MARCH 2011 VOLUME 36 ISSUE 3

Pass It On.

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

Step 3: "Made a decision to turn our Tradition 3: "The only requirement will and our lives over to the care of God for A.A. membership is a desire to stop as we understood Him." Selfishness—self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our

troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, selfseeking, and self-pity, we step can declare yourself in; nobody on the toes of our fellows and can keep you out. No matter who they retaliate...So our troubles, you are, no matter how low you've we think, are basically of our own making. They arise out of ourselves, and the alcoholic is an your crimes—we still can't deny extreme example of self-will run you A.A. We don't want to keep riot, though he usually doesn't you out. We aren't a bit afraid think so. Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness. We must, or it kills us! God makes that possible. And there often seems no way of sobriety that we've had. So you're entirely getting rid of self without an A.A. member the minute you His aid. Many of us had moral and philosophical convictions galore, but we could not live up to them even though we would have liked and see how my thoughts and to. Neither could we reduce our self-centeredness much by wishing or trying on our own power. We had to have God's help. -Alcoholics Anonymous p62

I hope I never forget the day when future. If the early members I fell to my knees, on that cold brick floor, and desperately blurted out the Third Step prayer. I had reached my lowest level yet. All the spiritual and moral philosophies I held true and dear were proving to be completely ineffective. It wasn't that there was anything wrong with these ideas, they were of the highest order. What was wrong was my inability to use them to make me feel OK. It was as though my life was a jumbled pile of two-by-fours and these spiritual principles were nails, but I had no hammer to drive them. I was trying to build something and I had all the materials, but I had no tools. Immediately after taking the third step I felt as though I finally had the tools to live happily.

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 gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications—even you'll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for declare yourself."

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p139 I can look back in my past actions have changed (hopefully for the better). Rereading the above quote from Bill's writing, I reflect on how I continue to learn to lose my fear of A.A.'s were able to lose their fear of who their members were to be. regardless of how twisted they may have been, why should I put myself in fear over how someone might introduce themselves in a meeting? The tradition doesn't require any specific title when making introduction. Instead, I am learning that A.A. is a seemingly perfect balance of experienced leaders (who lead by positive example) and the newer members who may have not yet met our (sometimes unrealistic) membership expectations. The more I learn patience and tolerance, the better equipped I am to carry the message of A.A. and gently share my A.A. tradition experience to new members.

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." This is "the essence of 'The Right of Decision."

But this also means the Fellowship mush 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. As Bill points out, "our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should...cast their votes... according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time."

"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

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 TO THE A.A. "-FROM A LETTER Pass it on. his and said simply,

* * * * ERROR! ERROR! ERROR!

PLEASE EXCUSE YOUR EDITOR MONKEY WHO SOMEHOW DIDN'T INCLUDE REPORTS (I BLAME THE COMPUTER GREMLIN MONKEYS) FOR THE MEDIA LIBRARIAN OR SPECIAL NEEDS IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE. ALSO NEGLECTED LAST MONTH WERE THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE ALCATHON A SUCCESS. PLEASE SEE THOSE ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE.

THE MISSING LINK

I found my Higher Power one day in March of 2009 while I was delivering mail for the USPS. When you are out there by yourself in the mail truck, you have nothing but time to think.

Having all this "free" thinking time while doing my job as a letter carrier is what helped me. If I was working on an assembly line in a factory, I might have been too busy or preoccupied to think the whole "God Thing" through.

I was looking around and I started to think to myself: "Where did all this come from?" Surely, everything down to the smallest particle had to come from somewhere or something. The question was, could I really and truly believe that there was something that made it all: me, you, and everything?

At this point in my life I had only been sober for approximately two weeks and had only attended two AA meetings. My mind was a wreck; it was clouded with alcohol, bad thoughts and hate for things others had done to me.

It occurred to me to just ask for God's help like the others had told me in the AA meeting. At first it didn't work, but I kept asking, begging this God for help. "Please release me from this madness! All I have to do is ask, right?" In my head I heard a voice say "Yes." At that point I felt a presence I have come to believe is my "Higher Power."

Now that I could feel God's presence, I asked Him to please remove all these terrible feelings I had inside. All at once, I felt as though the weight of the world was lifted from my shoulders. I felt new. I began to cry, not just a couple of tears, but really cry, because everything that I had been holding inside was now removed. All the jealousy, spite, envy, anxiety, pain, hurt, anger, fear, hopelessness, helplessness, skepticism, regret, etc, were all gone in an instant.

Once the tears stopped flowing, I looked around. Everything seemed brighter, cleaner and beautiful. Here I was, next to the curb staring at an old rusty mailbox and it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. When I looked at the mountains and the sky, I realized that God

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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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)

10 am, 2nd Saturday, Heights Club

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 A.A.W.S., Inc. Excerpts from The Grapevine, are printed with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.

had created all of this—the Earth and Heavens, water, soil and everything down to the smallest particle. When we breathe, we become part of Him through the air He has created. It occurred to me, that if God could help me, He could help others. He could cure cancer and end poverty.

I thought that I should call my brother immediately and tell him the news. Was I going out of my mind? I decided to wait and see if what I felt was really happening. Could it really be that simple, that all I had to do was ask? Years and years of pain swept away in an instant with one simple question? The weight of the world, alcoholism, the pressures of my life, my family and my job, were all gone with one simple thing: Belief!

I couldn't wait. I told my brother, and later that day I told my AA group, and nearly two years later I am still telling people how my life has changed because I came to believe.

Dereld P. Albuquerque, NM

NYE ALCATHON THANKS

The Intergroup steering committee members thank the following groups for hosting meetings at the 2010-2011 New Year's Eve Alcathon: Seniors Seeking Serenity, One Day at a Time, Serendipity, Promises, Brownbaggers, Singleness of Purpose, Live and Let Live, Seeking Serenity, Ladies Room, Tuesday Knight Stag, Free Spirits, Corrales Smoke Free, Straight Pepper Diet, High Noon, Foothills, Cosmopolitan Group, Goodfellas, Dawn Patrol, How It Works, Sunday Night Young People's, and these Heights Club Groups: Dry Nooners, Happy Hour, Triangle Group, Bikers, Sunrise Sobriety, and Book Study.

We also thank the following Albuquerque AAs: Kevin K, Heights Club manager, and the many Heights Club members and associates who provided generous hospitality and hard work to bring it together. Steve P, for getting supplies to the Heights Club. Jesse Z, Jason, Pam H, Sara E, and Mike F (all Brownbaggers) for preparing and serving the delicious chicken/cheese enchiladas, beans and rice for dinner. Dave C, David G, Chava D, Jojo M, Kevin K, and Carlos C for outstanding music. Kristen E, Morgan D, Dan S, and Alan M for special support. Last but not least, we thank the many folks who made valuable (and not so valuable) contributions to the very successful raffle fund-raiser!

CORRECTIONS WORK OPPORTUNITIES

NM Department of Corrections training (so a person can go into a prison to carry the message) will be on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at Legacy Church in Albuquerque (ABQ-westside) from 9:00 am-11:30 am.

Bernalillo County Metro Detention Center training is always held on the 1st Thursday of every month at 8 a.m. and ends around 11:00.

Volunteers are always needed to take the message of AA inside the walls-both men's and women's facilities. Women are really needed for the Women's Correctional Facility in Grants and women are needed at the Bernalillo County Metro Detention Center too.

> 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

February 13, 2011

Submitted By Morgan D.

I. OPEN AND INTRODUCTIONS

Morgan D-Secretary • Joe W-Old 66 Group • Michael W-Mountainside • Kathy H-Metropolitan Mark E-New Frontiers • John S-Brown Baggers • Arthur T-Straight Pepper Diet • Donna B-Ladies Room Maddy L-In the Book • Kristen E-Free Spirits • Christy O & Martha M-Promises • Bernie J-Singleness of Purpose • Bill D-Seeking Serenity • Peggy A-Free Spirits • Al J-Seniors Seeking Serenity • Emma D-ODAT • Jason K-PIO Editor • Patrick H-High Noon • Cindy B-Dawn Patrol • Skitch F-Isleta Jeremy H-Intergroup Chair • Sharon H-Any Lengths • Brenda B-Foothills (3 new group representatives)

II. MINUTES

• Approved despite lack of report for Media Librarian & Special Needs

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Revenues: \$10,743.00Cost of Sales: \$5,907.75Expenses: \$5,390.60

• Total: -554.45 In the Red

• For 2010 the Central Office net income was \$1,811 in the red.

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

- 2 Inter Group speaker meetings coming up . April 30th @ St Paul's United Church in Rio Rancho starting at 6.
- Last Tuesday not one regular desk worker worked. It was all subs, which has never happened. Have 3-4 new workers coming on. Desk shift that is still open: Every other Saturday 6-9pm.
- Still waiting to hear from Serendipity to see if they are taking Tuesday night phone shift. E-mailed Jerry and he said he would find out.
- Ordered chips and made a small literature order. Grape Vine bill has been paid.
- 1,022 calls last month, 278 Walk ins, 79 workers (50 regulars/ 29 subs) Regulars- 83%/ Subs- 17%, Michael and Kathy worked 27 hours each

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

• No Report

VI. PASS IT ON

- Pink this month. Step/ Tradition/ Concept 2 on the cover, which completes one year of the 3 legacies feature written by the editor monkey. For the next 9 months wants to get other's experience with the month's step/tradition/concept. E-mail those to him if interested. Article on relationships in the months PIO Got minute on time this month, but not Special Needs or media librarians report. Would love articles from members, but need submissions. List of Groups Contributions will hopefully be in March's Pass it On.
- Q) What is the deadline for submissions?
- A) About 10 days after Intergroup meeting, but this month it will be Feb. 20th since it is a short month.
- Q) Is there a word minimum?
- A) No

VII. SCHEDULES

• Absent, no report.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Seniors Seeking Serenity: Karen R-27 years!

Seeking Serenity: Ron M-60 days! Ken Z-1 year! Stacey-2 years! Linda N-29 years! Larry T-32 years! Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• Busy last month. Have 2 requests for young peoples:1) Comino Nuevo Youth Center (incarcerated adolescents) wanting someone to bring the AA message & 2) New Mexico Solutions is an outpatient program and has a therapist wanting 2-3 young people (20s) to come on a weekday afternoon. Also February 25th from 2-3pm, Catholic Charities wants someone to come talk to their staff about how to help homeless people who are alcoholic.

IX. WEB SITE

- Special needs survey is on the home page.
- Added a calendar at the bottom of the news bulletin
- Added a district map at bottom of Home page

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

• Getting everything up to date. Got 140 masters, down to the last 15-20. Going to make an inventory list of speakers. Going to get the list out to the groups, in the Pass it On, and on the Web Site.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

• Absent, No report.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- Allen Moves to table discussing Prudent Reserve until April Meeting, 2nd-Steve. Motion passes.
- Group Inventory discussion- Wendy is not here. Kathy motions to Table, 2nd- Michael. Motion passes
- Steering Committee voted to give \$100 to El Faralito and buy a new copier for the office.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

• None!

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bernie- Singleness of Purpose is going to expand and start a Saturday Night closed Discussion meeting @7pm at Rio Vista church
- District 3 hosting Corrections, BTG, Treatment Facilities workshop on Sunday March 20th. Potluck @ noon, workshop at 3pm at the Belen Community center



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.

January 2011 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$10,743.90	
Cost of Sales	\$5,907.75	
Gross Income	\$4,836.15	
Expenses	\$5,390.60	

NET INCOME

\$-554.45

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.

Group	YTD	Came To Believe Group	\$10.00
Brownbaggers	\$1,423.92	San Felipe Group	\$13.07
High Noon Group	\$336.00	Serendipity Group	\$817.20
Seeking Serenity	\$961.36	One Day At A Time	\$1,595.00
Isleta Group	\$285.26	Keep It Simple - Albuquerque	\$200.00
Corrales Men's Stag	\$300.00	Basement Steps Group	\$105.00
Women in Progress	\$50.00	Sunrise Sobriety	\$390.35
New Freedom Group	\$100.00	Raymac Group	\$5.00
Drunkin' Donuts	\$120.00	Queer Ideas of Fun	\$556.00
Alameda Men's Stag	\$685.32	Foothills Group	\$2,299.89
Sponsorship & Growth	\$193.05	The Ladies Room	\$953.36
Thinking Straight	\$100.00	Mountainside Group	\$97.00
Young People	\$11.54	Lone Rangers Group	\$635.61
Jemez Valley Group	\$20.00	Tuesday 12 and 12	\$171.42
Live and Let Live	\$126.46	ABC Monday Night-R.R.	\$50.00
Corrales Smokefree Group	\$107.10	Westside Noon Group	\$813.33
Tuesday Knights	\$25.00	In The Book	\$52.50
Placitas Group	\$200.00	Straight Pepper Diet	\$54.48
Old 66 Group - Edgewood	\$463.79	Wake Up Call Group	\$250.00
Dawn Patrol	\$4,115.78	Round Up Group	\$220.00
East Mountain Group	\$57.00	Singleness of Purpose	\$60.00
Share the Legacy	\$100.00	Wake Up Call Group	\$385.00
Rio Rancho Women's Group	\$44.00	Acceptance Group	\$125.00
Direct Amends Group	\$45.00	Belen AA Recovery	\$11.45
Triangle Group	\$210.00	Ladies of Peaceful Serenity	\$25.00
Early Birds	\$25.00	Womens Noon Gratitude	\$44.80
New Frontier Group	\$569.80	South Valley Bikers Group	\$33.00
Free Spirits Group	\$391.35	Miracles of Sobriety	\$190.00
Candlelight Group-R.R.	\$397.13	Valley Girls Estancia	\$15.00
Taylor Ranch Fellowship	\$76.00	Freedom First	\$60.00
Back to Basics - Albuquerque	\$350.00	Rio Amigos Group	\$70.00
Freedom From Bondage	\$600.00	Staying Sober at Sunrise	\$164.00
Rio Rancho Beginners Group	\$72.35	Miracles Group	\$446.50
Group 164	\$85.00	Sunny Spirit Group, Ruidoso	\$13.90
Womens Group Rio Rancho	\$24.00	VA Campus Group	\$54.00
Down Under Group	\$190.00	Sunday Night Serenity	\$225.00
Good Fellows Group	\$167.00	Strictly Solutions MC	\$65.50
	 		

How It Works	\$526.50	
Serenity Group	\$285.49	
Metropolitan Group	\$500.00	
Dog on the Roof	\$22.50	
El Centro Group	\$83.33	
Happy Destiny Group	\$616.00	
Dawning Promises	\$124.99	
Sunday Night Step Study	\$319.87	
Magdalena Group	\$30.00	
Zia Pueblo Group	\$52.00	
Sunrise Catchers	\$47.54	
Any Lengths Women's Group	\$802.85	
Jemez Springs Group	\$45.20	
Cosmopolitan Group	\$178.50	
Girl's Night Out	\$100.00	
Six O'Clock Irregulars	\$120.00	
Lunch Box Group - R.R.	\$80.00	
Seniors Seeking Serenity	\$566.77	
S.O.S. Monday Night	\$100.00	
Promises Group	\$213.94	
Kiva Group	\$50.00	
Friday Night Smokeless	\$365.00	
Downtown Lunch Bunch	\$0.50	
Corrales Group	\$133.00	
•	\$29,929.75	

Group Contributions 2010

This table shows groups that made contributions to Central Office during 2010, and the total of all group contributions. Due to space limitations, groups that did not contribute can not be listed.

January 2011 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	JAN 11	JAN 10	DEC 10		
Information	828	834	806		
12-Step	36	12	12		
Al-Anon	14	27	11		
Message	34	31	19		
Other	110	110	78		
TOTAL	1022	1014	926		
WALK INS					
Information	14	23	13		
12-Step	3	0	1		
Al-Anon	3	0	1		
Get Schedule	13	9	12		
Purchase	170	179	156		
Tapes	6	2	4		
Message	2	9	2		
Casual	32	22	37		
Other	35	28	20		
TOTAL	278	282	246		
DESK WORKERS*					
Regulars	50				
Substitutes	29				
TOTAL	79				
DESK SHIFTS*					
Weekdays	126				
Weekends	50				
TOTAL	176				
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*					
Worked by Regulars	105(83%)				
Worked by Substitutes	21(17%)				
TOTAL	126				
WEEKEND SHIFTS*					
Worked by Regulars	42(84%)				
Worked by Substitutes	8(16%)				
TOTAL	40				
SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL					
3 hour shifts (9)	27 hours				
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours				
Night phone (0)	0 hours				
SHIFTS WORKED BY KATH					
3 hour shifts (9)	27 hours				
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours				
Night phone (0)	0 hours				
TOTAL	54 hours				
*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE	2				

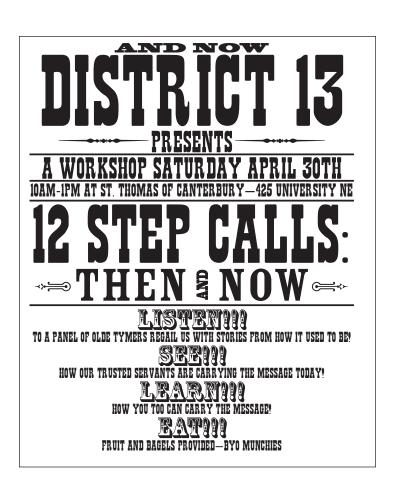
OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: I MET MY HIGHER POWER IN A.A. EVENTUALLY WE GOT A DIVORCE AND I HAD TO REALLY WORK THE STEPS AGAIN OR DIE. THEN I FOUND GOD. HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

\$124.00

Westside AA

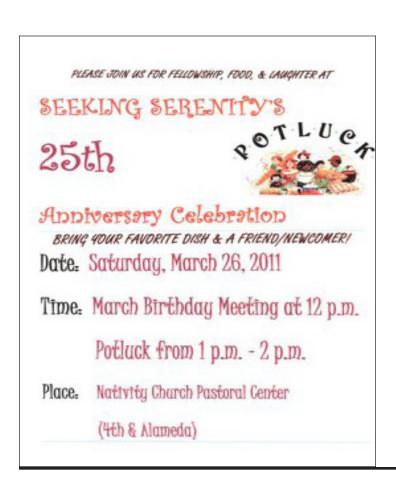


Roadrunner Group





HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!





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