

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

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

Step 4: *"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."*

Next we launched out on a course of vigorous action, the first step of which is a personal housecleaning, which many of us had never attempted. Though our decision was a vital and crucial step, it could have little permanent effect unless at once followed by a strenuous effort to face, and be rid of, the things in ourselves which had been blocking us. Our liquor was but a symptom. So we had to get down to causes and conditions. *-Alcoholics Anonymous p63-64*

I always tell the guys I work with to not worry about doing a perfect 4th step. The point is to be taking action, not procrastinating until you "get it right." When I sat down and put pen to paper I was able to see how I was at the mercy of the world, which quite often didn't act the way I thought it should. The best I can do to deal with this is become angry, self-righteous, vengeful and judgmental. Fortunately, though, there is more to the 4th step than just seeing this. We also learn a new course of action: We treat those who have offended us as spiritually sick. We rely on God's power to help us have tolerance, pity and patience. It's with God's help that I am able to let go and truly be free. Tolerance, kindness and love is true freedom from a frequently wrong world.

Tradition 4: *"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."*

Autonomy is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened. *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p146*

When A.A.'s Traditions were first published, in 1946, we had become sure that an A.A. group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p146*

I'm not proud to say that my home group has made blunders in its short history. We've had fights in our group conscience. We've made hasty decisions. We've railroaded our own personal agendas. Too use the perfect term in the 12 & 12, we definitely utilized our "right to be wrong." However, upon later seeing the errs we've created, I *am* proud to say that we have been able to admit where we've been wrong and try all the harder to find the best solution to meet a particular need. And let's not forget the famous Rule 62: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

Concept 4: *"Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."*

The principle of "Right of Participation" is built into the General Service Conference through the Conference Charter. Voting members include not only delegates, but also the trustees, and the directors and staff members of A.A. World Service (i.e. G.S.O.) and the A.A. Grapevine. ...there is a spiritual reason for the "Right of Participation." All of us desire to belong. In A.A., no members are "second class." The "Right of Participation" therefore reinforces Tradition Two, that no member is placed in "ultimate authority" over another. We perform our service tasks better "when we are sure we belong—when our 'participation' assures us we are truly the 'trusted servants' described in Tradition Two." *-The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*

One of my favorite things about this concept is that it invites the older or more experienced members to assist those who are new, a passing-on that welcomes all and feels a lot like A.A. love.



NEW MEETINGS AND CHANGES

STRICTLY SOLUTIONS GROUP

A new open meeting, Saturday mornings at 7:00am at the Mesa Club in Rio Rancho: 1453 Rio Rancho BLVD Ste F

ELEVENTH STEP EXPERIENCE

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

SERVICE: THE THIRD LEGACY

My journey into service began at my home group when I was ten years sober. At the time I was a suffering alcoholic, very dry, very angry, confused and lost. Service started with making 12 Step Work possible by making coffee, then chairing meetings, and finally, I fearfully began to work with others. My Home Group, allowed me to serve as their G.S.R. where I found the greatest gift I have received in recovery, the big world of A.A. and countless wonderful service opportunities. Before this I was just struggling to keep my head above water, but finding all of this energy and involvement from other A.A.'s was a true spiritual awakening for me. Of course I heard those arguments that this is outside the spectrum of A.A. and the grassroots work is in the meetings. Yes, I agree that a lot of work needs to be done in meetings. I also believe that we have a fair majority of A.A. members that were like me, long in time without alcohol, but short in sobriety. Bill and Bob meet together frequently to discuss how to better carry the message and they took action outside of these talks to reach out to others through hospitals, clergy and courts. Our primary purpose is the carry the message, but that needs to happen inside and outside the meetings. **The legacy passed on to us from our pioneers is to take our message to the suffering alcoholic, not to sit back and wait for them to arrive.** Since others have shown me how to do this I may have had dry moments, but I have not had long periods of dryness. My mind and spirit have been set on fire and energized with this spiritual life that has given me sobriety in exchange for self-sacrifice for others.

If you have hit that wall in A.A. where you are bored, or thinking of just leaving, please give the Central Office a call @ 266-1900 or contact you District Committee Member (D.C.M.). Many service opportunities are available and there are many hands reaching out to A.A. but few hands are reaching back to them. If you really want to jump start your sobriety, if you want to go places you never dreamed possible, take the risk and give service a try. Service work is really all about 12 Step Work and includes more than just guiding and helping another A.A. member through the steps, it's also about finding suffering alcoholics who desperately want a new way of life without alcohol, and who want the 12 Steps. Because of A.A. growth more effective forms of communication have been created for groups to connect through districts, Areas (New Mexico is Area 46) and the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York. In large metropolitan areas like Albuquerque we have a Central Office, which provides services to individual alcoholics and the many groups throughout Albuquerque and surrounding cities, villages and communities. The focus is always to reach suffering alcoholics. Committees have been developed to create communication and focus on corrections, treatment, professionals who have clients who are alcoholic and also reaching the general public to inform them what A.A. is and is not. We still need to reach out and find those suffering alcoholics who may not know we exist, or may be too afraid to come to A.A. Many will come to our meetings through outside sources such as treatment, judiciary requirements, or the good old fashion push from a boss or a spouse who may have given us one last chance. However we get here it is under the lash of alcoholism.

—Alan S.
Rio Rancho

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

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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, 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

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YOUTH ENJOYING SOBRIETY!

Having recently moved to Albuquerque, I was looking for a way to get involved with Albuquerque AA. Staying close to the fellowship has kept me coming back for more than four years and, if there's anything I know, it's that if something is working, keep doing it. So I began doing service through the NMCYPAA host committee for completely selfish reasons. Through the host committee I have been able to meet new people and make new friends and am beginning to feel comfortable in this new city. Throughout my sobriety I have found that doing service work has allowed me to meet new people and find meetings I like. Most importantly, it gives me the opportunity to get out of my head, even if it's just for one hour a week, and think about what I can do for someone else.

When I first got sober I took service commitments simply because it gave me something to do; every hour spent cleaning ashtrays or making coffee was an hour that I didn't have to be alone thinking about alcohol. As time went on I actually began to enjoy and even take pride in the work I did for AA. Today I do as much service as I can without it making me crazy and/or resentful and, while I do it for selfish reasons (it makes me feel better), I also do it because it is nice to finally be able to give something back to the people and program that saved my life.

On every AA chip we give out there are the words Unity, Service, and Recovery around the triangle. I have come to see these as inseparable from one another: Service puts me in the position to see the program working in the lives of others, I get to become a part of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, Unity. And being a part of this fellowship, and watching others, I get to learn how to live my life; I am given what I need to be in Recovery. In this way, the old saying about AA being like a three-legged stool makes sense: if I stop doing any one of these things, I will no longer be on a solid footing in this program.

—Conner J.

Editor's note: I would really like to bookend the YES section with some wizened experience from our old-timers. How bout it? I could call the column VSOP (Very Sober Old People)! I obviously need help with the title, so please, send me your stories and ideas for an old-timer's column. There is so much experience, from members both young and old, in Albuquerque and I'd love to showcase it all!

NMCYPAA UPDATE

The Spring Fling, held on the 20th at the Heights Club, was a blast and well attended. Thank you to everybody for your service and support (and to Jason for your Bacon Brownies). *Editor's note: You're welcome.*

Coming up in April, we've got the Flag Football Event. April 10 at 10:00 a.m. Montgomery Park at San Mateo and Comanche. \$5 per person. Single elimination. Payment can be made online or at the event. Hot dogs and burgers will be available or you can bring your own. Show up whether you're going to play or not.

Then in July NMCYPAA (which stands for the New Mexico Conference of Young People in A. A. by the way) will be held July 30-August 1 at the Hotel Blue in Downtown Albuquerque. The new downtown location should really give us a lot of opportunities to have a blast! Registration is \$10 early-bird (online registration) or \$20 at conference. Finally, our host committee meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at the Desert Club. Service opportunities are still available, and are a wonderful way to enhance your sobriety. Flyers and additional information available at nmcypaa.org

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

➤ **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

I. INTRODUCTIONS & ATTENDEES

- Sharon H.-Any Lengths • Kathy H
- Michael W. • Morgan D.-Straight Pepper Diet
- Jason K. • Bill D.-Seeking Serenity
- Skitch F.-Cosmopolitan • Lila V.-Isleta Group
- Cindy B.-Cosmopolitan • Kris H.-Dawn Patrol
- Steve P.-Free Spirits • Buzz R.-Dawn Patrol
- John R.-Early Birds • Al J. • Sean F.-Serendipity
- Jeremy H.

II. MINUTES

- No minutes

III. TREASURER’S REPORT

- Total Revenues (Feb)– 7522.03
- Gross Income 5089.09
- Total Expenses 7240.60
- Net Income -2151.51
- In the red for the month but still in the black for the year
- There is a new line in the budget for office equipment-Six hundred and fifty nine dollars were spent on a new computer for Central Office
- Michael is looking into prices to replace the phone system

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

- The biggest project for the month is transferring data from the old computer to the new computer. Right now some information is on the old computer and some is on the new computer
- The current phone system is over twenty years old
- We are committed to an AA table at the Alanon convention in August
- Working on spring cleaning the back room
- The office is well stocked with literature, including more mini-big-books, will be ordering more literature soon.
- A new group of desk workers have been trained.
- Number of people helped, walk ins and call ins, is about the same as last year.
- Employees had to cover a fair number of shifts but the number of volunteers covering shifts is getting better.
- All and all things are going well.

V. ACTIVITIES

- Intergroup Speaker meeting will be held on April 15, 2010 at St. Paul’s Church. Potluck starts at 6:30.

Meeting starts at 7:30. There are no flyers because of the data transfer on the Office computer. It is listed in Pass It On.

- The next Intergroup Speaker meeting is April 17, 2010 District 18 is hosting and is currently working on getting a location.
- The New Year’s Alkathon is looking for a new location. Seeking Serenity has suggested the church at the corner of Fourth Street and Alameda. Group Representatives should get feed back from the groups about this location.
- Central Office Picnic will be the 35th anniversary and there is consideration for a spaghetti dinner instead.

VI. MEMBER AT LARGE REPORT

- No report

VII. PASS IT ON

- In the future will try to do a Legacy, Tradition or Step for each month. This month 3rd Legacy. Looking for contributions on Step, Tradition or Concept.
- There was a new “Youth Enjoying Sobriety” section and would like to have an “Old Timer’s Corner” as a counterpoint.
- Notes from District 13 only this month.
- Deadline for submissions is the last week of the month.

VIII. SCHEDULES

- No report

IX. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- No report

X. WEB SITE

- No report

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- Looks like the plan to book a bus for the trip to the International Convention in San Antonio is a no-go.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- The former special needs coordinator had to step down for health reasons. This position is open. The position organizes meetings for people with physical challenges and setting up meetings for people who are in the hospital and homebound.
- District 13 is interested in hosting a 3rd quarter Intergroup Speaker Meeting.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Paddy R.-Seeking Serenity-7 years-In a row?!
Thorton Y.-Seeking Serenity-22 years-Including weekends?!
Matt N.-Seeking Serenity-26 years-Amazing!
Please submit your May 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.**

February 2010 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$7522.03
Cost of Sales	\$2,432.94
Gross Income	\$5,089.09
Expenses	\$7,240.60
NET INCOME	\$-2151.51

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 April 2010

Kris H has graciously offered her home as an informal meeting place for women who have been involved in corrections, (carrying the AA message to jails and prisons), are currently involved in corrections, or are interested in getting involved in corrections work. Purpose: to share experience strength and hope and to answer questions about doing this type of service work. Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7:30 - 8:30 beginning April 21. Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information and directions to Kris' home please contact Carol M @ 505-615-9494 or Kris H @ 505-250-6704.

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 or to volunteer. The calls are coming in, alcoholics are reaching out, and it's a great way to get your 12th step on!

Thank you.
Jason K.

January 2010 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
Information	790	796	834
12-Step	25	11	12
Al-Anon	13	16	27
Message	21	25	31
Other	85	82	110
TOTAL	934	930	1014

WALK INS	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
Information	14	13	23
12-Step	3	2	0
Al-Anon	3	3	0
Get Schedule	21	10	9
Purchase	144	158	179
Tapes	0	4	2
Message	1	2	9
Casual	21	36	22
Other	8	20	38
TOTAL	215	242	282

DESKWORKERS*	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
Regulars	47		
Substitutes	42		
TOTAL	89		

DESK SHIFTS*	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
Weekdays	120		
Weekends	40		
TOTAL	160		

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
Worked by Regulars	110/(92%)		
Worked by Substitutes	10/(8%)		
TOTAL	120		

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
Worked by Regulars	32/(80%)		
Worked by Substitutes	8/(20%)		
TOTAL	40		

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
3 hour shifts (9)	27 hours		
2 hour shifts (1)	2 hours		
night phone (0)	0 hours		

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	FEG 10	FEB 09	JAN 10
3 hour shifts (3)	9 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
night phone (1)	11 hours		
TOTAL	49 hours		

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

DISTRICT 13 BUSINESS MEETING HAS CHANGED DAY AND LOCATION

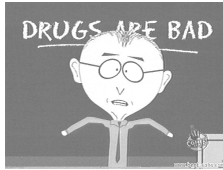
2nd SATURDAY of the month at 10AM

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



STRAIGHT PEPPER DIET PRESENTS:

THE 3RD ANNUAL 420 SOBER
SUPER MEGA
AWESOMEATHON EXTRAVAGANZA



SUNDAY 4/18 2010 2:00PM @
ALVARADO PARK

FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT
PANEL IN THE PARK @ 4:20PM
CELIA, CHASEY, TOM C., TOD D.

FOOD, BOCCE BALL, SUPER
AWESOME SOBER FUN

CALL 505-453-4824 FOR INFO

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?



CELEBRATING **25** YEARS
OF CARRYING THE MESSAGE

Dawn Patrol 25th Anniversary Party

Sunday, May 9
7:00-8:30pm
Shepherd of the Valley Church
1801 Montano Road NW

cake and coffee
speakers and open discussion
open to all

Albuquerque Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110

{505} 266-1900

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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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.

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org