteer staff.

Gwen M., chair of the OIAA, and Barry M., secretary, attended the seminar. Gwen says that OIAA had not been aware of the ICOAA seminar "until it came up in conversation with Craig W. of the Group Services desk. We've had a really collaborative relationship with G.S.O. because of our explosive growth — among other things, G.S.O. wanted to get a feel for ways in which online groups might be plugged into the service structure — and we have a monthly touch-base. So, Craig brought up our attending ICOAA and we thought, 'Wow, we should be a part of this.' It's sort of like the next chapter for us. We were such an anomaly and now we're finding our legs and truly going mainstream."

The rapid expansion of OIAA is in large part due to the A.A. world turning to virtual communication and meetings during the Covid-19 crisis. In September, the OIAA site (<https://aa-intergroup.org>) saw 20,000 hits per day, with over 640,000 views for the month. Their "How we can help" page averages 3,900 views a day and had 1.2 million hits in 2021 by the end of September. Their Twelfth Step committee (the "Steppers Committee") responds directly in 16 languages via email to those suffering alcoholics needing help. A feature allows A.A.'s and those seeking A.A. to find the "next available" meeting, listing the platform upon which it takes place (Zoom, Skype, phone, email, chat room, etc.). There are numerous options for meetings, which indicate the broad base of members served by OIAA — meetings for blind/visually impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and LGBTQ, to name only a few of the myriad choices available.

How did Gwen feel to be finally connected with the IGCOs at the seminar? "I loved it," she says. "I left with so much respect for my local intergroup as well as appreciation for intergroups everywhere." She was aware of some of the tensions due to the differing perspectives of G.S.O. and intergroup/central offices but feels that sometimes expressing these tensions is necessary "to move us forward — they can be opportunities to grow" and that they echo similar tensions within OIAA itself. And she and Barry found that the topics covered at the workshops provided invaluable advice on everything from vetting new meetings to tax and insurance issues, which Barry has been examining for OIAA.

Ultimately, Barry says, "We want to deepen and broaden our relationship with intergroup/central offices — and not only here in the U.S. We truly want to have OIAA committed to interface with the intergroups/central offices around the world."

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## SCHEDULE OF A. A. MEETINGS New York City and vicinity

	Group	Address	Type of Meeting	Time
SUNDAY	Manhattan	485 West 41st Street, N.Y.C.	Beginners (Open)	1:00 P.M.
"	Manhattan	305 West 41st Street, N.Y.C.	Open	4:30 P.M.
"	South Shore	Girl Scout Bldg., 3 Park Avenue, Baldwin, L. I.	Open	2:30 P.M.
"	New Rochelle	Y.M.C.A., Division St. & Burling Lane	Open	4:15 P.M.
MONDAY	Manhattan	485 West 41st Street, N.Y.C.	Discussion Group	2:30 P.M.
"	Forest Hills	Forest Hills Inn (Rd Ave. Sub.)	Open	4:30 P.M.
"	Mineola	New Court House, Old Country Rd., Mineola	Open	2:30 P.M.
"	Mt. Vernon	Women's Club, 118 Crazy Avenue	Open	4:30 P.M.
TUESDAY	Manhattan	485 West 41st Street, N.Y.C.	Open	2:30 P.M.
"	Yonkers	Y.W.C.A., 57 So. Broadway	Closed	4:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	Manhattan	17 East 42nd Street, Room 402, N.Y.C.	Closed	4:30 P.M.
"	Jackson Heights	Republican Club, 3160 32nd Street, 3rd Floor	Open	4:30 P.M.
"	Brooklyn	St. George Hotel	Closed	4:30 P.M.
"	Brooklyn	2500 Marlon Avenue	Open	4:30 P.M.
"	White Plains	Republican Club, Martine & Mamaroneck Avenues	Open	7:30 P.M.
"	Staten Island	S. I. Inst. of Arts & Science Bldg., St. George, S. I.	Open	4:30 P.M.
"	Seaman's	234½ West 24th Street, N.Y.C.	Closed	4:30 P.M.
"	North Shore	75 Plandome Road, Manhasset, L. I.	Open	4:30 P.M.

The first meeting schedule printed by the New York Inter-Group Association of Alcoholics Anonymous, now known as New York Inter-Group (NYIG).

when you're talking to A.A.W.S. staff, that you get to talk to other people who understand Tradition Eight in the same way that we do."

Colleen, who sits on the ICOAA communications committee, says that understanding the differing G.S.O./A.A.W.S./ICOAA perspectives begins with understanding the fact that "there are two different service entities within A.A. — intergroup/central offices and A.A.W.S./Grapevine — and we were here first!" she says, laughing. "Do I think we work in harmony all the time? No, obviously not. We're one great big dysfunctional family, but we come from different perspectives. It's a systemic problem in Alcoholics Anonymous, but I believe even so that the central offices feel more respected than we ever have. I think that we feel heard."

Colleen agrees that the frustration of the IGCO managers at the seminar went beyond what was appropriate. "We weren't nice to paid [G.S.O./A.A.W.S.] staff," she says. "We owe them an amends." But issues obviously remain, and Colleen says, "I'm scared of what's going to happen to intergroup/central offices. Like many of my colleagues, I am fearful." Literature sales remain a large and to some extent unresolved issue. "I can't get the new Grapevine book *Prayer and Meditation* here in Vancouver. I ordered it the day it came out and it is still back ordered from Grapevine. But I can go and order it on Amazon and have it delivered next day. I don't think anyone [at Grapevine] is doing this on purpose, but it is really disheartening when my members can go to Amazon and get a book, but they can't from their central office. I would never order from Amazon because that would go against the group conscience of Greater Vancouver intergroups. But understand that all through Covid I've maintained my office subscriptions to Grapevine, and they are just sitting there in the cupboard. So the ques-

tion is: I'm supporting them; are they supporting me?"

Then there are the quality issues.

"I have people bringing me back a copy of *Daily Reflections* that you open it up and it's all blank pages. I have members bringing me back Big Books where Chapter Five and 'A Vision for You' are upside-down. Why are we having these quality issues all of a sudden? Why are we only finding out at the seminar that you have changed printers? Why aren't we being told this? Two days ago, I received 500 wallet cards with the new Preamble — but they're the *old* Preamble. So I just wasted a bunch of money that my Fellowship is not going to be happy about.

"So it's little things like that that we are asking for information about.

If you can send it out to a delegate, why can't you send it out to us? Why do I have to rely on a delegate? They may be in the Conference service structure, but we are the boots-on-the-ground service structure. We want to know about these things so we can also help A.A.W.S. sales by encouraging people to buy and letting them know ahead of time if there are problems. Why can't we have the new book before Amazon has them if we are all part of the same family?"

In the first two weeks after the Greater Vancouver office shut down in March 2020, Colleen says, "We got 3,000 phone calls at a time when we normally might get 1,600. 'My home group is closed. What do I do? What's going on with A.A.? Can you tell me?' Yet we weren't getting the letters that were being sent out to delegates. Nobody's talking to intergroups. We had each other. Trish L. [trustee at large/Canada and Colleen's sponsor] was able to help us out by connecting us with a bunch of districts and D.C.M.s and with Victoria intergroup. We'd meet every second week to exchange information. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, in these new times, we have been the support, the voice and the heart of the Fellowship."

Not long after the seminar, Craig W. attended the intergroup/central offices quarterly meeting with the IGCO communications committee. There, away from the supercharged atmosphere of the seminar, perspectives were aired and both groups had what Craig calls "a very good and unifying meeting. I think the point here is we have people who are willing to connect and heal. There is still obviously resentment we had to work through on almost every topic, but I think it was a chance for us to build trust and have honest conversations about difficulties and frustrations, as well as to set boundaries moving forward."



**Treasure Valley Intergroup Central Office**  
**Cash Flow**  
**NOVEMBER 2021**

**INFLOWS**

Archives	\$	-	<sup>3</sup>
TSNAC	\$	100.00	

**Gross Sales**

GSO Sales	\$	8,405.91
Non-GSO Sales	\$	2,956.79
Meeting Schedules & NCP	\$	15.00
In House Merchandise	\$	-
Gift Certificates	\$	-
Refunds	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Gross Sales</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,377.70</b>
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**Member Donations**

Group Donations	\$	8,506.75
Individual Donations	\$	239.07
Donation Can	\$	28.99
District 3	\$	-
District 4	\$	-
Intergroup	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,774.81</b>
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**Miscellaneous Revenue**

Interest Income	\$	4.59
Shipping & Handling	\$	21.00
Printing	\$	8.70
Restitution	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Misc. Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>34.29</b>
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<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,286.80</b>
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Cash on Hand	\$	50,389.81
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Less Pre-Paid Accts Payable	\$	-
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Less Liabilities Owing	\$	(3,335.38)	<sup>2</sup>
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<b>Cash Available for Operations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>47,054.43</b>
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Cash Drawer	\$	150.00
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**Prudent Reserves:**

Operations Prudent Reserve	\$	16,090.74
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Literature Prudent Reserve	\$	7,000.00
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Inventory on Hand	\$	17,473.17
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Amounts due from Customers	\$	87.14
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**OUTFLOWS**

<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,369.39</b>
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**Office Expenses**

Assembly Expense	\$	-
Bank & Merchant Serv Fees	\$	176.60
Computer Expense	\$	-
Copy Machine Lease	\$	201.37
Donations from TVICO	\$	10.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$	-
Insurance (Liability)	\$	-
Mileage Expense	\$	10.45
Office Expense/Supplies	\$	274.84
Over-Under	\$	-
Phone/Internet Service	\$	160.59
Postage & Delivery	\$	50.10
Printing & Reproduction	\$	13.62
Professional Fees	\$	569.74
Rent	\$	1,260.00
Web Site Hosting/Maintenanc	\$	-
	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Office Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,727.31</b>
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**Payroll Expense**

Includes Employer Taxes	\$	3,152.33
Work Comp Insurance	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Payroll Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,152.33</b>
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<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,249.03</b>
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<b>NET CASH +/-</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,037.77</b>
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**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup>Prof. Fees for include reconciling previous month bank statements, preparing payroll & making payroll tax deposits and/or reports, reporting & paying sales tax, review customer & vendor accounts, W2s, 1099s, annual reports, preparation & E-Filing of Annual 990-EX Tax Return, & Enhanced Payroll Subscription.

<sup>2</sup>Liabilities Owing Includes: Vendor invoices, payroll liabilities, credit card balance, Idaho Sales Tax, and Gift Certificates

<sup>3</sup>TSNAC paid two months.

*Thank you for supporting Central Office, we couldn't do it without you!*

**T.V.I.C.O.  
GROUP DONATIONS  
NOVEMBER 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11/01/2021	Women's Heart	149.85
11/01/2021	Saturday Night Live	20.00
11/02/2021	Faith Forward	299.94
11/02/2021	Group 41	50.00
11/04/2021	Linder Group	200.00
11/04/2021	How It Works - Nampa	140.64
11/05/2021	Bucks No Bull	76.65
11/05/2021	Treasure Valley Speaker Banquet	3,665.77
11/09/2021	M3 Men's Meeting	150.00
11/09/2021	Sobriety Seekers	500.00
11/09/2021	Go Vertical	1,000.00
11/09/2021	On Awakening	120.71
11/09/2021	There is a Solution	290.00
11/11/2021	Turning Point	120.00
11/16/2021	Kuna Beginners	24.00
11/16/2021	Sunrise Group McCall	100.00
11/16/2021	Welcome Home Nampa	50.00
11/18/2021	Boise Zoomers	25.00
11/22/2021	Sobriety Seekers	500.00
11/23/2021	Canyon River Group	40.00
11/23/2021	Seekers	183.55
11/24/2021	M3 Men's Meeting	150.00
11/29/2021	As Bill Sees It	253.69
11/30/2021	On the Rocks	72.00
11/30/2021	How It Works - Nampa	64.95
11/30/2021	Sunrise Meeting Meridian	260.00
<b>Total Group Donations</b>		<b>\$ 8,506.75</b>

**Central Office would like to thank all the Groups, Individuals, and  
Districts for their donations last month.  
We appreciate it so much ! ! !**

Minutes Treasure Valley Intergroup Meeting (Corrected)

11/11/2021

1. Open with Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.
2. In attendance; Scott H., Bob B., Marti H., Stan N., Kimmie P., Brian T., Liz W., Audrey M., Brenda M., Jordan K., Margo N., Scott T., Avalon K., Janet H., Amelia, Lonnie B., Ron T., Lori W., Jason S., Ellie D., and Chuck C.
3. Birthdays: None announced.
4. Secretary Minutes for October: Motion by Stan N., and seconded by Avalon K., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Intergroup Treasurer Report: Motion by Amelia and seconded by Kimmie P., to accept the Intergroup Treasurer report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Intergroup Election results: **6.1 - Chairperson** – Janet H.; **Co-Chairperson** – Stan N.; **Treasure** – Liz W.; **Secretary** – Scott T.; and **Newsletter Editor** – Ellie D. There were no candidates for the position of Hotline Coordinator; this position will be elected in December. **6.2** - After the December 9, 2021, meeting of Treasure Valley Intergroup the name Audrey M will be taken off the bank account for Intergroup and the name Elizabeth W put on the bank account for Intergroup.
7. Intergroup Co-Chair/Chair Entertainment Chair:
8. Intergroup Chair – The chair requests attendees to find and encourage members to consider taking on the job of Hotline Coordinator.
9. Slippery When Wet Editor – There are 264 online subscribers and 8 that receive the newsletter by mail. After discussion, the Newsletter Editor was directed to mail out the 8 newsletters to those who do not have email and requested the newsletter.
10. Answering Service – Not present.
11. TSNAC Representative – See attached report.
12. CPC/PI Representative – See attached report.
13. Group Announcements – No group announcements were called for tonight.
14. Central Office Financial Breakdown – Copy of report was sent with meeting invitation and these minutes.
15. Steering Committee – Janet H. – **15.1** – Janet reported that the two new computers have been acquired and one is in place and working and the other computer setup is almost completed. **15.2** – The committee is looking into 'Liability Insurance' for the Steering Committee. **15.3** – Margo is working on getting additional support regarding 'Hosting' issues. **15.4** – The new cell phone has been purchased and is working.
16. Store Report – The Central Office received a check for \$3,665.77 from the Treasure Valley Speaker Banquet. The office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
17. Unfinished Business – **17.1** – Marti H. gave an updated report on the ad hoc committee progress and recommendation. **17.2** – A motion was moved by Stan N. and seconded by Janet H. to allot the ad hoc committee \$600 budget to work with a non-profit organization in reviewing the current Intergroup Bylaws and Documents of Incorporations to determine whether we are following Idaho State requirements. The motions passed and the minority voters were heard. No one voting for the motion wanted to change their vote therefore, the motion passes.
18. New Business – **18.1** – No new business was presented.
19. Having no more business, Stan N. mentioned to adjourn, and Ron T. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.  
Meeting Adjourned.





### Area Committee Business Meetings

- **TSNAC (Treatment/Special Needs—Accessibility and Corrections) West Monthly Business Meeting (for district and group reps) – 3rd Saturday of the month – 10:00 am – Zoom Meeting ID 836-4495-5858**
- **CPC/PI West Monthly Business Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of the month – 6:30 pm – Zoom Meeting ID 913-045-768**
- **IFYPAA Business Meeting – 2nd Sunday of the month – 2:00 pm – 344 Park Ave. (The Villa), Idaho Falls, ID**
- **EMMYPAA Business Meeting – Sundays – 8:00 pm – Gem County Community Recovery Center, 199 S. McKinley Ave. Emmett, ID**
- **BACYPAA – 1st, 3rd and 5th (when applicable)- Sunday of each month – 5:30 pm – SNL, 5383 W. Franklin Street, Boise, ID**
- **SCTI TSNAC Business Meeting – 4th Sunday of every month – 2:00 pm Shoshone Senior Center, 218 North Rail, Shoshone, Idaho**

### District Business Meetings

- **District 1 – 2nd Sunday of the month – 1:00 pm – Friendship Club of Pocatello, 1st & Lovejoy, Pocatello, ID**
- **District 2 – 1st Sunday of the month – 10:00 am – Hybrid, Alternating Locations, Zoom ID: 634 518 5576 Passcode: 135791 (Magic Valley Fellowship Hall in Twin Falls & Sun Club South In Hailey), ID**
- **District 3 – 1st Tuesday of the month – 7:00 pm – Collister United Methodist Church, 4444 Taft, Boise, ID**
- **District 4 – 2nd Saturday of the month – 4:00 pm – First Christian Church, 619 12th Av. S., Nampa, ID**
- **District 5 – 1st Sunday of the month – 3:00 pm – 324 S Meridian Rd, Room 25 Meridian, ID**
- **District 6 – 1st Tuesday of each month – 7:00 pm – Serenity Hall (downstairs), 600 S. Blvd., Idaho Falls, ID**
- **District 7 – (6 times a year) January, February, March, May, August and October – 3rd Sunday of the month if there is not an Area meeting. If it lands on the same day it would be the following weekend which the 4th Sunday of the month, Rexburg, ID**
- **District 8 – 4th Thursday of the month – 7:00 pm – First Presbyterian Church, 950 West State Street, Boise, ID Currently meeting online: Zoom ID: 828 3715 2976 Passcode: 887820**
- **District 9 – 3rd Saturday of the month (Quarterly Feb, May, Aug, Nov.) – 1:00 pm – Rotating location**
- **District 10 – 1st Sunday of the month – 1:00 pm (Potluck at Noon)- Jerome Library, Jerome, ID**
- **District 12 – Rotating meeting times and locations. For more information please email [district12@idahoarea18aa.org](mailto:district12@idahoarea18aa.org)**

### Treasure Valley Intergroup Business Meetings

- **Intergroup – 2nd Thursday of the month 6PM. 1111 S. Orchard Street, Suite 180, Boise ID (Central Office) Zoom ID: 833 3194 0106 Passcode: 164**
- **TVICO Steering Committee Tuesday prior to Intergroup meeting at 6pm. 1111 S. Orchard St, Suite 180, Boise, ID (Central Office)**

# 2021 Carry The Message Project

Want to Help Another Alcoholic?  
Grapevine and La Vina are Great Twelfth Step Tools!  
Look at these 3 Easy Ways!

**1. If you know the full name and the mailing address of the recipient:** Give a Gift Subscription to a friend, a sponsee, doctor's offices, or for giveaways at anniversaries or events at your homegroup, district, or area level.

**Follow these steps:**

Go to [store.aagrapevine.org](http://store.aagrapevine.org).

- Click on the Gift Subscriptions box.
- Click on the Red Gift Bag icon for the type of gift subscription you want to give.
- Click on "Go to the products page."
- Click on the number of Gift subscriptions you want to purchase (*1 gift or 2*).
- Enter your information, the recipient's information, and your payment information.
- Click on the Process Order button. You're done!

**Note:** First renewal notices will be sent to you and if there is no response, the last ones will be sent to the recipient.

**2. If you do not know the full name and the mailing address of the recipient and want Grapevine to select an alcoholic in need from the requests we have received:** Give a Carry the Message Gift Certificate to someone you do not know (*such as an alcoholic in prison.*)

**Follow these steps:**

Go to [store.aagrapevine.org](http://store.aagrapevine.org).

- Click on the Gift Certificate box.
- Click the Buy button of the appropriate Carry the Message Gift Certificate option and you will be taken to a page showing our quantity discounts (*at the bottom*).
- Enter the number of gift certificates that you want and click the Buy button. (*For multiple gift certificates, the discount will automatically be applied*).
- Click Checkout and enter your order and payment information.
- When you click the Confirm button, you will get an order confirmation email and the gift certificate will be sent to you as an individual email. Forward the gift certificate to [Sonia Dominguez](mailto:sdominguez@aagrapevine.org) at [sdominguez@aagrapevine.org](mailto:sdominguez@aagrapevine.org) and we will redeem it for someone who has requested a subscription but can't afford one. (*If you have purchased multiple gift certificates, select all of them and use the Forward as Attachment option, so you only have to send us one email*).

**Note:** Your information will not be connected to the subscription record and all renewal notices will be sent directly to the recipient.

**3. If you do not know the full name and the mailing address of the recipient and would like to give them a gift certificate for them to redeem themselves for a subscription (example: A newcomer in your group.) :**

Give a Carry the Message Gift Certificate to a newcomer or someone in your group.

**Follow these steps:**

Go to [store.aagrapevine.org](http://store.aagrapevine.org).

- Click on the Gift Certificate box.
- Click the Buy button of the appropriate Carry the Message Gift Certificate option and you will be taken to a page showing our quantity discounts (*at the bottom*).
- Enter the number of gift certificates that you want and click the Buy button. (*For multiple gift certificates, the discount will automatically be applied*).
- Click Checkout and enter your order and payment information.
- When you click the Confirm button, you will get an order confirmation email and the gift certificate will be sent to you as an individual email. Print and hand the Gift Certificate or email the Gift Certificate to the individual(s) you wish to donate a subscription to and they will be able to redeem the gift certificate code and enter their information themselves on the store: [store.aagrapevine.org/to-redeem-your-gift-certificate](http://store.aagrapevine.org/to-redeem-your-gift-certificate).



### A Christmas Story

This past December I celebrated my 30th Christmas season as a recovering alcoholic. There is a story to tell each Christmas, to share my experience, strength and hope. It may be just my opinion, but it seems to me that from Thanksgiving through January 1st, people wear their hearts on their sleeves. People, in general, are more sensitive and it just may be that alcoholics are more so. My first two A.A. Christmases were a bit rough. At eight months I experienced my first sober Christmas. I was "just" sober, going to a meeting every day and not drinking between meetings. Still angry, still feeling sorry for myself, my marriage was still a disaster. I was just not drinking, but did not find sobriety until later. It was tough being just a "dry" member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I believe there is a difference between being sober and having sobriety. Sobriety, for me, is the ability to live comfortably and peacefully with me, most of the time. What I did not realize at the time, was that while I was sober, I did not know how to change. I had not let go of old ideas. That first Christmas, on Christmas Eve, sitting in front of the tree, all the lights were out except those on the tree, my wife and I were both in tears. We were both in total depression. My wife turned to me and said, "Let's face it, this marriage is over with." That's exactly what we both thought at that moment in our lives. It was just one more failure in my life.

Well, I kept going to meetings and did not drink between meetings, and at nine months I found sobriety and had, what I call, a spiritual experience. Maybe it was just a change in attitude. The first description is my favorite. I was driving home from a beginners meeting, when a thought flashed through my head that I could not fix my marriage! It was either going to work or it wasn't going to work; it was God's business, not mine. All I could do was to contribute to that marriage and let God handle the rest. First, I lost all fear of when she was going to divorce me. Second, I did not know I was working the third step by turning my marriage over to the care of God. Two months later, the marriage just changed. I mean it just blossomed. The last 30 years we have been a couple of God's kids having fun most of the time. I still get tears in my eyes by telling you that after 50 years of marriage, we sometimes wake up in the middle of the night holding hands. Now that is a true joy and a true miracle.

The second Christmas was also rough for me. My wife had gone back to Germany to contend with her sick parents. Our daughter (year and a half sober) was in the hospital, in an oxygen tent, with bronchial pneumonia. I was left at home, alone with me and not in the best of company. On Christmas day, I got up about 7:00 A.M., walked out into the living room and there was no Christmas tree. There were no Christmas decorations, no gifts, and no celebration, just me alone with me. By this time in my sobriety, I did have a program to work. I had learned that a problem shared is half a problem, but I just did not feel like calling another alcoholic and whine and snivel about my loneliness that early in the morning on Christmas Day. But one of the tools in my tool bag, to help with that low feeling, was to do something responsible. Clean the kitchen, sweep the garage, make the bed, just do anything responsible. So I started wandering around the house to look for something to do that was responsible. I walked into the office in my house, and it was half wall-papered. "Here," I thought, "is something responsible to do." I made the decision to finish wall-papering my office.

I just love God and God's timing. The very instant I made a decision to do something responsible, the phone rang. It was my sponsor. "Chuck, I just called this morning to let you know that you are not alone," my sponsor said. Then he said something that did not make sense to me, but for some reason I understood what he was saying. He said, "I have no idea why God has your daughter in an oxygen tent right at this moment, but maybe he just wants her off the highway for a few days." Made no sense, but I understood that God was in control. My day just changed. I just lit up. My whole attitude and outlook just turned 180 degrees. I got busy and started wall papering my office and the telephone kept ringing. I was invited to the home of some A.A. friends for a potluck. While I was there, the hospital called and my daughter was being released. I picked her up and we both went back to a room full of A.A. friends. It turned out to be one of the best Christmas's of my life.

So I have learned to make some phone calls on Christmas day, and tell someone they are not alone.

It is just plain fun to light up someone's Christmas.

-Chuck H.



## Save the Date

Spring Assembly/Convention  
Idaho Area 18  
May 6, 7, & 8, 2022  
Red Lion Inn, Pocatello

AA Comes of Age 2.0

Unified in Love and Service



For more info contact: Terri N. 208.251.1710 or  
Lisa J. 208.241.5895

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### DISTRICT 1 IS HOSTING THE 2022 IDAHO AREA 18 SPRING ASSEMBLY/CONVENTION IN POCATELLO!

May 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO BE OF SERVICE AND GET INVOLVED!**

Planning meetings will be convened on a regular basis until the event!



**THERE ARE STILL COMMITTEE POSITIONS OPEN  
OR OFFER TO VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENT!**

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Alkathon chairs:** (chair a 1-hour AA meeting. Alkathon meetings go on 24 hours during the event)

**Greeters:** (greet attendees and give directions)

**Staffing the Hospitality room:** (take a shift making sure coffee is on, snacks available, etc. )

**Helping at the registration table**

And various other service opportunities available!

For more information, or to volunteer to serve,  
Contact Joey P. 208-317-1317 or Nick E. 208-515-1668



From the Editor's Desk...

Many groups have now had their Service elections for the 2022/23 service term! Hopefully each group has a GSR, Secretary, Treasurer, and other positions, including an Intergroup Representative. You may ask why do we need an Intergroup Representative (I.R)? Because our local Treasure Valley Intergroup is here FOR YOU... the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous! Treasure Valley Intergroup Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. was created as an Idaho Nonprofit Corporation on July 20th, 1979. For 42 years we have had an Intergroup and Central Office in operation, serving autonomous AA groups in the Treasure Valley keeping AA alive and well to carry the message to the alcoholic who suffers from the disease of alcoholism. For many, many years Intergroup has sponsored fellowship events including: Lefty Callahan Raft Race, New Year's Solution Party, Halloween Party, Founder's Day Picnic, Super Bowl Extravaganza, and the Mack's Creek Campout. These events were created to foster Unity within the A.A. community and also raised funds for the viability of the Central Office. The past two years, since the onset of the COVID-19 virus such Unity activities have been halted for the safety of our fellowship. However, during this time Intergroup has continued to have monthly meetings to keep our local Central Office viable and to continue to foster Unity and to carry the message via local Intergroup Representatives of local groups. Home groups are at the top of the pyramid structure of A.A., and this is WHY it is important for each registered group with the Central Office to have an I.R., to attend Intergroup monthly meetings so that Intergroup truly represents **as many groups as possible** when discussing events, the A.A. Hotline, Slippery When Wet Intergroup Newsletter, the Central Office operations, and the Intergroup website. Homegroups have their voice heard in all matters related to how Intergroup and the Central Office provide service to the fellowship, via the vote their I.R. carries at each Intergroup Monthly Meeting. Thank you to all newly elected Intergroup Representatives! Onward and Forward!

\*\*\*\*\*

According to the PRAASA website, it has been decided that the 2022 event will be held completely virtually. The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is an annual AA conference hosted by one of the 15 Areas in the Pacific Region on a rotating basis. This year PRAASA will be held in Portland, Oregon and hosted by Area 58. There will be inspiring presentations, service experiences, fun, friends, and fellowship... all from the comfort of your home! The event is scheduled to begin Friday, March 4th at 12:45 pm and ends Sunday, March 6th at noon. Last year, all of Area 18 attendees agreed on a specific time to meet during a break in a Zoom room, for an Idaho Area 18 photo! That was fun! Please go to [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org) in the near future to register for this grand event!

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, a few months ago, I attended an Intergroup meeting in which it was announced that a Newsletter Editor was needed. I was quiet. Then someone shouted: "Brenda is here! Brenda will do it!" lol lol Of course, I was more than happy to help and agreed to fill the position until the end of the year and elections could occur. I just want to say, it has been a blast! I love this Newsletter, I love Intergroup, and I love Alcoholics Anonymous! I leave you in the good hands of the new editor, Ellie, who will begin with next month's edition! Now, I must leave you with a few jokes just because we "are not a glum lot"! ....

**"Many Covid guidelines say we can have gatherings with up to eight people without issues.  
I don't even know eight people without issues. "**

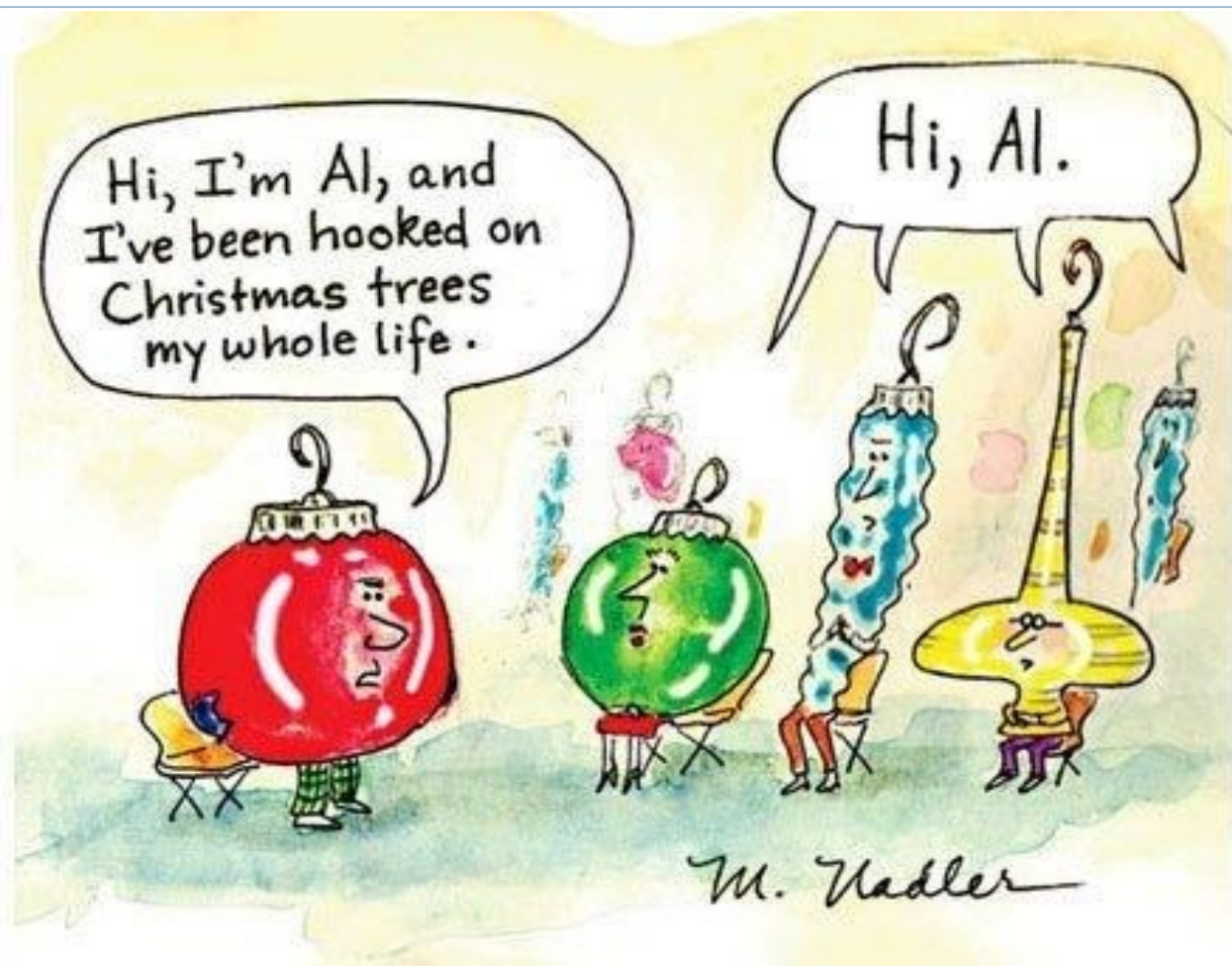
**How many alcoholics does it take to change a lightbulb?  
Just one—he holds the lightbulb and the whole world revolves around him.**

**How many Al-Anons does it take to change a lightbulb?  
None. They leave it alone and let it screw it's self.**

**So, you hate me when I'm drunk???**  
**Well we're even then, because I hate you when I'm sober.**



In Love and Service, Brenda M.



## Announcing Grapevine's New Podcast

The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour.  
Featuring AA members Don and Sam.

Starting on October 4, 2021  
with a new episode each  
Monday.

Each week Don and Sam  
will interview a different  
member about their  
experience, strength and  
hope, in a casual "meeting  
after the meeting" manner.  
Special features will  
enhance each episode.

**A new podcast episode will  
be available in English every  
Monday.**

To hear the podcasts go to  
[aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast)

Empezará el 4 de octubre  
de 2021, con un episodio  
nuevo todos los lunes.

Cada semana, Don y Sam  
entrevistarán a un miembro  
diferente acerca de su  
experiencia, fortaleza y  
esperanza en una casual  
"reunión luego de la  
reunión". Cada episodio  
contará con participaciones  
especiales.

**Todos los lunes habrá un  
nuevo episodio en inglés de  
podcast disponible.**

Para escuchar los podcasts  
ingrese al sitio web  
[aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast)

À partir du 4 octobre 2021  
avec un nouvel épisode  
diffusé chaque lundi.

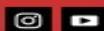
Chaque semaine, Don et  
Sam intervieweront un  
membre différent au sujet de  
leur expérience, de leur  
force et de leur espoir, d'une  
manière décontractée type «  
rencontre après la réunion  
». Des caractéristiques  
spéciales amélioreront  
chaque épisode.

**Un nouvel épisode de  
podcast sera disponible en  
anglais tous les lundis.**

Pour écouter les podcasts, il  
suffit de se rendre sur la  
page  
[aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast)

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