APRIL 2011 VOLUME 36 ISSUE 4

Pass It On.

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

Step 4: "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves." We turned back to the list, for

it held the key to the future. We were prepared to look at it from an entirely different angle. We began to see that the world and its people really dominated us.

-Alcoholics Anonymous p66 Referring to our list again. Putting out of our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely looked for our own mistakes. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, selfseeking and frightened? Though a situation had not been entirely our fault, we tried to disregard the other person involved entirely. Where were we to blame? The inventory was ours, not the other man's. When we saw our faults we listed them. We placed them before us in black and white. We admitted our wrongs honestly and were willing to set these matters straight. injure A.A. as a whole, nor ought -Alcoholics Anonymous p67

This was our course: We realized that the people who wronged us were perhaps spiritually sick. Though we did not like their symptoms and the way these disturbed us, they, like ourselves, were sick too. We asked God to help us show them the same tolerance, pity, and patience that we would cheerfully grant a sick we said to ourselves, "This is a sick man. How can I be helpful to him? God save me from being angry. Thy will be done."

-Alcoholics Anonymous p66-67 When doing an inventory a few years back I realized that the writing, which had always been my focus on previous inventories, was only needed to help me see how I needed God's help to change. The real miracle of the 4th Step is when I use that little prayer. Then my behavior starts to really be different; I begin to act "sober."

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. "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." This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups "wet," others "dry," still others "Republican" or "Communist," and yet others "Catholic" or "Protestant." The A.A. group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects friend. When a person offended there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong.

> -12 Steps & 12 Traditions p146-7

> I am happy to belong to a homegroup that sends up a chorus of "a whole" when this tradition is read. It generally brings smiles and laughter to those present. However, there are times when visitors to our group are shocked or offended by this. This reminds me that is our special differences that make us uniquely able to carry the message.

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 that responsibility each must discharge."

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has...We stay whole or A.A. dies. -12 Steps & 12 Traditions p129 Just as the loss of Sobriety can be the death of the alcoholic, so too can the loss of unity be the death of an AA group, or ultimately AA itself. With such a foreboding fate looming over us all, it is no wonder that preservation of our unity permeates all of our Twelve Traditions and our Twelve Concepts.

Concept Four is no exception. Taking care to specifically ensure that each and every AA who labors in service shall be included by a "Right of Participation", Concept Four further promotes our precious unity. Our Third Tradition ensures us that all are equally entitled to the opportunity for recovery, and in so doing, teaches us that all our welcome and all are included. Our Third Concept "Right of Decision" confirms to us that all are important. Our Fourth Concept re-affirms that all are included. Our Fifth Concept "Right of Appeal" lets us know that all should be heard. Individually these principles are significant contributors to our cherished unity, but taken together, they begin to form the protective mantle that shall endeavor to preserve our Society. "Everyone is important, everyone is included, and everyone should be heard." These are part of the powerful cement that binds us all in Unity.

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,

* * * NOTHING TO SEE HERE

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO PUT HERE, BUT THE STORY BELOW FIT SO PERFECTLY THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO GO CHANGING STUFF. IF I WERE TO REMOVE THIS LITTLE SECTION HERE AND MOVE THE STORY TO THE TOP OF THE PAGE I WOULD HAVE A BUNCH OF SPACE AFTER THE STORY WITH NOTHING TO PUT THERE EITHER. I FIGURED THE EMPTY SPACE HERE, WITH PROPER EXPLANATION OF ITS EMPTINESS, WOULD PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE CURRENT LAYOUT IN CASE I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO PUT HERE IN SOME FUTURE ISSUE.

360°-THE BEST IS THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD

They were "nut houses" and I was above them. That is until I was a patient in one myself for alcoholism. Then I called it a "mental hospital with a treatment wing." I'd been to this one before to visit a neighbor who had a breakdown. I remember driving out to see him and drinking the whole way there from work and then drinking from the hospital home, thinking I was above him and everyone there because I'd never be in a place like that except as a visitor. When I ended up there years later I found the patients had a social class order and my class, the alcoholics, was at the bottom of the pecking list. Years after I got sober someone asked me if I went to treatment, and when I said I had been in this now long closed place they said it wasn't any good. Paradoxically, it worked very well for me. It may not have been the best, but it was good for me.

My relationship with A.A. started while I was there, and I started the foundation of my program of recovery in A.A. I went to an A.A. meeting almost every day while I was there. I got my first home group while I was there. I got my sponsor while I was there. I read the Big Book for the first time while I was there. I started praying while I was there. In that treatment center wing, turning the bedside light on and off to reread the Serenity Prayer and trying to memorize it, I could never have imagined in my first month sober that of everything, the most important thing they'd done for me was make A.A. meetings easy to attend and give me a Big Book so I could connect with the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I got connected to A.A., and by the grace of God hope I'll always stay that way. The Traditions help me stay connected. I've seen the power of the Traditions and the group conscience.

Tradition 2 has very useful information for me to consider regarding both my defects of character and the group conscience. These are interconnected for me just like for Bill W. There's a quotation from Tradition 2 in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions on page 138 that's attributed to Bill, "The good is the enemy of the best." I found a similar quote from Bill in our Daily Reflections on March 30, page 98, "I think that in our group discussions we should never settle for the 'good,' but always strive to attain the 'best." I seize on this to rationalize my position

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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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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that my group isn't doing things as good as we might. I want to say, "Yeah, it's good enough, but we could make it better." Surely I am right when I have A.A. founder power on my side. Then I started thinking, what if in my case the quote is actually the reverse? What if the statement in my case is "The best is the enemy of the good."?

This I'll never forget - hearing a guy in my home group, the one the treatment center took me to in those first 30 days, say how over the course of his sobriety he'd reversed many behaviors 180 degrees. He said the details aren't the same for everybody in A.A, but the general concept often is: I need to make changes and do things in a completely different way. So I may need to stop doing something that someone else may need to start doing. The important thing is for me to look at what I'm doing in light of my defects of character and stop, not do that and maybe do the opposite. My experience and what I hear others share suggests to me this is a fairly common experience for A.A. members.

This wouldn't be the first time in my sobriety that it was the reverse of an old saw that fit my personal situation. My first personal experience of such a reversal was with a statement I used to hear more frequently than I do these days, "Don't quit before the miracle happens." I remember when I first heard that one in my home group. How profound I thought. And I hung in there so many times holding on to that quote. When I did my Fifth Step it never occurred to me that my stick-to-it tenacity could disguise my arrogance and stubbornness, that it was perfectionism in my case. One day at around five or six years of sobriety, I was talking to a friend about a situation and I threw out how I just needed to hang on, and not quit before the miracle happened. I was holding on alright, I was white knuckling it. My friend looked at me and said, "I think in your case you need to quit so maybe the miracle can happen!" Not only the opposite but a case of, "Let Go and Let God."

Letting go and letting God, the Serenity Prayer and Tradition 2 - a perfect storm to make a change to do the opposite. The Serenity Prayer: acceptance, courage and wisdom. Tradition 2: a loving God expressing God's will in our group conscience. The best is the enemy of the good. Instead of the sudden moment of awakening like I had being confronted with "quit so the miracle can happen," in this case my experience was of the educational variety. In the past (and still sometimes), my ideas on making something the best are really about my perfectionism and arrogance. When that's happening I am not hearing Tradition 2 and a loving God's expression in the group conscience, nor am I in acceptance of the group conscience. I am holding onto my arrogance of having the wisdom to know and using Bill's quote to rationalize and justify my character defects. Fortunately I was granted the wisdom to see how I had to reverse the words, the best being the enemy of the good. My task and focus relates to something else it says on March 30 in our Daily Reflections. I need to, "learn to combine initiative with humility, responsibility with thankfulness." This is another 180 degree change for me, to stop my arrogant drive for the perfections I perceive and with the God given gift of humility see where the group conscience is right.

A.A. for me is a program of personal change filled with paradoxes. In the Second Edition of the Big Book is the story "The Professor and the Paradox" and the four paradoxes: 1) We surrender to win. 2) We give away to keep. 3) We suffer to get well. 4) We die to live. Jim P. loved this personal story. He died with over 50 years of sobriety that started for him in the Candlelighters meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous inside the Kansas State Penitentiary. He always said that in addition to those four we each have our own personal paradox. His was, "I found freedom in a maximum security prison." Mine is, "It doesn't have to be the best, but it must be good for me and others." And paradoxically, if it's good for others it will automatically be the good for me. That truly is a paradox, a 180 becomes a 360 degree turn, but not really, it's my connection back to A.A.

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

March 13, 2011

Submitted By Morgan D.

I. OPEN AND INTRODUCTIONS

Morgan D-Secretary • Michael W-Coordinator • Lary L-Penny Lane • Bernie J-Singleness of Purpose Donna B-Ladies Room • Maddy L-In the Book • Kristen E-Free Spirits • Martha M-Promises Christy O-Promises • Bill D-Seeking Serenity • Alan M-Happy Hour • Von-Back to Basics • Alli-Singleness of Purpose • Jason K-PIO Editor • Skitch F-Isleta • Cindy B-Dawn/Dusk Patrol • Emma D ODAT • Peggy A-Free Spirits • Kris H-Dawn Patrol • MLJ & Mary K-QIOF • John S-Brown Bag Martha G-Cosmo • Matt S-Last Call

II. MINUTES

Approved

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Revenues: \$6,592.74Cost of Sales: \$3,273.78Expenses: \$6,125.49

- Total: \$-2,806.53 In the Red
- Total Assets (check account, prudent reserve, inventory, etc.) about \$49359.00
- Q: Are we in the red due to Group contributions decreasing? A: Not totally, but group contributions are about \$800 less than this month last year and our revenues have gone down as well.

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

- Desk is fairly well covered. Open desk shift every other Wednesday closing shift. Working on getting Tuesday night phone covered. Waiting to hear back from them.
- Assembly: Went to Taos and voted on adopting new diagram of service which includes Intergroup. This did not pass, but 3 people in minority spoke up. Ad-Hoc Committee for Central Office will expire in December.
- Please take survey from assembly back to groups which asks how we are doing and what we can do better.
- Taxes are done. Filed again for non-profit status.
- Q: What happened at the Assembly? A: Difficulty with change & concern with districts that don't have a central office or Intergroup.
- Phone Calls down a bit, but walk-ins up. Calls: 808, Walk Ins: 230. Desk Shifts by Regulars: 71% Desk Shifts by Subs: 29%.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

- Going to take on the task of an Inventory for the Intergroup. Brought a summary for a group Inventory. Steering committee wants to get a list of questions that can be applied to Intergroup. Asking an Area person to facilitate inventory.
- We are interested in reaching out to groups that don't participate in IG. Brought article on Shadow groups (not involved in Intergroup).

VI. PASS IT ON

• PIO is green this month. Got great submissions, please continue to send those in. Wanting others experience for the concept/step/tradition for the month. Just write a couple short paragraphs and send them in. 2010 Group Contributions are in PIO, but not the groups that didn't contribute.

VII. SCHEDULES

• Absent, no report.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Seniors Seeking Serenity: Lora 0-1 year! Al J-11 years! Roni P-25 years! Seeking Serenity: Ron M-90 days! Paddy R-8 years! Gene L-9 years! Thornton Y-23 years! Larry K-41 years OMG!!!

Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• Went to Catholic Charities on February 25th to speak to staff about helping homeless people who are alcoholics. Contacted Comino Nuevo Youth center but have not heard anything back yet. NM Solutions therapist still wants a few young people to come. Only have one person and need a couple more that are in their 20's. Got an E-mail from an alanon having problems with her alcoholic husband and mailed her a schedule. People interested in helping with this type of service work can email publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

IX. WEB SITE

- What do you think about linking our web site to all the other district cites? Discussion: We aren't apart of AA service structure, but we do cooperate with the Area on Web sites. We are still apart of AA. So yes we are going to list all the districts on the site.
- Also going to start including monthly hits on the web site in monthly report.

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

• Library is now up to date. Going to start a catalog. We want donations for good speakers that people have to donate to the Library.

Q: Is it just CDs or do you have DVDs too? A: No we don't have DVDs, but are open to have them if people want to donate them.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

• Have received 7 surveys back.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

• We will be discussing the prudent reserve next month (April).

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Motion: John S.- Put what is in this months Pass it On (Group Contributions and year to date financial report) in the Pass it on quarterly rather than only once a year. 2nd. Discussion: Financial stuff reported in minutes already, Most important is group contributions, Groups that don't donate probably don't read the Pass it On, maybe just put year totals, Groups need to be educated on what we do for new comers, they don't know what we do. Vote: Majority in favor, 5 opposed. Minority opinion was given. 4 people wished to change their vote. Motion to re-vote and a 2nd-passed. Re-vote on original Motion: 8 to14. Motion Failed (Minority opinion in action!)
- Motion: Emma to adjourn, 2nd-motion failed.
- Suggest we all take back to our groups that Intergroup is in the red.
- Motion: We table this financial discussion till next month. 2nd and Passed.
- Steering committee is doing a nomad meeting to outreach to a group that donates money to Central Office but doesn't have a representative come to the meetings. Our next one is March 14th (tomorrow) at noon at The Miracles.
- Michael was asked to create a time line/article for the Pass it On about Central Office.

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Seeking Serenity Noon Birthday meeting at Nativity church on March 25th. Potluck 1-2.
- District 12 hosting IG speaker meeting @ on March 26th at Sombre Del Monte Church.
- District 18 hosting intergroup speaker meeting on April 30th at St. Paul's United Church.
- District 13 hosting a 12 Step call workshop on April 30th at 10am.
- District 3 hosting a Corrections Workshop March 20th.



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.

February 2011 Treasurer's Report

NET INCOME (month) \$-2,806.45			
Expenses	\$6,125.49		
Gross Income	\$3,318.96		
Cost of Sales	\$3,273.78		
Total Revenues	\$6,592.74		

NET INCOME (YTD) \$-3,388.69

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.

straight Pepper Diet Presents:

2011 Super Sober

AWESOME-A-THON 4.0

Sunday 04/17/2011 * 2pm Alvarado Park

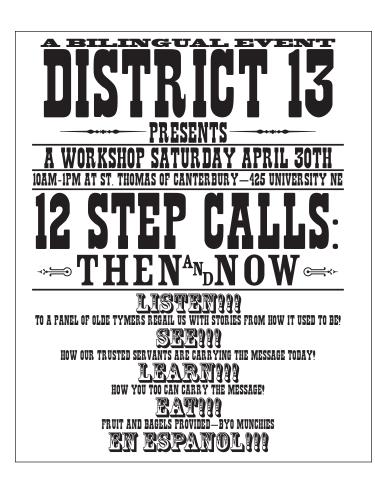
- * Speaker Meeting
- * FUN
- * Pot-Luck BBQ
- * Some sports type activities.
- * SO MANY ACTIVITIES!!!

January 2011 **Monthly Service Activities Report**

PHONE CALLS	JAN 11	JAN 10	DEC 10
Information	623	790	828
12-Step	16	25	36
Al-Anon	19	13	14
Message	31	21	34
Other	119	85	110
TOTAL	808	934	1022
WALK INS			
Information	19	14	14
12-Step	1	3	3
Al-Anon	0	3	3
Get Schedule	21	21	13
Purchase	148	144	170
Tapes	0	0	6
Message	1	1	2
Casual	15	21	32
Other	28	8	35
TOTAL	230	215	278
DESK WORKERS*			
Regulars	47		
Substitutes	42		
TOTAL	89		
DESK SHIFTS*			
Weekdays	120		
Weekends	40		
TOTAL	160		
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	95(71%)		
Worked by Substitutes	35(29%)		
TOTAL	120		
WEEKEND SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	31(77%)		
Worked by Substitutes	9(23%)		
TOTAL	40		
SHIFTS WORKED BY MICH	AEL		
3 hour shifts (9)	27 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
SHIFTS WORKED BY KATH	Υ		
3 hour shifts (1)	3 hours		
2 hour shifts (2)	6 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
TOTAL	46 hours		
*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE			

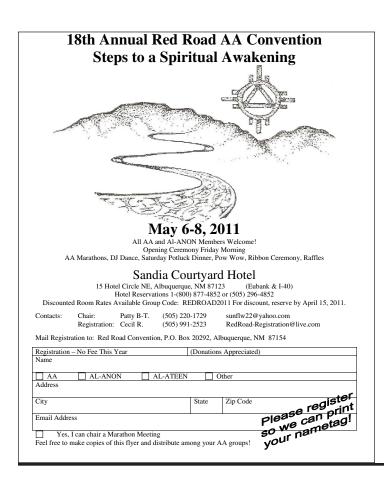
OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: ON MAY 6 1998 AN OLD MAN STOOD UP IN A MEETING AND SAID THAT HE HADN'T FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE A DRINK SINCE JULY 1, 1956. ANOTHER MAN STOOD UP AND SAID, "YOU OLD LIAR, I SAW YOU LAST NIGHT AND YOU WERE AS DRUNK AS A SKUNK." THE FIRST OLD MAN SAID, "YOU'RE RIGHT, I WAS DRUNK LAST NIGHT BUT IT WASN'T NECESSARY."

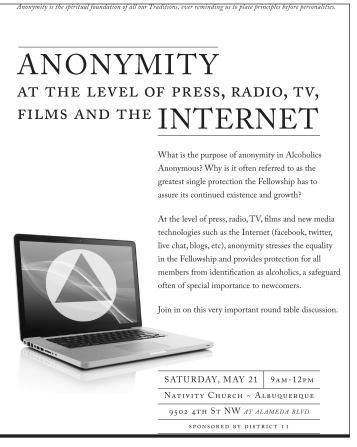






HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!





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