

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

www.albuquerqueaa.org

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF BEING WILLING TO BELIEVE
IN A POWER GREATER THAN MYSELF. NOTHING MORE WAS
REQUIRED OF ME TO MAKE MY BEGINNING. I SAW THAT
GROWTH COULD START FROM THAT POINT. BILL'S STORY, BIG BOOK PG. 12

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

Tradition 3: (Long Form) - Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. **(Short Form)** - The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 3: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

True Unity

I'm not much of a football fan. During the week leading up to this year's Super Bowl, my coworkers and friends were abuzz with conversation about the upcoming game; predictions as to its outcome, bets they had placed and the odds of winning, and of course, the preparations for their planned Super Bowl Sunday parties and get-togethers. Although I didn't have much to contribute to these conversations, an odd recollection struck me: during my drinking, I like many others would grasp at any possible occasion to justify a drunken celebration: birthdays, Christmas, New Year's Eve, job promotions, Ground Hogs Day, the anniversary of the first me I learned how to tie my shoes, ad infinitum. But oddly enough, Super Bowl Sunday never held a high position on the list of occasions I would use as an excuse to get obliterated. After a little thought, I realized why this was. At a Super Bowl party, the vast majority of attendees would be engrossed in the game, staring intently at the television and shouting at the top of their lungs after each significant play. The result of this preoccupation with football was that very few people were paying attention to ME, and this was an intolerable situation.

Throughout my drinking years, whether drunk or sober, I was awash in the idea of self. Self-pity, self-righteous anger, pride, shame, and inconsiderate acts motivated by pure selfishness and the megalomaniacal belief that I was and should be the center of everyone's universe.

As I write this, I have only been sober for 41 days. While this may not seem like much, the nature of my sobriety and its ever-growing rewards is something I never would have dreamed possible less than 2 months ago. Although the events that led to my A.A. membership and their continuing fallout are markedly unpleasant on their surface, they constituted my bottom and therefore, I view them as the best and most important series of events that ever befell me.

(continued on page 3)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, the year is off to a good start - thanks to the efforts of fellowship members, Intergroup Reps & The Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee.

LOCALLY AUTHORED ARTICLES - A special thanks is due to those in the fellowship who wrote and submitted articles for publication (see 1st & 3rd pages). I highly encourage anyone in the fellowship to submit articles for publication - it's a good way to begin or continue sharing your thoughts & stories (and, upon request, they can be published with full anonymity so nobody but the author and PIO editor know their real identity).

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS - Another special thanks is due to the Intergroup Reps and other responsible parties who submitted Sobriety Birthdays for publication (see top of page 5). I (and many others) would love to see participation (submissions) of sobriety birthdays go way up. Please remember that the information required to be included in S-B day submissions is (1) Homegroup, (2) Name, (3) Sobriety Date & (4) Length of Continuous Sobriety. Submissions that do not include this crucial information may end up not being published.

PASS IT ON MASTHEAD CONTEST - The PIO Masthead Contest (see Intergroup Rep Meeting Minutes - Section VI on page 4) is not quite as far along as the minutes make it seem. A full proposal for this contest will be presented to the Steering Committee this month and if approved will go to the Intergroup Rep Meeting for approval. If all goes well, details of this contest will be published in next month's issue of PIO. (For those of you with artistic/graphic talent who'd like to get a jump on the competition, the masthead I'm talking about is everything above "Step 3" on the front page...and submissions must contain all of the information contained in the current masthead).

AA EVENTS CALENDAR - The AA events calendar (see left side of page 6) continues to grow thanks to your submissions. It contains local AA sponsored events as well as some others of interest. If your area, district or group is sponsoring something special, please let us know ahead of time so we can get it on the calendar.

OTHER THINGS - An AA cartoon and joke/humor section is in the works and appropriate submissions are highly encouraged. Letters to the Editor are both sought and encouraged, and will be published as space permits. There will be a special issue of PIO in June to celebrate Founder's Day (June 10, 1935), considered by most to be the birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope to see you all at the Area 46 Convention (look for the registration form in next month's PIO) June 1-3, 2012 up in Santa Fe!

- Steve R., PIO Editor

SUBMISSIONS for PIO publication, letters to the editor, questions, comments, suggestions and criticism are always welcomed at PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org and will receive a prompt reply and appropriate consideration for publication.

Central Office Intergroup
Steering Committee

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

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

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TRUE UNITY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

My first meeting was on a Wednesday night at the Singleness of Purpose Group here in Albuquerque. This has since become my home group. From the moment I entered the room, I encountered an unlikely collection of people who sincerely and warmly embraced me and instantly counted me as one of their own. Feeling my habitual cynicism dissolve steadily from that very first meeting, I understood that I had now entered a Fellowship that was utterly devoid of dishonesty and insincerity. No one was simply paying lip-service to the notion of compassion and inclusion - they truly meant it and went on to prove it in tangible ways: volunteering rides to the meetings, stopping me before and afterward to ask how I was doing with genuine care and a host of other gestures motivated only by kindness and understanding.

Due to the warmth and caring shown to me by the members of A.A., I have also been able to carry this realization of the truly charitable spirit of others in virtually all other areas of my life. Once the fog of drunkenness and its corresponding depression and fear lifted, I was able to see just how many good people have been in my life all along, despite the fact that I was too self-involved to appreciate them. Why these people still want anything to do with me after all of the negativity I subjected them to for years is a mystery, but perhaps a mystery best left unexplored. How these good folks were able to still see the good and the potential in me throughout my long-winded bender of selfishness and alcohol doesn't really matter. The fact that they are now still a part of my life and that I am now in a position to return the favor of understanding, compassion and care DOES matter. It is my intention to never squander this precious realization. In a manner of speaking, a part of me died this past New Year's Eve, but it was a mercy killing. What is left in its wake is the promise of a brand new life full of joy, honesty, effort and friendship. To any and all newcomers, I want to say that A.A. and its members can be just the life raft you need in your turbulent waters. If you are willing enough to just attend one meeting with an open mind, it is likely that you will also come to see the wonderful unity of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nothing is a greater panacea to the pains of loneliness, self-pity, resentment and depression than the honest friendship of the good people you will surely meet in the program. At this early point in my sobriety, sharing this ever-deepening realization with other newcomers is perhaps the best I have to offer. But I hope that this small gesture may perhaps inspire someone who is currently just as cynical as I was regarding A.A., the Twelve Steps, and the people who practice them. The leap isn't as daunting as you think. If you find that A.A. is not for you or that you are not ready to embrace it, no one will try to obstruct your way to the exit door. But if you do give it a try and feel even a fraction of the love and unity that I have found, you will gladly view that same door as a glorious entryway. May every one of us find the peace and serenity we so sorely lacked for such a long and lonely chunk of our lives.

- Paul L. Albuquerque, NM

Sober Senior

The Big Question...Why stay sober after 30 years? Or 71 years old? I believe the "stinking thinking" returns in a heartbeat, followed immediately by the progression of this disease. After outliving six brothers and sisters, I have one sister left. My meeting is now my immediate family. They know me down to my toes and love me unconditionally.

What I heard in my first month of sobriety was "Sit down, shut up and listen." Next was "Get a sponsor and start working the steps." I truly wanted what they had so I did what they did. This may sound to a newcomer like a bunch of "bull pucky". It really isn't. Give it a chance. Try it for ninety days - if it doesn't work for you we will gladly give you back your misery. It happened to work for me in every area of my life and business.

My journey continues. A few months ago I volunteered at the Albuquerque Balloon Museum for the annual balloon fiesta. I drove eight people around in an electric golf cart. What fun. I met people from all over the world-even met four sober people.

I wear a necklace with XXX on it. It is my way of being of service to another alcoholic - the ice breaker or door opener. When people ask what it means I tell them I am either over thirty years clean and sober or I am a retired porn star.

At twenty years clean and sober I had a stroke - talk about a gift from God! I am still here and grateful for every day left in life.

- Yours in Sobriety, Martha M.



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 12, 2012

Submitted by Peggy A., Member at Large

I. Open and Introductions

- Open @ 1400

• Attendees: Kristen E, District 12 Rep; Peggy A, Member at Large; Ally T, Straight Pepper; Michael Q, Schedule Editor/Dawn Patrol; Roger L, El Centro; Greg A, District 11 Rep; Mike W, Westside; Mick B, Brown Bag; Allie V, Website Chair/Singleness of Purpose; Ilse G; George P, Free Spirits; Sharron N, Happy Valley; Tom R, Seeking Serenity; Henry L, Seeking Serenity; Kris O, Serenity; Al J, Still Seeking Serenity; Heather G, Queer Ideas of Fun; Sharon H, Any Lengths; Christina W, Candlelight; Frank P, Candlelight; Christy O, Promises; Janet B, One Day at a Time; Dennis M, Isleta Club; Becky L, Isleta Club; Jennifer B, How It Works; George B, Singleness of Purpose; John R, Serendipity; Mark E, New Frontiers; Nancy H, Ladies Room; Steve R, PIO Editor/ Saturday Night Alive; Michael W., CO Coordinator/Too Much for Us; Kathy H, Alt. Coordinator/Metropolitan; Jeremy H, Chair/Straight Pepper; Ashley F, Treasurer

II. Treasurer's Report, January 2012

• Checking account is down to about \$9,000. Treasurer is developing a yearly budget for the Central Office and estimates that \$10,000 is the average monthly revenues necessary to cover costs of Central Office. Treasurer also stated that Intergroup has been approving a 5 percent increase in payroll for each year since about 1996. He demonstrated that if continued, the increases would become prohibitive for the Central Office budget. Some discussion of salaries for equivalent "special worker" positions elsewhere.

III. Minutes from January 2012 passed.

IV. Central Office Coordinator and Alternate Coordinator

• Almost 100 deskworkers (49 regulars, 50 substitutes) now actively working shifts. Phone calls up from December 2011 but down from January 2011. Web visits (2993) up from Dec 2011 and Jan 2011. Open shifts: Thursday, 10-1, every week

V. Member at Large

- Nothing to report.

VI. Pass It On Editor

• The February issue of Pass It On (PIO) includes submission guidelines for articles, AA birthdays, and calendar events. PIO now has an "AA Events Calendar" that includes group-sponsored events, parties, dances; special speakers meetings; conferences and conventions; and contact information for them. Groups are encouraged to send their information to the PIO editor. The February issue includes an article encouraging participation in "Faithful Fivers." The PIO editor is launching a contest for a redesign of the front-page masthead of Pass It On. Details of the contest will be included in the March issue.

VII. Schedule Editor

- The online version of the schedule is up-to-date.

VIII. Media Librarian

- CD's of AA speakers are loaned out for one month with a deposit of \$2.00. Media Librarian says

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS

EL CENTRO (DECEMBER 2011): 42 YEAR GROUP ANNIVERSARY, CHRISTINA L. 17 YEARS, LORI C. 6 YEARS, ROSA P. 18 MONTHS; (JANUARY 2012): ANGEL S. 60 DAYS, LAWRENCE 1 YEAR, VINCE G. 5 YEARS, LAURA G. 8 YEARS, RAYMUNDDO G. 37 YEARS, ROGER L. 39 YEARS
SEEKING SERENITY (JANUARY 2012): LYNDA H. 9 MONTHS, P.J. 4 YEARS, KEVIN L. 9 YEARS, AARON H. 13 YEARS; (FEBRUARY 2012): ANITA J. 43 YEARS
SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE (JANUARY 2012): JENNIFER A. 5 YEARS, JULIAN B. 1 YEAR, JULIE D. 27 YEARS, KEVIN 8 YEARS

Please submit your sobriety birthday(s) (including homegroup, name, sobriety date & length of continuous sobriety) to PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org. Failure to properly submit s-b days may result in non-publication.

that of the 107 loaned out since he was in office, 43 have not been returned. He needs to set a cut-off time frame for determining when a new copy should be made to put into circulation. Discussion ensued on the value of increasing deposit and/or selling CDs as a means of keeping track of inventory. To sell them, we would have to determine if the material is copyrighted. The Central Office needs volunteers to help with the copying process.

VIII. Website chair

- Nothing to report. IG member requested that the Central Office acquire the capability of accepting donations online. Discussion ensued, and Central Office is looking into the possibility.

IX. Others

- No report from Public Information chair. Special Needs Chair had an announcement that the use of the ASL interpreter by Albuquerque AA's who are deaf or hard-of-hearing is increasing. He requested that area groups consider a special donation to support that service. The interpreters work at a reduced rate. The Central Office now has a special "can" for donations to that fund.

X. Old Business

- No old business.

XI. New Business

- Member-at-large announced that the by-laws required to run the Central Office as a non-profit entity are out-of-date and should be reviewed. She called for volunteers to help with that effort.

- Ilse G requested that the Intergroup reconsider the decision not to sponsor a New Year's Eve alchothon. She suggested that since the Activities chair has gone empty for over two years, that we consider recruiting a coordinator for the NYE Alchothon only. Discussion ensued. Motion passed to ask reps to talk about the topic with their groups and return next month for discussion and action.

- Question raised on whether we have a pamphlet on the purposes of the Central Office and its benefit to area groups. CO Coordinator said a pamphlet has been created locally but GSO does not have an Intergroup pamphlet.

XII. Group Announcements

District 11 is sponsoring the first Intergroup Speakers meeting of the year on March 24 at Shepherd of the Valley Church -- potluck at 6 p.m., speaker Peter H at 7 p.m., raffle after. District is asking AA members to donate items and services to the raffle.

XIII. Close @ 1555.



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.

AA EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday March 3 – Sunday March 4, 2012 AA Area 46 Assembly
Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court, Las Cruces, NM

Saturday March 10 - Red Road AA Convention St. Patrick's Day Dance
LIVE Band: Bill W. & The Blackouts - 8 to 11 pm @ The Heights Club,
8520 Marble NE, Albuquerque- Food, 50/50, Cake Walks - \$3 single, \$5
couple, 15 & under free

Saturday March 24, 2012 - Intergroup Speaker Meeting/Potluck
6:00 pm Potluck, 7:00 pm Speaker - Shepherd of the Valley Presbyte-
rian Church - 1801 Montano NW, Albuquerque – Hosted by District 11

Saturday March 31 - Round Up Group (Los Lunas) 4th Year Anniversary
5pm until ? - Potluck, Fellowship & Live music - Community Bible
Church, 1467 Hwy 314 NW, Los Lunas

Thursday April 19 – Sunday April 22, 2012 25th Annual Men's Interna-
tional AA Conference Orleans Hotel & Casino – 4500 West Tropicana,
Las Vegas, NV – For more info, e-mail contact@iaamclasvegas.org

Saturday April 21 - Intergroup Speaker Meeting, Potluck & Raffle
6:00 pm Potluck, 7:00 pm Speaker, 8:30 pm Raffle - St. Paul's United
Church of Christ, 2701 The American Rd. SE, Rio Rancho

Friday May 4 – Sunday May 6, 2011 19th Annual Red Road AA Con-
vention "A Kit of Spiritual Tools: Unity, Service and Recovery" – Ramada
Inn (formerly Sandia Courtyard, formerly Howard Johnsons), 10300
Hotel NE, Albuquerque (at Eubank & I-40) - Opening Ceremony Friday
morning - AA & Al-Anon members welcome – AA Marathon Meetings,
DJ Dance, Saturday Potluck Dinner, Pow Wow, Ribbon Ceremony,
Raffles – For more info e-mail RedRoad-Registration@live.com

Friday June 1 – Sunday June 3, 2012
2012 AA Area 46 State Convention "Living in the Promises" - Santa Fe
University of Art & Design, 1600 St. Michaels Dr., Santa Fe, NM – More
info at www.santafeaa.org

Friday October 19 – Sunday October 21, 2011 Southwest Regional AA
Service Assembly Marriott Uptown – 2101 Louisiana NE, Albuquer-
que, NM – Visit swraasa.newmexicoaa.org for details.

For more information on these and other events visit: albuquerqueaa.org,
newmexicoaa.org, and aa.org

SUBMIT YOUR AA EVENT TODAY to: PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

January 2012 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	JAN 12	JAN 11	DEC 11
Information	792	828	643
12-Step	16	36	28
Al-Anon	10	14	7
Message	35	34	44
Other	93	110	142
TOTAL	946	1022	865

WALK INS	JAN 12	JAN 11	DEC 11
Information	30	14	10
12-Step	3	3	1
Al-Anon	0	3	0
Get Schedule	13	13	4
Purchase	181	170	153
Media	3	6	0
Message	2	2	1
Casual	43	32	17
Other	23	35	29
TOTAL	293	278	215

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS

Unique Visitors	2993	2503
Number of Visits	5822	
Pages	23670	

DESK WORKERS*

Regulars	49	50	50
Substitutes	50	29	40
TOTAL	99	79	90

DESK SHIFTS*

Weekdays	132
Weekends	45
TOTAL	177

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*

Worked by Regulars	113(79%)
Worked by Substitutes	19(21%)
TOTAL	132

WEEKEND SHIFTS*

Worked by Regulars	38(87%)
Worked by Substitutes	7(13%)
TOTAL	45

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL

3 hour shifts	6-18 hours total
2 hour shifts (n/a)	0
Night phone (n/a)	0

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY

3 hour shifts (n/a)	4- 12 hours total
2 hour shifts (n/a)	0
Night phone (n/a)	0
TOTAL	30 hours total

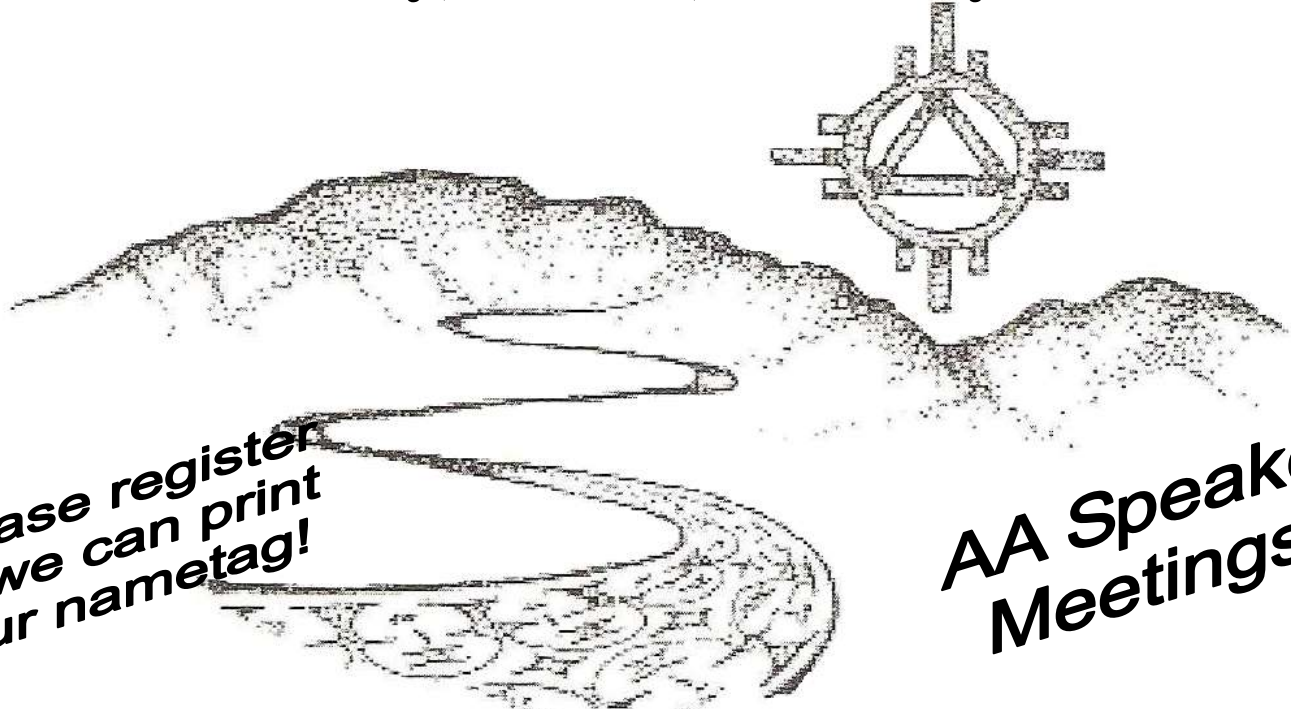
*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

I CAME;
I CAME TO;
I CAME TO BELIEVE (STEPS 1,2,3)



19th Annual Red Road AA Convention

A Kit of Spiritual Tools: Unity, Service, Recovery



**Please register
so we can print
your nametag!**

**AA Speaker
Meetings**

May 4-6, 2012

All AA and Al-ANON Members Welcome!
Opening Ceremony Friday Morning

AA Marathon Meetings, DJ Dance, Saturday Potluck Dinner, Pow Wow, Ribbon Ceremony, Raffles

Ramada Inn

(used to be Sandia Courtyard)

10300 Hotel Ave NE Albuquerque, NM 87123 (Eubank & I-40)
Hotel Reservations 1-(800) 877-4852 or (505) 296-4852
Discounted Room Rates Available, mention the Red Road Convention

Contacts: Chair: Patty B-T sunflw22@yahoo.com
Registration: Cecil R. RedRoad-Registration@live.com

Mail Registration to: Red Road Convention, P.O. Box 20292, Albuquerque, NM 87154

Registration – No Fee This Year (Donations Appreciated)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can chair a Marathon Meeting	
Name			
<input type="checkbox"/> AA	<input type="checkbox"/> AL-ANON	<input type="checkbox"/> ALATEEN	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Address			
City		State	Zip Code
Email Address			

Feel free to make copies of this flyer and distribute among your AA groups!

Albuquerque Central Office
1921 Alvarado NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 266-1900
www.AlbuquerqueAA.org
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Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE
2 blocks north of Constitution and
4 blocks east of San Mateo

(505) 266-1900
www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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