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VOLUME 36

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 2

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

Step 2: "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Few indeed are the practicing alcoholics who have any idea how irrational they are, or seeing their irrationality, can bear to face it. Some will be willing to term themselves "problem drinkers," but cannot endure the suggestion that they are in fact mentally ill. They are abetted in this blindness by a world which does not understand the difference sane drinking and between alcoholism. "Sanity" is defined as "soundness of mind." Yet no alcoholic, soberly analyzing his destructive behavior, whether the destruction fell on the diningroom furniture or his own moral fiber, can claim "soundness of mind" for himself.

Therefore, Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this Step. True humility and an open mind can lead us to faith, and every A.A. meeting is an assurance that God will restore us to sanity if we rightly relate ourselves to him.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p32-3 All the roadblocks I created between myself and A.A./ spirituality were so easily dismantled once I was asked to have an open mind. All the problems I had with religion, all the people I didn't want to be like. all the fears, all my arguments melted away: I just needed an open mind to find what works for me! Since my main problem with God/Higher-Power/Spirituality was how completely blind and stubborn the so-called believers were, I certainly couldn't be as stubborn and blindly insistent that there was no God. All I had to do was say, "Maybe there is..."

Tradition 2: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Where does A.A. get its direction? Who runs it? This, too, is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, "This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere." These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A.A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, "Yes! It definitely does." -12 Steps & 12 Traditions p132 There is so much to love about this tradition, so much to learn and practice within our groups. It was a big realization for me when that word, "leaders," made its way into my mind. What is a leader in A.A? Is it those who tend to the group business affairs? Is it the meeting secretary? The group chairperson? The person who sponsors the new members? The old timer? These people all lead, if not by specific directive and delegated responsibility, then surely by example. I learn through this tradition that quietly practicing A.A.'s principles and allowing others to learn their own lessons is leadership too. If my actions alienate everyone, how, then, can I lead? God is the authority, not me.

Concept 2: "When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society."

Bill and Dr. Bob, entrusted by the early groups to get the program going and to spread the message, nonalcoholic found friends to help them. They formed a trusteeship and delegated to it the responsibility for finances, the Big Book and other literature, public information, the service office and the A.A. Grapevine. However, as the trustees constantly looked to the cofounders for advice and guidance and the groups also continued to hold them accountable, it was evident that the leadership should be transferred to the A.A. groups as a whole. But if the groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 91 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, the staffs of the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine and certain other service workers. Thus, this General Service Conference of A.A., is "the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs." -The Twelve Concepts for World Service **Illustrated**

thrilled to actually meet the cofounder that I gushed all over him with what my sobriety meant "I'll never forget the first time I met Bill Wilson. I was a couple months sober and so excited, so to me and my undying gratitude for his starting A.A. When I ran down, he took my hand in GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE "-FROM A LETTER TO THE A.A. Pass it on. his and said simply,

* * *

NEW MEETINGS AND CHANGES

HERE'S A NEW MEETING: RARELY TO NEVER, FRIDAYS, 8PM, DESERT CLUB. AN OPEN DISCUSSION, BIG BOOK STUDY.

THE MISSING LINK

My sponsor keeps asking me to "pray about it" whenever I come up with some seeming humdinger of a problem and lately, I have to admit, I have actually done it. What is the problem that finally brought this stubborn alcoholic to her knees? Boys. More properly, I should say, men, but as I still seem to have the maturity level of a teenager, the age my drinking career began, I still see boys.

When I came into the program, I was thirty-four, and had spent close to twenty years spinning from one long term relationship into the next. It was rare that I was ever alone for long and indeed, that was largely where much of my identity was sunk, gleaned, lost and hidden. I became so malleable in a relationship that I would lose my own form. As time marched on during those years and as I think back, it makes perfect sense that my drinking just kept increasing. I was lost and preferred to ignore that reality.

In sharing some of this with my first sponsor, whatever my muddy head could articulate at the time, it seemed both prudent and necessary that I select my meetings with care. When I was a newcomer, I would have done whatever was asked of me. I really had no filter at all. To add fuel to this little paranoiac fire, I was invited to eat with some women after my very first meeting and they helpfully instilled in me the unholy fear of the 13th Step.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term, the 13th step, the way it was explained to me, is when certain AA vultures pick over the decaying remains of newcomers. Wait, maybe I got that wrong, it is when people who profess to be AA members try to live off the remaining life force of a newcomer, sexually. Taking advantage of them while they are at their lowest and vampiristically either enslaving them or finishing them off for good. I was terrified.

I know I have a really active imagination, even when I was at rock bottom with my drinking so hearing this scared the proverbial daylights out of me. I guess in retrospect, I felt that this was the price AA required for all this Promise-y goodness. Everything has a dark side, right? So I endeavored to take the perfectly safe path. Avoid the danger. I wanted to

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

Jeremy H. *Chair* Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Morgan D. *Secretary* Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve P. *Treasurer* treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael Q. *Schedule Editor* Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

Open *Activities Coordinator* Activities@albuquerqueaa.org

Peggy A. *Member-at-Large*Memberatlarge@albuquerqueaa.org

Jason K. Pass It On Editor PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

Jerry R. Special Needs Coordinator Specialneeds@albuquerqueaa.org

Alli V. Web Site Chair web@albuquerqueaa.org

Al J. *Media Librarian* media@albuquerqueaa.org

John S. *Public Information Coordinator* publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael W. CO Coordinator Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

Kathy H. *Alternate CO Coordinator* AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

Intergroup Rep. Meeting 2 pm, 2nd Sunday, Brownbaggers

District 3 2 pm, 2nd Saturday Call the DCM for location

District 11 9 am, 2nd Saturday Harwood Methodist Church 420 San Lorenzo NW (at 4th)

District 12 10 am, 2nd Saturday, Heights Club

District 13 10 am, 2nd Saturday, St Thomas of Canterbury 425 University Blvd NE (1 blk N of MLK Blvd)

District 18 1:30 pm, 2nd Sunday Rio West Church, 6751 Pasilla Rd, Rio Rancho

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get sober. I wanted the promises to come true, and I could clearly see that, in my case, boys would just mess that up for me, so easy fix, right? Or so I thought.

For three years I went to primarily Women's meetings, or what I would like to call "safe" meetings; meetings where the men present are generally of the married (happily) or elder statesman persuasion. I stayed in the same meetings, not straying so much as a toe out of line if I could help it. The times when I couldn't help it, and I would meet a guy who appeared to show a shred of interest, my world would spin out of control and I would have to reassert that control before I lost my mind and whatever identity I had gained. Control reasserted, I continued to build my sober world until it looked like a fully realized identity.

Recently, I have realized I missed a major piece of the puzzle: learning to see each member of AA as a peer, not as a potential threat, or as a promise yet unfulfilled. Just as another bozo on this bus of recovery we are all riding. My reason for writing this missive is I am wondering if anyone else may have missed this piece for fear of the dreaded thirteenth step.

In my fear of becoming a victim of the 13th step, I took the recommendation to newcomers not to date for the first year of sobriety to a new level of protective custody; I would avoid interaction with datable people as much as possible and affect a fortress of routine to keep my AA world safe. Result: I am safe and completely inept when it comes to speaking to men. In fact, I have now LOST the ability to speak comfortably with the opposite sex as friends and find I have to learn that skill all over again. Now I realize that is what we are supposed to be developing when we are newcomers, the ability to socialize safely and discern for ourselves who is friend and foe. I believe now that is why we have the one year dating hiatus recommendation. Not to cocoon ourselves away to contemplate our AA navel newness, but to learn how to interact socially without stepping on the toes of our fellows or allowing ourselves to be recidivists in losing our selves to others.

Well, I guess that is why it is good that every day is a school day and that our mantra is progress not perfection. I have a lot of work to do. Who knows, maybe by this time next year, I will be able to go on a date without having a panic attack. Right now, I would be thrilled to be able to have male friends I didn't freak out.

A girl can dream.

-Anonymous in Albuquerque

SWRAASA 2010 NEEDS A THEME!

SWRAASA stands for South West Regional A.A. Service Assembly. Its purpose is to stimulate active participation in the A.A. service structure. New Mexico (Area 46) is a member of this region, which also includes 10 other areas in Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri. SWRAASA is held every other year, and in October of 2012 we (Area 46) will be the hosts!

We are expecting about 700 alcoholics from the region at the Marriot Hotel in Albuquerque for this special A.A. service assembly. We will be conducting workshops and sharing sessions, as well as hearing from Conference Delegates and General Service Board Trustees. All A.A. members are welcome, and encouraged to attend!

We are asking A.A. members in New Mexico to help us choose a theme for this service related event. Since we will be preparing registration information for distribution this fall, we will be choosing the theme at the March Area 46 assembly in Taos. If you have a theme you would like the SWRAASA committee to consider, please send it to Alan S. at area46altdelegate@newmexicoaa.org

Thank you!

> Central Office encourages all groups to elect an Intergroup
representative. Join us at the next Intergroup meeting the second Sunday of every month, at 2 pm, at the Brownbaggers.

Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2011

Submitted By Jeremy H.

I. OPEN AND INTRODUCTIONS

Alli is on time! Open the meeting at 2:03 PM with the Serenity Prayer

Michael W.- Central Office Coordinator • Alli-Web Chair • John-Early Birds • Mark E.-New Frontiers • Steve P.
Treasurer • Al J.-Media Librarian • Emma D.-One Day at a Time • Alan M.-Blackouts • ML J.- QIOF • Martha G.
Cosmopolitan • Bill D.-Seeking Serenity • Kristen E.-Free Spirits • Maddy L.-In The Book • Jerry R.-Special Needs

Chair • John S.-Community Outreach • Michael Q.-Schedule Editor • Kathy H.-Alternate Central Office

Coordinator • Alan "Bigshot" S.-In The Book • Brian R.-In The Book • Morgan D.-Straight Pepper Diet • Peggy A.
Member at Large • Kris H.-Dawn Patrol • Jeremy H.-Chair • Jason K.-PIO Editor

II. MINUTES

• Not available for review. Tabled

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Total Revenues for December, 2010: \$10,301.82
- Total Revenues for 2010: \$98,071.85
- Gross Income for December, 2010: \$7,374.29
- Gross Income for 2010: \$63,844.99
- Total Expenses for December, 2010: \$6,251.69
- Total Expenses for 2010: \$65,655.99
- Net Income for December, 2010: \$1,122.60
- Net Income for 2010: (\$1,811.00)
- Paid two month's rent in December, 2010. Alkathon expenses were \$717, plus other expenses which will show up on the January financial statement. Group contribution sheet is attached to this month's report. Discussion. Take back to groups and see what they are contributing to central office. Suggestion to print the full treasurer's report in the Pass It On. Motioned to accept, seconded, all approved.

IV. CENTRAL OFFICE COORDINATOR'S & ALT. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

- Special thanks to the desk volunteers for participating in the intergroup.
- Office operations: missed quota for giving away \$1,000 in literature; provided requested supplies to groups.
- There is a slot open Tuesday nights for a group to take responsibility for night-phones at central office. Wendy from Serendipity group said that her group will take that responsibility.
- Further discussion, also fielded by Steve P., concerning the Central Office being in the red for the year.
- Could use more substitute desk workers.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

• The Heights Club did a good job hosting, and supporting the New Year's Eve Alkathon non-smoking event. Jessie Z. did a great job with the food. The left-over food was donated to Joy Junction. Special thanks to Morgan and Kristen for their help with the Alkathon. Marathon meeting support was strong throughout the event.

VI. PASS IT ON

- Review of what's included in this month's issue. Page 3 contains an article about corrections service by Skitch F
- Request that intergroup representatives please ask members of their home groups to submit articles about their experiences in recovery for publication in the Pass It On. There is a link on the albuquerqueaa.org web site under service, to contact Jason about submitting articles.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Seniors Seeking Serenity: Anita J.-42 years!

Seeking Serenity: Tom R.-6 months! P.J.-3 years! Lorenzo-5 years! Aaron-12 years! George & Marji T.-21 years! Bruce M.-32 years! Please submit your sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

VII. SCHEDULES

• The online schedules are up to date. Schedules are for sale at Central Office 4 for \$1, or at the intergroup meeting 5 for \$1. Be sure to check online and the printed schedule to make sure that your group's meeting time and location match the published information.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• Examples of past activities include: health fairs, employee health fairs, universities, high schools, juvenile detention centers. Shared in classes at Bernalillo High School about AA, and had some good feed-back. Participates in the multiple DWI offender program, and shares experience. Special thanks to the Albuquerque Central Office for providing free recovery material to take to these public information events. Anyone interested in participating in future community outreach requests may contact John at: publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

IX. WEB SITE

• Updates are being done. A sobriety counter was added to the home page. The average number of unique visitors/month is around 2,000 - 2,200. General consensus from group attendees that the web site is continuing to get good reviews and feed-back.

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

• No report.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

• No report.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

• Discussion on prudent reserve. Re-tabled. Steering Committee will present this to intergroup again, next month.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Position for secretary was opened to the intergroup. Morgan D. (Straight Pepper Diet) stood for the position, and was unanimously approved to fill the secretary position.
- Alan S. (In The Book) said that District 18 was willing to host the 2nd quarter Central Office speaker meeting in Rio Rancho. He received unanimous group approval to host the event on April 30.
- Wendy (Serendipity) said that her group suggested that Intergroup participate in a group inventory, which Serendipity would be willing to facilitate. The group consensus was that the inventory should allow the most people possible, from intergroup, to participate. Wendy said she would take this back to her group, and come up with suggestions on how the group could accomplish doing an inventory in an effective manner.

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 22. Happy Valley Group Hosting a potluck speaker meeting starting at 6:30
- March 20. Rio Amigos Group in Belen will have a Corrections presentation at Eagle Rock, Sunday at noon.
- May 21. Round Up Group in Los Lunas is hosting a potluck speaker meeting starting at 6:30. The speaker will be Roselle.
- Morgan D. (Straight Pepper Diet) announced that her home group is shifting from styrofoam coffee cups, to mugs. A "Hugs for Mugs" drive is now underway: bring a mug, and get a hug. Straight Pepper Diet meets Fridays from 8-9 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albuquerque's Nob Hill area.



Central Office Urgently Needs Desk Workers

Requirements for this service opportunity are six months of sobriety, a sponsor and a home group. A desk shift at Central Office can enhance your sobriety. It can broaden your view of the service structure of your group, your district and your area. And it's fun!

Call Central Office today at 266-1900.

December 2010 Treasurer's Report Total Revenues \$10,301.82 Cost of Sales \$2,927.53 Gross Income \$7,374.29 Expenses \$6,251.69 **NET INCOME** \$1,122.60 For a copy of the full Central Office income/expense report, join us at the next Intergroup Meeting on the second Sunday of the

month, 2 pm, at the Brownbaggers.

Archives Alert!

I'm Manuel and I am an Alcoholic,

I am the new archivist for District 3. That's all groups that fall along the line from Cosmopolitan Group to Soccoro. Albuquerque, Belen, Las Lunas, Magdelena, Peralta & Soccoro. If I missed your group and you know your in district 3 this message is for your group too.

Please at your next Group Conscience if you can write out a Group History, when started, by whom, locations group has been, a picture of your meeting place, members past and present, group officers, meeting address, meeting days and times.. I'll start a file on all groups in District 3 for our district archives. My address is:

> Manuel P. P.O. Box 72583 Albuquerque, NM 87195

Corrections Corner

The District 3 Corrections Committee is looking for AA members, men and women like you, who are willing to help make it possible for the AA message to be carried to those on the "inside." Taking meetings into correctional facilities is not for everyone. Jim P. lived and breathed Step 12, but he couldn't go inside. Because of his own story of finding recovery inside the Kansas State Penitentiary, he wanted to but he couldn't stand the sound of the steel doors locking. But did you know you don't have to go inside to do corrections service work?

Now there's a rewarding and barely ever mentioned form of Twelve Step work that's "a special kind of AA service." In Corrections Correspondence AA members on the "outside" correspond with AA members in correctional facilities. Like sponsorship, it is suggested that men correspond with men and women with women. District 3 Corrections wants to support and facilitate Corrections Correspondence and is planning Pen & Paper Pot Lucks. The DCM and Corrections Chair are working on a date for the first one. Watch for more information in our AA service newsletters. You do not need to be in District 3 to participate. All you need is a desire to share your experience, strength and hope with A.A.s who are confined.

-Skitch F.

December 2010 **Monthly Service Activities Report**

PHONE CALLS	DEC 10	NOV 10	DEC 09
Information	806	749	1025
12-Step	12	21	12
Al-Anon	11	12	8
Message	19	25	23
Other	78	104	85
TOTAL	926	911	1153
WALK INS			
Information	13	10	14
12-Step	1	0	1
Al-Anon	1	0	0
Get Schedule	12	12	11
Purchase	156	146	187
Tapes	4	2	3
Message	2	1	0
Casual	37	24	42
Other	20	17	20
TOTAL	212	212	278
DESK WORKERS*			
Regulars	(41) 52		
Substitutes	(43) 27		
TOTAL	(84) 79		
DESK SHIFTS*			
Weekdays	138		
Weekends	40		
TOTAL	178		
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	118(87%)		
Worked by Substitutes	20(13%)		
TOTAL	138		
WEEKEND SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	34(85%)		
Worked by Substitutes	6(15%)		
TOTAL	40		
SHIFTS WORKED BY MICI	HAEL		
3 hour shifts (7)	21 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
SHIFTS WORKED BY KATH	łΥ		
3 hour shifts (9)	27 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
TOTAL	48 hours		
*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE			

OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: I MET MY HIGHER POWER IN A.A. EVENTUALLY WE GOT A DIVORCE AND I HAD TO REALLY WORK THE STEPS AGAIN OR DIE. THEN I FOUND GOD. HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



Light of the Spirit

Defeated and desperate, I came to the rooms Where lives are mended on spiritual looms. Where joy is apparent on most each face; Where healing is born—it is a sacred place.

I listened. I worked. I became teachable. Slowly, I discovered sanity reachable. Serenity arrived in that precious hour When I was introduced to a Higher Power.

God worked through you—showing me the way. Because of you I can live in today. God worked through you—giving me the might To return from my long journey into night. With God and you I walk in the Light.

—Julie D



HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!

Spring 2011 @ UNM A.A. 101 Study Group

COURSE: A.A. 101

MEETS: Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00

WHERE: Group Room @ Women's Resource

Center behind Mesa Vista Hall @ UNM

DESCRIPTION: Beginners meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. This study group is co-ed and open to all those with an honest desire to stop drinking. We will study the text of Alcoholics Anonymous and have discussion based upon our experience, strength and hope.

PREREQUISITE: Only an honest desire to stop

drinking.

TEXT: The "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous, books will be provided for those who do not have one. Coffee and cookies are provided.

Corrections, BTG Treatment Facilities Workshop

Sunday, March 20th, 2011

Potluck @ 12:00 pm, Workshop till 3:00 pm

Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle Lane Belen, NM

Hosted by District 3 – Come join us! @



Albuquerque Central Office

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Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office

Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am to 10 pm Saturday and Sunday 9 am to 9 pm



The Office is at
1921 Alvarado NE,
two blocks north
of Constitution and
four blocks east
of San Mateo.
www.AlbuquerqueAA.org