MAY 2011 * VOLUME 36 ISSUE 5

Pass It On.

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

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

Step 5: "Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact primary purpose-to carry its message to nature of our wrongs."

All of A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires...they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take Tradition. Around it our Society than Five. But scarcely any Step gathers in unity. The very life is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one. -Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions p55

In actual practice, we usually find a solitary self-appraisal insufficient. Many of us thought it necessary to go much further. We will be more reconciled to discussing ourselves with another person when we see good reasons why/ we should do so. The best reason first: If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. Time after time newcomers have tried to keep to themselves certain facts others like us is the one aim that about their lives. Trying to avoid today animates A.A.'s all around this humbling experience, they the globe. have turned to easier methods. Almost invariably they got drunk. Having persevered with the rest of the program, they wondered why they fell. We think the reason is that they never completed their we give it away...For us, if we housecleaning. They took inventory all right, but hung on to some of the worst items in stock. They only our own lives and sanity. Under thought they had lost their egoism these compulsions of selfand fear; they only *thought* they had humbled themselves. But they had not learned enough of humility, fearlessness and honesty, in the sense we find it necessary, until they told someone else all their life story.

-Alcoholics Anonymous p72-73 Regardless of all my new good deeds in sobriety, I am still limited by my secrets. These secrets are what keeps me lonely, afraid, resentful or sick. I need to be free of these to truly be what God wants me to be.

Tradition 5: "Each group has but one the alcoholic who still suffers."

"Shoemaker, stick to thy last!"... better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recover to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, on to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless neglect those who are still sick, there is unremitting danger to preservation, duty, and love, it is not strange that our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission—to carry the A.A. message to those who don't know there's a way out. -12 Steps & 12 Traditions p150-51

I have a healthy understanding of this tradition based on my personal experience; when I believed that I had gotten "too healthy" for the sick drunks in A.A. it was I who sickened, and almost died, without a primary purpose of my own.

5: *"Throughout our* Concept world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered."

Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a "substantial unanimity" is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself.

This is A.A.'s "Right of Appeal" in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees. trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual *duty* of presenting its views.

This "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

This Concept also warns us of "the tyranny of the majority" and points out that in A.A. a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision. That's why we usually require at least a twothirds majority.

-The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated

* * * ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS

EVER WONDER HOW OUR SERVICES ACTUALLY WORK? WELL HERE'S A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS ON OUR WEBSITE, ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG

IN MARCH 2011 WE HAD 4594 VISITS TO THE SITE FROM 2431 UNIQUE VISITORS. (1.88 VISITS/VISITOR) THERE WERE 24263 PAGE VIEWS, OR 5.28 PAGES PER VISIT. HOW BOUT THEM APPLES?

THE RIGHT OF APPEAL, CONCEPT 5

My first reaction to the vote was shock and despair. How could my friends have done this to my home group? A hand full of people had rammed through their agenda, voting to move our large meeting to a space that was simply too small. Most importantly, no one had even been notified we would be voting that day. It was a sly trick to call for the vote. I was sick at heart.

"Never underestimate the inclination to bolt," said the Buddhist nun, Pema Chodron. And, I did just want to run away. Wasn't that what I'd always done with alcohol, escape from the harsher realities?

As the group's treasurer, I planned to take the books to the next meeting, throw them down on the floor and say "I quit!" I would just start going to different meetings, never again joining a home group. I'd be a meeting gypsy, adrift. But what about my AA way of life, my program? Shouldn't I strive to be one among many, a worker among workers? I should prove I was a good sport, by acting like someone who could lose with style.

Fortunately before I could take any action, I got the flu. For a week I stayed home licking my emotional wounds and nursing my resentments. One morning I woke up and remembered my sponsor and two other women had asked if I'd been given the opportunity to express the minority opinion. "No," I had dejectedly responded to each of them, "I wasn't." That morning I asked myself, "what exactly is the minority opinion?"

I got online and searched for A.A. references to "minority" and I was directed to page 574 of the Big Book. I opened up my book and there were the Twelve Concepts of which I knew literally nothing. Concept 5-The Right of Appeal..."minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration"... What did that mean?

In the pamphlet the Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated it explained quite simply, "every member has a voice...this Concept warns us of 'the tyranny of the majority'...a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision." The minority opinion is "to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views." And the kicker for me was: "it is incumbent upon...trusted servants...in their own meetings to pay special deference to the minority voice." Oh! No! What could I possibly do? I felt I had been guided by my higher power to the Concepts. Now what?

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

Jeremy H. *Chair* Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Morgan D. *Secretary* Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve P. *Treasurer* Treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael Q. *Schedule Editor* Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

Open *Activities Coordinator* Activities@albuquerqueaa.org

Peggy A. *Member-at-Large* MemberAtLarge@albuquerqueaa.org

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Alli V. *Web Site Chair* Web@albuquerqueaa.org

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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

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.

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Up until then our home group did not have regular group conscience. "They're divisive," it had been explained to me. We convened them whenever a big issue came up which was rare. As a result, our group really didn't know how to handle sensitive issues. We looked to our old timers, members who first formed the meeting, to simply decided for us.

For awhile I stayed home, rested, prayed, meditated. How could I present the opinion that our voices had not been heard, and the location was inadequate? One of the promises on page 84 of the Big Book is, "we will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us." An idea came to me. What if I invited the group to meet at the other bigger, more modern room for a trial run? I called my sponsor and told her what was up. She supported and guided me. She asked, "Can you accept the outcome, no matter what happens?"

Then I made a flyer with the address, attributes and time for the trial run of our meeting. I ran off 50 copies and wrote a letter to my group, explaining Concept 5 and asserting the Right of Appeal. As I drove to my AA meeting that morning, I felt like a little girl going to confront her mother both thrilled and terrified. I said the serenity prayer like a mantra. It happened to be a Friday birthday meeting around Halloween. The room was packed with people, some in costume, absolutely surreal! Only my sponsor knew of my plan. I had a big satchel with me containing the fliers, maps and copies of the Right of Appeal. I kept jumping up and going out of the room, beside myself with indecision. Read my letter or do nothing?

My sponsor and sponsee were beside me as the meeting unfurled slowly, so slowly. The readings, the coins given out, the discussion portion began. Suddenly it was my turn to speak. I said, "as your treasurer, what I am about to do is very hard for me." With a shaking voice I made the appeal. Then, I sent the copies out into the room. It was like a bomb had exploded in my satchel. Everything erupted into pandemonium. One man screamed in my face, "why don't you just go start your own meeting!" "Because this is my home group!" I answered. A woman told me this would destroy our group. Another woman came up and thanked me for showing such courage. My sponsor reminded me to be aware in that very moment, "Stop and really hear what she just said to you. Take a breath and take in all of this." "You awoke the sleeping giant of the group conscience," a man at central office explained, "and roused them from their lethargy."

After I emailed the Right of Appeal out to our phone list, I was bombarded with e-mail from friend and foe. I tried not to argue with anyone, practicing restraint of tongue and pen. "Just come to the meeting and hear the minority opinion," I pleaded with them. "Who do you think you are?" One person emailed. "You are a mere accountant of the money." And, that is where Concept 3 came in, "the Right to Decide" also in the same pamphlet. It says, "we trust our trusted servants to decide how they will interpret and apply their own authority to each particular problem." AA's 12 Concepts for world service gave me the right to decide to assert the right of appeal. Wild! During the entire adventure I was blown away by the wisdom and foresight of those AA's who came before, conceived and wrote the Twelve Concepts.

After the trial run our home group members called another group conscience meeting, careful to invite all. As a lightning rod of controversy, I kept my mouth shut, did not debate and took notes. The initial vote to move was rescinded. Member after member spoke about their love for our group, not wanting to split up and how much we needed the bigger room. Others declared the smaller space "big enough" and beloved as one of our first rooms from many years ago. A second meeting was scheduled to vote between the two. At that meeting those who wanted the little place announced they were starting a new group. The final vote taken was unanimous for the big room we had reconsidered.

After a couple of years, most everyone is on speaking terms.

I now know how important regularly scheduled group conscience meetings are for practicing principles and Traditions in AA. My home group has one every month. I'll never, ever forget learning about the Concepts in action. I thank my Higher Power who guided me to be curious about the minority opinion.

-Christie O.

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-Too Much for Us • Jerry R-Serendipity • Lary L-Penny Lane Donna B-Ladies Room • John S-Brown Baggers • Arthur T-Straight Pepper Diet • Maddy L-In The Book Kris H-Dawn Patrol • Martha M & Christy O-Promises • Alen M-Happy Hour • Becky D-Blackouts Alli-Singleness of Purpose • Peggy A-Free Spirits • Emma D-One Day at a Time • Michael Q-Schedule Editor • Skitch F-Isleta • Cindy B-Dawn/Dusk Patrol • Toby-Tuesday Knights • John G-Cosmopolitan Bill D-Seeking Serenity • Bernie-Singleness of Purpose • Sharon H-Any Lengths • Brenda-Foothills

II. MINUTES

Approved

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Revenues: \$8837.87
- Cost of Sales: \$3233.06
- Expenses: \$5401.58
- Total: \$203.23

• This monthly report also includes a two year comparison of our financials as well as a list of the group contributions so far in 2011. We are in the black this month, but still in the red for the year; also we received donations from District 12 and Woman's Sobriety fest which helped a lot.

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

• Good coverage for the desk. 97% of the weekend shifts were by regulars. 87% of the weekday shifts were by regulars. Open Shifts: Every other Friday 4-7pm, and Every other Tuesday afternoon.

- Brought 2 handouts: Voting/motion procedures for everyone to have.
- Graph showing amounts of revenues, expenses, etc. from 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010.
- We are out of paperback Big Books for now.
- Also brought news and notes from General Service Office box 459.
- Last month Intergroup donated \$200 worth of literature materials to a treatment center.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

• Want feedback from groups about Intergroup Inventory. Going to compile a list of questions.

VI. PASS IT ON

• Absent, nothing to report.

VII. SCHEDULES

• Everything is up to date. Going to print some more soon so make sure your group's information is correct both on the schedule and online. Notify of any changes.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• Connected with NM Solutions, but have only been able to get one young person to go. If you are interested in public outreach service please email publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

IX. WEB SITE

- Added a photo of Central Office building.
- Added a list of hours and prices.
- Added links to the different districts. Want to get in touch with Tom C. to be able to contact the people who are updating the different district sites to let them know.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES! Seniors Seeking Serenity: Fred J-22 years! Dennis C-30 years! Seronity: Tom P. 00 days! Paggy E 19 months! Los P. Dayid

Seeking Serenity: Tom R-90 days! Peggy F-18 months! Lee R, David T & Bill D-2 years! Liz C-10 years! Bernie M-41 years! One day at a time! Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to **passiton@albuquerqueaa.org**

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

• Doing routine maintenance on library. Will have more time this month to work on catalog.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

- Need 2-4 people to take meeting into a nursing home.
- If your group has a special need please email specialneeds@albuquerqueaa.org

XII. OLD BUSINESS

• Motion: The Intergroup instructs the treasurer to adjust the three month prudent reserve from \$22000 to \$18000. 2nd- Steve. Discussion and motion passes.

• Activities Chair is still vacant. This position doesn't have to be filled by the group. Take back to the groups that this position can be filled by anyone in AA.

- Michael's article will be coming up in the future.
- Nomad meeting to Miracles- Attended by Peggy and Jason. Went well.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

• Motion: We table any discussion on extra money from the prudent reserve adjustment till next quarter (July). 2nd- Peggy. Discussion: There are many things we can do with the extra money. What is the historical use of the prudent reserve? 75% of income is from group contributions and sometimes those come way after they are held. Motion passes.

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- District 18 IG speaker meeting @ St. Paul's United Church. 4/30 @ 6pm.
- District 13 is hosting 12 Step Calls workshop @ St. Thomas of Canterbury. 4/30 @ 10am.

• Sunday Night Young Peeps potluck/BBQ volleyball & speaker meeting @ Alvarado Park. 4/30 @ 1pm.

• Straight Pepper Diet is holding the Super Sober 420 Awesome-A-Thon 4.0 @ Alvarado Park. Speaker and activities. 4/17 @ 2pm.

• Foothills Friday night meeting @8pm is now a candlelight meeting like it used to be.

XV. GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS JANUARY 2011-MAR 2011

	1	1		1	1.
Group		Group 164	\$35.00	Serenity Group	\$38.98
ABC Monday Night R.R.	\$9.50	Singleness of Purpose	\$40.50	Sponsorship & Growth	\$258.28
Brownbaggers	\$517.51	Happy Hour Group	\$214.75	Sunrise Catchers	\$7.50
Blackouts	\$1005.00	High Noon Group	\$270.00	Staying Sober at Sunrise	\$471.00
Candlelight Group R.R.	\$100.00	How It Works	\$100.00	Sunday Night Serenity	\$170.00
Came to Believe Estancia	\$20.00	Isleta Group	\$61.47	Sunrise Sobriety	\$108.00
Corrales Men's Stag	\$100.00	Jemez Springs Group	\$15.00	Straight Pepper Diet	\$23.50
Corrales Smokefree	\$65.53	Kiva Group	\$50.00	The Ladies Room	\$126.50
Cosmopolitan Group	\$14.80	Lone Rangers Group	\$176.73	Taylor Ranch Fellowship	\$47.00
Dawn Patrol	\$746.33	Live and Let Live	\$32.32	Tuesday Knights	\$30.00
Down Under Group	\$50.00	Ladies of Peaceful Serenity	\$25.00	Wake Up Call Group	\$200.00
Direct Amends Group	\$63.00	Miracles Group	\$500.00	Valley Girls Estancia	\$25.00
Dawning Promises	\$28.59	New Frontier Group	\$150.00	VA Campus Group	\$51.65
East Mountain Group	\$150.00	Old 66 Group Edgewood	\$156.05		
Early Birds	\$75.00	Promises Group	\$84.31		
Free Spirits Group	\$22.00	Queer Ideas of Fun	\$400.00		
Freedom From Bondage	\$275.00	Round Up Group	\$20.00		
Freedom First	\$21.00	Roadrunner Group	\$18.13		
Foothills Group	\$884.36	Seeking Serenity	\$26.61		
Good Fellows Group	\$30.00	Seniors Seeking Serenity	\$104.78		



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.

Foothills Friday night meeting @8pm is now a candlelight n Blackouts next performance will be sometime in October.

March 2011 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$8,837.87
Cost of Sales	\$3,233.06
Gross Income	\$5,604.81
Expenses	\$5,401.58
NET INCOME (month)	\$203.23

NET INCOME (YTD) \$-3,183.49

For a copy of the full Central Office incomelexpense report, join us at the next Intergroup Meeting on the second Sunday of the month, 2 pm, at the Brownbaggers.

Archives Alert!

I'm Manuel and I am an Alcoholic,

I am the new archivist for District 3. That's all groups that fall along the line from Cosmopolitan Group to Soccoro. Albuquerque, Belen, Las Lunas, Magdelena, Peralta & Soccoro. If I missed your group and you know your in district 3 this message is for your group too.

Please at your next Group Conscience if you can write out a Group History, when started, by whom, locations group has been, a picture of your meeting place, members past and present, group officers, meeting address, meeting days and times. I'll start a file on all groups in District 3 for our district archives. My address is:

Manuel P. P.O. Box 72583 Albuquerque, NM 87195

Corrections Corner

The District 3 Corrections Committee is looking for AA members, men and women like you, who are willing to help make it possible for the AA message to be carried to those on the "inside." Taking meetings into correctional facilities is not for everyone. Jim P. lived and breathed Step 12, but he couldn't go inside. Because of his own story of finding recovery inside the Kansas State Penitentiary, he wanted to but he couldn't stand the sound of the steel doors locking. But did you know you don't have to go inside to do corrections service work?

Now there's a rewarding and barely ever mentioned form of Twelve Step work that's "a special kind of AA service." In Corrections Correspondence AA members on the "outside" correspond with AA members in correctional facilities. Like sponsorship, it is suggested that men correspond with men and women with women. District 3 Corrections wants to support and facilitate Corrections Correspondence and is planning Pen & Paper Pot Lucks. The DCM and Corrections Chair are working on a date for the first one. Watch for more information in our AA service newsletters. You do not need to be in District 3 to participate. All you need is a desire to share your experience, strength and hope with A.A.s who are confined.

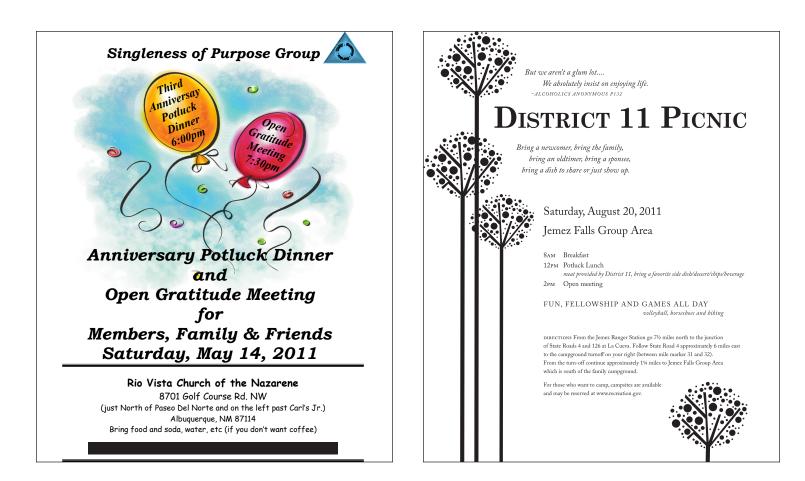
-Skitch F.

March 2011 Monthly Service Activities Report

-		-	
PHONE CALLS	MAR 11	FEB 11	MAR 10
Information	732	623	830
12-Step	1	16	22
Al-Anon	15	19	13
Message	26	31	18
Other	27	119	87
TOTAL	1041	808	970
WALK INS			
Information	12	19	1(
12-Step	2	1	(
Al-Anon	1	0	(
Get Schedule	8	21	26
Purchase	176	148	168
Tapes	1	0	
Message	0	1	8
Casual	20	15	3(
Other	27	28	35
TOTAL	247	233	279
DESK WORKERS*			
Regulars	50		
Substitutes	32		
TOTAL	82		
DESK SHIFTS*			
Weekdays	138		
Weekends	40		
TOTAL	178		
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	117(87%)		
Worked by Substitutes	21(13%)		
TOTAL	138		
	100		
WEEKEND SHIFTS*	39(97%)		
Worked by Regulars			
Worked by Substitutes TOTAL	<u>1(3%)</u> 40		
SHIFTS WORKED BY MIC			
3 hour shifts (4)	12 hours		
2 hour shifts (1)	2 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
SHIFTS WORKED BY KATI	HY		
3 hour shifts (4)	12 hours		
2 hour shifts (2)	6 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
TOTAL	26 hours		
*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE			

OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS DOES Not work in theory—It only works in practice!





HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!

latergroup Speaker Necting

May 21, 2011

Hosted by District 3 | Community Bible Church

1467 Hwy 314 NW, Los Lunas NM

Potluck – 6:30 pm, Speaker – 7:30 pm

Featured Speaker – Roselle H. Albq.

Raffle will follow after the Speaker

Donated items can be brought to the Meeting itself or to Central Office. All proceeds will go to Central Office.



ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO, TV, FILMS AND THE INTERNET

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalitie

What is the purpose of anonymity in Alcoholics Anonymous? Why is it often referred to as the greatest single protection the Fellowship has to assure its continued existence and growth?

At the level of press, radio, TV, films and new media technologies such as the Internet (facebook, twitter, live chat, blogs, etc), anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship and provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers.

Join in on this very important round table discussion.

SATURDAY, MAY 21 9AM-12PM NATIVITY CHURCH ~ ALBUQUERQUE 9502 4TH ST NW AT ALAMEDA BLVD SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 11

Albuquerque Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 {505} 266-1900 www.AlbuquerqueAA.org ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Please make checks payable to Central Office of Albuquerque. Mail your check or come by the office and drop it off. 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