Common Grounds

Oregon Area 58 Volume 50 Issue 2 www.aa-oregon.org

Next Area Assembly

November 16 to 18

Josephine County Fairgrounds

1457 Fairgrounds Road
Grants Pass, OR

"A.A. service is anything whatever that Helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service."

Bill Wilson

Coming events

newsletter@aa-oregon.org

OLD-TIMER'S MEETING

October 21, 2018
2pm to 4pm
Grants Pass
Hi-Lo Club
668 Lincoln Road

ROSE CITY GIRLSTOCK

October 12th to 14th
Portland OR
www.rosecitygirlstock.com

Step 12 – "Carrying the Message"

I came "into" Alcoholics Anonymous to save my own life and possibly someone else's. Once again I had awakened to the incomprehensible demoralization fog after another night of uncontrollable drinking. If only my head would quit pounding for a few minutes I might be able to remember where I had been, or what I had done.

Often, with great trepidation, I would look out the window to see if my car was in the driveway – if it was then an inspection was needed to see if I'd hit anything – or anyone – in my drunken blackout.

I was the "drunk" that refused to spend money on taxi cabs so I had more money to drink on.

Coming into AA I had no concept of how to stop drinking – or even if I could stop where recovery would might lead me, I only knew I could no longer continue drinking. After attending meetings for a few weeks and listening to others experiences I starting reading the Big Book and the Steps and Traditions hanging on the walls. Even though I didn't understand "how" the Steps and Traditions would work for me – one of the Steps caught my attention – or at least part of it. Step 12 said "*we tried to carry this message to alcoholics*" – there it was I thought – if someone would have told me years ago I might not have had to continue drinking this long.

As Bill W. notes in the introduction to the long form of the Traditions in the Big Book,

"We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone."

I have been thinking about this topic of 12 Steps and Service work and it occurred to me that as Service workers for each other, we have an obligation to focus on why we make suggestions.

I recently went to an out of town AA meeting and there were 2 people in the room that announced themselves as newcomers. The room was a sea of "old-timers". These newcomers were at least 30 years younger than anyone else in the room and one stated he had "4 days clean, and was out of money" and stated "we'll see what happens when I get paid". He made it pretty clear that he was dragged to the meeting by a well-intentioned relative. Aside from the fact they were both addicts, and identified as such, they tried to listen politely.

My issue was not that they were at an AA meeting and were not alcoholics, I figured they might be able to hear something they needed to hear and take it with them. What disturbed me is that virtually every person that spoke to them called them by name and offered well-meaning suggestions as to what they could expect in the coming days.

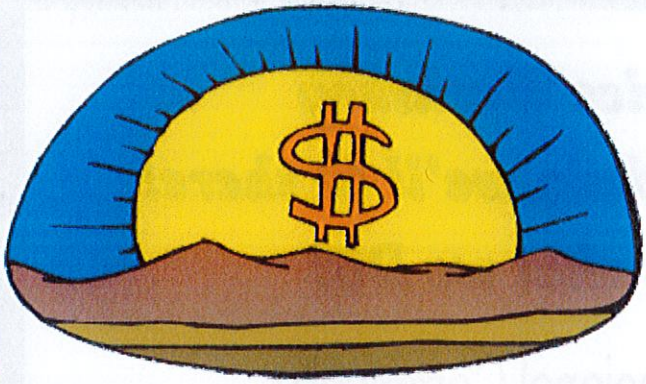
"Cross-talk"

This behavior has gotten so prevalent where I attend meetings that people aren't even aware they are doing it, or that its inappropriate? They seem to have forgotten what crosstalk is?
If you call someone by name when you share following their share, that could be cross-talk. If you direct your share in response to what another person has shared, that could be cross-talk. If you dispense even the most relevant, appropriate, thoughtful loving advise to another during your share, that also could be Cross-talk...

What could be the ramifications of unlimited cross-talk?

A couple of things could happen. Some perceived as positive and some perceived as negative. One positive thing could be that feeling of unity and understanding that may make someone feel they are being acknowledged by their fellows and part of something wonderful. The other possibility could be fear that their share would be judged and commented on and therefore, they don't share at all?

So, as someone who has been coming to meetings for a long while and who has seen the Traditions melting away in groups I wonder what obligation we have? Should we be trying to acknowledge the purposes of the traditions at meetings regarding protocol and purpose or do we just sit back and hope it all works out? God usually slaps his hand over my mouth, but it sure is something that concerns me.



Don't Forget!

Area 58 CHALLENGE

$7.40

July 4th has come and gone...
But heck, we can still Donate

- ***Pass a special basket in every group***
- ***Every member contributes $7.40 on or before 7/4***
- ***Group send contributions to GSB** after 7/4***
- ***Area could cover their own share of GSO Services for one year!***

Group Name / Number _____

Or

Member Name _____

Mail Contribution:
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York , NY 10163-0459

Address of Contributor _____

_____

Amount $ _____ 2018 Contribution for $7.40 on 7/4 Challenge

Or WWW.AA.ORG, Click Contriubution buttom

Make a Date!

Service Workshop

Make the date, we'll be there!

It's what we DO!

Cooperation with the Professional Community

CPC North: Amber N. – cpc-n@aa-oregon.org
CPC South (Chair): Chuck S. – cpc-s@aa-oregon.org

Hospitals Committee

Chair: Chaz D. – email hospital@aa-oregon.org
Co-Chair: Dwayne R. – email hospital-co@aa-oregon.org

Area Access Committee

Chair: Perry R. – email access@aa-oregon.org

Treatment Facilities

CTF South (Chair) Jenny B. – email ctf-s@aa-oregon.org
CTF North Stacy W. – email ctf-n@aa-oregon.org

Public Information

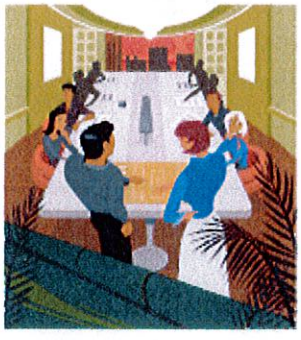
Chair Joe S. pi-n@aa-oregon.org
Co-Chair Joey B. pi-s@aa-oregon.org

Archives Committee

Archivist (Chair): James J. – archives@aa-oregon.org
Archives Assistant: Hal E. – archives-alt@aa-oregon.org

Correctional Facilities

Chair: Roberto F. cfc@aa-oregon.orgCo-Chair: Lisa C. cfc-co@aa-oregon.org



Grapevine / La Viña Committee

Grapevine Chair: Reilly K. – email grapevine@aa-oregon.org

2018 National Corrections Conference

www.2018NationalCorrectionsConference.org

History of National Corrections Conference

For decades districts, areas and states have held Corrections Conferences and Workshops. They've been enormously helpful for sharing solutions, helping understand the clearance process, building enthusiasm and getting more people involved in corrections work. For years, we've also heard the question, "What if we had a National Conference? What if we could share solutions from Texas to Toronto, California to the Carolinas, New Orleans to Newfoundland?"

Corrections was certainly the focus at the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, including having a main speaker currently serving time in a Georgia prison. Also, given the success of the BTG Workshop starting in 1993, the National Archives Workshop in 1996, and more recently the National A.A. Technology Workshop - why not a National Corrections Workshop focused on how we carry the message behind the walls?

The trustees' Committee on Corrections sent out a questionnaire to corrections chairs, H&I chairs, and delegates asking if they saw a need for an annual North American Corrections Conference. The response was a very strong, "Yes!" There was also a question, "Would your committee consider hosting the event?" The answers came in, "You bet we'd consider it!" "Absolutely!" "We'd be honored!"

An advisory Council was formed and that group conscience decided on a time of year (early November) and a location for the first conference: St. Louis, Missouri (where A.A. Came of Age) and they made history again with nearly 400 people attending from throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico.

Several areas came to St. Louis to present bids to host the 2018 or 2019 conferences. Through the Third Legacy Process, it was decided to go to Maine in 2018 and Southeast Texas in 2019. The Advisory Council remains in place to insure the future integrity of the National Corrections Conference.

Marriott At Sable Oaks

200 Sable Oaks Drive
South Portland, ME
04106
(207)-871-8000

FRIDAY

November 2, 2018
Registration opens 2pm
Early Bird Meeting 3pm
Opening Meeting 7pm

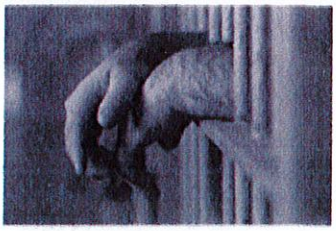
SATURDAY

November 3, 2018
Speaker Panels 8am
continue throughout the day.

Saturday Night Banquet 6pm
Speaker Meeting 7:30pm

SUNDAY

November 4, 2018
Speaker Panels 8am



Join us for the 2nd Annual National Corrections Conference.

2018 National Corrections Conference

The purpose of this weekend is for A.A. members interested in Corrections to come together to share experience, exchange information, and hear from other trusted servants throughout the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We hope we inspire A.A. members everywhere to get involved in this important and rewarding service.

Portland

I found myself in a bottomless pit, of sorrow and woe and dispair.

When a ray of light revealed to me the steps of a winding stair.

In vain I tried to reach those steps, by myself it could not be done.

I cried for help and a voice replied, "You're standing on Step One. "

"Who's that" I asked. "What do you want? Can you tell me what to do?"

"Give me your hand, "the voice answered, and you'll be on Step Number Two"

I held up my hand, I decided that alone could not set me free. But I trusted that voice and it suddenly said.
"Your standing on Step Number Three"

I stopped there to rest, and look at myself I don't think I can do anymore. From somewhere above the voice came again.
"Your are standing on Step Number Four"

Wherever you are, you don't understand, I don't deserve to be alive. For I am a liar, a theif and a con.
The voice said, "You're on Step Number Five"

I'm not well, I'm not right. There's a lot wrong with me, is there anything you can fix? The voice came again and gently replied,
"You are standing on Step Number Six"

All right then, I'll ask ~ can you take these away? Can you make me feel close to Heaven? "I love you " the voice said,
"Your Heaven's in you, and you're standing on Step Number Seven"

There's so many I've harmed, my family I've hurt ~ all the pain and the grief and the hate.
"It's alright my child," the voice calmly said, "You are now on Step Number Eight"

"You must tell them you're sorry. You must make things right. And then in their eyes you will shine"
"I'll do it" I whispered . And then the voice calmly said, "You're standing on Step Number Nine."

I must keep a close eye on my motives and self 'cause there's wrongs that I may do again.
"Look at you", the voice said, "at how far you've come! You are now on Step Number Ten"

I pray and I ask for knowledge and strength. I want to keep my direct line to Heaven.
The voice is so close ~ it's as if it's right t here, saying "You're standing on Step Number Eleven"

And so hear I stand, almost at the top. Into all of my past I did delve.

Now I want to help others who are still in the pit.

And the voice said "Tlus is Step Number Twelve"

Poem from Anonymous AA Member

Behind the Walls

From the President Tim T.
Mill Creek A.A. President

Summer 2018 is just about done and what ahell of summer it's been. So damn hot! Single cell up on five high Echo was absolute torture. Still is, frankly. Won't really cool down until October.

In this issue we're discussing steps nine and ten. I went pretty deep into my feelings on steps eight and nine last newsletter. Making amends and how it's seemingly impossible while we live in a cage.

Step Ten is an interesting one though. "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it." When I'm suffering in that burning cage at 120° I find myself hating a lot of people. The D.A., the cops, the prison guards, my defense attorney, all those who I feel are responsible for putting me in this horror called OSP.
I'm filled with hate as my skin burns, getting up every few minutes to douse myself with water so I don't literally pass out from heat stroke. I hate everybody. My mind rages with revenge and the need to make them all pay. Right or wrong, that's the truth. Even my own family who has practically abandoned me, never write, never sending pictures of the kids.
Now, side note, do I believe this evil system is just that? Evil, corrupt? Of course I do. However, the truth is, I have to take some responsibility for my decisions, don't I? The fact is, I did what I was accused of. I committed violence. Do I believe they went crazy in sentencing me to 12 years in prison for it? I do. However, I did make some pretty poor and cruel decisions. So if that's true, I should just man the hell up and take full responsibility for it, right?
"Is this really existence, you bastard?" I scream to God, whatever the hell He is. "Was my entire life just a setup? Just a trick to eventually lead to this madness?" I yell as I pump my fist to the ceiling. I feel like I literally go insane, over and over again, just barely holding on to some semblance of reason before I completely lose my mind forever, blaming everyone for my suffering

"Hell, NO!" my mind screams. "Get 'em all! Make 'em pay!" Especially in the heat of the summer burn. However, is that who I really want to be? Is that who I truly, honestly want to ideally be, who I see myself as? The fact is, it's not. Most of the time I can remember, if there is a God, even without my great revenge these Mother F#%kers will get their due.

If there is a God or even just some kind of justice in this universe, there will be a price for these bastards to pay, but I, long ago made the decision, it's not going to come from me. Why? Because I'm better than that. I choose to be better than that. I'm better than those who put me here, who used my broken situation to benefit themselves, who used my family's heartache to line their own pockets, who used my entire life's work to mock me and everything I tried to stand for. And frankly, if there isn't, if there really is no justice in the end, then what the hell does it matter anyway?

I can't let this horrifying experience change who I am, who I believe myself to be, can I? The decent and kind man I want to be, ever struggling today to be better than I was yesterday. That is who I want to be. That is who I choose to be. Someone once said,"Winning is not defined by if you change the game, it's whether or not you let the game change you." Regardless of where I am, what pain I seem to always have to endure, I will continue everyday to take my own inventory and when I am wrong, I'll promptly admit it. Will I fail at this goal? Yes! Of course I will. Every single day I will fail, multiple times a day. But I swear to God, I won't quite. I will never give up trying my damnedest to become the man I truly desire to be,ever.

That's how I win. I check myself every day and I don't let this situation define me. I DEFINE MYSELF! In fact, with hard work and dedication, I'll even defeat my biggest foe, that thing which controls me most! Anger. How? By everyday, every chance I can, recognize it in myself, in my actions. Every time it shows itself, fighting against it. Making the decision to be better than that which surrounds me. We can beat this thing called prison, called addiction, called self-centeredness. How? I've said it before and I'll say it again

We Choose!

Next Newsletter Toipic Suggestion

"Understanding Anonymity in Service"

Please submit articles by October 31, 2018

newsletter@aa-oregon.org

OREGON AREA 58 BULLETIN: Do you want to send an article? Articles should focus on stories, group news, district news, or other reports on service activities in Oregon Area 58. We can edit your presentation for formatting purposes. Please send them to the President of the Newsletter 1 month before the next Assembly. Send it by text, not in PDF format for articles

Send an e-mail to the President of the newsletter to newsletter@aa-oregon.org and use the heading of the topic: "Presentation of AREA 58". If you do not receive a response,

always feel free to resend. Spam filter is applied

Seventh Tradition Contributions can be Mailed to:

Oregon Area Treasury
1900 NE 3rd St, Suite 106-172E
Bend, Oregon 97701

Or Online at
http://www.aa-oregon.org/finance-committee/