



SLIPPERY WHEN WET

TREASURE VALLEY INTERGROUP

JANUARY 2004

The Voice on the Tape

The lonely disappointment of losing another round of Russian Roulette

That voice, I thought. That's the woman on the tape! I was sitting in a noon meeting that I had not attended in three months. I had been the secretary but had had to give it up because of a conflict with work. A friend of mine was visiting from out of town and my sponsor was there also. We were celebrating my friend's fifteen years of sobriety with friendship, conversation, a meeting, lunch, and a trip to the ocean.

The woman whose voice I recognized was sitting in front, sharing on gratitude - the topic picked by the speaker that day. I had goosebumps as I listened to her; I began to shake, and my heart pounded in my chest. I wracked my brain trying to remember if she had said her name. Yes! She had. It was Sandy. The name matched the memory that was slowly materializing in my mind.

What I was about to experience was a sobriety dream come true. I had always wanted to meet the woman to whom that voice belonged and thank her for saving my life.

In 1987, I was trying one more time to get sober. I had just been blessed with my first DUI (two more were to follow) and a sober uncle of mine had given me the tape of an AA speaker, a woman he had heard in 1986. The tape had a black and red label with the name Sandy and a dare written across it. I listened to it a few times but was frightened by some of the similarities in her story and mine, especially the part about playing Russian Roulette with a handgun and "pulling the trigger and hearing the click" and how "it was the loneliest sound because it meant one more time I had to live."

At that time in my life, that was how I was living. I would put a bullet just one, in my .38 and go drink. When I reach "that point," I would leave whatever dive I was drinking in and drive around. (I still had a car at that time.) At some desolate spot, I would pull over, reach under the seat, pull out my gun, hold it to my head, close my eyes, and squeeze the trigger. Click. I would spin the cylinder, slam it closed, and try again- Click. I did this for a year and a half. One time it went off. The details of that scenario are not important for this story, but what I know today is there is no reason for me to be alive, except that I am supposed to be.

Sobriety was not to be mine for another year. Somehow, though all my insanity and the loss of everything - because it did get worse - I managed to keep that tape of Sandy's story.

For the first six months of my sobriety, I listened to it every day, sometimes two and three times a day. I kept thinking, "If this woman made it, maybe, just maybe, I can." I listened to it until I quit shaking. I listened to it until I found a sponsor. I listened to it until I had the courage to stop listening and start talking.

Although I have had many angels in my sobriety, none was as powerful as the one whose voice I heard coming from a borrowed tape recorder for six months. Throughout the years I have played that tape for every woman I have sponsored. I have dreamed of the moment, my entire sobriety, of what was about to happen after the noon meeting on March 26, 2003.

After the meeting I turned to my sponsor and my friend and said, "I have to talk to that woman" They did not know what was happening, but they followed me down the aisle between the rows of chairs to where Sandy was leaning over, picking up her purse. I touched her arm. She did not look anything like I had pictured. She was shorter than I had imagined. She had red hair, and she was dressed all in purple.

She turned to me and smiled with a bit of a question in her eyes. I had never seen her before, and I'm sure she had never been to the meeting where I was the secretary. So, she had no idea who I was. "I recognized your voice," I managed to choke out. "I have one of your tapes. You saved my life."

Much to my surprise, she grabbed me and hugged me. I cried in her arms and told her the story of my first six months of sobriety. And I thanked her for saving my life. She reminded me of one of the promises and started to cry as well. "They do come true:" she said. "No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others". You will never know how much I needed to hear that I have made a difference in someone's life."

My sponsor and friend were witnesses to all of this, making it even more special. They, too, had tears in their eyes.

My friend, who was celebrating fifteen years: exclaimed, "Well, this will keep me sober another thirty years at least!" I kept telling Sandy, "You saved my life. All of my sobriety I have wanted to thank you, and here you are!"

The day wound down. My sponsor, my friend, and I enjoyed a wonderful lunch and great recovery conversation. The ocean was spectacular, and my friend headed for home with renewed spirit for her own sobriety. After she left, I dragged out one of my boxes of AA speaker tapes. I probably have over one hundred tapes. I was going to find Sandy's tape. I hadn't listened to it in years, but I knew it was in one of two boxes. I opened the first box and sighed. The tapes were piled on top of each other with no order to them, no neat little rows. I knew I was in for a long afternoon. I reached in and pulled out the first tape my finger touched. I turned it over: The tape had a black and red label on it and the name Sandy was written across it with a date.

Gay B.
Seaside, California

CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT

The Board of Trustees of TVICO did not hold a December Board Meeting so there is no Report.

Farewell from the Editor

This issue marks the end of my tenure as editor of *Slippery When Wet*. I have met some wonderful people while doing

However, copies of the Central Office accounting and donations were sent to all DCMs (the newly elected - ones) along with a copy of the bank statement. Extra copies were enclosed for the GSRs.

On the whole, things have improved at the Central Office as far as donations go and we're grateful for that. All our bills are current and we have a good stock of items for sale. However, we still fight the cash problem every month. All group contributions are our life-blood - we simply can not exist without 7th Tradition contributions.

The Central Office has not been in a position to build any kind of prudent reserve. This puts us all the more in a need to trust God that the funds will be there from the groups and districts.

Remember if you change your address you must notify us to keep on getting the newsletter.

Again, a big thanks to all of those who have volunteered here at Central Office!!

Central Office Calendar

The Central Office now has on display a wall calendar listing AA-related events scheduled for 2004. There are several reasons for creating and maintaining the calendar. The key reason-is to provide opportunities for doing service by volunteering at the different events.

The calendar may also be used to help prevent scheduling conflicts between merent AA events. If you are interested in being of service or are planning an event please come into Central Office to list your event. You may also call us at 344-6611.

this service and I've learned a great deal. This service has enhanced my sobriety. I have tied to bring uplifting stories to our little newsletter - stories that remind us of who we are and about our spiritual mission to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

This month, I have included a special story - an incredibly moving story ffrom the current issue of Grapevine. If you enjoy this story, I urge you to use the enclosed Grapevine subscription form. And when you are done with your issue of Grapevine, pass it on. Perhaps to that newcomer who seems so lost.

I have also spent a lot of time here in Central Office putting the newsletter together and have come to appreciate how vital Central Office is to the Treasure Valley. It is a critical component in our efforts to help the alcoholic who still suffers. Central Office needs our support - please see that your group remember Central Office in their Seventh Tradition and please consider dropping a few dollars in the enclosed Donors Club envelope and mailing it in.

Have a wonderful and sober New Year!
Nikki L.

Website Coordinator Needed

I am looking for a volunteer to take on my responsibility for maintaining our website. Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to participate in service by helping Rich H. to maintain the Treasure Valley AA website. It felt good to be of service to AA and hopefully you feel that the site has been maintained OK and maybe, even improved a little. However, since I will be your "Slippery When Wet" newsletter editor for 2004 I don't believe that I can do a good job with both responsibilities. Your help is requested. If you are interested please contact me or the Central Office.

Yours, In Service
Rick P.

Treasure Valley Intergroup Meeting Minutes December 11, 2003*

*Subject to approval at the January meeting, and condensed for Newsletter editing purposes

Minutes from November meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: none.

Entertainment Report. Paul reported that the New Year's Solutions event will be at the Maple Grove Grange Hall. The charge for the dance will be \$6 single, \$10 couple. Paul is still looking for speakers, one male and one female. Karen asked about the cost of the event (it will run about \$1000), and made a motion to cancel it at her group's request because it should have been advertised sooner. After some discussion, it was agreed that we should have the event because we always have an event for New Year's, people are expecting it and we need to provide a sober place to be, and because we've already made a financial commitment to the band. We agreed we should all help to get the word out that and Paul agreed to have flyers available by Monday. Several people agreed to help distribute the flyers and Rick will put it on the web site. Karen withdrew the motion to cancel.

Newsletter: The Newsletter went out today. Complete financials from Central Office through the end of November included and they will start publishing current financials each month. Rick has volunteered to take over as Newsletter Chair, but needs Nikki to do it one more month. Nikki is going to ask the DCM's to condense their meeting minutes so we have room for common interest info.

Answering Service: Gary was ill last month apologized being absent. Current openings are the 4th and 5th Wednesday of each month, and the 2nd Sunday of each month. It was clarified that the suggested sobriety requirement for answering service is 6 months.

Intergroup Trustees Report: (Bill H.)

Bill has no report because the trustees did not have a meeting this month. Carl was able to give us a quick financial update - he said they're we're okay, the bills that are due are paid and the taxes are current. Carl reminded everyone that each group is entitled to a copy of the Newsletter, but Central Office needs a correct mailing address in order to distribute.

Old Business: Elections were held and filled for the following positions:

- **Newsletter editor - Rick**
- **Treasurer - Mike R**

Tuesday Womens Group						\$20.00					\$10.00		\$30.00
Turning Point		\$234.51			\$45.79			\$441.21		\$150.00	\$75.00		\$946.51
TV Birthday Speakers													
TV Intergroup Council													
Twilight Zone Group						\$50.00				\$50.00			\$100.00
Unity in Recovery (Caldwell)													
Utopia Young Peoples													
Wednesday Noon Group (Ontario)			\$10.00	\$50.00						\$75.00			\$135.00
West Boise Group			\$150.00	\$228.00		\$240.00	\$230.00		\$50.00	\$50.00	\$66.00	\$360.00	\$1,374.00
Wet Ones				\$20.00									\$20.00
Womens Connection			\$52.00		\$32.18			\$45.90					\$130.08
Young Peoples Vision													
TOTALS	\$2,292.86	\$1,378.64	\$1,474.02	\$2,575.28	\$1,662.88	\$1,744.69	\$1,820.42	\$1,550.30	\$1,463.49	\$2,216.14	\$1,626.21	\$2,882.21	\$22,587.14

Profit & Loss Statement
12/01/2003 Through 12/31/2003 (Cash Basis)

<u>Category Description</u>	<u>12/01/2003-12/31/2003</u>
INCOME	
Donations	
Donations Group	\$2,882.21
Member and Donor	<u>\$1,645.11</u>
TOTAL Donations	\$4,527.32
Gross Sales	
Net Sales	\$3,782.6
Tax exempt sales	<u>\$576.35</u>
TOTAL Gross Sales	<u>\$4,358.95</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,886.27
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	\$0.22
Advantages 4 Agency	\$28.00
Newsletter	
Postage	<u>\$90.00</u>
TOTAL Newsletter	\$90.00
Office Equipment	
IOS Capital (IKON)	<u>\$689.68</u>
TOTAL Office Equipment	\$689.68
Office Expense	
Misc	\$164.48
Postage	\$100.16
Rent	\$300.00
Sound Telecorn	<u>\$100.50</u>
TOTAL Office Expense	\$665.14
Purchases	
Bruce Meir Arts	\$43.00
Creative Arts	\$645.05
Grapevine	\$77.45

Hazelden	\$616.29
Wendells	\$483.39
World Services	<u>\$2,657.93</u>
TOTAL Purchases	\$4,523.11
Sobriety Calendar	\$148.80
Telephone	
MCI WORLD COM	\$17.45
QWEST	<u>\$208.58</u>
TOTAL Telephone	\$226.03
Wages	
Carl O.	\$1,000.00
Greg B.	<u>\$900.00</u>
TOTAL Wages	<u>\$1,900.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$8,270.98</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	<u>\$615.29</u>

WHERE TO SEND YOUR 7TH TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS	
IDAHO AREA 18 TREASURER P.O. BOX 296 MIDDLETON, ID 83644	DISTRICT 4 P.O. BOX 1408 CALDWELL, ID 83606
TVICO (Central Office) P.O. BOX 5144 BOISE, ID 83705	DISTRICT 5 P.O. Box 44321 BOISE, ID 83711-4321
GSO (General Service Office) P.O. BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION NEW YORK, NY 10163	DISTRICT 8 P.O.Box 696 BOISE, ID 83701
H & I (Hospitals and Institutions) P.O. BOX 2513 BOISE, ID 83701	DISTRICT 9 CONTACT BOSCO B. [Check w/ Central Office]
DISTRICT 3 P.O. BOX 7892 BOISE, ID 83707	

Monthly Business Meetings	
January 1, 2004 District 8 Meeting 7:00 pm (1st Thursday of the month) 200 Myrtle St. (Happy Hour)	January 10, 2004 District 9 Meeting (2nd Saturday of the Month) Different location each month, Call Central Office
January 5, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm (Monday preceding 2nd Thursday) 1524 Vista Ave., Room 10, (Central Office)	January 17, 2004 Hospitals and Institutions (3rd Saturday of the month) 1524 Vista Ave., Room 9 (Saturday Night Live) Corrections - 9:00 am Treatment - 9:45 am H&I West - 10:00 am
January 6, 2004 District 3 Meeting, 6:30 pm (1st Tuesday of the Month) Alano Club	January 18, 2004 District 5 Meeting, 2:00 pm (3rd Sunday of the Month) Call Central Office for location
January 8, 2004 Treasure Valley Intergroup, 7:00 pm (2nd Thursday of the month) 200 Myrtle St. (Happy Hour)	January 26, 2004 District 8 PI/CPC Meeting, 7:00 pm (last Monday of the Month) 2206 N Cole (St. Stephens Episcopal Church) All District and Group Reps Welcome
January 10, 2004 District 4 Meeting, 4:00 pm (2nd Saturday of the Month) 4th St & 10 Ave S (Grace Episcopal Church) Nampa, Idaho	January 27, 2004 CUTOFF DATE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Yes!!!! Sign me up for this awesome newsletter!! I have enclosed the following as my donation to the Treasure Valley Intergroup Central Office.
(\$12 suggested - \$1 a month.)

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone # (Optional):		
Amount Sent: \$		

Make checks payable to Donors Club/TVICO	Mail to: T.V.I.C.O. PO Box 5144 Boise, Idaho 83705
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If any AA Group or individual can not afford the suggested donation, please contact the Central Office to arrange a free subscription.

A Big Thanks to all the volunteers we have had in Central Office - we appreciate you!! Anyone who is interested in volunteering please call Central Office at 344-6611. You can do as much or as little as you want.

Special Thanks to:

Kelley M. Jim Ryan L.

Gary

Walter

Anne

Joe

Rick

Levi G

Rich B

Mike

Darren

Barry S.

Dick C.