

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 cofounder 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 6: *“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”*

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

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.

How many of us have this degree of readiness? In an absolute sense practically nobody has it. The best we can do, with all the honesty that we can summon, is to *try* to have it. Even then the best of us will discover to our dismay that there is always a sticking point, a point at which we say, “No, I can’t give this up yet.” And we shall often tread on even more dangerous ground when we cry, “This I will *never* give up!” Such is the power of our instincts to overreach themselves. No matter how far we have progressed, desires will always be found which oppose the grace of God.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p65-66
Just like I needed every drink to be ready to be sober, so do I sometimes need every lapse into bad behavior to realize it’s price and then become willing to be done with it. One day at a time!

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.”*

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p155
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.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p157
We saw as never before that we could not lend the A.A. name to any cause other than our own.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p159
Does my group endorse any outside causes, issues or enterprises? In some ways, yes. During a recent group conscious we took a look at our policy of purchasing “sobriety chips” to give to those celebrating an A.A. anniversary. These chips are not produced by A.A., yet we were spending our money on them. Is this not a form of endorsement? I believe it is. However, this seems to be a much-loved tradition and after examination the group decided that it would not stop purchasing these chips. We did, however, add to our birthday format a chance to give out G.S.O.’s birthday envelopes.

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.”*

We have seen that the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” for A.A.’s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees.

Bill makes the point that although “our 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. & 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



CHANGE CHANGE CHAAAAANGE...

SHARE THE LEGACY MEETING IS CHANGING SOME STUFF. CHECK IT OUT:

MEETING PLACE: NO CHANGE.

MONDAY MEETING TIME: CHANGED FROM 7:00 PM TO 7:30 PM FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 6 - AUGUST 1.

THURSDAY MEETING TIME: NO CHANGE, STILL AT 7:00 PM

HIGHER POWER FOR LOAN

When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous I was spiritually bankrupt. In fact, I was bankrupt in every conceivable way. Due to my years of heavy drinking, I was depleted of any belief system, thus the God idea was not appealing in any way to this alcoholic. I had a friend, Jim, with about 3 years sober in AA and we would sit and debate the God thing. Now, Jim was a scientist and we both had these wonderful theories on evolution. Oh, we had great ideas and thought the God thing was good for you AA-ers, but we were sure that we would have to find some other resource to keep us sober. I was told that to stay sober, one simply had to find a higher power that one could do business with. This higher power could be the God of my own understanding, or AA itself. It is God who keeps us sober and the time may come when the only thing between me and the next drink is this higher power.

Fortunately for me, I chose a sponsor who did not care what I believed in. She simply told me to get on my knees and pray. Which I did with a heart full of fear, not as much a fear of drinking, but I was afraid of her, and not doing what she told me to do! I did not know how to pray, but there I was on my knees. I had heard in the rooms that his name was "God", so I started...."God"...and all I could think of was that I needed help, so I said "Help". From my first scanty prayer which consisted of a simple "God, help!" wonderful miracles began to happen in my broken life. I found a God that I could believe in and little by slowly things got better. My thoughts turned to my friend Jim. I became concerned about Jim as he did not have a higher power yet and I feared he may drink. When I announced to him that "I got it, I think I got the God thing!" he wished me well and the subject was dropped. Weeks later, still genuinely concerned that Jim may drink, I said, "Jim, maybe you could use my higher power, I don't think I am keeping him very busy and I am sure he won't mind." Jim thanked me, and we never spoke of the God idea again.

I moved away and wondered from time to time how my friend Jim was doing. A few years later, I had the opportunity to be back in that meeting where I had exchanged so much with Jim and the topic just

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Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

Intergroup Rep. Meeting
2 pm, 2nd Sunday, Brownbaggers

District 3
2 pm, 2nd Saturday
Call the DCM for location

District 11
9 am, 2nd Saturday
Harwood Methodist Church
420 San Lorenzo NW (at 4th)

District 12
10 am, 2nd Saturday, Heights Club

District 13
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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happened to be God. When it came Jim's turn to share, he said, "I had trouble finding a higher power my first three years sober, but a good friend loaned me their higher power. Her higher power works really well for me, and I have not found it necessary to find one of my own!" All this time, I had no idea that Jim had accepted my offer to loan him my higher power. He had never mentioned it. How interesting it was to learn that Jim was able to stay sober with a borrowed higher power, one he borrowed from me. Since that day, I have tried as best as I can to never consume 100% of my higher power's time, since I don't know if my dear friend Jim still needs to borrow him.

If you are having a difficult time finding a higher power, look around the room and see who seems to have a really good one. Perhaps they would let you borrow theirs for a while. —Maddy L.

GET A LIFE -- AA'S SECRET PROMISE

My sponsee and I made a Commitment to read the Big Book together this year -- we just finished a book from another 12 step program and toyed with the idea of what to study next -- she had a strong urge to revisit the Big Book, and so did I. So in 2011, we plan on traveling through the pages of the Big Book together weekly, sharing our individual insights and then in our sharing our knowledge. This kind of study where we each bring our personal experiences and knowledge together expands to a richer, deeper understanding of the material through our dialogue.

AA saved my tumultuous life -- and more. In the rooms of AA, I hear many people say that if I got what I thought I wanted or needed, I would have short-changed myself, and that's the truth for me.

The biggest benefit I have received in sobriety is a relationship with my Higher Power and myself and a full rich wonderful life.

How did it happen? I came in the doors of AA completely defeated, stayed, and did the suggestions that were recommended by sponsors and AA friends. That seems simple, but it wasn't because this is where it's easy to resist and fight.

I mentioned the commitment of work with my sponsee because this has been the cornerstone of sobriety for me, one of the suggestions that I did not fight -- a regular committed time with my sponsor who knew every nook and cranny of me and could call me on my stuff and applaud me on successes that I couldn't identify. Because of my relationship with my sponsors over the years, I knew how to carry on my relationship with my sponsee. What makes my relationship with this sponsee so rich is the studying we do together.

Both relationships -- with my sponsor and sponsee -- have played a key role in making my life so rich and full. No where in AA literature are you promised a rich, full life -- I am fortunate that this secret promise has come true for me, but it didn't always seem that way, and I didn't understand this possibility when I was in the midst of pain and despair. In sobriety, my Dad died. I divorced a husband I met in AA. I divorced another husband and circled way far away from my connection with AA for about 12 years. I continued attendance at my Home Group, met with my sponsored on a regular basis, but I attended a limited amount of meetings and moved far outside of the fellowship.

After that divorce, I attended a sobriety retreat and was asked to sponsor a woman, and that relationship gently pulled me back into the fellowship with more regular attendance of meetings and step work and study. This work with this sponsee saved my life!

AA offers each of us a unique path of recovery; however, there are several suggestions like getting a sponsor, attending meetings, doing step work that make the path more bearable -- and that gave me back my life in a manner that is beyond my wildest dreams. The choice is mine -- I can limit the blessings that recovery offers. I can resist the suggestions that I don't like and only do the ones I do like! I did that for 12 years, but today I know what is possible, and I want it all!

—Larada H.

➤ **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

May 8, 2011

Submitted By Morgan D.

I. OPEN AND INTRODUCTIONS

Morgan D-Secretary • Michael W-Coordinator • Al J-Seniors Seeking Serenity • Steve P-Treasurer • John R-Early Birds • Maddy L-District 18 • Bill-DCM/District 18 • Marth M-Promises • Alan-Happy Hour • Alli-Web Guardian • Peggy A-Member at Large • Kade H-QIOF • Brenda B-Foothills • Patrick H-High Noon • Emma D-ODAT • Bernie J-Singleness of Purpose • Bill D-Seeking Serenity • Jason K.-PIO Editor • Michael Q.-Schedule Editor • Arthur T.-Straight Pepper Diet

II. MINUTES

- Approved

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Revenues: \$10,074.78
- Costs: \$3,727.72
- Gross Inc. \$6,347.06
- Total Exp. \$5,819.72
- NET \$527.34
- We are in the black for the month, but in the red for the year \$2,654.

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

- Desk: Weekday- 86% reg/ 14% subs
- Weekend- 93% reg/ 7% subs
- Open shifts: Tuesday 10-1, Wednesday 1-4, every other Friday 4-7 & 7-10
- New feature: Web visits- 4937
- There is a leak in the water line to the air conditioner. Will be getting that fixed soon.
- Night phones are fairly well covered.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

- The list of questions for the IG inventory is too long. The steering committee will be discussing which one to take out. Ralph T. has agreed to facilitate the inventory.
- The Steering Committee Inventory is open to anyone.

VI. PASS IT ON

- This month's PIO is grey.
- Pg 2 has the web stats.
- In the minutes section 15 is the group contributions.
- Page 7 has fliers where we can't print members last names or Phone numbers.

VII. SCHEDULES

- Pink for Spring.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- No report.

IX. WEB SITE

- Nothing to report

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

- Putting the catalog together.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Seniors Seeking Serenity: Pattie McC-25 years!

Seeking Serenity: Brandon L-60 days! Lydia-6 months! One day at a time!

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

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

- Nothin'.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Nothin'.

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Blackouts- The Prom you Never had Sober. June 11th @ the Heights club.
- Singleness of Purpose- 3rd annual Birthday. May 14th 7pm
- Area 46 State Convention June 4th-6th in Roswell.
- Workshop on Anonymity on May 21st at Nativity Church @ 9am
- Founders Day June 10th at the Desert Club
- Foothills 3rd Saturday of the month is Kereoke

Close @ 1431. Seriously. Quickest meeting ever.

CHILDREN OF CHAOS

➤ Finding a roadmap to recovery through the Traditions.

Saturday 29 October 2011
9am - 2pm
Nativity Church Parish Hall
9502 4th St NW at Alameda

★ FREE raffle, archives and Grapevine displays

8:30 - 9am
REGISTRATION, FELLOWSHIP, LIGHT BREAKFAST

9am - 12pm
TRADITIONS PRESENTATIONS

12pm
POTLUCK LUNCH BRING A DISH TO SHARE

1pm
SPEAKER

2pm
RAFFLE DRAWING AND CLOSE



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.**

April 2011 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$10,074.78
Cost of Sales	\$3,727.72
Gross Income	\$6,347.06
Expenses	\$5,819.72
NET INCOME (month)	\$527.34
NET INCOME (YTD)	\$-2,654.00

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.

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, Magdalena, 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.

April 2011 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	APR 11	MAR 11	APR 10
Information	n/a	732	n/a
12-Step	n/a	1	n/a
AI-Anon	n/a	15	n/a
Message	n/a	26	n/a
Other	n/a	27	n/a
TOTAL	n/a	1041	n/a

WALK INS	APR 11	MAR 11	APR 10
Information	n/a	12	n/a
12-Step	n/a	2	n/a
AI-Anon	n/a	1	n/a
Get Schedule	n/a	8	n/a
Purchase	n/a	176	n/a
Tapes	n/a	1	n/a
Message	n/a	0	n/a
Casual	n/a	20	n/a
Other	n/a	27	n/a
TOTAL	n/a	247	n/a

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS	APR 11
Unique Visitors	2402
Number of Visits	4937 (2.05 visits/visitor)
Pages viewed	24207 (4.9 pages/visit)

DESK WORKERS*	APR 11
Regulars	n/a
Substitutes	n/a
TOTAL	n/a

DESK SHIFTS*	APR 11
Weekdays	n/a
Weekends	n/a
TOTAL	n/a

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	APR 11
Worked by Regulars	n/a
Worked by Substitutes	n/a
TOTAL	n/a

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	APR 11
Worked by Regulars	n/a
Worked by Substitutes	n/a
TOTAL	n/a

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	APR 11
3 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
2 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
Night phone (n/a)	n/a hours

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	APR 11
3 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
2 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
Night phone (n/a)	n/a hours
TOTAL	n/a hours

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS DOES NOT WORK IN THEORY—IT ONLY WORKS IN PRACTICE!



Founders Day Picnic



District 18

Hosted by: There is a Solution Group

Saturday
June 11, 2011
11am - 3pm

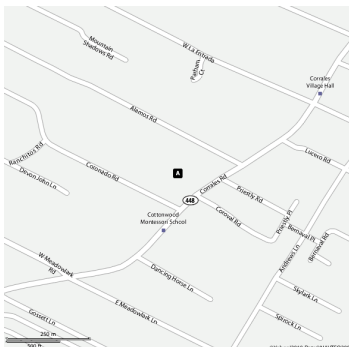
Corrales Recreation
Center
500 Jones Rd.
Jones Rd. and Corrales Rd.



Speaker: Patty B.-T. from Corrales

Food: hamburgers and
Hot dogs are provided,
Bring a favorite side dish
To share

Fishing, Volleyball
Swimming Pool (fee)



*But we aren't a glum lot...
We absolutely insist on enjoying life.
-ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS P.132*

DISTRICT 11 PICNIC

*Bring a newcomer, bring the family,
bring an oldtimer, bring a spouse,
bring a dish to share or just show up.*

Saturday, August 20, 2011
Jemez Falls Group Area

8AM Breakfast
12PM Potluck Lunch
meat provided by District 11, bring a favorite side dish/dessert/chips/beverage
2PM Open meeting

FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND GAMES ALL DAY
volleyball, horseshoes and hiking

DIRECTIONS From the Jemez Ranger Station go 7½ miles north to the junction of State Roads 4 and 126 at La Cueva. Follow State Road 4 approximately 6 miles east to the campground turnout on your right (between mile marker 31 and 32). From the turn-off continue approximately 1¼ miles to Jemez Falls Group Area which is south of the family campground.

For those who want to camp, campsites are available and may be reserved at www.recreation.gov.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!



ALBUQUERQUE INTERGROUP SPEAKER MEETING AND CENTRAL OFFICE FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by DISTRICT 11

Saturday, July 9
SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY CHURCH
1801 Montano Road NW

6:30 PM
Potluck

7:30 PM
Speaker—Ilse G of Albuquerque

A fundraising raffle will follow the speaker.
All proceeds will be donated to Central Office.

DONATIONS for the raffle can be brought
to the meeting or dropped off at Central Office.

Alcoholics Anonymous
NM District 18 Presents

Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Literature Information Workshop

Saturday, July 30, 2011
10:00 AM-1:30 PM
Lunch Provided

Please RSVP For Lunch by July 25, 2011

This workshop is presented for both those in recovery and those who work with those who may need help. Join us bringing community together to help carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, through professionals working in the fields of health, justice and education.

LOCATION:

St. Paul's United Church
2701 The American Road, Rio Rancho, NM

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