

## Boise AAISC History—1975-1986 (Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service Center)

District 3, Boise, started the Literature Center in 1975. About 1978, groups outside of District 3 wanted to purchase literature also—that is when area became involved in the Literature Center. In the beginning, it was called the State Al-Anon Literature Center (SALC).

September 1975, Kathy S. opened the first literature office in her home. Personal contributions of \$90.00 purchased the original literature supply. Kathy continued this operation until about 1981. She certainly needs to be remembered for providing this service as it provided the area with easy availability of literature. But Kathy did not drive at that time and rode the bus carrying packages to be mailed.

An Intergroup had been formed in Boise to handle group problems, hold open Public Information meetings, publish Boise Al-Anon meeting schedules, paid the telephone bills, arranged for volunteers taking calls for evening and weekends and other duties.

A professional answering service was used by Intergroup to take our calls and refer callers to a few people, who were willing to accept these calls. The answering service got tired of trying to run a few people down to accept the calls and their services became extremely expensive. Helen S. volunteered at this time to maintain a telephone in her home that would enable her to forward phone calls to others who would volunteer to be responsible for taking the calls. Helen, however, had to be the volunteer for many hours as typically there were not many volunteers.

In 1981, Kathy felt that she would like to be relieved of this responsibility so a committee was formed to decide what could be done for stocking and supplying literature. This problem, coupled with the need for a different answering service, brought about the new Information Service Center.

Several people formed a committee to research an Information Service Center Office and the feasibility of opening one in Boise. Many hours were spent by many dedicated members. There seemed to be several problems that could arrive from such a venture. One would be “Under whose wings should this venture be placed?”

Since the area had advanced \$300 to purchase the first literature in Kathy’s home, it was decided to approach their being responsible. The \$300.00 was an advance from area to purchase the book “Lois Remembers.” This proposal was presented at an Area Assembly, a group conscience was taken and the majority felt that it should not be their responsibility. It was noted that if they were not living in Boise, people would not be able to volunteer. They requested, at this time, that the original \$300.00 be returned to area and this was done.

District 3, like the Area, was responsible for groups in a large area stretching as far west as Ontario, Oregon, north to McCall and south to Glens Ferry. At the time District 3 felt

that they would prefer not to have the responsibility of the Service Center as they were responsible to a large area, and some towns could not be involved in volunteering for service, so they chose not to have the Service Center under their wings.

The already formed Intergroup, at first was a means of management of the office, but because of the complications of running an office, it was felt that there should be By-Laws written and persons appointed to specific positions in the office. For an example, somebody had to be in charge of keeping the books as the office was to be manned by volunteers and not everyone knows a lot about bookkeeping. There needed to be someone responsible for seeing that the answering service was manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so a Volunteer Chairperson was appointed. There seemed to be a need for a Treasurer as someone was appointed to fulfill that position. We now had a Chairperson for the Service Center who acted under the Chairman of Intergroup. It soon became apparent that we had duplicate positions and that probably Intergroup and the Information Service Center should really become one. By-Laws were written and amended on almost an annual basis as each year brought another learning experience as we became more knowledgeable.

After two years the regular volunteers, who were few in numbers, became tired of volunteering all the time; the office had become quite successful and the decision was made to hire a halftime employee and the balance of the time the office would still be manned by volunteers. After a year more of struggling to get volunteers, it was decided to hire someone on a full time basis. This was done in approximately July of 1984.

By-Laws were amended again, this time trying to comply with any requirements needed in order to incorporate in the State of Idaho. At this time we had a large group of members, at large, who researched manuals, some state laws and whatever else was needed to try and become a legal entity and a functional business. The AI-Anon guidelines for "The Information Service Centers", and all of our manuals were used. Taken from the guidelines – "What it is and How it Serves," it was decided that the By-Laws should read "AI-Anon Information Service Center is a local service center established by groups located close enough to one another for easy access and communications." There was a great deal of discussion as to whether we should try to consolidate with District 3 but it was decided once again, that we should remain with the Boise groups. It would be well to mention, at this time, that many cities that have Information Service Centers do have many districts in that city thus most centers are probably under the arm of the Districts.

The Information Service Center, as a business, is controlled by a Board of Trustees, and a committee comprised of all present Information Service Center Representative (ISRs). The Board of Trustees, by By-Laws have the responsibility for making business decisions, eg hiring employees, auditing the books, inventory control, etc. The Committee elects officers, including Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Volunteers Chairperson, and a Liaison to District 3. According to the Guidelines we are required to have a Liaison person to represent the Information Service Center to Area and World Service level. Since there was no requirement listed for a Liaison Officer to

District 3, we chose to amend the By-Laws and appoint a person for that position so that District could be kept abreast of what was being done and to avoid any conflict in scheduling meetings, social activities, fundraising, etc. This person could also represent the Service Center to other Districts if they were close enough to make it feasible to travel there.

The Information Service Center Representatives (ISRs) are elected from each group in Boise to assist in decision making for the management of the Information Service Center. The ISRs can be, and many times are, the Alternate Group Representative and so after serving as ISR or Alternate GR, they could logically move up to Group Representative (GR) and be in line to World Service level, as a District Representative and stand for election of either Area Service or Area Delegate.

#### Timeline of Boise AAISC:

**June 1975** – Proposal of a Literature Distribution Depot was presented to Group Representatives at District 3 meeting.

**July 1975** – GRs brought group conscience to District meeting. Proposal put into a motion and passed. District 3 Literature Center was launched.

**August 8, 1975** – Contributions from groups came in (\$60.00). Personal donations from members (\$18.90). Open Meeting donation (\$4.00), and a Bingo game proceeds (\$19.00). Grand total \$101.90. First bulk order written up and mailed to WSO.

- 10 ODAT books @ \$3.00 each and 10 each of the most popular pamphlets.

**August 29, 1975** – Order was received and the Literature Center was open for business in a volunteer's home. First customer was the sale of an Odat book to the Payette group. First big sale was to Friday Night Grapevine group for \$26.00.

**November 1977** – Groups throughout the Area and in neighboring Areas became interested in buying literature from the Center. A motion was made and carried and the Literature Center became an Area function. The name was changed to State Al-Anon Literature Center (SALC). WSO started the 20% discount plan. The Center was filling orders for groups in Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Wyoming and Montana.

**March 1981** – The Center moved to 1524 Vista Ave., Boise, and a committee of eight was chosen to handle the business. Volunteers were recruited to do the order filling, wrapping and mailing. Center was open two nights a week.

**1982** – Answering service was moved to Literature Center. Intergroup took over duties of Area. Center was open five days a week.

**July 1983** – Part-time employee hired.

**July 1986** – Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service Center filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Idaho.

(Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws are attached.)