

DIGGING INTO THE IDAHO AREA 13 ARCHIVES

Presented By: Ladora B.

Idaho Area 13 Archives Coordinator

May 17, 2014, Spring Assembly, Boise, Idaho



On-going Commitment

- ▶ In 2010, an Archives Committee was formed with a goal to digitize our early Idaho Area 13 Archives.
- ▶ Imagine all AFG members in the Idaho Area having access to their amazing history from the convenience of a home computer!
- ▶ Now, we **NEED YOUR HELP** to keep making progress with our digitized Archives!



Recent Goals

- Our goal is to get early Area newsletters, minutes, district histories, letters, and more posted on our Area website.

District Histories

Early WSO Letters

Alateen History

Early Newsletters

Area Minutes

Area Events

Purpose of Area Archives

- From our WSO Area Archives guidelines (G-30)
“...to preserve the experience, history, and memorabilia of the Al-Anon fellowship from the beginning...in that locale.”
- Other thoughts:
 - ▣ To recognize the importance of our pioneers
 - ▣ To have a reference of past decisions/activities
 - ▣ The WSO no longer keeps area holdings; the areas must protect their own histories.



Scanning early documents...

*Spring Assembly
P.O. Box 1052
Nampa, Idaho 83451*

AL-ANON spring assembly

MAY 2, 3, 4 - 1975

NAMPA MERCY HOSPITAL - 1512 12 Ave Road - Rehab Section
(Winter, Springs, Fall & Summer Rooms)
NAMPA, IDAHO

REGISTRATION: 2.50
Banquet: 5.00
TOTAL \$ 7.50

THEME: "TRUST" A Watchword

FRIDAY - 8:00 P.M. - Al-Anon - Alateen Open Meeting
"Get Acquainted Time"

SATURDAY - 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 A.M. Al-Anon Meeting
- 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 A.M. Alateen Meeting
- 12:00 A.M. - No Host Luncheon
- 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Delegates Report
- 7:00 P.M. - Al-Anon's & Alateens Join A.A.
for Banquet

Sunday A.M. - Al-Anon's and Alateens No Host Breakfast
and Spiritual Meeting


No Registration Fees for Alateens. If they wish to attend
the Banquet Alateens will have to purchase tickets of \$5.00

Rooms available for Alateens if notified in advance - No Charge

MOTEL RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE FOR THOSE WHO WILL NEED LODGING:

SINGLE ROOMS 8.50-9.00 per nite 12:00-14:00
DOUBLE ROOMS 13.00-13.00 per nite 15:00-17:00

AL-ANON RAFFLE SATURDAY NITE - COME AND SHARE WITH AL-ANON AND ALATEENS ALL OVER IDAHO



Bring
your

To The
Assembly

...brings our history
to light. No longer
hidden away, now I
can look at the
contents and my eyes
are really open!



Early Letters to WSO 1952-1962

Idaho Falls group approves Traditions in
1952.

Teenager from Idaho Falls inquires
regarding Alateen in 1962.

May 30 1962

To finally see someone of my own age write an article in "Seventeen" about alcoholic fathers, was a great relief to me.

We do not have a group because our town is very small. I would very much like to know more about how to form an "Alateen" group and also I want to learn about alcoholism from an outside source.

Whatever I have to do to get this information, I would be more than willing to do.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jean W. [redacted]
Route 4 Box 234
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Idaho Falls, Ida
Oct 17 - 1952

Traditions
Dear Lois [redacted],
OCT 17 1953

Excuse the long delay in replying to your letter about the Traditions for the Family Groups, or I should say the steps.

They seem to me to be very well thought out and have my complete and hearty approval. All members of our group with whom I have discussed them think they are very fine.

We do appreciate the good efforts you are putting forth to establish this work so closely related to the A.A. program. May God's choicest blessings be with you & those working with you.

Very Sincerely,
Ad. (Nannie) M. [redacted]
[redacted] Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Letters from WSO

1962:

A WSO letter in response to an Idaho Falls teenager inquiring about starting an Alateen meeting.



Car. Dr. Alateen

June 6, 1962

Miss Jean M. [REDACTED]
Route 4, Box 234
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Dear Jean,

We are delighted to learn that there is interest in starting an Alateen group in Idaho Falls. This office is the service center for over 160 registered Alateen groups, in addition to 1700 Al-Anon groups.

Many professional people are prompted to write us after having read about Alateens. They recognize the potentialities in these groups for aiding adolescents in their understanding of the alcoholic problem, and also in easing delinquency. The Alateen meetings do help members to accept alcoholism as a sickness, and do definitely reduce bitterness toward the alcoholic parent.

Their program is based on the 12 Steps of AA, and as in Al-Anon, the members use these steps as a standard of conduct for their own lives. It is customary and advisable to start an Alateen group with an adult "advisor" from Al-Anon, with the cooperation of an interested AA member. Our office has observed that the Alateen groups which continue to function effectively are those that have dedicated sponsors to guide them in the application of the 12 Steps and Traditions of Al-Anon.

Enclosed is some literature to help the group plan future program. Would you please fill out and return the registration card, so that the group may receive a free copy of the "Family Group Forum" each month. The FORUM is the main contact with this office, and news of Alateen activities is often included.

If possible, we would like a permanent mailing address for the group, that may be used for referral of individuals seeking Alateens' help, and also be listed in our next World Directory. All registered groups are sent a free copy of the Directory annually.

You will find it most helpful to place all of the starting material, including the monthly copy of the FORUM, in a folder, to serve as a permanent source of information to the group as a whole, with each succeeding secretary acting as temporary custodian.

All good wishes to you in this new undertaking.

Sincerely,

Enc: Alateen Packet
June Forum

Staff Member

P.S. We have written to the Secretary of the Al-Anon group in Idaho Falls, and asked her to get in touch with you, to help you in the formation of your new group of Alateens. Good luck to you. CF

Area 13 - Articles & Outreach

se, Idaho

Sunday, February 10, 1985

people's 1985 The Idaho Statesman

121st year, 228th issue
A Garnett newspaper

me's Robert
Idaho regains
sting title

Folks' drinking stings kids

Idaho program helps children ward off 'family disease'

By KAREN BOSSICK

Megan could tell something was troubling her. She looked at her father, but she tucked him into bed.
"He's drunk," he said. "I think Daddy just might have become an alcoholic again because he's angry tonight."
Megan was stunned temporarily — she's never had a father who has had her son's drinking problems. Quickly, she removed an "out" card from her son's concerns, as she'd learned to do in classes for families of alcoholics.
"Is there anything we can do about it?" she asked gently, recalling that

On Page 1C
Classroom support
Family emotions

her husband had missed his voice earlier that evening, as if someone had done while drinking.
Tranny pointed a warning and shook his head.
"Is it anyone's fault?" she probed.
"No," her son replied. "It's not my fault and it's not your and it's not Peter's, either. And," he paused, "it would be Daddy's fault, either."
Relief surged through Megan as she hugged her son.

"I realized for the first time that Tranny understood what had been happening with his father and that I didn't resent his dad," she said. "The COA program was worth it, if for no other reason than that."
The COA program is an Idaho-developed program for children of alcoholics.
The Idaho program may be the only one of its kind directed specifically toward prevention, said Ed Burns, supervisor of the state substance abuse program.
The program was developed in the 1960s, federally funded course with Dr. Fritz



East Bay, Calif.

Affected for life, alcoholics' kids fight depression

"The gift that keeps on giving" — that's how one couple described their relationship.

that children of alcoholics are affected by their parents' alcoholism for the rest of their lives, whether or not they become

The first such chapter in Boise formed one month ago. While children of alcoholics are others believe in the

with alcoholism and the message of sobriety. While others believe in the

Alcoholism ruins others' lives too

By PAUL MENSER

It might surprise some people, but alcoholism can destroy the lives of people who've never touched a drink.
Beth's friends, for years. Like most members of Alcoholics Anonymous or Al-Anon, she asks her last name be omitted to shield her identity. She's been involved 15 years with Al-Anon, a support group for alcoholics' families.
Beth is among AA and Al-Anon members from several states beginning three days of workshops and meetings today at an annual spring assembly, hosted by Idaho Falls this year at the Westbath. About 350 people are expected to attend.

Alcoholics come from every kind of background, Beth said. There is no stereotype for them, but it is a fact that nearly half the children who grow up in alcoholic homes will either become alcoholics or marry one, she said. Beth was raised in an alcoholic home so was the man she married when both were in their late teens.
"Neither of us liked that situation and would we would never live that way," she said. Looking back they're still married; she adds, "I doubt there's a divorce in the state with a looking for both of us."

The fantasy became a horror story, fueled by her husband's belief that he could drink.
"He could drink a beer or go out and buy buddies, and everything was fine until the responsibility of children, bills, things like that came along. The emotional immaturity. There are two types of alcoholics, she said. Primary alcoholics have a physical addiction that asserts itself with the drink. Secondary alcoholics build up a cumulative addiction.
Beth's husband was the latter. "He drank himself into it," she said.
But the problem was as much hers as his,

she added. If an alcoholic looks for every possible way to deny a problem exists, so does his friends.
"We had two sets of friends — there were his friends and my friends. His were drinking friends, and I blamed all of his drinking on them."
"You don't have to drink," she added. "It's a family disease. I didn't have to drink for the alcoholism to be devastating to me. I was obsessed 24 hours a day with his drinking."
There's no point in trying to make an alcoholic believe he's guilty, she said. "The guilt factor is so heavy as they start playing games. They start blaming everything and everybody, but the family bears the brunt of it."
She calls it "the merry-go-round of denial."
It blamed his friends, and his parents blamed me. He would say "I wouldn't drink if I didn't have to come home to this. I would tell him if he drank again I would leave him and never follow through on it because I was so insecure."
Friends and relatives aided the illness. There had been a lot of teasing from his parents. When he got DWI, they bailed him out. They helped with rent, light bills, Mine did too. They saw that the children were fed and clothed.
"Every time someone bailed him out, it allowed him to avoid looking at himself."
"Meanwhile, I was doing my 'wifely duties' and the neighbors would put me on the back and tell me I was a good wife and a good mother, so I got to have a marriage. In my self-pity, I would cry and whine to every body."
Children grew up in the same kind of homes they did. "It really bothered me when I could see the children were more mature than we were," she said. "As time went on, I could see they were just like me. I abused my children emotionally. It came around to the fact that their concern was trying to be the umpires."

Al-Anon — waiting to help families of alcoholics.

"Members come for a variety of reasons and leave taking their own strength from the group," note officials of Al-Anon.

Al-Anon is a group in Idaho Falls and throughout the United States that offers help to the families of alcoholics. There are two Al-Anon family groups in Idaho Falls, one meeting at 8 p.m. each Wednesday in the sisters dining room of Community Fridays.

The group meets each Hospital ar children of These lo alleviate

not gossip, stresses one official. "Our program is spiritual, but not religious, we concentrate on principle and not personalities."

Al-Anon has a leader who conducts the meetings and is adept at making positive responses as each member speaks, and keeps up the spirits of the group. "There are some tears and lots of laughter and the good feeling of knowing another

through, they've referred leaders, ster, is a meetings therapy have the on prine here for yearly den the Pacific Alaska,

Alateen Group Observes First Anniversary in City

The Listen and Learn Alateen group of Pocatello has celebrated its first anniversary with a meeting and refreshments.

Alateen, part of the Al-Anon Family Groups, is an organization of young people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism in a family member or close friend. They believe alcoholism is a family disease

because it affects all family members. The group doesn't discuss religion or become involved with outside organizations. Members carefully protect each other's anonymity and that of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon members.
The group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays at the Congregational Church building, 309 N. Garfield.

Is Alcohol a Problem in Your Family?

AL-ANON

Public Information Meeting

For families, professionals, employers — anyone in contact with a drinking problem. Share knowledge, and understanding of this problem.

THURSDAY, OCT. 11, 8 PM
VFW Hall, 'C' Street
Question and Answer time provided.
CALL 523-0289 or 522-4749

Al-Anon members have to admit they are powerless over alcoholics as well, she said. "I don't have any power over anyone... you have to be completely honest with yourself and with others, because if you're not they know it," she added.

Alcoholics' spouses and children need to have patterns broken, and it is possible for an alcoholic to recover while the family does it. "If an alcoholic has a program of recovery and the family does not participate, they remain sick while the alcoholic heals," she said.

How you can help!



- Collect, record, and digitize unique details about your group, District or Area: events, “firsts,” or history.
- Get together with longtime members and write an individual, group or district history.
- Send digital files from your district to Area Archives via email to our Area Webmaster.

Finding Archives Treasures



- Take 20 minutes to browse through our Idaho Archives collection...
 - ❖ Check out Al-Anon Founders, Stepping Stones info, and Lois' "Diary of Two Motorcycle Hobos."
 - ❖ Check out early *Forums*/posters/delegate scrapbooks.
 - ❖ Check out district info, such as, how Districts 1 and 2 rejoined our area...think about how you can add to your District's Archives!

***THE LAST 10 MINUTES WILL BE OPEN SHARING
ON TREASURES YOU FIND IN OUR ARCHIVES!***