

# Slippery When Wet

Vol 21 Issue 5 May 2021

*“To Carry This Message To Alcoholics And To Practice These Principles In All Our Affairs”*

## STEP FIVE: A CONFIRMED AWARENESS

When I asked God to relieve me of the “bondage of self” in Step Three, I had only a vague concept of what that might be, but when my sponsor helped me go through the Step Four directions from the Big Book, I developed a much clearer insight—I began to realize that this bondage was what had been blocking me from the truth in drink. Someone said: “*An alcoholic cannot drink on the truth, only on a lie.*” The Big Book suggests that we begin Step Five at “first opportunity” (p. 74) which turned out to be approximately ten minutes after completing Step Four. My sponsor, Carl, helped me realize, from my Step Four list, where I had been selfish; dishonest; resentful; and fearful to an extent that I had never realized. As a matter of fact, he pointed out that most all my character defects, etc., would fall under one or more of these four “grosser handicaps” (p. 71). They were like an **umbrella**! If I improve on these four major items, then the minor ones would become less destructive, or hopefully disappear. Step Five not only simplified the step process but brought about a **confirmed awareness** of my defects for God to remove in Step Seven. I also learned the necessity of facing up to selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear if I were to live in the spirit of Step Ten. It was pointed out that these four defects are mentioned in Step Ten (p. 84) and Step Eleven (p. 86). These four demons were indeed enemies of my sobriety. This new **awareness** has brought me to realize why going on the wagon or *quitting drinking forever*, year after year, never lasted. My personality problems (bondage of self) remained active throughout those periods of abstinence. Although Step Five has not completely removed these dangerous barriers, I have been able to maintain a “*personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism*” (p. 567) for many years. Thank God for progress, not perfection

Bob S



## LET'S ASK BILL

**Q** - What did A.A. learn from the Oxford Group and why did they leave them?

**A** - AA's first step was derived largely from my own physician, Dr. Silkworth, and my sponsor Ebby and his friend, from Dr. Jung of Zurich. I refer to the medical hopelessness of alcoholism - our 'powerlessness' over alcohol.

The rest of the Twelve Steps stem directly from those Oxford Group teachings that applied specifically to us. Of course, these teachings were nothing new; we might have obtained them from your own Church. They were, in effect, an examination of conscience, confession, restitution, helpfulness to others, and prayer. I should acknowledge our great debt to the Oxford Group people. It was fortunate that they laid particular emphasis on spiritual principles that we needed. But in fairness it should also be said that many of their attitudes and practices did not work well at all for us alcoholics. These were rejected one by one and they caused our later withdrawal from this society to a fellowship of our own - today's Alcoholics Anonymous. Perhaps I should specifically outline why we felt it necessary to part company with them. To begin with, the climate of their undertaking was not well suited to us alcoholics. They were aggressively evangelical, they sought to re-vitalize the Christian message in such a way as to "change the world." Most of us alcoholics had been subjected to pressure of evangelism and we never liked it. The object of saving the world - when it was still very much in doubt if we could save ourselves - seemed better left to other people. By reason of some of its terminology and by exertion of huge pressure,

Continued on page 18



TREASURE VALLEY INTERGROUP  
INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL

# FOUNDERS DAY PICNIC



**BILL W. and Dr. BOB**

**Celebrating 86 Years of  
Recovery**

**Saturday June 5 2021**

**12 noon to 4:00PM**

**Veterans Memorial Park**

**36<sup>th</sup> Street and State Street Boise**

Food 🍔 Games 🏀 Fun 😊

Save the date

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Macs Creek Campout

**Boise, Idaho**

**June 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Hosted By: Sunday Night Midtown Group**



First come first serve. Starting at noon on Friday ending at noon on Sunday

Come for the weekend or come up Saturday for the day and evening

We are right on the water with 7 docks to choose from... bring your boats and other water toys  
This is sober fun for the whole family

## **Friday**

**Slumgolian Stew: 5pm** please bring one item to add to the stew. We will serve this wonderful pot of stew at **6pm**

**Kick Off Meeting: 8pm**

## **Saturday**

**BBQ Potluck: 5pm** Midtown will supply the Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Potato Salad. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

**Speaker Meeting: 6pm** our guest speaker **WOODY B.**

**White Elephant Raffle: 7:30**

**Burn Um Up Late Night: 9pm**

We will have a **50/50 drawing**; winner takes half the pot.

All proceeds up and over expenses will go to a general service committee by people's choice.

Any questions please call: 208-577-0303

# **Acampamiento de Macs Creek**

## **Boise, Idaho**

**11-13 de junio, 2021**

**Ofrecido por: Grupo de Midtown, Domingo por la Noche**

Quien llega primero agarra su espacio. Empezando el mediodía el viernes y terminando el mediodía el domingo.

Ven por el fin de semana o solo el sábado.

Tenemos 7 muelles que podemos usar – traiga sus lanchas y otros juguetes de agua. Es diversión sobria para toda la familia.

### **Viernes**

**Guisado: 5 p.m.** favor de traer un ingrediente! Nos servimos a las **6 p.m.**

**Reunión a las 8 p.m.**

### **Sábado**

**BBQ Potluck: 5 p.m.** Midtown proveerá hamburguesas, perros calientes y ensalada rusa. Favor de traer una comida para compartir.

**Reunión de Oradora: 6 p.m.** nuestra oradora invitada es **Margo V.**

**Rifa de Elefante Blanco: 7:30**

**Quémalo hasta muy tarde en la noche: 9 p.m.**

**Tendremos una rifa de 50/50;** el o la ganador/a lleva la mitad.

Todos los ingresos arriba de los gastos se donarán a un comité de servicio general elegido por la gente.

Favor de llamar al: 208-577-0303



**DISTRICT 4**  
**BIRTHDAY DINNER**

**JUNE 12, 6PM**

**MALLARD PARK #2  
15203 S 10TH AVE. CALDWELL**



**HOSTED BY: DISTRICT 4 COMMITTEE**

**WE WILL BE SERVING ALBERTSON'S FRIED CHICKEN,  
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT.**



How does a GSR relate to a Home Group? How do we carry the message?

What is General Service? What is "AA as a Whole", really?

What does being a "Trusted Servant" mean? What is commitment?

Where do we go for direction?

Idaho Area 18's

**DISTRICT 8**

**PRESENTS:**

**AN ONLINE GSR INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP!**



Saturday, June 19th, 2021

2pm to 4pm

Where: From the comfort of wherever you are!

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 696 313 0890 PASSWORD: 342027**

*Featuring Special Guest Speakers:  
(Each followed by Question/Answer Interaction)*

**Kade W.**

2:00 p.m.

- \*GSR and The Home Group
- \*Leading as a Trusted Servant
- \*Commitment and Enthusiasm

**Candice C.**

2:40 p.m.

- \*GSR's at District Meetings
- \*The GSR Report
- \*General Service Resources

**Barry S.**

3:20 p.m.

- \*The GSR and Area Assemblies
- \*The GSR and "AA as a Whole"
- \*The Value of Service and Belonging

GSR's, Alternate GSR's, DCM's, and VIRTUALLY ALL AA members are welcome to attend!  
Please Come, Come, Come... You will Go a with revitalized sense of faith in Service!



## District 7 AA



**JUNE  
18-20**

# GREEN CANYON CAMPOUT

## PAVILION A

Reserve your  
campsite today  
by calling Green  
Canyon @  
208-458-4454

more information about Green  
Canyon can also be found @  
[greencanyonhotsprings.com](http://greencanyonhotsprings.com)

**FOOD  
FUN  
FRIENDS**

For more info about the campout  
call Ken M @208-821-1173



An Alcoholics Anonymous event  
with Al-Anon participation



ASL  
Interpreted



Spanish  
Translation

# 6th Annual Unity & Service Conference

July 9-11, 2021 | Virtual on Zoom

## Current Speaker Lineup:

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Sister Judith Ann Kumar, Class A Trustee - "Loving Our Three Legacies"

Katie H., Fair Oaks CA - "Never Too Young For General Service"

Speaker TBA - "The Three Legacies In Relationships"

Tim C., Hayward CA - "Our Primary Aim"

Jimmy D., Dallas TX - "My Favorite Traditions"

Kesho S., Grinnell IA - "Why Stay? Overcoming Racial Barriers"

Ashley J. The Beacon Group, Boston - "The Twelve Concepts"

Steve L., Nashville TN - "Anonymity, Our Spiritual Foundation"

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"Applying the 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts of AA in All of Our Affairs"

[Unityandserviceconference.org](http://Unityandserviceconference.org) | 925.222.5639

an activity of...

[loveandservicegroup.org](http://loveandservicegroup.org)



# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual District 10 A.A. Campout



Out of District  
10 AA'ers are  
welcome and  
encouraged to  
attend!!

## On the Beautiful Boise River

**When:** July 22nd – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Where:** Elks Flat Group Campground (Loop #2), Boise National Forest, Pine, ID

**Friday Night:** Campfire Meeting at the Pavilion

**Saturday:** Enjoy fellowship in the campground, on the river, or in the hot springs.

**Saturday Night:** Potluck dinner at the Pavilion at 6PM followed by a Campfire A.A. Meeting. Please bring a potluck dish or desert to share with everyone. Coffee, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided by Dist 10.

**Sunday Morning:** Breakfast at the Pavilion at 8AM. Please bring eggs, bacon or sausage for group cooking. Coffee and Hotcakes will be provided by District 10.

**Sunday after breakfast:** Clean up the campground and head home, Checkout time is 1PM

**7th Tradition:** This AA event is self-supporting and a donation can will be available at meals and meetings.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 20 East from Timmerman (near Bellevue, ID north of Shoshone) or Hwy 20 West from Mountain Home to Louise Creek Rd. Then proceed north on Louise Creek Rd for 18 miles, past Anderson Reservoir, to the Boise River Bridge at Pine. Then proceed 4.5 miles north on FH61 to the campground.

**Note:** Space at the group campsite is usually available for early arrivals on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you want to arrive early you just have to pay the Forest Service for the extra nights.

**PS:** Let us know if you're planning to attend so we can plan for hamburgers and hot dogs....Thanks!

For more information please call:

Cheri V. @ 208-490-7752

or

John S. @ 208-320-2388

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual FUN at Shoshone City Park

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 1pm-4pm

South Central Idaho  
TSNAC Awareness  
Picnic/Potluck

Join Us:

Speakers, Music by Up a Creek, fellowship, 50/50 raffle,  
Dinner ticket enters you into a \$100 door prize!  
Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Fajitas, and Water Provided

Suggested Donations: \$5.00

Please bring a potluck or raffle item along with a blanket or chair to sit on.

Just a Reminder:

Shoshone City Regulations PROHIBIT dogs.

**I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible.**

Any questions please call:  
Mark N. at 208-280-0785  
Mary M. at 360-303-7384

# Treasure Valley Intergroup Central Office

1111 S. Orchard St. Suite 180

Boise Idaho 83705

Phone 208.344.6611

AA Hotline 208.344.6611

Email

[tvcentraloffice@gmail.com](mailto:tvcentraloffice@gmail.com)

Hotline Chair Email

[treasurevalleyhotline@gmail.com](mailto:treasurevalleyhotline@gmail.com)

TVICO Website

[tvico.net](http://tvico.net)

Idaho Area 18 Website

[www.idahoarea18aa.org](http://www.idahoarea18aa.org)

Slippery When Wet Email

[editor.slipperywhenwet@gmail.com](mailto:editor.slipperywhenwet@gmail.com)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10am to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 3pm

If your meeting has been canceled due to Coronavirus let us know and if you've set up a tele-conference meeting or a zoom video meeting we will post it here.

Let us know by emailing [tvcentraloffice@gmail.com](mailto:tvcentraloffice@gmail.com).

**[FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF TREASURE VALLEY AA IN-PERSON MEETINGS CLICK HERE](#)**

*Looking for Adventure?  
Trying Mountain Climbing*

*Looking to Get Rich?  
Buy a Lottery Ticket.*

**Looking for a Part-Time job to be of service  
to the AA Fellowship?**

**Treasure Valley Central Office may have just  
what you're looking for.**

# **HELP WANTED**

## **PART TIME 12-16 HOURS**

## **PER WEEK**

**Benefits: All the bad coffee you care to drink.  
Once in a lifetime opportunity to help the alcoholic  
who still suffers.**

**Call the Central Office 208-344-6611  
or email [tvcentraloffice@gmail.com](mailto:tvcentraloffice@gmail.com) for more information**

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

**INFLOWS**

Archives	\$	-
TSNAC	\$	-

**Gross Sales**

GSO Sales	\$	5,567.60
Non-GSO Sales	\$	2,464.64
Meeting Schedules & NCP	\$	35.00
In House Merchandise	\$	-
Gift Certificates	\$	-
Refunds	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Gross Sales</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,067.24</b>
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**Member Donations**

Group Donations	\$	2,818.46
Individual Donations	\$	10,083.50
Donation Can	\$	143.78
District 3 Donation	\$	40.09
Intergroup Donation	\$	208.00

<b>TOTAL Donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,293.83</b>
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**Miscellaneous Revenue**

Interest Income	\$	7.64
Shipping & Handling	\$	34.10
Printing	\$	0.20
Slippery When Wet	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Misc. Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41.94</b>
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<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,403.01</b>
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Cash on Hand	\$	37,643.06
Less Pre-Paid Accts Payable	\$	-
Less Liabilities Owing	\$	(5,051.80) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Cash Available for Operations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,591.26</b>
Cash Drawer	\$	150.00
<b>Prudent Reserves:</b>		
Operations Prudent Reserve	\$	16,082.08
Literature Prudent Reserve	\$	7,000.00
Inventory on Hand	\$	21,850.79
Amounts due from Customers	\$	2,857.34

**OUTFLOWS**

<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,286.05</b>
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**Office Expenses**

Assembly Expense	\$	-
Bank & Merchant Serv Fees	\$	125.13
Copy Machine	\$	219.16
Donations from TVICO	\$	-
Dues & Subscriptions	\$	-
Insurance (Liability)	\$	-
Mileage Expense	\$	20.08
Office Expense/Supplies	\$	24.80
Over-Under	\$	(0.02)
Phone/Internet Service	\$	152.50
Postage & Delivery	\$	47.61
Printing & Reproduction	\$	-
Professional Fees	\$	229.50 <sup>1</sup>
Rent	\$	1,224.00
Web Hosting	\$	-
	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Office Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,042.76</b>
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**Payroll Expense**

Includes Employer Taxes	\$	2,835.95
Work Comp Insurance	\$	-

<b>TOTAL Payroll Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,835.95</b>
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<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,164.76</b>
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<b>NET CASH +/-</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,238.25</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 who owes money on customer accounts & outstanding account payables, W2's, 1099's, & Reports. Preparation and E-Filing of Annual 990-EZ Tax Return.

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

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

**GROUP DONATIONS  
APRIL 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Donation Amount</b>
04/01/2021	How It Works - Nampa	134.00
04/02/2021	Lunch Bunch	291.67
04/05/2021	Wet Ones	10.00
04/06/2021	Sobriety Seekers	227.50
04/07/2021	7 am Zoomers	50.00
04/08/2021	Lifesavers Group Ontario	50.00
04/08/2021	Rule 62 Group	110.14
04/12/2021	As Bill Sees It	90.47
04/14/2021	Ding-A-Ling Group	120.00
04/14/2021	Noon Awakenings	318.75
04/14/2021	Welcome Home Nampa	70.00
04/15/2021	Kuna Beginners	72.52
04/16/2021	God's Country	100.00
04/19/2021	M-3 Men's Meeting	150.00
04/20/2021	Go Vertical	700.00
04/20/2021	Just Do It	20.00
04/20/2021	Turning Point	40.00
04/21/2021	How It Works - Garden City	20.00
04/22/2021	Lunch Bunch	104.63
04/23/2021	Saturday Night Live	20.00
04/29/2021	Faith Forward	89.00
04/30/2021	Midtown	29.78
<b>Total Group Donations</b>		<b>\$ 2,818.46</b>

**Central Office would like to thank all the Groups, Individuals, and  
Districts for their donations last month.**

**We appreciate it so much !**

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

*P*ractical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.

- Pg. 89, Working With Others.

BE THERE WHEN THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC CALLS.

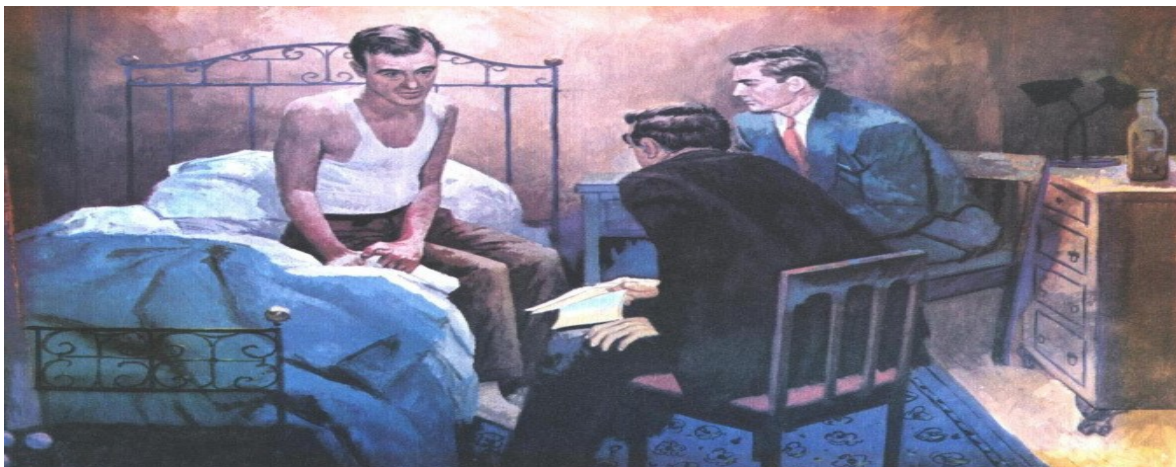
## SIGN UP NOW TO BE ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> STEP CALL LIST FOR THE TREASURE VALLEY.

When a still suffering alcoholic reaches out for help, hotline volunteers need someone in the fellowship to take their experience, strength and hope.

Sign up today!

Email the hotline chair: [treasurevalleyhotline@gmail.com](mailto:treasurevalleyhotline@gmail.com)

Call the Central Office: 208-344-6611



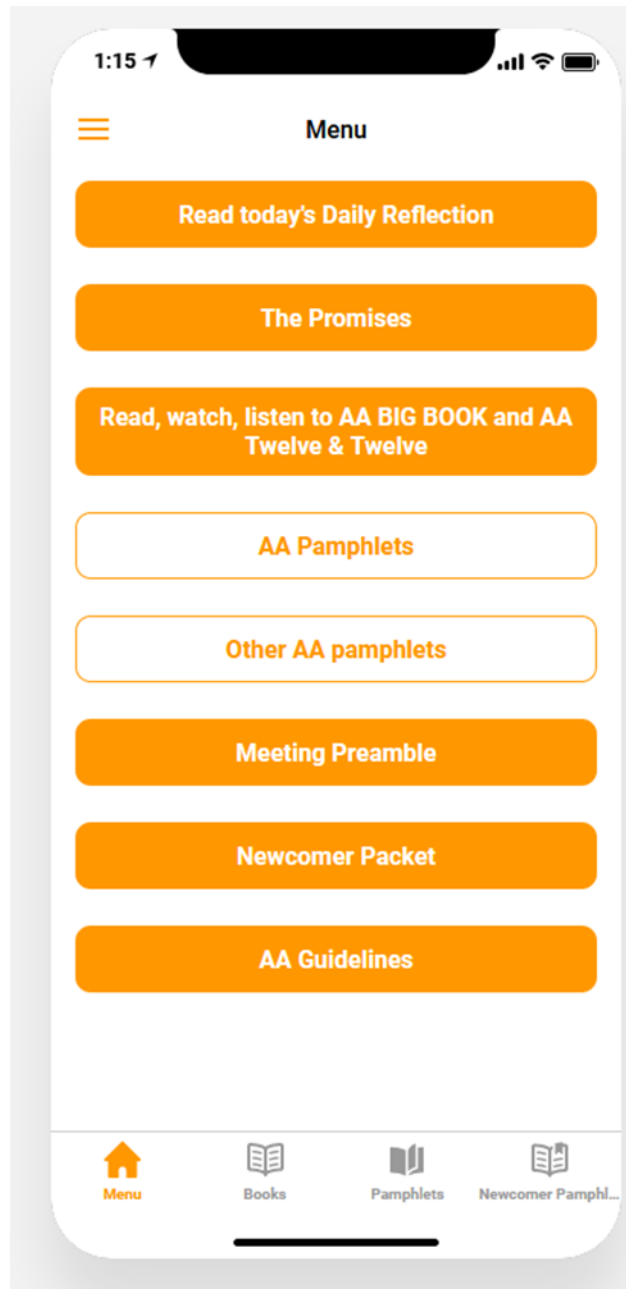
# NOW AVAILABLE An App for literature.

Get it on the TVICO.net website. Simply scan the QR code.

Have immediate access to **AA pamphlets, The Big Book and the**

**12 x 12** plus more! [Link to website here](#)

*Brought to you by your Treasure Valley Intergroup Central Office.*



# WORD SEARCH

KBWVBVIGNATIAOV  
AOSBANSEEMGAOFA  
FBYHFSFDBILLXNK  
OKKEOEEOOSLYFER  
UXACAEHIEWQMOLO  
NURNKBMOPYLNRLN  
DLAWFOSACEMIDMQ  
EITLIVUOKKRMNME  
RGIOENETLEELYGJ  
SSEIEXGRIURRIIU  
NGBOEBAJMUTXZNI  
HTOLKBBNJOWELJG  
CDUAKHKYDJNFSUL  
UWTXGBJSYEITHNP  
JUVEYTEUXERUREJ

Seiberling

Dowling

Oxford

Ebby

Nell

Shoemaker

Ignatia

Akron

Wing

Bob

Alexander

Absolutes

Vermont

Hock

Founders

Tiebout

June

Bill

the Oxford Group set a moral stride that was too fast, particularly for our newer alcoholics. They constantly talked of Absolute Purity, Absolute Unselfishness, Absolute Honesty, and Absolute Love. While sound theology must always have its absolute values, the Oxford Groups created the feeling that one should arrive at these destinations in short order, maybe be next Thursday! Perhaps they didn't mean to create such an impression but that was the effect. Sometimes their public "witnessing" was of such a character to cause us to be shy. They also believed that by "converting" prominent people to their beliefs, they would hasten the salvation of many who were less prominent. This attitude could scarcely appeal to the average drunk since he was anything but distinguished. The Oxford Group also had attitudes and practices which added up to a highly coercive authority. This was exercised by "teams" of older members. They would gather in meditation and receive specific guidance for the life conduct of newcomers. This guidance could cover all possible situations from the most trivial to the most serious. If the directions so obtained were not followed, the enforcement machinery began to operate. It consisted of a sort of coldness and aloofness which made recalcitrants feel they weren't wanted. At one time, for example, a "team" got guidance for me to the effect that I was no longer to work with alcoholics. This I could not accept. Another example: When I first contacted the Oxford Groups, Catholics were permitted to attend their meetings because they were strictly non-denominational. But after a time the Catholic Church forbade its members to attend and the reason for this seemed a good one. Through the Oxford Group "teams", Catholic Church members were actually receiving specific guidance for their lives; they were often infused with the idea that their Church had become rather horse-and-buggy, and needed to be "changed." Guidance was frequently given that contributions should be made to the Oxford Groups. In a way this amounted to putting Catholics under a separate ecclesiastical jurisdiction. At this time there were few Catholics in our alcoholic groups. Obviously we could not approach any more Catholics under Oxford Group auspices. Therefore this was another, and the basic reason for the withdrawal of our alcoholic crowd from the Oxford Groups notwithstanding our great debt to them. (N.C.C.A. 'Blue Book', Vol. 12, 1960)

#### Representing General Service in A.A.

When I came into the rooms of A.A. back in 2006, I was stinky I wore an old, ragged black T-shirt most of the time, had blood-shot eyes and even had D.T.'s! I didn't even notice the coffee or the free snacks! If someone would have mentioned the word, "G.S.R." (General Service Representative) to me I would have asked, "What?", all blurry-eyed. Then I would have said, "Who the \_\_\_ cares? I'm dying here! I just need to know how NOT TO DRINK ALCOHOL, please". And seriously, I was in no condition to do any "service" at all those first 30 days. I could barely see, kept my head down, and was petrified of humans. Unbeknownst to me, there was a whole world behind the scenes of an A.A. meeting - stuff I felt I didn't need to know. I just wanted to make sure those doors were open at noon, that there were people there, and there was a space where I could share my problems and learn ways to deal with life without having to need a beer! Never once did I wonder where that money in the basket went - or who opened the doors that day, or who wrote the meeting script. I was so self-centered, all I wanted was to GET SOBER! After a few days I decided I wanted to STAY SOBER, so I did everything my sponsor suggested. The day she told me, "You need to make coffee", I looked at her with scrunched eyebrows, and asked, "What does making coffee have to do with staying sober?" (and thought to myself, "can't you see I'm having a nervous breakdown here?") She replied, "Brenda, it's not about asking questions, it's about following direction." I just shook my head and reluctantly said, "Okay," and I DID IT. For me it was really scary because the day I had signed up to make the coffee, there was an old-timer who showed-up early and had the coffee already made. The first day I showed up for my day, he was there, coffee was made, so I left! I told my sponsor about it and she said, "You need to tell him that your sponsor said that you need to make coffee." So, practically shaking in fear, the next week on Monday, I went in and walked straight up to him and said, "My sponsor says I need to make coffee, so can you please not make coffee on Mondays?" He said, "Okay", and I started making coffee. It was in that very first service position that as I would clean-up afterwards, my head started to lift-up, my eyes started to clear-up, and I noticed there were other people in the room! Gradually I grew to look forward to Mondays (my day to make coffee). I was driving taxi at the time and I remember driving until 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday Nights and when someone reeked of alcohol, or threw-up in the taxi, or were just plain rude, I would think to myself: "Monday I make coffee. Monday I make coffee", as I would hold onto the steering wheel real tight working until the streets were empty

Continued on page 19

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and all the active drunks were home safe. I made it home sober, and worked all day Sunday sober, because "Monday I make coffee." I took it so serious! I showed-up early - made the coffee, and I also placed out all the snacks - Man, I LOVED cutting those cheese pieces and presenting them so "pretty" on the plate! I acted as if that table was being set-up for Royalty. I was responsible for "The Presentation", and I'm telling you, that table looked GOOD! (ha) Now, I felt that I had "something to do" in life, I was needed! I was gradually able to open my mouth and say really soft, "Hi" to people. And before I knew it, somehow, the days, weeks and months passed, and I built up some sobriety! My eyes got even more clear and my ears opened-up too! I started attending the group business meetings and at first, I did not understand a single thing - it felt pretty "over my head". All of a sudden, however, I became "The Coffee Chair" for the group, then "The Literature Chair", The Grapevine Chair, the "Intergroup Representative", where I also served as the "TVICO Newsletter Editor" for 3 years. Finally, I was elected as our group's "General Service Representative" (G.S.R.). This is when the technicolor vision appeared! I am not kidding! It was like a Whole New World seeing how Alcoholics Anonymous works "As a Whole". This was BIG. I remember attending the first Area Assembly for our Group and being given an index card to hold while raising my hand to have our group's vote counted! I remember looking around at about 150 of us in that room - most of us G.S.R.'s from different Districts, all gathered together, and we were sitting in this room all day, in hard chairs, making decisions being Productive - All of us with the primary purpose of keeping our doors open for the next suffering alcoholic. It was a spiritual experience for me! The idea that each one of us, at one time in life, were passed-out, drinking and driving, or who knows what, harming ourselves and others. that we were all there today sober alert aware VITAL and doing something useful to help the still suffering alcoholic! What a miracle! That just was BIG to me! I will always remember the first time I felt that, and of course that feeling is with me anytime I am with a group of sober drunks doing A.A. Business, but it always amazes me, more, at assemblies when we all behave and work together! There's just something about all 150 of us in democratic action! We are so democratic that the last Area Business meeting I attended lasted from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on a Saturday with ½ lunch! (Because issues like to Zoom or not to Zoom for the Fall Assembly were discussed, and a budget needed to be approved!) It is absolutely amazing to witness the devotion, the passion, the stamina of Trusted Servants who show-up to give service for "A.A. as a whole", which brings us back to the Group and the G.S.R. Tradition Four states: "Each group is autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." What's important to note is that there are some groups who focus on the first part of this Tradition, the "autonomous" part and decide: "Hey, we're autonomous we don't have to go to District meetings, we don't need a G.S.R., we don't want to be involved in 'politics'." This is a problem, right now, in our fellowship. Why? Because when a group does not elect a G.S.R., or enables an "Inactive G.S.R.", this affects A.A. as a whole. How? well, Tradition Five states: "Each group has but one primary purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers". For a group to "carry the message", they need to have current literature available, they need to know of innovative and creative ways to reach the newcomer, they need access to current information about local Area A.A. Workshops and events, and finally General Service is based on Recovery (As outlined in the 12 Steps), Unity (As outlined in the 12 Traditions), and Service (As outlined in the 12 Concepts of World Service). Now, it is true, a group can practice the legacy of Service by simply providing a meeting space, providing coffee, or offering a phone list to newcomers. However, the ONLY way for a group to practice General Service (Activities within the conference structure carried out by Area Committees, Assemblies, Delegates, Trustees and the General Service Office Staff), is for a group to elect a G.S.R. who REPRESENTS the voice of the group's conscience to the A.A. General Service Conference by participating at local Area Assemblies and electing District Committee Members and Area Delegates. The G.S.R. is the vital link between their group and A.A. as a whole. An active G.S.R. will ensure that A.A. will be here for future suffering alcoholics searching for a solution. Without a G.S.R.'s dedication and service, there would be no way to operate our Service Structure. When the G.S.R. participates in electing the Area Delegate at Area Assemblies as part of their District, the Delegate in turn REPRESENTS the Area (comprised of Active Districts, and

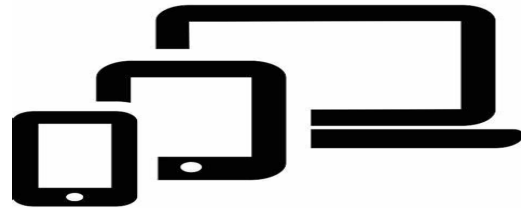
Active G.S.R.'s) at the annual General Service Conference, when the Delegate votes on Conference Agenda items. This is how the groups and their G.S.R.'s become a voice at the Conference... through their Area Delegate! The A.A. Service Manual under World Service Concept IX states: "Groups who name no G.S.R.'s should be encouraged to do so. In this area a degree of weakness tends to persist. The needed improvement seems to be a matter of increased care, responsibility, and education." So, in a demonstration of care, responsibility, and education... District 8 is presenting an "Interactive G.S.R. Workshop", June 19, 2-4 p.m.! Zoom ID: 696 313 0890 Password: 342027 We are so excited to have a once in a lifetime line-up of 3 excellent speakers for this event! Our speakers will share for 20 minutes, and then there will be 20 minutes for questions! Kade W. will be sharing on the G.S.R. and Group Dynamics. Candice C. will share on the G.S.R. and District Dynamics. Barry S. will share on the G.S.R. and the Area Dynamics and Beyond! This event is not to be missed! Please mark your calendars now! It is interesting to note that the G.S.R. service position is a result of an insight that Bill W. had back in 1948 when Dr. Bob got real sick. Bill W. realized that he and Dr. Bob would not be around forever, and that the groups still looked to them for guidance and direction, not to the Trustees. Pretty much A.A. groups at the time knew nothing of A.A.'s World Service. Names of current Trustees at the time were unknown, nor was it known just how much the Trustees had a hand in helping the society of A.A. and their sobriety. So, Bill W. and Dr. Bob were the sole links between the Trustees and the Groups. The Trustees at the time also relied on Bill W. and Dr. Bob for guidance. Hence, Bill W. wondered who would advise the Trustees, and who would be the link to the Trustees for the Groups? That was when he got the idea that only a General Service Conference elected by G.S.R.'s from A.A. Groups across the country could take the place of himself and Dr. Bob. And here we are! "Therefore we expect that our Conferences will always try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love one member for another. that mutual trust should prevail, that no action ought to be taken in anger, haste, or recklessness; that care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; that no action ever be personally punitive, that whenever possible, important actions will be taken in substantial unanimity; and that our Conference will ever be prudently on guard against tyrannies, great or small, whether these be found in the majority or in the minority. The sum of these several attitudes and practices, is in our view, the very essence of democracy in action and spirit. Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty. To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to SERVE is truly the freedom by which we live the freedom in which we have our Being."

World Concept XII, Warranty Six. The A.A. Service Manual Pgs. 72,73

In Service,  
Brenda M.



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