

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: www.albuquerqueaa.org

Intergroup Committee Meeting Minutes

7.9.07

submitted by Brain H.

David C – Chair

David opened the meeting at 2:07 with the Serenity Prayer.

Brian – Secretary –

Review of June meeting Minutes as published in July 2007 *Pass It On*. Minutes accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report – Steve H.

Assets: A little low for the month. Nothing particularly extraordinary to report here. Income statement: Group contributions were up quite a bit for the month. Faithful Fivers are up as well, which is nice to see. These contributions keep the doors of Central Office open. Thank you! Total Revenues: Only in the red a little bit for the month; still in the red for the year. The margin isn't huge, so things may balance soon. No big expenses this month, and things are caught up expense-wise. Will hold off dipping into prudent reserve until things look a little more severe. Group numbers are good, and we're seeing more and more groups contribute, including groups that have never contributed as well as contributions from groups outside the InterGroup area. Treasurer's Report accepted by acclamation.

The 7th Tradition basket was passed.

Michael W – Central Office Coordinator's Report

June was a fairly active month in terms of phone and walk-in traffic – a typical summer upswing. June was also a rare month for Coordinators – relatively low number of substitute desk hours worked by Michael and Kathy. Day shifts are well covered by volunteers; staffing Night

phones remains a recurrent problem. Currently, half of the Night shifts are without regular volunteer coverage – which creates a pretty dire need for volunteers to cover the overnight phone. Night phone activity is fairly light. Once again, we're facing a serious situation in terms of staffing the night phones.

Kathy – Alternate Coordinator's Report

Good month. Working updating referral listings in the rolodex.

Melissa – Activities Coordinator

Introduction of Tiffany, Activities Co-Coordinator. Welcome Tiffany! The Central Office picnic is upon us! Afternoon of July 21, 2007. The details are arranged, and we're good to go. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped arrange this great event, and to the groups who contributed resources to the event. The Old-Timers Meeting: Saturday, August 18, 1:30-5 pm @ The Heights Club. Seeking a chair for the event – donations of snacks and desserts also welcome. ALKATHON/InterGroup New Year's Eve Event – still seeking location that is large enough and suitable for the event. Input and suggestions are welcome!!! Next InterGroup Speaker Meeting: Saturday, August 25 – host to be determined.

Martha G. – Member at Large

Nothing to report.

Sally – *Pass It On* editor

Not present. But *Pass It On* is! Find it at Central Office or on the website.

Al J. – Schedule Editor

New schedule printed and delivered. Lovely summer brown. *(cont. on page 3)*

Volume 69, Issue 8

August 2007

Heard at meetings...

"I don't know what I want, but I want a lot of it."

*Anonymous, via e-mail
Grapevine, December
2005*

Inside this issue:

<i>Central Office Intergroup Committee Meeting Minutes</i>	1
<i>Corrections Corner Faithful Fivers</i>	2
<i>Meeting Minutes cont.</i>	3
<i>Group Contributions First Half Contributions</i>	4
<i>"Group Concerns..... from Dr. Bob</i>	5
<i>Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.</i>	6
<i>Mix and Match the 12 x 12</i>	7
<i>PIO Subscription Form Office Hours and directions</i>	8

Corrections Corner

This space is dedicated to the corrections community — and to be used as a message board to anyone interested in this type of service work.

A number of Halfway House meetings are organized in Albuquerque. These meetings are important to the residents and they give the volunteers a good feel for carrying the message “behind the walls.” Most of the residents either have been incarcerated or are awaiting sentencing. Volunteer orientation and picture badges are usually not required; you can attend immediately.

To get involved, call one of the contacts below:

- Volunteers are needed at Diersen Charities, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Diersen houses Federal offenders. Native American members of the fellowship are especially needed as volunteers. Call Clint S. at 888-1553.
- La Pasada has an active volunteer community and it's a great meeting on Friday nights at 7:00 pm. Call Brian V. at 833-0795 for more information.
- Dismas House assists motivated men and women on probation and parole to transition successfully into society. There is a Monday meeting at 7:30 pm; call Pat McN. at 341-0377 for more information.

Yours in service,
Ralph T.

Become a Faithful Fiver !!

Just pledge
\$ 5.00 a month
to the support of
helping alcoholics
who still suffer.
It's tax deductible and
you'll get the Pass It On
newsletter delivered to your door.



Checks payable to *Albuquerque Central Office.* *Thanks for your support!*

Central Office Steering Committee E-mail addresses:

- Michael W.** - CO Coordinator
Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org
- Kathy** - Alt. CO Coordinator
AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org
- Dave C.** - Chair@albuquerqueaa.org
- Al J.** - Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org
- Brian H.**
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org
- Melissa C.**
Activities@albuquerqueaa.org
- Martha G.**
Memberatlarge@albuquerqueaa.org
- Sally** - PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org
- Peggy-**
Specialneeds@albuquerqueaa.org
- Tom C.** - Website Chair
anonymous@albuquerqueaa.org
- Grace L.** - Media Librarian
media@albuquerqueaa.org
- John** -
publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

Intergroup Rep Meeting
2:00 pm, 2nd Sunday
Desert Club

District 3
2:00 pm, 2nd Saturday
call the DCM for location

District 11
9:00 am, 2nd Saturday
Harwood Methodist Church
420 San Lorenzo NW (at 4th)

District 12
9:30 am, 2nd Saturday
Heights Club

District 13
10:00 am, 2nd Sunday
Desert Club

Central Office Meeting Minutes *cont.*

Work ongoing to synchronize the print schedule and online schedule.

John – Community Outreach

Good action going on this month. Participating in CNM's week-long Mental Health Fair this week, on four days on four different campuses. Thanks to all the volunteers who agreed so readily to assist with these events.

Peggy –Special Needs

Nothing to report.

Grace – Media Librarian

Not present.

Tom C. – Web Chairperson

Not present.

Old Business –

Review of job descriptions for each service position on the Steering Committee is ongoing. Will revise these job descriptions prior to soliciting nominees for these positions in September, in anticipation of December elections. Discussion of the Special Needs Chair description and the possible necessity of rethinking the particulars of the job description for this position. Discussion about InterGroup's priority to provide services that the group's are unable to provide and to not duplicate or compete with positions at the District level. Welcome input on the nature/future of this position.

New Business –

Two Issues related to NIGHT PHONES: Answering Machine for Night Phones: The Steering Committee authorized installing an Answering Machine back up system as soon as possible to

support the Coordinators during those periods when Night Phone volunteers are unavailable.

Recruiting and

Retaining Night Phone Volunteers:

The fellowship must take responsibility for seeing that the Night Phone volunteer shifts are fully staffed. The coordinators should maintain the schedule and can cover occasional gaps at their discretion but coordinators should not be expected to fill-in for volunteer shifts on a regular basis (as they have been doing intermittently over the last months/years). The Central Office's tradition of answering the phone 24/7 is an important one, but it depends entirely on volunteers. The Steering Committee should take the lead on this and voice the need for Night Phone volunteers in any available venue. InterGroup representatives should be encouraged to spread the word as well. Discussion of training Night Phone volunteers, and logistics of call answering. Discussion of making some information available at the upcoming events (picnic, Old Timers, next Speaker meeting) and in *Pass It On*. Night phone volunteers should have 2 years of continuous sobriety, a home group, sponsor and a working familiarity with the steps and traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Additional training/consultations are available at Central Office during business hours. Interested Volunteers should contact Central

Office for more details.

Special Announcements –
Metropolitan Group – needs Chair/ Speaker for several upcoming meeting/s.

David closed the meeting with the Third Step prayer.

ATTENDEES:

Dave C (Dawn Patrol/Chair)
Janis B (Seeking Serenity)
Paula G (Any Lengths)
Dennis M (Isleta Group)
Martha G (Cosmopolitan/Member At Large)
Peggy A (Women On Wednesday/ Special Needs)
Wally L (High Noon)
Jim O (Live and Let Live)
Melissa C. (Early Birds/ Activities Chair)
John S (BrownBaggers/ Community Outreach)
Al J (District 13/Schedule Editor)
Kathy H (Metropolitan/Alternate Coordinator)
Steve H (Treasurer)
Michael W (East Mountain/ Coordinator)
Tiffany B (Sunrise Sobriety)
Brian H (Dawn Patrol/Secretary)
Margaret L (Women In Progress)
Bill B (Goodfellows)
Brian H. (CO Secretary/Dawn Patrol)

Please send a representative from your home group to the next Intergroup meeting. We meet the second Sunday of every month, at 2:00 pm, at the Desert Club.

See you there!

Excerpts from Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers, As Bill Sees It, Living Sober, are printed with permission of AAWS, Inc. Excerpts from The Grapevine are printed with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.

Other Numbers: Al-Anon 262-2177 Oficina Intergrupala Hispana 266-3688

The following contributed to Central Office.....

This data is from June 1 to June 31 and is not inclusive for the entire calendar month!

Groups:

Alameda Men's Stag
Brownbaggers
Candlelight Group
Corrales Group
Corrales Smokefree
Dawn Patrol
Happy Valley Group
Hole in the Wall Group
How It Works
Lone Rangers
Kiva Group
Magdalena Thursday Night
New Frontiers
Queer Ideas of Fun
Raymac Group
Serendipity Group
Serenity Group

Sunlight of the Spirit
Sunrise Sobriety
Westside Group

Individuals:

Anonymous
David M.
Don C.
Karen F.
Paul M.
Robert U.
Tom
Winston B.

Faithful Fivers:

Al J.
Beverly D.
Catherine A.
Cecelia D.

Dan O'.
Dave N.
Don C.
Emma D.
Geraldine C.
Jim F.
Merle P.
Partha B.
Phil & Barbara C.
Ralph T.
Rojo R.
Sarah F.
Trudy H.

*Thank you all for supporting
your Central Office!!!!*

ALBUQUERQUE CENTRAL OFFICE CONTRIBUTORS

FIRST HALF 2007

Brownbaggers	\$340.75	Mountainside Group	\$ 44.00
1-2-3 Beginners Group	150.00	New Frontier Group	100.00
Alameda Men's Stag	188.25	One Day At A Time	135.00
Any Lengths Women's Group	180.00	Placitas Group	110.00
Back to Basics - Albuquerque	210.00	Promises Group	350.00
Came To Believe Group Estancia	10.00	Queer Ideas of Fun	150.00
Campus Step Study	50.00	Raymac Group	\$5.00
Corrales Group	146.25	Rio Rancho Men's Stag	75.00
Corrales Men's Stag	55.00	S.O.S. Monday Night	200.00
Corrales Smokefree Group	100.00	Seeking Serenity	255.00
Dawn Patrol	2,163.55	Seniors Seeking Serenity	215.00
Dawning Promises	52.37	Serendipity Group	312.30
Del Norte Breakfast Group	205.20	Serenity Group of Albuquerque	200.00
Down Under Group	150.00	Share the Legacy	200.00
East Mountain Group	800.00	Six O'Clock Irregulars	10.00
Foothills Group	587.81	Staying Sober at Sunrise	89.00
Free Spirits Group	105.62	Step Along With AA	110.50
Freedom From Bondage	250.00	Sunday Night Serenity	75.00
Group 164	110.00	Sunlight of The Spirit	35.00
Happy Hour Group	38.48	Sunrise Catchers	10.00
Happy Valley Group	70.51	Sunrise Sobriety	408.24
High Country Group	150.00	Taylor Ranch Fellowship	28.00
High Noon Group	140.00	The Ladies Room	101.82
Hole In The Wall Group-Capitan	26.00	Thinking Straight	100.00
How It Works	262.00	Three Legacies Group	50.00
Isleta Group	137.54	Triangle Group	30.00
Jemez Springs Group	40.00	Tuesday 12 and 12	15.00
Kiva Group	500.05	Tuesday Knights	42.96
Live and Let Live	97.27	Westside AA	150.00
Lone Rangers Group	348.20	Westside Noon Group	261.64
Lunch Box Group - Rio Rancho	300.00	Women in Progress	2.00
Magdalena Group	22.00	Zia Pueblo Group	25.00
		Total Group Contributions	\$11,882.56
Individual Contributors	\$ 3,977.80	Special AA Event Contributions	\$ 443.30
Faithful Fivers	705.00	Other AA Contributors	145.43

Group Concerns and angry rumors an excerpt from chapter XXI from Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers page 261

Meetings in Cleveland evolved somewhat differently from those in Akron. "We opened with an audible prayer," said Clarence S. "The speaker, who was chosen four weeks in advance, spoke for 45 minutes, and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

"Then, we would reopen for informal comments, questions, and so forth. The total meeting might go on anywhere from one and a half hours to two hours. No smoking was allowed in the first part of the meeting, only in the informal part.

"That's the trouble," Clarence said. "They take it so casually today. I think a little discipline is necessary. I think A.A. was more effective in those days. Records in Cleveland show that 93 percent of those who came to us never had a drink again. When I discovered that people had slips in A.A., it really shook me up. Today, it's all watered down so much. Anyone can wander in now."

Warren C., also an early Cleveland member, had a somewhat more optimistic view of A.A. when interviewed in 1977. "I think the program is just the same," he said. "The principles are there; the Steps are there; the practices are there; and the opportunities are there. If you do as the Big Book says, then it is the same program that existed when I came in, in 1939.

"We have more people in and out of the program now," he said. "But that's understandable, because we have more people. The people who wanted to stay sober then were the ones who did what the program suggested. Today, the people who want to stay sober are the ones who do what the program tells them to do. The only difference is that I don't know everybody in the program anymore.

"One big thing is that today people come in who have lost every dime, their wives, and their kids. That wasn't true in the early days. There wasn't much money, but most of the men still had their wives and families.

"The other thing is that there are so many young people. For example, my son came in when he was 31. I came in when I was 38. Those seven years made a tremendous difference.

"I was washed up at 36," Warren said. "Now, here I am, they look at you and want to hear all that you have to say whether it means anything or not. They

(the newer members) might have something far more important to offer."

By September 1940, Cleveland was reporting to Bill in New York that, in addition to its own six meetings and 400 to 500 member, Ohio had meetings in Akron, Toledo, Youngstown, Dayton, Ravenna, Wooster, and Canton.

Dorothy S., Clarence's wife, inquired about the possibility of a mimeographed directory, "showing where people are," and also suggested a newsletter that could be sent to all groups and "bring everybody closer together." Up to then, Ohio A.A.'s had simply been reading letters from Bill at the meetings, just as Bill would read letters from Akron and Cleveland at the New York meetings.

The active or even recently active alcoholic was definitely not welcome at early meetings in Cleveland. In September 1940, Clarence wrote Bill that "several groups do not permit a rummy to attend unless he has been hospitalized or talked to by ten men." Clarence noted that they then had a definite setup" with three hospitals and two sanitariums, and that there were ten to 15 hospitalized at all times.

By January 1941, requirements had eased up--slightly. Clarence wrote that "most groups" required either hospitalization, being talked to by at least five members, or being passed by a committee before a new person could attend meetings.

In Youngstown, it was usual for two couples to visit the prospective member before he attended his first meeting. The husband would tell the man about A.A., and the woman would talk to the wife. "That way, they would know what it was all about when they finally got to A.A.," said Norman Y.

"Various groups have various distinctions," Clarence wrote. "But the general idea is to try and prepare a fellow and give him a pretty good understanding of the aims and principles of A.A. before he comes to meetings. This eliminates much of the nuisance of entertaining boys under the influence at our meetings."

"If a drunk showed up a meeting, three or four guys would take him outside and counsel with him," another early member recalled.

"Cleveland did not allow outsiders at meetings, but did allow families,"

according to Warren C. "Some groups allowed

families to stay for the first part of the meeting, but then said, 'Will the women please leave for the second part?' One of the first women members got up, thinking this meant her."

As noted in a foregoing chapter, the status of women in present-day A.A. is markedly different. But some of the early Cleveland groups' concerns--such as clubs for A.A.'s and members' anonymity--still have a familiar ring.

"There were some clubs," said Warren, "but they developed into poker games and didn't last. We felt that this wasn't right, and discouraged their formation. All the groups were independent. They had their own secretaries and officers.

"As far as anonymity was concerned, we knew who we were. It wasn't only A.A. but our social life. All of our lives seemed to be spent together. We took people home with us to dry out. The Cleveland group had the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the members," said Warren. "In fact, I remember Dr. Bob saying, 'If I got up and gave my name as Dr. Bob S., people who needed help would have a hard time getting in touch with me.'"

Warren recalled, "He [Dr. Bob] said there were two ways to break anonymity Tradition: (1) by giving your name at the public level of press or radio; (2) by being so anonymous that you can't be reached by other drunks."

In an article in the February 1969 Grapevine, D.S. of San Mateo, California, wrote that Dr. Bob commented on the Eleventh Tradition as follows:

"Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition.

The A.A. who hides his identity from his fellow A.A. by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the A.A. who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to A.A.

"The former is maintaining his anonymity *above* the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity *below* the level of press, radio, and films--whereas the Tradition states that we should maintain

Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

El Centro Group June Birthdays

Michael V.	1 month
Ken	2 months
Daniel	3 months
Paula	6 months
Michelle E.	4 years
Mike M.	4 years
Jan B.	6 years
Henry M.	8 years
Andy C.	11 years
Teresa L.	14 years
Henry P.	19 years
Bert T.	20 years
Cecil M.	26 years

July Birthdays

Joel O.	2 months
Randy M.	2 months
Eric O.	6 months
Mike F.	5 years
Ray S.	6 years
Tammy	8 years
Mike H.	21 years
Tom S.	31 years

Seniors Seeking Serenity Group

Marie R. 8/24/74 33 years

Isleta Group June Birthdays

Phillip	6 months
Ilene	24 years

Seeking Serenity Group July

Elaine	1 month
Henry	2 years

August

Brett	2 years
Leona	2 years
Ray P.	18 years

“In the Book”

New Meeting in Rio Rancho!!!

**Thursday Evenings 6:00-7:00PM
Beginning Thursday August 2, 2007**

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We will study and discuss the Big Book, one paragraph at a time.

Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church
4848 Huron Drive
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

(Corner of Northern and Huron, North side
Northern, between Rockaway and 528)

**Come and join us for study, discussion,
great fellowship, and good coffee!**

For more information, call Jakki (505) 228-5827
or Alan (505) 892-0144

Old Timers Meeting

Saturday
August 18th

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

to be held at

The Heights Club
20+ years to share!

Grace L., the *Central
Office Media Librarian*
could use your help!

Volunteers are needed to listen to old Speaker tapes to determine which tapes ought to be burned onto a CD for the media library.

Call Grace at 315-0333 if you might be interested. (or leave a message at Central Office, 266-1900)

Mix and Match the 12 x 12

Take the quote from the 12 x 12 and match it to the step or tradition it's in. The answers will be in next months edition of the Pass It On.

1. "It was meeting night. Although none of the alcoholics we boarded seemed to get sober, some others had. With their wives they crowded into our downstairs parlor. At once I burst into the story of my opportunity. Never shall I forget their impassive faces, and the steady gaze they focused upon me. With waning enthusiasm, my tale trailed off to the end. There was a long silence."
2. At first that "somebody" is likely to be his closest A.A. friend. He relies upon the assurance that his many troubles, now made more acute because he cannot use alcohol to kill the pain, can be solved, too. Of course the sponsor points out that our friend's life is still unmanageable even though he is sober, that after all, only a bare start on A.A.'s program has been made. More sobriety brought about by the admission of alcoholism and by attendance at a few meetings is very good indeed, but it is bound to be a far cry from permanent sobriety and a contented, useful life. That is just where the remaining Steps of the A.A. program come in. Nothing short of continuous action upon these as a way of life can bring the much-desired result.
3. At this juncture, we can hear a churchman exclaim, "They are making disobedience a virtue!" He is joined by a psychiatrist who says, "Defiant brats! They won't grow up and conform to social usage!" The man in the street says, "I don't understand it. They must be nuts!" But all these observers have overlooked something unique in Alcoholic Anonymous. Unless each A.A. member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. His drunkenness and dissolutions are not penalties inflicted by people in authority; they result from his personal disobedience to spiritual principles.
4. When that lifted, a wonderful thing happened. The head promoter wrote the Foundation office. He said he wished he's paid some attention to A.A. experience. The he did something else that was to become an A.A. classic. It all went on a little card about golf-score size. The cover read: "Middleton Group #1. Rule #62." Once the card was unfolded, a single pungent sentence leaped to the eye: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."
5. Then, in A.A., we looked and listened. Everywhere we saw failure and misery transformed by humility into priceless assets. We heard story after story of how humility had brought strength out of weakness. In every case, pain had been the price of admission into a new life. But this admission price had purchased more that we expected. It brought a measure of humility, which we soon discovered to be a healer of pain. We began to fear pain less, and desire humility more than ever.
6. Furthermore, how shall we come to terms with seeming failure or success? Can we now accept and adjust to either without despair or pride? Can we accept poverty, sickness, loneliness, and bereavement with courage and serenity? Can we steadfastly content ourselves with the humbler, yet sometimes more durable, satisfactions when the brighter, more glittering achievements are denied us?
7. In all these situations we need self-restraint, honest analysis of what is involved, a willingness to admit when the fault is ours, and an equal willingness to forgive when the fault is elsewhere. We need not be discouraged when we fall into the error of our old ways, for these disciplines are not easy. We shall look for progress, not for perfection.

A.) Tradition 9 _____ B.) Step 10 _____ C.) Tradition 2 _____

D.) Step 12 _____ E.) Step 3 _____ F.) Tradition 4 _____ G.) Step 7 _____

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

1921 Alvarado NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 266-1900

Address Correction Requested

Pass It On Subscription Only \$7.00 Annually

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

This is a gift, Please sign my name on the card

Name

Please make checks payable to Central Office of Albuquerque
Mail or drop by!

1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

The Central Office of
Albuquerque is open:

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 10:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday

9:00 am to 9:00 pm

• • • • •

The Central Office is
located two blocks
north of
Constitution and four
blocks east of San
Mateo.