

albuquerqueaa.org

# PASS IT ON

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Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

505-266-1900

## **Step Six: *Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.***

### **Wrinkles in My Ego**

STEP SIX says, "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." How to be entirely ready has been quite a puzzler for me. I have to keep in mind that the Step does not say, "I tinkered with my personality till I became perfect." First of all, I am not sure what perfect is; and second, when it comes to ironing out the wrinkles in my ego, I am about as clever as a gorilla repairing a wrist-watch.

The first thing I have to keep in mind is that *God* does the removing, as well as deciding what is to be removed. So many of my difficulties were caused by the misapplication of God-given virtues that if I tried to sort them out, I would very likely throw out much of the wheat with the chaff. But, after twenty years of trying to become entirely ready for God to do His work, I can honestly say it sure is worth the effort.

At one time or another, many of us feel insecure, inadequate, and uncertain. Somehow, we just aren't very enthusiastic about the present. As of today, I am quite sure what *not* to do for this state of affairs. I used to resort to a form of liquid courage that seemed to be just what I needed.

For me today, the process of becoming ready to have God remove these defects of character starts with being where it is happening--at meetings! If we ask for God's guidance and go about our business *as though* we were going to get it--we will. I also believe that we should be active in seeking God's help and passive in accepting His guidance.

Perhaps, one of the next things to remember is that,

since I have been mixed-up for several decades, it would not be realistic for me to expect to come up smelling like Albert Schweitzer overnight. "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small." I have to tell myself: Stay sober and wait.

It is very difficult to steer a parked car and make much progress toward any destination. I try to get moving by using what I have. When I first came to AA, I was so far gone, I couldn't remember a phone number long enough to dial it, so I had to write it down. I was not stable enough to hold a good job, so I took a mediocre job. In fact, I had five jobs after I sobered up, and each paid less than the previous one. You might say I had a very promising future behind me. The sixth job finally paid off, and I got back to my trade. I had to use what I had. In short, I had to be going somewhere before I could be guided.

These are some of the things I have learned along the way from the people in AA. I have also seen people who have grasped the program hang on in spite of tremendous odds, such as slow death by cancer or sudden loss of loved ones by accident. Whatever the character defects of these people might have been, drinking was not among them. They stuck to the program.

God as I understand Him does not cheat anyone. I don't pretend to know how, when, or where the score is evened up, but I am certain that it always is.

J. B. Rochester, New York

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# First Things First!

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**Abuquerque 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 Grace United Methodist Church  
420 San Lorenzo NW (at 4th)

**District 12** - 10:15 am, 2nd Saturday, Heights Club,  
8520 Marble NE in Rm #3

**District 13** - 10 am, 2nd Saturday, St Thomas of Canterbury (2nd floor)  
425 University Blvd NE (1 blk N of MLK Blvd)

**District 18** - 10:30am, 2nd Saturday, United Methodist Church,  
136 Calle Alameda, Bernalillo

**Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee**

Lindsey C. - **Chair**  
*Chair@albuquerqueaa.org*

Ginger B. - **Secretary**  
*Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org*

Tom M. - **Treasurer**  
*Treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org*

Lydia R. - **Schedule Editor**  
*Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org*

Vacant - **Member-at-Large**  
*MemberAtLarge@albuquerqueaa.org*

Vacant - **Pass It On Editor**  
*PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org*

Alaina - **Special Needs Coordinator**  
*SpecialNeeds@albuquerqueaa.org*

Leanna S. - **Web Site Chair**  
*Web@albuquerqueaa.org*

Ric R. - **Media Librarian**  
*Media@albuquerqueaa.org*

Jeff C. - **Community Outreach**  
*CommunityOutreach@albuquerqueaa.org*

Vacant - **Intergroup Liaison**  
*IntergroupLiaison@albuquerqueaa.org*

Michael W. - **CO Coordinator**  
*Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org*

Debra - **Alternate CO Coordinator**  
*AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org*

## Coping with Anger

Few people have more victimized by resentments than have we alcoholics. A burst of temper could spoil a day, and a well-nursed grudge could make us miserably ineffective. Nor were we ever skillful in separating justified from unjustified anger. As we saw it, our wrath was always justified. Anger, the occasional luxury of more balanced people, could keep us on an emotional jag indefinitely. These “dry benders” often led straight to the bottle.

Nothing pays off like restraint of tongue and pen. We must avoid quick-tempered criticism, furious power-driven argument sulking, and silent scorn. These are emotional booby traps baited with pride and vengefulness. When we are tempted by the bait, we should train ourselves to step back and think. We can neither think nor act to good purpose until the habit of self-restraint has become automatic.

**As Bill Sees It** page 179

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## DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in Pass It On are solely those of the individual author and do not necessarily represent those of the Editor, Central Office, Area 46, any specific group or AA entity, or of AA itself and in no way does publication imply endorsement of such opinions.

**DEADLINE:** The deadline for the submission of articles, birthdays, and events to the Pass It On is now the 15th of the month. Thank You!

| Central Office Financial Snapshot |             |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| April 2016                        |             |             |
|                                   | April       | YTD 2016    |
| Total Revenues                    | \$8043.91   | \$32456.84  |
| Total Cost of Sales               | \$3472.40   | \$12634.68  |
| Gross Income                      | 4571.51     | \$19822.16  |
| Total Expenses                    | \$5811.51   | \$23298.96  |
| Net Profit (Loss)                 | (\$1240.00) | (\$3476.80) |

**Experience, Strength and Hope Needed!**

Intergroup's monthly newsletter, Pass It On, would like your contribution in the form of an article or story about any recovery-related topic. Share part of your story with the Albuquerque area.

Here are some questions to get your ideas going:

- Have you attended meetings outside of Albuquerque or New Mexico? How is Albuquerque AA similar or different (perhaps better?) than AA in other areas of the country or the world?
- Where did you get sober? How does geography affect your sobriety?
- How did you choose your home group? What makes you keep coming back?
- Do you have memorable experiences from attending AA functions (e.g. workshops, potlucks, dances, special speaker meetings)?
- How has your sponsor helped you stay sober? How has sponsorship contributed to your sobriety?

Submit your articles to the Pass It On Editor at the Central Office.

**Responsibility Declaration**

*I am responsible.*

*When anyone, anywhere,*

*reaches out for help,*

*I want the hand of AA always*

*to be there. And for that:*

*I am responsible.*

| April 2016                               |               |                          |                           |                   |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Monthly Services Activities Report       |               |                          |                           |                   |
|  |               | April 2016               | March 2016                | April 2015        |
| <b>Phone Calls:</b>                      |               |                          |                           |                   |
| Information                              |               | 333                      | 354                       | 374               |
| 12-Step                                  |               | 11                       | 12                        | 18                |
| Al-Anon                                  |               | 10                       | 4                         | 5                 |
| Message                                  |               | 31                       | 33                        | 49                |
| Other                                    |               | <u>79</u>                | <u>85</u>                 | <u>132</u>        |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 464                      | 488                       | 578               |
| <b>Walk-ins:</b>                         |               |                          |                           |                   |
| Information                              |               | 14                       | 13                        | 20                |
| 12-Step                                  |               | 0                        | 1                         | 1                 |
| Al-Anon                                  |               | 1                        | 3                         | 1                 |
| Schedule                                 |               | 7                        | 1                         | 14                |
| Purchase                                 |               | 139                      | 190                       | 126               |
| Media                                    |               | 3                        | 4                         | 5                 |
| Message                                  |               | 2                        | 8                         | 9                 |
| Casual                                   |               | 18                       | 43                        | 43                |
| Other                                    |               | <u>28</u>                | <u>38</u>                 | <u>42</u>         |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 212                      | 301                       | 261               |
| <b>Web Visits:</b>                       |               |                          |                           |                   |
|  |               |                          | 4029                      | 4173              |
| <b>Deskworkers:*</b>                     |               |                          |                           |                   |
| Regulars                                 |               | 43                       | 43                        | 42                |
| Substitutes                              |               | <u>25</u>                | <u>20</u>                 | <u>35</u>         |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 68                       | 63                        | 77                |
| <b>Deskshifts:*</b>                      |               |                          |                           |                   |
| Weekdays                                 |               | 126                      | 138                       | 132               |
| Weekends                                 |               | <u>45</u>                | <u>40</u>                 | <u>40</u>         |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 171                      | 178                       | 172               |
| <b>Weekday Shifts:*</b>                  |               |                          |                           |                   |
| Worked by regulars:                      |               | 110 (87.3%)              | 108 (78.3%)               | 110 (83.3%)       |
| Worked by Subs:                          |               | <u>14 (11.1%)</u>        | <u>29 (21%)</u>           | <u>20 (15.2%)</u> |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 124 (98.4%)              | 137 (99.3%)               | 130 (98.5%)       |
| <b>Weekend Shifts:*</b>                  |               |                          |                           |                   |
| Worked by Regulars                       |               | 34 (75.5%)               | 29 (72.5%)                | 29 (72.5%)        |
| Worked by Subs:                          |               | <u>10 (22.2%)</u>        | <u>10 (25%)</u>           | <u>11 (22.5%)</u> |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 44 (97.7%)               | 39 (99.5%)                | 40 (100%)         |
| <b>*Night shifts not covered</b>         |               | 2 weeknight<br>1 weekend | 1 weeknight<br>1 week end | 2 weeknight       |
| <b>Shifts not worked by a volunteer:</b> |               |                          |                           |                   |
|  |               | 7                        | 17.5                      | 15                |
|  |               |                          |                           | 2 – 2 hr. shifts  |
|  | <b>Total:</b> | 21 hours                 | 52.5 hrs.                 | 43 hours          |

# Beta Testers Needed for Rocket Ship Development

Hey Kids! Have you heard the news? Not just any news, but big, BIG news. You can now support your Central Office from the safety, convenience, and comfort of your own home! That's right! When you find yourself alone in the dark with nothing but a communications device, credit card and vague disquiet you can reach out to the recovering world and do your bit to carry the message of A.A.! So put down that remote and seize your I-whatever or Smart thingamajig and log onto [albuquerqueaa.org](http://albuquerqueaa.org). You'll see a new tab on the banner (I know you will, you're a keen observer of minutiae!) marked "Support." Peck at it until something happens. You'll be transported to a world where ennui becomes bliss, emptiness gives way to meaning, passion, and fulfillment. That renewed sense of purpose you've just been itching for will, at long last, be within your grasp. That's right! That elusive 4<sup>th</sup> dimension you've heard so much about! And

it's tax deductible!! So log on, tune in and top out, you'll be ever so glad you did!



**Concept 6 (Short Form)** The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the conference acting as the General service Board.

*(Long Form)* On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principle 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.

## The Traditions Checklist

### Tradition Six

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

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism? Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

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**Service Opportunity**  
**Help Carry The Message**

Saturday, June 4, 2016  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to carry the AA message into the New Mexico State Correctional facilities. Women (or men) are especially needed to carry the message into the NM Women's Correctional Facility in Grants, NM.

**Volunteer training will be held at:**

New Beginnings Church  
3601 Montgomery Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

1 year recommended sobriety  
3 years off paper

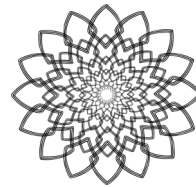
"Remember it was agreed at the beginning we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol."  
Alcoholics Anonymous page 76

**Founders Day Picnic**

Sat June 11, 2016  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

*"There is a Solution" Group is sponsoring  
The District 18 Founders Day Picnic,  
with grillin' burgers, hotdogs, H<sub>2</sub>O, coffee, and the Solution Band.*

*You bring light hearts, a side dish, your juice-harp,  
loved ones, and fine singing voice.  
At the Corrales Recreation Center, West Soccer Field.  
500 Jones Rd. off Corrales Rd  
(Downtown) Corrales, NM*

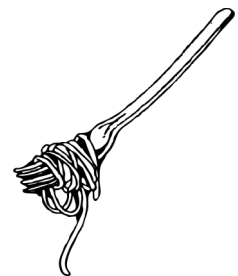


**Come Celebrate Central Office  
30th Anniversary  
Spaghetti Dinner and Speaker Meeting**

Saturday, June 18 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Metropolitan Community  
Church of Albuquerque  
1103 Texas Dr. NE



- ◆ Hosted by Live and Let Live
- ◆ Suggested Donation \$6.00
- ◆ Spaghetti Dinner 6PM
- ◆ Speaker Meeting 7PM
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle

**All Proceeds go to Help Central Office!**

**Planning Meetings scheduled for the  
WOMENS SOBRIETY FEST in September , 2016**

May 15, 2016

June 19, 2016

July 17, 2016

August 21, 2016

September 18, 2016

**All meetings at 3:30PM**

Come Join us in planning this years event!

We meet at the Nativity Church

9502 4th St. NW, Albuquerque

Please visit website [www.nmaawfs.com](http://www.nmaawfs.com) for more information. Sponsored by the Women's Sobriety Fest meeting.

**NMCYPAA 2016 Convention  
"Experience Strength and Hope"  
August 12, 13, and 14**

Hotel Encanto

705 South Telshor BLVD

Las Cruces, NM

**For more information see website: <http://www.nmcypaa.com/>**

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**25th NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL  
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CONVENTION  
October 27-30, 2016**

*Buffalo Thunder Resort  
20 Buffalo Thunder Trail  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506  
Pueblo of Pojoaque*

**NAI-AA CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
*(702) 716-7033  
Email: [info@nai-aa.com](mailto:info@nai-aa.com)*

This year's 2016 NAI-AA Convention marks 25 years of carrying the message of AA to the Alcoholic who still suffers. The Convention will feature:

**Speaker Meetings**

*Social Dance*

*AI-Anon Meetings*

*Talking Circles*

*Flag Ceremony*

**Banquet**

*Hospitality Area*

*AI-Anon Brunch*

*Sobriety PowWow*

For more information or to Register On-line see website: <http://www.nai-aa.com>

**Intergroup Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2016**  
**BrownBaggers Meeting Space**

In attendance: Stephen How It Works, Johnny W., Intergroup Liaison, Isleta Gp., Gayle-Downtown Lunch Bunch, Ginger IG Secretary, Serenity Gp., Jeff C. Community Outreach, Straight Pepper Diet, Henry L. District 11, Seeking Serenity, Lydia R. Schedule Ed. Seeking Serenity, Eric, Brownbaggers, Tom M., IG Treasurer, Dawn Patrol, Michael W. C.O. Coordinator, Too Much for Us, Alaina G. Special Needs, Ladies Room.

At 2:12, Treasurer Tom, also acting Chair, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Introductions

Treasurer's Report, Tom: The Income Statement ending April 30, 2016, showed Total Revenues at \$8043.91; Total Cost of Sales at \$3472.40; Group Contributions were \$1999.08; Individual and other contributions were \$539.25; Faithful Fiver Contributions were at \$200.00; other AA Contributions, \$48.99. Revenues, \$8043.91; Cost of Sales, \$3472.40; Total Gross Income was \$4571.51. Operating Expenses were \$5811.51. Net Income was

-\$1240.00. Motion was made by Henry to accept and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alaina to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

April 10, 2016 meeting minutes were read by Secretary Ginger B. upon her arrival.

Motion to accept the minutes with amendments was made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Office Coordinator, Michael W.: Alternate Coordinator, Debra K. is working the desk phones this afternoon and is therefore unable to be at the meeting. He provided the Service Activities Report (attached) in her absence. Substitute desk workers are needed. ***We're only as strong as our participation.***

Chips and books are on the way. Purchasing fewer books, which costs more in shipping charges; less revenue per book is the result.

Taking on-line contributions: A copy of the contributions website page was passed out for review. Michael advised that the wording is in line with AA Traditions and is set up in accordance with those Traditions. Minor changes to be made to the page, and then it will go live on the website. There are a number of ways to contribute to Central Office, such as becoming a monthly Faithful Fiver or Trusted Tenter; monthly bill pay, walk in and pay with credit or debit card...now we will also provide on-line contribution payment.

Ways the groups are helping to raise funds to cover C.O. shortfalls: A number of groups are increasing their contributions to C.O. by certain percentages; other groups are passing a separate can; Intergroup Speaker meetings are being hosted by groups; Groups can also hold a C.O. Workshop.

Alternate Coordinator, Debra K.: Working the desk – see attached report.

Schedule Editor, Lydia: New schedule was printed. Website should be current regarding meetings; the website is updated as meeting changes come in.

Special Needs, Alaina: The Ladies Room is self-supporting in regards to ASL Interpreters. Men's Stag cannot support an ASL Interpreter. Brown Baggers has a 6-7pm meeting with ASL Interpreter on Saturday nights, along with another meeting – although we don't know when that meeting is.

Media Librarian, Ric: Absent.

Community Outreach, Jeff: Nothing coming up in the near future. The committee has a Jobs Corp commitment monthly, where information on AA is provided to the adolescents there. NMCYPAA will speak to this group soon.

Intergroup Liaison, Johnny: Getting familiar with the position and will get list of groups to visit.

Website Chair: Absent.

Old Business;

Vacant Positions to be filled:

Member at Large – no volunteers.

Pass It On Editor – Susan W. put together and printed the May Pass-It-On, and was unable to be here today; however, she will be at the meeting next month to stand for disapproval for this position. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept Susan W. as temporary PIO editor. Motion carried unanimously.

Shortfall in Central Office finances: Michael advised that there are no utilities other than the phone or Internet; Ginger B., as group rep for Serenity Group advised that her group would like to know if C.O. has considered reorganization as a way to cut costs. Michael advised that Central Office operates in the manner the groups had intended since the 1970s. Staff at C.O. works for the groups. By -Laws would have to be looked at, amendments voted upon by Intergroup, in order to reorganize.

New Business:

ASL Checking Account held by Central Office – Alaina wanted to know if that account would remain open to receive funds. Treasurer Tom advised that it would.

Announcements

District 18 is holding an Intergroup Speaker Meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to close the meeting made by Lydia; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alaina. Meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger B.

Intergroup Secretary

Albuquerque Central Office  
1921 Alvarado NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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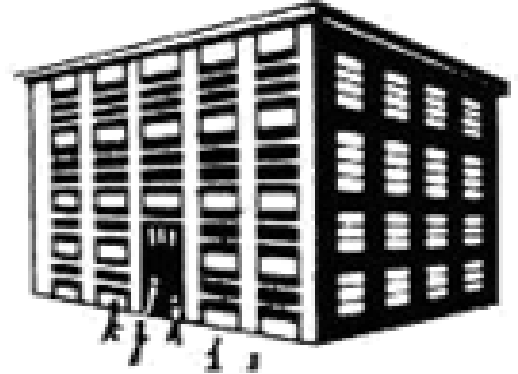
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### ***Become a Faithful Fiver !!***

***Pledge \$5 a month to Central Office and you'll get Pass It On delivered to your door.***



**Albuquerque Intergroup  
Central Office  
(505) 266-1900**

1921 Alvarado NE  
Albuquerque, NM

2 blocks north of Constitution and  
4 blocks east of San Mateo

Hours:

Monday through Friday  
8 am to 10 pm

Saturday and Sunday  
9 am to 9 pm

**[www.AlbuquerqueAA.org](http://www.AlbuquerqueAA.org)**