JUNE 2010 ★ VOLUME 35 ISSUE 06

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 he took my hand OFFICE SERVICE When I ran down, GENERAL A.A. THE gratitude for his starting A.A. T 0 LETTER \forall -FROM 011. Pass it to me and my undying simply, said bis and

remove all these defects of character." Having been granted a perfect release from alcoholism, why the shouldn't we be able to achieve by the same means a perfect release from every other difficulty or defect? -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p64 So Step Six...is A.A.'s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The key words "entirely ready" underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn. -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p65 For me, Step 6 is a living and learning process. The more I live with the grace, care and protection from God, the more I experience its accompanying peace and serenity, the more familiar it feels. Likewise, so do I find myself growing ever more uncomfortable when my character defects drive me away from reliance on God as I try and run the show myself. My becoming entirely ready is more an honest evaluation of shortfalls than anything. Truly a case of progress rather than perfection.

Step 6: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Having been granted a perfect release from alcoholism, why the shouldn't we be able to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Tradition 6: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try. -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p157 "Alcoholics Anonymous saved my life, and it comes first." -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p159 I learned to appreciate the wisdom of this tradition through my own personal experiences in the rooms of A.A., much of the learning coming through personal friendships. The simplest example would be that of lending money. How often have I lent money to a friend or newcomer, only to find myself upset later when I am not repaid? What then happens? I lose a friend or a service opportunity. I find myself in an argument about money, rather than in a friendship. When I place my focus on friendship, and don't involve "outside issues" (especially my opinions on the other person's behavior) I don't find myself in the middle of controversy or arguments. I get to practice "Live & let live" here.

Concept 6: "On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Bill makes the point that although "our service objective is always a spiritual one," nevertheless our world service is a "large business operation." "Indeed," he says, "our whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, at the annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a 'holding company.' And this holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two 'subsidiaries' (A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine) which carry on the...services.

"This very real analogy makes it...clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the...affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous." -The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated

* * *

NEW MEETINGS AND CHANGES

Brownbaggers Group is moving on May 8th (Saturday) to 3939 San Pedro NE Building F Suite A This is at the corner of Hendrix & San Pedro (just south of Montgomery), with the location actually on Hendrix. See you there!

THE SPIRITUAL CORE.

I struggled with the white man's interpretation of a God, due in part to the forced assimilation of religion in my life in being adopted into a white family. My first few years of sobriety were listening to the voices in my head debate this, "God as you understand Him." I also remember that defining moment, after saying "God as I understand him," over and over in a meeting and at what point coming to the realization of whom my God was. I thought, if I had a God, that God would be an Indian. Next, my God would be a She. I needed to only reflect back on my experiences with the male role models in my life; my biological father, brother, perpetrator, first boyfriend, ex-husband, and first relationship with a guy in AA. They were all alcoholics, womanizers, and abusers. Finally, I asked what would this God do, and the answer was, to love me unconditionally and forgive me. Those were the basics I needed to open up my mind, heart, and ears to what the program of Alcoholics Anonymous had to offer.

Yet, I have come to find, throughout the years that my understanding has changed and evolved as I had grown in sobriety and have had new life experiences and heard the experience, strength, and hope of others. Still I continued to have struggles with the God concept that I kept hearing of in meetings. I had gotten caught up with my childhood interpretation of God based on other's perceptions and struggled in AA and thinking you were trying to make me believe in your God (religion). Though I knew it was a spiritual program, I had continued to compare and contrast my understanding to yours.

At 13 years sober my sponsor sent me back to my third step because she did not hear the presence of God in my life or message. As I was taken back to those early days of struggling with a God as I understood him and faced discord, she then sent me back to my second step. I came to realize that I may have had a God, but had not built a relationship with that God as I understood. Once again, I was redefining my conception of a God and knew that I still had not let go, completely.

This program is not a past tense, I have "worked" the steps kind of program; but a present tense of I am continuously working the program. It took actively working the steps with a sponsor for her to see where I was hung up and for her to be willing, with love, to send me back to learn steps one and two. This correlated with where I am in the stage of life today. I am no longer that single mother of a six-year-old that came to in AA. I am a mother of two and a grandmother to two granddaughters. This journey made me realize that these two steps of the program were the Spiritual Core and they have to follow me into all my steps.

I had gone back to traditional ways of the sweat lodge and when I prayed it was to the four directions. My prayers are to the Creator and to my ancestors. I had felt my conflict was with your God, but no, it was with the middle man who forced his belief on others. I came to realize that I had contempt prior to investigation when it came to your God, and all I needed to do was befriend your God or Jesus. It did not make me born again or a Christian; it just meant befriending your God. It was a moment of clarity and the building of a true relationship with the God of my understanding at 15 years sober.

—Stacy N. Albuquerque

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

Jeremy H. *Chair* Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Sean F. *Secretary* Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve P. *Treasurer* treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

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

Al J. *Activities Coordinator* Activities@albuquerqueaa.org

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

Jason K. *Pass It On Editor*PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

Jim M. Special Needs Coordinator Specialneeds@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve F. Web Site Chair anonymous@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael S. *Media Librarian* media@albuquerqueaa.org

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, 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

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.

YOUTH ENJOYING SOBRIETY!

Fans beat aimlessly at the thick, smoke ridden air. Years of coffee mugs had left a pattern of rings on the tables and the floor was stained a light yellow. While certain people dispersed throughout the room read The Steps and The Traditions, I remember feeling convinced that AA was trying to sell me religion. People talked about the Big Book, and I thought they meant the bible. Regardless, I identified with many of the stories that I heard. People welcomed me with open arms, but I wasn't ready. I believed that I was sick with the disease of alcoholism, but I was afraid to admit that I needed help, and the idea of quitting was something that I couldn't face. I walked out of the meeting that night at 13 years old, and my habits didn't miss a beat.

A month after my 14th birthday, I woke up in the hospital after hitting a bottom worse than ever before and ingesting an entire bottle of Tylenol. I was hallucinating and a tall machine was pumping clear liquid into my liver. After a few days they sent me to a different ward, and miraculously I had survived. It was then that I was presented with the choice between continuing as I was and suffering an alcoholic death, or becoming willing to change. I wasn't sure at first. A week and a half later, I arrived at a rehabilitation center in California. At the center we went to AA meetings every night and I found a sponsor that was willing to work with me out of the center. Soon I began to acquire an understanding of Alcoholics Anonymous that I had missed with my previous visit. For a while I was sure that I was incapable of living sober, but it's been nearly a year since, and I haven't found it necessary to take a drink.

I honestly didn't believe that I could ever pull myself out of the hole that I had created. Alcoholics Anonymous and my Higher Power have, without question, saved my life. As I am barely 15, I have many years ahead of me to work on sobriety and to help other alcoholics. For this, I am grateful. Thank you AA.

—Terrapin F.

NMCYPAA UPDATE

The conference has moved to the Holiday Inn on Jefferson! June 20th: Volleyball in the park in Santa Fe. Call Connor at (505)690-6331 for details. July 17th: Workshop/Speaker Meeting/Dance in Roswell at the Dry Harbor Club – starts at 5 p.m. July 18th: Kickball in the park in Las Cruces – Starts at 11 a.m. Call Patrick at (505)340-6680 for more info.

VERY SOBER OLD(er) PEOPLE!

I was raised in a community in the middle of the Bible-Belt that could be called "redneck," where morality is shouted from the rooftops. My great uncle, I'll call him Sam, was the town drunk in this small burg. My siblings and I were never told in so many words that he was no good, but the message came through.

On holidays someone would go to town and bring uncle Sam to the family dinner. When he would go out behind the granary to relieve himself (having already had a few beers) there would be subtle chuckles from the self righteous relatives.

Uncle Sam died when I was overseas in the armed forces. One of my aunts, who had never been a fan of uncle Sam, wrote a letter to all the relatives telling them the things we had never known about him. He had been the number one fan of the high school basketball team, and was even allowed to ride the bus taking the players (boys and girls) and cheerleaders to the out of town games.

I was shocked to learn that a moral degenerate was allowed to ride the bus with young boys and girls. This letter made me pretty angry (as I was by then a genuine alcoholic) because I never knew that this narrow minded community would find something good in the heart of my so-called degenerate of an uncle.

This helped me finally get it through my mind that alcoholism is not a disease that automatically makes me a moral degenerate, though it can, of course, contribute to that end.

I remember a Father Martin movie I saw in treatment. It was about attitudes. If I judge a new member, or someone coming back, even a homeless person on the street, I am destroying my own serenity. I don't know what my relatives hoped to gain by giving us young ones the impression that uncle Sam was no good. I do know that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous can help me to rise above the finger pointing and blame game.

—Roger L. from El Centro

Editor's note: Thanks to you both. And now, I have a dream, that I will receive un-begged for submissions for July. Send 'em on in, folks!

nost of them we shall have to be conten

> 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

May 9, 2010

Submitted By Sean F. – Secretary

I. INTRODUCTIONS & ATTENDEES

Morgan D. & Jeremy H. • Straight Pepper Diet - Patrick H. • High Noon - John S. • Brown Baggers - Steve P • Treasurer - Martha M. • Promises - Cindy B. & Skitch

- F. Cosmopolitan Buzz R. Dawn Patrol Sharon H. • Any Lengths - Al J. • Seniors Seeking Serenity - Peggy
- A. Free Spirits Jim M. & M.L.J. Queer Ideas of Fun
- A. The opines July W. & W.E.J. Queen ruess of run
- Bill D. Seeking Serenity John R. Early Birds Eva
- Sunrise Sobriety Scott C. Happy Hour Bernie J. Singleness of Purpose Sean F. Serendipity Michael W. Mountainside

II. MINUTES

Approved

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Total Revenues \$6,832.18
- Annual Revenue \$33,891.31
- Gross Income \$4,659.20
- Annual Gross Income \$23,327.32
- Total Expense \$5,658.14
- Total Annual Expense \$22,444.26
- Net Income -\$1,025.94
- Annual Net Income \$883.06
- Still in the black for the year.

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

• Walk Ins about the same as last month phone calls up slightly. Schedules are available. Handed out newcomer packets for new Intergroup Representatives. The number of desk workers was way down this month. Shifts open on Saturday and Sunday 9-5 and 3-6 on Sundays also need monthly night phone coverage (10-8). Groups have done well covering night phones. Working down \$3,600 literature credit with GSO. The cooler is up and the heater is down. Just in time for a cold snap! No change in status of new phone system. All of the software has been migrated on to the new computer and the old computer is off line. Spoke with Area to establish a closer working relationship with Area 46, we'll try to get people who overlap on committees ie. Central Office Literature person to attend Area Literature committee meetings etc. Central Office will provide literature when asked by the Are

V. ACTIVITIES

• Next big thing is the Intergroup Speaker meeting at Valley

of the Shepherd, on Saturday July 17, starting with potluck at 6:30, speaker starts at 7:30.

- It still has not been decided as to if the alcathon will go all night
- It also has not been decided if picnic will be a dinner this year
- Overall a very busy year

VI. MEMBER AT LARGE REPORT

No report

VII. PASS IT ON

• New issue was available

VIII. SCHEDULES

• No report

IX. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Provided two panels at Bernalillo County Multiple DWI program 30-40 people attended
- Nothing planned for month of May yet
- Need volunteers for future events. It's a chance to give back, and the only requirement is must be member of AA and willing to share experience

X. WEB SITE

 There have been some small changes in the schedule on line, and some members said they had trouble down loading Pass It On

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- Vote on dinner or picnic to celebrate anniversary: picnic 14 dinner 3
- Vote on alcathon going all night or closing for a couple hours early in the morning: all night 12 close for early morning hours 6. Groups that voted for all night are encouraged to sign up for and cover early morning slots. This vote may be subject to change depending on venue, which has not been selected.
- Discussion about the relationship between Area 46 and Central Office. Traditionally Central Office provided literature and the literature person acted as a liaison. Possibly liaison could be a steering committee position. Motion made to put possible ways to improve relationship between Intergroup and Area 46 as a discussion item on the next agenda.
- Jim M. nominated for Special Needs position.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Seeking Serenity: Ken E-19 years! El Centro: Gina & Brett-2 months! Greg-3 months! Mary Jane, Marilyn & Caroline-6 months! James & Tina-1 year! Amber-2 years! Jocelyn-3 years! Doreen G-7 years! Brian V-20 years (Dos Equis!) Donald-27 years! Julian H-30 years (Triple XXX!) Bill P-45 years! Please submit your July sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- Need to start work on Winter Bash. Reps were asked to ask groups for a volunteer to sit on and lead committee
- A new member asked if Central Office has birthday envelopes so members can give birthday contributions. We don't, but we do have the "Faithful Fivers" who serve a similar purpose

XIII. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Dawn Patrol is celebrating their 25thAnniversery at Shepherd of the Valley Church tonight with dessert and coffee followed by three speakers. Dessert starts at 7:00 pm

- Seeking Serenity is hosting a "home Group Workshop" Sponsored by District 11on May 15th 9:00-11:00 at the Nativity Church at the corner of 4th and Alameda
- The Desert Club is holding a variety of events, including speaker meetings, a dance, and viewing of the movie My Name is Bill W. on Founder's Day weekend (June 11th & 12th) It will be A.A.'s 75th Anniversary
- The Isleta Club is smoke free from April 1st on
 Steering Committee and intergroup meeting is non-smoking

NMCYPAA 2010

New Mexico Conference of Young People in AA

Register online @ www.nmcypaa.org

July 30-August 1, 2010

**The Conference
Location has changed**

To: The Holiday Inn and Suites on Jefferson & I-25 Room Rates are \$79.00 Single/Double/Triple /Quad

(505) 944-2222° or (877) 863-4780 ask for the NMCYPAA Rate



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.

April 2010 Treasurer's Report Total Revenues \$6,832.18 Cost of Sales \$2,172.98 Gross Income \$4,659.20 Expenses \$5,685.14 **NET INCOME** \$-1,025.94 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 June 2010

There is another training for clearance to state correctional facilities coming up in Albuquerque on June 19th at Heights Christian Church located at 6935 Comanche Rd NE at Louisiana. Time is from 9am to 11:30am. Training is open to men and women. The pool for the Women's Facility in Grants has grown by 3 more women being cleared. And, join Carol M, Kris H and other sober women sharing fellowship on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We meet at Kris' home on Edith NE near Lomas at 7:00 pm to share experience and information about carrying the message into correction facilities. We are building a pool of women interested in this service work. And, we would like to hear stories from women who used to carry the message to the correction facilities or still are carrying the message to the facilities. Call Kris H 505-250-6704 or Carol M 505-615-9494 for exact address and directions. Snacks provided.

> 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 Albuquerque 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.

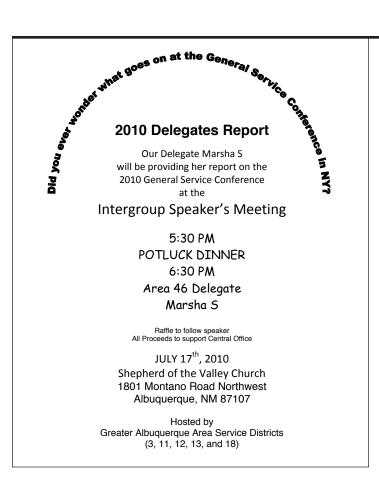
April 2010 **Monthly Service Activities Report**

PHONE CALLS	APR 10	MAR 10	APR 09
Information	793	924	1033
12-Step	18	23	13
Al-Anon	24	23	17
Message	22	23	26
Other	105	117	110
TOTAL	962	1110	1199
WALK INS			
Information	7	12	18
12-Step	3	2	0
Al-Anon	2	0	0
Get Schedule	15	15	30
Purchase	161	177	144
Tapes	2	3	6
Message	4	2	8
Casual	39	36	46
Other	25	31	34
TOTAL	258	278	276
DESKWORKERS*			
Regulars	51		
Substitutes	35		
TOTAL	86		
DESK SHIFTS*	100		
Weekdays	132		
Weekends	40		
TOTAL	172		
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	110/(82%)		
Worked by Substitutes	22/(8%)		
TOTAL	132		
WEEKEND SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	32/(80%)		
Worked by Substitutes	8(20%)		
TOTAL	40		
SHIFTS WORKED BY MIC	HAEL		
3 hour shifts (7)	21 hours		
2 hour shifts (2)	4 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
SHIFTS WORKED BY KAT			
3 hour shifts (7)	21 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
• •			
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
TOTAL	26 hours		

Jason K.

WORKING A WEEKLY 3-HOUR SHIFT AT CENTRAL OFFICE IS MY SECOND FAVORITE SERVICE WORK, RIGHT AFTER DIRECT WORK WITH ALCOHOLICS!—Jason K.





ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



FOUNDER'S DAY 2010



WEEKEND

Friday June 11th

5pm - Potluck Dinner

6pm - 6 O'Clock Irregulars Double Speaker Meeting
(Main Speaker: John S., Albuquerque)

8pm - Straight Pepper Diet Speaker Meeting (Main Speaker: Jen N., Last Cruces, Area 46 Chairperson)

9pm - Movie Screening: "My Name is Bill W." (Sponsored by Saturday Night Alive Group - Suggested Donation: \$1)

Saturday June 12th

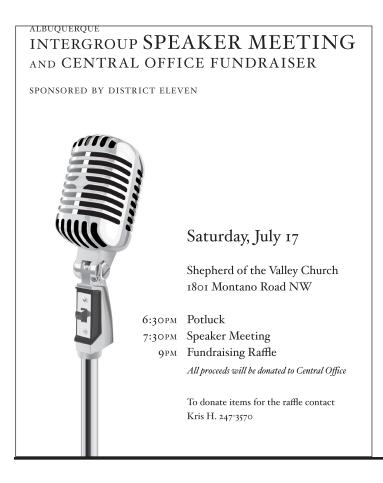
8pm - Saturday Night Alive Group
(Topic Discussion: AA History)

9-12pm - Dance: DJ Steve R.

(Sponsored by Saturday Night Alive Group - Suggested Donation: \$3 singles, \$5 couples)

THE DESERT CLUB - 4305 MESA GRANDE PL SE - ALBUQUERQUE (505) 265-5526

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!



STH ANNUAL WACO W		
NGS YOU TO IT HEY		
	/ILL SEE YOU THROUGH IT	
The retreat is located at three mountain retreat in Clifton, Texas. The registration fee includes lodging, 5 meals & two sr speakers, trail ride & much more. You will meed to bring your own librers, towels, scap, pillows, fissifight, personal late needs. Check in time is 4 pm. Make checks payable to "slister to sister conference." You may mad your \$55,00 depose retreat do Susie Matthews, 2230 Carolinda Dr. Wagon, IX 7010. The remainded is retreated to Susie Matthews, 2230 Carolinda Dr. Wagon, IX 7010. The remainded is checked DRAWING FOR FREE REGISTRATION FOR 2011 CONFEREN Date: August 6th, 7th, & 8th of 2010 Directions: Nikki F. AWALANON Wago, TX DFW: Take I-35W, south from Ft. Worth or 1-35E from Dalias to Hillabora (exit 370 Take St. Hwy 22 , West, through Whitney & across Whitney Damn, to FM 219. Turn		
10 miles to Clifton Continue 7 miles past Clifton to FM 182. Turn left, 1/2 mile to second		
entrance on the left.		
Waco: Take Hwy 6 from Waco to Hwy 219 in Clifton (1st red light), left on FM 219,		
7miles to Hwy 182, 1/2 miles to second entrance on the left.		
	Mail your \$55.00 deposit to Sister to Sister Retreat C/O Susie Matthews	
ce	2230 Carolinda Dr. Waco,TX 76710	
	☐ Would be willing to lead a workshop	
	 Trail Ride must wear long pants .Shirts must be tucked in. Sturdy shoes with closed toes. 	
	☐ Special Needs Cabin	
	☐ AA How many YRSMths	
	☐ AL-Anon YRS Mths	
☐ Check #	I will be bring a raffle item to help raise money for scholarships	
	carrival. Registrations are transferable DRAWING FOR FR DAWING FR	

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