

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

“Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other.”

Step 3: *“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.”*

The Third Step Prayer: “God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy Will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy Will always.”
—*Alcoholics Anonymous p63*

This is the step that so frightened me in my early sobriety. For did this step not say that I would be spending the rest of my life playing trombone on the corner with the Salvation Army band? Did it not say that I was to give up all that I enjoyed? All that I thought fun? All that I was? In short, was I not to be sentenced to eternal dork-dom? Quite the contrary, it turns out. The truth is that all I had to give up was selfishness, fear, and the belief in limitation of any kind. Surrendering myself to God did not cause me to lose any enjoyment, in fact I have gained immeasurably in happiness, peace and serenity. For all that I was afraid to relinquish (mind you I was sleeping on a couch by the railroad tracks without a friend in the world) I have been compensated with a new light thrown upon every phase of my life in a wonderful new world.

Tradition 3: *“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”*

This tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out.” —*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p139*

Why did A.A. finally drop all its membership regulations? Why did we leave it to each newcomer to decide himself whether he was an alcoholic and whether he should join us?...The answer, now seen in Tradition Three, was simplicity itself. At last experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic’s full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence, and often to condemn him to endless misery. Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother? —*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p141*

When I finally made it into the rooms of A.A, I was welcomed with open arms by a room full of people 30+ years my senior. I was loved despite, or in some cases because of, our differences. I remember reading, on the wall of the old Downtown Group, “You are a member if you say your are.” It was the first time I had ever been granted membership to anything. The loving, tolerant old-timers were patient with me while I learned the ways of our fellowship.

Concept 3: *“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”*

Every trusted servant and every A.A. entity—at all levels of service—has the right “To decide...how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” That is, they can “decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.”

But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its “trusted servants.” If the groups *instruct* their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s *instruct* the area delegates rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. “Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other.” —*The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*



NEW MEETINGS AND CHANGES

LUNCH BUNCH GROUP
has moved to:
The Berger Briggs Building
215 3rd St SW

ELEVENTH STEP EXPERIENCE
A new open meeting, Saturdays
at 1:30pm at the Heights Club
Non-Smoking!

STARTING A NEW A.A. GROUP

Reasons for starting a new group vary, but the ways to go about it are basically the same.

Important to establishing an A.A. group is the need for one as expressed by at least two or three alcoholics; the cooperation of other A.A. members; a meeting place; a coffeepot; A.A. literature and meeting lists; and other supplies.

Once the group is off to a good start, it would be helpful to announce its presence to neighboring groups; your local Intergroup office; your district and area committees; and the General Service Office.

To list your group in the Albuquerque Meeting Directory stop by Central Office to fill out a form or e-mail the information to schedule@albuquerqueaa.org.

To list your group with G.S.O. go to <http://www.aa.org/> where you can download and fill out a New Group form. Each new group receives a complimentary handbook and a small supply of literature at no charge when it registers.

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

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NOTES FROM DISTRICT 13

On February 13, 2010 District 13 G.S.R. meeting was held at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church at 10:00 am. Committee members present gave standing committee reports. The group voted to donate \$150 for the use of Highland high school for the December Area Assembly, specifically to be given to the library and to align with the 7th tradition that says we are self-supporting. We will provide a subscription of the Grapevine to the Estancia prison and the Brig at Kirtland AFB. We discussed the possibility of doing a workshop this year and topics of interest were shared. We voted to do a district G.S.R. phone call reminder. It was also decided to study one concept a month at our meetings and Karen will lead that. District #13 has several groups that do not have G.S.R. designated and there was much discussion on the topic.

The next District #13 meeting is March 13, 2010 at 10:00 am at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church. All District #13 AA members are invited to attend. Want to let everyone know what's going on in your district? Send a brief summary of your district's business meeting to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org.

Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

Intergroup Rep. Meeting
2 pm, 2nd Sunday, Desert Club

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

Excerpts from *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and *Living Sober*, are printed with permission of AAWS, Inc. Excerpts from *The Grapevine*, are printed with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.

YOUTH ENJOYING SOBRIETY!

I attended my first AA meeting at 21 years old. Though I did not stay sober from then on, a seed was planted: hope. I had been drinking against my will for about four years by that point. I had been living in hell as far back as memory serves me – albeit a hell that provided an occasional figurative glass of ice water.

The seed of hope that was planted in me that day lay dormant for some time, but it was there. I somehow knew that there were people with the same affliction I had, but were somehow dealing with it and living a reasonably happy life.

That seed was planted in Florida. Subsequently, I paid inevitable consequences related to my alcoholism and its attendant behavior. I have spent most of the years between then and now either in jail or prison.

That granule of hope I carried in my heart did not keep me sober. What it did do was provide me with the knowledge of where to go when it got bad enough. And it had to get really bad to be “enough”.

Thankfully, I was given an excruciating moment of clarity. I was once again in a jail cell. But this time I could not stand who I was or the life that I was living. I saw my life – past, present and future – and was defeated. Completely. This was the fertilizer that activated the seed that was planted so many years ago. As this seed grew, I knew where I could go for help. AA.

I walked out of prison on Feb. 25, 2008, arrived in Albuquerque by bus, and realized I did not know how to live. I knew how to numb myself; I knew how to commit crime (though I obviously neglected learning how to avoid being caught); I knew how to do time. I was scared and I was desperate.

I walked into the Desert Club and found the original hope that had been offered so long before. There, there were people who smiled and joked and had jobs and cars and did not have to drink. There I was offered a design for living that would solve all of my problems.

I went to 2-3 meetings a day. I got a Big Book and 12x12. I got a sponsor. I started working steps with willingness only the dying have. As I progressed into the steps, as I experienced day after day of living in the solution, something changed. I began to feel okay with who I was and what I was doing. My motivation to continue the program of Alcoholics Anonymous changed. I did not take the steps just to not die anymore, I did not incorporate the principles into my life just to quiet the insane

voices in my head anymore, I was given a psychic change and I like the results. I liked who I was and I began to find peace with the world around me. I no longer thought of drinking.

These gifts were all possible because some alcoholics were having a meeting many years ago and shared their hope with me. Thank God they did. Now that I am able, I carry the message as they did. I also gratefully serve on the 2010 NMCYPAA (New Mexico Conference of Young People in A.A.) host committee as a part of my sobriety.

-Patrick H.

Editor's note: I hope to make the YES section a regular monthly addition to our PIO. So all you young peeps, please send your stories, submissions, letters, ideas etc to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org. Also look here to keep up to date with the latest news from the NMCYPAA committee and their happenings.

NMCYPAA UPDATE

Committee meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 2:00 pm at the Desert Club in the non-smoking room. All are welcome to attend and participate, with several opportunities to enhance your sobriety through service.

Events coming up: Spring Fling: semi-formal dinner – with two speakers from Arizona YPAA followed by a dance. Tickets for the dinner and dance are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Speakers are, of course, free; and dance is a suggested donation of \$3 per person and \$5 per couple. Saturday, March 20. Dinner and speakers start at 6 p.m. and dance starts at 7:30.

Flag-Football Tournament: 7-11 person teams (7 on the field, up to 4 subs). Single elimination. Winning team gets free registration to NMCYPAA. \$5 per person. Teams must be registered by March 19. Games on April 10-11.

The conference will be held in Albuquerque on July 30-August 1st at the Hotel Blue in downtown Albuquerque.

Visit nmcypaa.org for more information or call Patrick @ (505)340-6680.

➤ **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 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2010

Submitted By Sean F. – Secretary

Editor's Note: A.A. ought never be organized ;)

Our first attempt to hold a meeting at the Brownbaggers left us milling about outside without a key, and the Intergroup meeting was not held. In it's place, I present you with the minutes from February's Intergroup Steering Committee minutes

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MINUTES

- Secretary sent minutes but did not bring hard copies to meeting so they were not approved. It was noted that there were problems with the financial report.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Total Revenues – 12,073.51
- Total Cost of Sales 2,957.70
- Total Expenses 5,148.02
- Net Income 4,957.79
- Year to Date is the same since these figures reflect the first month of the year

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

- Winter Bash a smashing success. Over 100 people from 37 groups attended. It was better attended than the Alcathon
- There is sufficient literature in stock but maybe placing order to fill holes
- Every desk slot filled except every other Saturday and Sunday and Monday 10:00-13:00
- Central Office needs a new list of steering committee members.
- There has been the normal variation in services provided.
- Michael and Kathy have been having to cover more shifts than usual
- The special needs chairman had to resign for health reasons

V. ACTIVITIES

- Winter Bash was well organized but a greater effort might have been made for wider participation
- It is not too early to start looking for a new place for the alcathon. Henry L is looking into using the Seeking Serenity meeting space. A vote was taken to approve going ahead. Minority spoke against because of a need to take it to the greater Intergroup Report. Vote to revoke passed. On second vote taking the new location to the larger Intergroup approved

VI. MEMBER AT LARGE REPORT

- Is looking for ideas for the new web site design

VII. PASS IT ON

- Copies of the new Pass It On are at Central Office
- Pass It On needs people to write articles

VIII. SCHEDULES

- Current database up to date. It is available as a .pdf on the Albuquerque AA web site.
- A new edition of the printed copy is going to the printer this week
- There was only one change in this edition

IX. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- A panel helped with the Bernalillo County Multiple DWI offender program (40-60 attendees)
- Information and a speaker provided to a substance abuse class at CNM on 1/23/10 and 1/24/10
- A teacher at UNM has requested for a person to provide information for a class
- A booth will be provided for the Torrence County DOH at the Civic Center on 3/6/10. The name of the program is "Partnership for Health."

X. WEB SITE

- No report

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- Next month the steering committee will meet upstairs in the library at St. Johns.
- The steering committee needs to find a new meeting place

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- Steve noted the need to replace the old computer at central office because the old one is not able to store anymore information and is not able to take an external hard drive or other peripheral devices.
- He also suggested that the phone system, which is over a decade old, be replaced at this time
- Steve has done some preliminary research and reported that the computer would cost \$500-\$1,100 and the phone system would cost \$100-\$300, The cost of new software is unknown.
- A motion was made to budget \$1,500 for computer and phone. Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to donate \$100 to El Faralito passed.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Leslie-Seeking Serenity-1 year-You rock!

Stacy A-Seeking Serenity-1 year-Way to go!

Lynn H-Seeking Serenity-18 months-In a row?! Wow!

Karen R-Seniors Seeking Serenity-26 years-Holy cow!

Linda N-Seeking Serenity-28 years-Congratulations!

Larry T-Seeking Serenity-31 years-Amazing!

Please submit your March sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

District 18 Intergroup Speaker Meeting And Central Office Fundraiser



April 17, 2010

St Paul's United Church
2701 The American Rd. SE
Rio Rancho

Potluck starts at 6:30pm
Speaker meeting at 7:30pm
Fundraising Raffle at 9pm

All proceeds will be donated to Central Office

To donate items for the raffle please contact:

Michael C. at 604-3975

Erin D at 319-9352

IMPORTANT STATE CONVENTION INFORMATION

This year's convention will be held at Ghost Ranch, in northern New Mexico. This wonderfully spiritual setting sets the stage for this year's theme, Action into Serenity. If you wish to learn more about the convention please visit www.2010area46convention.org.

A special note:

Please register early! Attendees wishing to stay at Ghost Ranch must register by April 15, 2010 and reserve lodging at the time of registration in order to guarantee availability.



Central Office Urgently Needs Deskworkers

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 2009 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$12,073.51
Cost of Sales	\$2,957.70
Gross Income	\$n/a
Expenses	\$5,148.02
NET INCOME	\$4,957.79

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.

Corrections Corner March 2010

There is a need for women to carry the AA message into the women's prison in Grants. There will be an orientation for this prison as well as the prison in Los Lunas, (so men can come to the orientation too) on March 27, 2010 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The location of the orientation is Calvary Chapel Rio Grande Valley located at 19381 N Hwy 314 in Belen. Anyone wanting to get clearance to go into one of the prisons to carry the message should attend this orientation. Any woman wanting to be involved with the Women's prison in Grants can contact me Carol M @ 505-615-9494. Wonderful opportunity to be of service.

Thank you.
Carol M

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap helps alcoholics in an alcoholism treatment facility make a transition into A.A. by using Temporary Contacts. If you would like to help in this very important 12th Step work in your area and have at least one year of continuous sobriety in A.A, please contact me at d13bridgethegap@gmail.com or call 773.610.7777 for more information.

Thank you.
Jason K.

January 2010 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
Information	834	1025	942
12-Step	12	12	29
Al-Anon	27	8	21
Message	31	23	33
Other	110	85	128
TOTAL	1014	1153	1153

WALK INS	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
Information	21	14	14
12-Step	0	1	1
Al-Anon	0	0	1
Get Schedule	9	11	14
Purchase	179	187	192
Tapes	2	3	2
Message	9	0	2
Casual	22	42	48
Other	38	20	48
TOTAL	282	278	323

DESKWORKERS*	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
Regulars	45		
Substitutes	27		
TOTAL	74		

DESK SHIFTS*	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
Weekdays	126		
Weekends	50		
TOTAL	176		

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
Worked by Regulars	102/(81%)		
Worked by Substitutes	24/(19%)		
TOTAL	126		

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
Worked by Regulars	36/(72%)		
Worked by Substitutes	14/(28%)		
TOTAL	50		

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
3 hour shifts (3)	9 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
night phone (0)	0 hours		

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	JAN 10	DEC 09	JAN 09
3 hour shifts (5)	15 hours		
2 hour shifts (2)	4 hours		
night phone (1)	10 hours		
TOTAL	38 hours		

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

DISTRICT 13 BUSINESS MEETING HAS CHANGED DAY AND LOCATION

2nd SATURDAY of the month at 10AM

St Thomas of Canterbury, 425 University Blvd NE (1 blk north of MLK Blvd)



NMCYPAA 2010

The age of miracles is still with us.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Think you have what it takes? Bring it on!

NMCYPAA 2010 host committee is putting together a flag football tournament.

\$5.00 per person – 7-11 person teams.
Single elimination.

April 10-11, 2010

All teams must be registered and paid in full by March 19, 2010

events@nmcypaa.org (505) 804-6890

17th Annual Red Road A.A. Convention

April 30th through May 2nd 2010
All A.A. and Al-Anon members are welcome!

At the Sandia Courtyard Hotel
15 Hotel Circle NE, Albuquerque NM 87123
(Eubank & I-40)

Discount room rates are available. Please use
Group Code: REDROAD2010

For discounted room rates, please make
reservations by April 16. Advanced room
reservations are recommended, limited rooms
available. Hotel Reservations: 800.877.4852 or
505.296.4852

Contacts:

Patty B-T. 505.792.4565 sunflw22@yahoo.com

Mary V. 505.249.5347 maryv1024@msn.com

<http://home.earthlink.net/~redroadconvention/index.html>

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!



The A.A. Home Group Workshop The Heartbeat of AA

Sponsored by District 11

Saturday May 15th, 2010

9:00– 11:00 AM

4th & Alameda

Albuquerque, NM

Nativity Parish Pastoral Center

- What is a Home Group?
- Why do I belong to one?
- What does it mean to be a member?

NMCYPAA 2010 Presents: SPRING FLING 2010

March 20, 2010

@ the Heights Club

6:00 PM - 12:00 AM

**Semi Formal Dinner/Dance
& Speaker Meeting**

**Tickets for dinner and
dance are \$15 for single
\$25 for couple**

Dance only \$3 / \$5

www.nmcypaa.org

**New Mexico Conference of Young People in AA
Young in age, young in sobriety, young at heart or
with room to grow.**

Albuquerque Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
{505} 266-1900

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1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110



**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.