

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 8: *“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”*

Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know. This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p77
This is one of my all-time favorite passages from our literature. What a wonderful ideal to aspire to! I was having a conversation with a non-A.A. the other day and attempted to describe our “spiritual” program. I was asked, “what does spiritual mean?” My answer was that the spirituality that I must possess, as a sober alcoholic, is more than a set of ideas about God or a system of prayer; to me spirituality is right relations with the world and other people. I can measure my spiritual condition on how I treat others and whether I am thinking of me-me-me or someone else. Step Eight is a gateway for me, even today. I get to get out of myself and my seemingly ever-present self-righteous sense of entitlement and see how my actions affect others. Once I see these effects, I can become willing to let go of my old ideas (those that hurt others) and become willing to change.

Tradition 8 (long form):

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.”

Our Twelfth Step is never to be paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire. *-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p171*
Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words “Freely ye have received, freely give.” We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromises him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee. *-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p166*

Not only are we not to be paid for carrying the message of A.A., many an alcoholic spend much of their own money to help the newcomer stay sober. I’ve known members who have spent thousands on literature to give away, business cards, treatment and the like for the new member, asking only that they pass it on.

Concept 8: *“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they re the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”*

This concept deals with the ways the General Service Board “discharges its heavy obligations,” and its relationship with its two subsidiary corporations: A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Long experience has proven that the board “must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger questions of policy, finance, group relations and leadership...In these matters, it must act with great care and *skill to plan, manage and execute.*” The board, therefore, must not be distracted or burdened with the details or the endless questions which arise daily in the routine operation of the General Service Office for the publishing operations, including the *Grapevine*. “It must *delegate* its executive function” to its subsidiary, operating boards. *-The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*



WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT...

FOOTHILLS REGULAR EVENTS: ALL ARE WELCOME

KARAOKE NIGHT IS THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:15 TO 10:00 PM

BIRTHDAY NIGHT IS THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 7:15 PM

GOT A PROBLEM? TRY STEP DU JOUR

His directive wasn't what I expected. I wanted to go over the wrongs done me and get some sympathy, but my sponsor wasn't putting up with me this particular day. I'd been sober long enough to go beyond whining and be responsible for taking action. "Pick a number between one and twelve. What ever number you pick, work that Step on it." was my sponsor's response to one of my jackpot problems I was explaining to him when I was newly sober. Newly sober but I had worked through all 12 Steps.

Before hanging up he briefly went on to explain what he meant. He gave an example of how to apply each of the Steps to my problem du jour. "If you pick One, work on powerlessness. If Two, insanity. Three, turn it over. Four or Five, do an inventory on it. Six or Seven, humbly ask God to remove it. Eight or Nine, amends. Ten, inventory. Eleven, prayer and meditation. Twelve, go find an alcoholic to work with." This focusing and working on a Step was getting down to basics and was, and sometimes still is, exactly what I needed to do.

Although I'd share at meetings where the topic was the promises from the Big Book (page 83), and I'd talk about how I had come to the point of understanding "we will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us" [us, aka me]. In actuality I had no confidence to handle many of my life's situations. I was scared and because I lacked humility I didn't want to try anything on my own, be wrong and have to admit it. I was stuck in my rut much of the time. Reflecting back on my sobriety and our relationship, I realize my sponsor

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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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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has intuitively known how to handle me and get me out of my rut. I've come to realize it is my Higher Power who gives me the ability to make choices.

The promise of intuitively knowing what to do began early for me, before Step Ten too. In the waning hours of my drinking I chose to go to treatment. I knew someone who worked in management at the treatment center where I ended up admitting myself. I knew him from my career in the world of business. I struggled the night I entered the treatment facility over whether I should go there because I knew someone, or not go there because that same someone would tell our mutual acquaintances about my drinking problem and being a patient there. I managed to make a decision. I went to that treatment center and three days later found out this guy I knew was in AA and another week later asked this man to be my sponsor. With God's help I had managed to incorporate Steps One, Step Two and Step Three into my life even though I wasn't sober and knew nothing of the Steps.

Before I got sober and I started working the Steps if I had an intuitive thought, I'd discount it. I used bravado and tried to cover up and not show my only feeling, fear. I was, as the Big Book says, "a boy whistling in the dark." I used only my intellect and didn't have any spirituality or any emotion. If by chance I had any emotion, if I experienced a feeling, it scared me and I quickly covered it up. I used self will and I convinced people. I was right and that was that. I was afraid to admit I didn't know. How could I possibly find out? I didn't have a Higher Power or even any people to turn to. I had no one to ask.

I had nowhere to go and no one to go to when I got to AA. So that day when my sponsor said to pick a number between One and Twelve and work that Step on my problem, I did it. I think I picked Three that day: turn it over to my Higher Power. At first it seemed strange to do – to turn things over. To make a decision to turn over something to a Power I didn't understand was something I did on faith. Step Three is still like that for me, but now I have lots of experience where it's worked quite well and no experience where it didn't work at all. Dr. Bob used to say, "Faith without works is dead." I have faith that I will intuitively know and that because of Step Three I can make a decision and take action and have faith all will be well here and hereafter.

Anonymous

Editor's note: What a wonderful example of how sobriety is more than just not drinking! If you have a story to share about living a sober life, or emotional sobriety, please share it with us. Participating in YOUR Pass It On is carrying the message, too.

➤ **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

June 12, 2011

Submitted By Peggy A.-Member at Large

Morgan D-Secretary • Alli V-web Guardian • Jerry R-Special Needs/Serendipity • Kris H-District 11 • Donna B-The ladies Room • Arthur T-Straight Pepper Diet • John S-Brown bag/Public Info & Outreach • Bob C-High noon • Michael W- Coordinator/Too Much For Us • Kathy H-Alt. Coordinator/Metropolitan • Peggy A-Member at Large/Free spirits • Donald L-Westside Noon • Martha M & Christy O-Promises • Kristen E-Visitor • Maddy L-District 18/In the Book • Sharon H-Any Lengths • Trace P-Last Call • Emma D- ODAAT • Steve P Treasurer/Free Spirits • Cindy B-Dawn Patrol • Skitch F-District 3 Corrections.

II. MINUTES

- Approved

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Revenues: \$7,009.46
- Cost of Sales: \$3,289.93
- Gross Income: \$3,719.53
- Total Expenses: \$ 5,483.49
- Net Income: \$(1,763.96) in the red

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

- Desk: 5 open shifts: Monday Night Phones, 6-9 every other Saturday, 7-10 every other Friday, 6-9 every other Sunday, and 3-6 every other Sunday.
- Grape Vine order sent in.
- As phone calls go down the internet hits go up. Web visits- 2534, Calls- 693
- Desk workers: subs- 21%/ reg. 79%
- Michael and Kathy both worked more than usual this month.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

- Need to set up a time and date for Group Inventory. We will discuss after today's meeting.

VI. PASS IT ON

- This month's PIO is lavender.

VII. SCHEDULES

- New schedules have been printed.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- We had 5-6 AA people at the early June event for people with court order cards and got the word out.
- No other events coming up now, but expecting some requests in early Fall.

IX. WEB SITE

- Nothing to report.

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

- No report.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

- Started New Deaf and Hard of Hearing meeting, and went very well. It's on Saturdays at noon at Mesa View Methodist church. It is an open discussion meeting and has an ASL signing facilitator.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Seniors Seeking Serenity: Marie R-37 years!
Seeking Serenity: Tom R-1 year! David T & Lori S-2 years! Henry L-6 years!
 One day at a time! Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to
passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- What to do with left over money from Prudent reserve change. We have \$4,000- any suggestions? Donate to GSO/Area/Circle of Love, put towards our deficit, new phone system at central office (older than 35yrs), upgrade to online banking, providing health insurance for the paid staff, look at all AA groups and make sure we aren't neglecting any sect that is in need (ex: Spanish, Vietnamese), look into leasing a computer that we trade in so we can stay up to date, buy more literature for facilities/institutions that ask Central Office to donate.
- We need to make a priority list and find out how much each thing costs.
- Motion: Al- We meet for several hours to decide what to do and to gather all the facts and figures. Discussion. Vote-Failed.
- The intergroup will gather all the prices for these items and bring it to the next intergroup meeting so the reps can take it to their groups. The following month is when we will vote so the groups can be involved.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Nothin'.

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In the Book anniversary celebration on 8/4 at 6pm.
- Blackouts – looking for more people to be on the dance team for the performances
- Taylor Ranch fellowship meeting has closed.
- Woman's Sobriety fest is holding auditions for their play this Saturday at the Bag.

Close @ 1500.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Group | | Happy Hour Group | \$214.75 | Sunrise Catchers | \$7.50 |
| Amameda Men's Stag | \$300.00 | High Country Group | \$35.00 | Staying Sober at Sunrise | \$471.00 |
| Acceptance Group | \$100.00 | High Noon Group | \$300.00 | Sunday Night Serenity | \$270.00 |
| Any Lengths Women's Group | \$480.00 | How It Works | \$256.00 | Sunrise Sobriety | \$174.66 |
| Basement Steps Group | \$60.00 | In The Book | \$64.00 | Straight Pepper Diet | \$68.50 |
| Corrales Group | \$120.00 | Isleta Group | \$124.19 | Taylor Ranch Fellowship | \$47.00 |
| ABC Monday Night R.R. | \$9.50 | Jemez Springs Group | \$15.00 | The Ladies Room | \$266.50 |
| Brownbaggers | \$995.13 | Kiva Group | \$50.00 | There Is A Solution | \$185.53 |
| Blackouts | \$1005.00 | Last Call | \$25.00 | Too Much For Us | \$25.00 |
| Candlelight Group R.R. | \$300.00 | Lone Rangers Group | \$289.38 | Tuesday Knights | \$30.00 |
| Came to Believe Estancia | \$20.00 | Live and Let Live | \$32.32 | Wake Up Call Group | \$450.00 |
| Corrales Men's Stag | \$150.00 | Ladies of Peaceful Serenity | \$25.00 | Westside AA | \$322.00 |
| Corrales Smokefree | \$65.53 | Miracles Group | \$500.00 | Westside Noon Group | \$268.00 |
| Cosmopolitan Group | \$24.80 | New Frontier Group | \$300.00 | Womens Noon Gratitude | \$20.00 |
| Dawn Patrol | \$1681.81 | Old 66 Group Edgewood | \$156.05 | V.A. Campus Group | \$59.65 |
| Dawning Promises | \$41.03 | One Day At A Time | \$374.40 | Valley Girls Estancia | \$25.00 |
| Direct Amends Group | \$63.00 | Primary Purpose | \$350.00 | Group Totals | \$15740.68 |
| Dog On The Roof | \$42.50 | Promises Group | \$84.31 | | |
| Down Under Group | \$100.00 | Queer Ideas of Fun | \$400.00 | Faithful Fivers | \$805.00 |
| East Mountain Group | \$150.00 | Round Up Group | \$35.00 | Individual Contributors | \$1807.95 |
| Early Birds | \$125.00 | Roadrunner Group | \$18.13 | Other AA Contributors | \$299.45 |
| Free Spirits Group | \$22.00 | Seeking Serenity | \$154.55 | Special AA Events | \$2860.44 |
| Freedom From Bondage | \$425.00 | Seniors Seeking Serenity | \$104.78 | Alcoholon | \$236.00 |
| Freedom First | \$21.00 | Serenity Group | \$83.98 | | |
| Foothills Group | \$1673.70 | Share The Legacy | \$50.00 | | |
| Good Fellows Group | \$210.00 | Singleness of Purpose | 40.50 | | |
| Group 164 | \$35.00 | South Valley Bikers Group | \$10.00 | | |
| Happy Destiny Group | \$425.00 | Sponsorship & Growth | \$378.53 | | |



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.**

June 2011 Treasurer's Report

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$7,009.46 |
| Cost of Sales | \$3,289.93 |
| Gross Income | \$3,719.53 |
| Expenses | \$5,483.49 |
| NET INCOME (month) | \$-1,763.96 |
| NET INCOME (YTD) | \$-4,029.52 |

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.

Women's Sobriety Festival!

The 24th Annual Women's Sobriety Festival will be held on Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church. Registration is \$20.00 and Scholarships are available. We are now accepting items for our Raffle. Please see our website for more information on Registration, Raffle drop off locations and Childcare. If you would like to be a part of the Festival, sign up to volunteer. www.nmaawsf.com

Hope to see you there!

Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
1801 Montano Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

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.

June 2011

Monthly Service Activities Report

| PHONE CALLS | MAY 11 | APR 11 | MAY 10 |
|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Information | 693 | 785 | 942 |
| 12-Step | 11 | 27 | 6 |
| AI-Anon | 10 | 0 | 17 |
| Message | 44 | 1 | 23 |
| Other | 89 | 98 | 156 |
| TOTAL | 874 | 911 | 1154 |

WALK INS

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Information | 12 | 13 | 18 |
| 12-Step | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| AI-Anon | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Get Schedule | 15 | 21 | 15 |
| Purchase | 164 | 132 | 172 |
| Tapes | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Message | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Casual | 35 | 57 | 25 |
| Other | 17 | 33 | 70 |
| TOTAL | 246 | 258 | 304 |

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Unique Visitors | 2534 |
| Number of Visits | 4909 (1.93 visits/visitor) |
| Pages viewed | 23522 (5 pages/visit) |

DESK WORKERS*

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Regulars | 42 |
| Substitutes | 35 |
| TOTAL | 77 |

DESK SHIFTS*

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Weekdays | 176 |
| Weekends | 40 |
| TOTAL | 216 |

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Worked by Regulars | 139(79%) |
| Worked by Substitutes | 37(21%) |
| TOTAL | 176 |

WEEKEND SHIFTS*

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Worked by Regulars | 28(70%) |
| Worked by Substitutes | 12(30%) |
| TOTAL | 40 |

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 3 hour shifts (8) | 24 hours |
| 2 hour shifts (3) | 6 hours |
| Night phone (0) | 0 hours |

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 3 hour shifts (11) | 33 hours |
| 2 hour shifts (0) | 0 hours |
| Night phone (0) | 0 hours |
| TOTAL | 57 hours |

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: NEVER FORGET THAT YOU ARE UNIQUE—JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE!



1st Annual Western New Mexico

"Happy joyous and Free"

AA & Al-Anon Campout

September 16, 17 & 18, 2011



\$15 Registration includes camping, activities, and Saturday Night Dinner. Please, pre-register!

Location:
McKinley County Wildlife Federation
McGaffey, New Mexico

From Albuquerque/Grants:
West I-40 to Ft. Wingate exit 33, then South on Hwy 400, 11 miles.

From Flagstaff/Gallup:
East I-40 to Ft. Wingate exit 33, then South on Hwy 400, 11 miles.

Watch for the AA signs!

- AA & Al-Anon Speakers
- Saturday Morning Navajo Speaker
- Sunday Morning Spiritual Speaker and sobriety countdown
- Self-organized Campfire Meetings
- Saturday Night dinner: Chili, Hotdogs, Hamburgers
- Raffles & 50/50 drawing
- Horseshoe Tournament with prizes
- Nice trails for hiking or mountain biking

To Pre-Register, send \$15 with your name, address, & phone to:
AA Campout
PO Box 520
Thoreau, New Mexico 87323

Important: Children are welcome, but **No Dogs** of any size allowed, not even Al-A-Pups. Camp is at 8000 ft., so bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water. Bring ice, water/water containers. There's water from a well, but no showers. Drive carefully and slowly; there are some potholes and road damage on Hwy 400.

For more info send email to: aacampout@gmail.com (←best)
Or call Jerry N. (469) 377-0011 or Steve C. (505) 862-4381



*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 biking

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!



Dog on the Roof Group Anniversary Celebration

Please join us in our **SOBRIETY CELEBRATION** the first Wednesday in September. Last years was so much fun we just had to do it again. Bring your family, friends or a Newcomer and enjoy the fellowship.

First Year Anniversary

- Fellowship
- Sobriety
- Fun

DOG ON THE ROOF GROUP

.....

Hope in the Desert Episcopal Church (8700 Alameda NE) Alameda and Barstow

Time: 7-9 PM

Date: Wednesday September 7th, 2011

21ST ANNUAL TRADITIONS CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 11

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 am
REGISTRATION, FELLOWSHIP, LIGHT BREAKFAST

9am
TRADITIONS PRESENTATIONS

12pm
POTLUCK LUNCH BRING A DISH TO SHARE

1pm
SPEAKER NONIE C. STEPHENVILLE, TX

2pm
RAFFLE DRAWING AND CLOSE

Albuquerque Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110

{505} 266-1900

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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Mail your check or come by the office and drop it off.

1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110



**Albuquerque
Intergroup
Central Office**

Hours:

Monday through Friday

8 am to 10 pm

Saturday and Sunday

9 am to 9 pm



The Office is at
1921 Alvarado NE,
two blocks north
of Constitution and
four blocks east
of San Mateo.

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org