

OCTOBER 2012

Vol. 37 Issue 10

albuquerqueaa.org

Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

505.266.1900

Step 10 Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

Tradition 10 (Short Form) Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

(Long Form) No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any op[inion on outside controversial issues particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

Concept 10 (Short Form) Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

(Long Form) Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

SPONSORSHIP – A VITAL STEPPING-STONE TO **SERVICE & SOBRIETY**

Service Material from the A.A. General Service Office (GSO)

The 91 delegates to the General Service Conference listened as the question was asked: "How many of you came to service in A.A. with the help of a sponsor?" Essentially, all 91 delegates raised their hands in assent.

Past trustee Al H., of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada vividly remembers that moment in 1978. "We sponsor as we have been sponsored," he says. "I was taken to my first service meeting barely three months after I became sober and I've been active ever since."

Like so many members, Al early absorbed the miracle of Twelfth-Step workthat sharing the A.A. message with other alcoholics helps to keep us sober. Thanks to alert sponsorship, he then learned how such one-on-one help in the Fellowship can be stretched to include an ever widening range of twelfth-stepping—from becoming active within one's group to serving at the local intergroup or central office, on institutions committees, and finally in "general service." This term embraces the myriad activities within the Conference structure that are carried out by G.S.R.s, area

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assermbly (SWRAASA)

October 19 - 21, 2012 marks the first time Albuquerque has had the honor and privilege of hosting the Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assermbly (SWRAASA) since 1990. Regional AA service assemblies are held every 2 years and SWRAASA only comes to Area 46 once every 22 years - it won't be here again until 2034! It is an open AA meeting - all AA members are welcome to attend. There will be somewhere around 750 people attending from 11 AA areas in 7 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The purpose of the assembly is "for those in the Southwest Region of Alcoholics Anonymous to learn and share about the General Service Structure at the group, district, area and conference levels, and to share information on the trusted service positions within that framework."

The festivities will begin at 5pm on Friday October 19th. Friday activities include: the 2012 SWRDA Welcome, a Delegate Sharing Session, the Role of the Trustee, an Ask the Trustee session and an Ice Cream Social. Saturday sessions, which run 1 hour and 15 minutes each, start at 8am and continue until 5:45pm. They include presentations and workshops ranging from service committees and service topics to traditions and AA history. Saturday evening activities include Welcome to the Concepts, Concepts I to XII, Short Stories involving the Concepts, and another Ice Cream Social. Sunday morning activities include the SWR Trustee Report, a Past Trustee Panel, an Ask the Trustees session and the SWRAASA Business Meeting. More information on SWRAASA can be found at swraasa.newmexicoaa.org.

WELCOME SWRAASA ATTENDEES

Welcome to the Land of Enchantment (New Mexico), home of AA Area 46. Information on SWRAASA can be found at *swraasa@newmexicoaa.org*, Area 46 at *newmexicoaa.org*, Albuquerque AA at albuquerqueaa.org and on Santa Fe AA at *santafeaa.org*. The phone number for Albuquerque Central Office (which serves 5 New Mexico Districts) is (505) 266-1900 and is manned 24/7/365. Central Office is located at 1921 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 and is open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 10pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 9pm.

We sincerely hope your visit to Albuquerque is enjoyable, productive and serene!

SUBMISSIONS for PIO publication (articles, stories, announcements, flyers, sobriety birthdays, etc.), letters to the editor, questions, comments, suggestions and criticism are always welcomed at PassItOn@ albuquerqueaa.org and will receive a prompt reply and appropriate consideration for publication.

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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Ashley F. - Treasurer Treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

Linda - Schedule Editor Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

Peggy A. - Member-at-Large MemberAtLarge@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve R. - Pass It On Editor PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

Jerry R. - Special Needs Coordinator SpecialNeeds@albuquerqueaa.org

Alli V. - Web Site Chair Web@albuquerqueaa.org

Al J. - Media Librarian Media@albuguergueaa.org

Don S. - Community Outreach PublicInfo@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael W. - CO Coordinator Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

Pam - Alternate CO Coordinator AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

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 10am, 2nd Saturday, StThomas of Canterbury 425 University Blvd NE (1 blk N of MLK Blvd)

District 18 1:30 pm, 2nd Sunday RioWestChurch,6751PasillaRd,RioRancho

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SPONSORSHIP - A VITAL STEPPING-STONE TO SERVICE & SOBRIETY

(continued from page 1)

committees, delegates, trustees and the G.S.O. staff. They affect A.A. as a whole and are crucial to our unity and survival.

Al points out that "a lot of A.A.s—not just newcomers, either—don't know enough about A.A. and how it works." He believes that "God smiled on us when he led us into the Fellowship. The hand of A.A. was there for us and if we want it to be there for your kids and mine, I think we need to be active ourselves in service and help the newcomer to do the same. Frankly, I don't even know how to sponsor anyone who doesn't get involved in service. I'm a great admirer of Dr. Bob, who said that if we fail to acquire a spirit of service, we will have missed the greatest gift A.A. has to offer—the ability to give our sobriety away and so keep it."

Al, who travels hundreds of miles to attend service meetings, recalls visiting a new group several years ago with a sponsee. An 18-year-old newcomer had been given the task of slicing pickles; spotting Al, the sponsee quickly took the young woman aside and informed her that she was talking to a trustee. Undaunted, she retorted, "The pickles need slicing." Al sliced.

Missouri delegate Rita J. says she sponsors new people into service early. "I introduce them to the Traditions," she declares, "and take them to G.S.R. and state assembly meetings. A number of them get into service." It's not always easy, Rita admits, "but I just hang in. Of course, when I called for a group conscience meeting not long ago, hardly anyone I sponsored showed up. I couldn't exist without a sense of humor!"

Past trustee David A., of Dallas, Texas, says that "everyone I've sponsored has gone into service. It's not mandatory, I tell the newcomer, but it's more than a suggestion. I also tell them that the Twelve Steps are just one-third of our legacy; there are the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of World Service. It's a 36-point program." He further suggests that they read the Big Book ("you'll find yourself") and A.A. Comes of Age ("you'll love A.A. so much you won't leave—you'll want to stay and grow").

"I was brought to service by a former delegate who wanted to go to the Bill W. Dinner in 1967," David relates. Bill himself autographed my copy of As Bill Sees It; I met people in service and went back and back and back. I was G.S.R., D.C.M., delegate, area chairperson, area GvR, you name it. I served as alternate in each of these offices, too, before becoming a trustee-at-large, U.S.A. And I'm even more active now than when I started. I attend the state conferences, do meetings on the Traditions and Concepts and, of course, try to get newcomers interested in service whenever I can."

Past trustee Ruth H., Hollis, New York: "When I took the G.S.R. role, my sponsor said, 'You don't want that, it's political.' Nevertheless, I became active on the Southeast New York Conference Committee. The other officers took me under their wing and gave me an appreciation of service. Today, I do the same with those I sponsor—I try to make them aware of A.A. as a whole. Whenever I see members working the Steps and Traditions, I make every effort to interest them in service beyond the group. Service is integral to my recovery; without it, I doubt that I would have stayed sober these past 28 years.

Past trustee George D., Tiburon, California: "When I first came to A.A. I slipped a lot. After I finally stopped drinking, my sponsor and other old timers told me I was the kind of drunk who had to be active to stay sober. I took them at their word and have continued to do so for 26 years. Service is a part of me."

For the first 11 years, George remembers, "I was active in every aspect of service except general service, perceiving it to be full of basic service club types. My closest A.A. friend was active in general service and I just figured it was an eccentricity— otherwise he was a nice, cosmopolitan guy. Finally, he dragged me along with him and I eventually became a delegate in 1975. In a discussion with the late Bob H., who was retiring at the time as G.S.O. manager, I questioned my motives in doing service work— was it love of A.A. or a need for recognition and approval? Bob then quoted what Bernard Smith, a nonalcoholic trustee and former chairperson of the General Service Board, once said about Bill W.: 'Never in history have so many great things been accomplished by a man with such doubtful motives.' With Bob's help I realized that if I waited to be 'pure' before getting anything done, I'd wait a lifetime."

Alcoholics Anonymous (The "Big Book"), page 84

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 September 9, 2012

Open @ 14:01

Open/ Attendees Michael W.- Too Much for Us, Pam B.- There is a Solution, Steve R.- Saturday Night Alive, Morgan D.- Straight Pepper Diet, John R.- Early Birds, Christina W.- Candlelight, Martha M.- Promises, Christy O.- Promises, Becky L.- Isleta, Art L.- El Centro, Kris O.- Serenity Group, Peggy A.- Free Spirits, Michael W.- Westside A.A., Sharon H.- Any Lengths, Henry L.- Seeking Serenity, Alli V.- Singleness of Purpose, Ralph T.-Dawn Patrol, Cindy B.- Dawn/Dusk Patrol, Skitch F.- Alcathon, Heather G.- QIOF, Janet B.- Women In Progress, Deborah K.- Brownbaggers Women's/ District 12, Nancy H.-Ladies Room, Theresa C.- Ladies Room, Tom C.- Seeking Serenity

Minutes from last month accepted.

Treasurer's Report Ended month in the black. We are about \$2000 in black for year. Report is now online, with shortened version for those who don't like all the details. Sales Revenues: \$5,316.20. Cost of Sales: \$4,180.22. Gross Profit from cost of sales: \$1,135.98. Operating Expenses: \$4,643.03. Net Income: \$338.21

Central Office Coordinator We have hired a new alternate coordinator. Brought in handouts for group contributions for month of August- including a donation from district 11, and 13 which was not in treasurers report. Brought in some SWRAASA flyers and information about what SWRAASA is. Open position at SAC facility which is a residential place connected to MATS. It's for every other Monday to take in a meeting at 6pm- contact Arty or Phil. Looking for one women and one man to facilitate meeting with at least one vear of sobriety.

Alternate Central Office Coordinator Pam: This is my first day! Thank you for letting me do this. I am excited to be of service

Member at Large No report.

Pass it On New mast head is in this month's issue. Gone to a lot of groups with Pass It On's from extra printing run- will give report next month. Would like to ask groups what policy they want for sobriety birthday submissions. Currently birthdays are in the following months issue- some groups have expressed that they don't' like that. So lets vote: Option 1: Publish following month. Option 2: Publish in month birthday occurs. Vote: Option 1 has majority of votes so it will stay, but go back ask your groups what they want. Next month is SWRAASA- want to do another extra printing run. Q: Nancy - Can you also bring extra copies for the Woman's sobriety fest? A: Steve - Yes I will give you copies from last month as well. Q: Christy- If you need help with paper cost I work at a supply company and I can give you paper. Q: Skitch-What about the 7th tradition? A: Michael-They could offer a lower price. Article about singleness of purpose talked about another addiction- person was upset that it was in PIO - I pointed out to him it was a G.S.O article and was under our primary purpose.

Media Librarian, Schedule Editor, Community Outreach & Special Needs Coordinator Absent.

Web Guardian Fixed drop down list on site- which had 2 options for open meetings. Now there is just one option.

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS

ALAMEDA MEN'S STAG September: Ashley F. 16 years

EL CENTRO August: Manuel 60 days, Rachel 3 years, Ernest V. 13 years, Eileen 18 years, Sally F. 28 years; September: Manuel 90 days, Paula 2 years, Sue B. 5 years, Arthur L. 28 years

ISLETA August: Lindsey 60 days, Michelle 9 months, Mary 2 years, Billy 5 years, Steve-Steven-Francis-Tommy 12 years, Ernest-Dave13 years, Sally 28 years, Fred 29 years

SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE August: Lynn H. 4 years

Please submit your sobriety birthday(s) (including homegroup, name, sobriety date & length of continuous sobriety) to PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org. Failure to properly submit s-b days may result in non-publication.

OLD BUSINESS - Skitch: Alcathon encourages anyone with interest to join the planning meeting after this meeting. - District suggested sign-language interpreters. - Have gone to three district meetings so far to try to get them to get involved. - We are hoping to have English and Spanish translation. - The newest schedule will be updated to the web site.

NEW BUSINESS - Motion: Steve- To do one extra printing run of Pass it On's in the month of October to distribute to SWRAASA. - Discussion: Ralph- I looked up SWRAASA guidelines and I see no problem with this. But consider telling a committee member. Could amend the motion pending approval. -Amendment: Only do extra run if there is formal approval form SWRAASA. -Discussion: This is getting expensive - it's about \$100 per run- I'm concerned about the cost. We don't do this a lot. SWRAASA only happens every 20 years. Vote: All in favor none opposed. Motion passes. -Michael- Have been offered to do another run of the Woman's sobriety fest play. They want to do it, and the church will be available Friday night October 5th. The proceeds will benefit central office. Probably will be at about 7pm at Sheppard of the Valley. - Peggy-I heard the director doesn't want to do it a 2nd time. - Elections are coming up and the steering committee is starting a staggered rotation schedule- the 5 positions this December will be: Member at Large, Treasurer, Public Information, Media Librarian, and Web Guardian. The nominating committee will consist of 5 intergroup members and will be in charge of finding people to stand for the open positions. That committee will be formed next month. - Steve: Isn't Public Information now called Community outreach. Yes. - How do the nominations work?: Any one that wants to be of service and is willing to hold a position. Sobriety requirement of 2 years and experience with central office/ intergroup. We have voted to wave certain requirements in the past.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS - Women's Sobriety Fest will be the last Friday and Saturday of this month. There is concern about parking security on Friday night, we are asking for volunteers to walk the parking lots. (Steve and Michael are willing to do that). - Chris: Bill D. - passed away. He was very involved in service at district level and intergroup. Memorial on Thursday October 20th at 5:30 pm. At Nativity church, in education building. - Candlelight group is hosting a Halloween bash on Oct. 26th- by Mesa club. From 7-11 with dance, 50/50 raffle and cake walk. - Nancy- registration forms here for Women's Sobriety Fest. Please take some. - Alan- The blackouts will perform on Friday 28th, two on Saturday 29th, and one on Sunday the 30th. Tickets are \$10. Blues band will play and sing songs re-written to AA lyrics and then a play! There will be dancing in some musical numbers. Close @ 1500.



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 Officecanenhanceyoursobriety. 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.

AA EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday October 5 Play from Women's Sobriety Fest 7:30pm, open to all, \$8 suggested donation, Shepherd of the Valley Church, 1801 Montano Rd. NW, Albuquerque, dessert & coffee to follow, proceeds benefit Central Office

Saturday October 6 12 Concepts SWRAASA Panel Preview 7:30pm, El Centro Group, Harwood Methodist Church, 420 San Lorenzo Ave. NW, Albuquerque

Friday October 5-7 An AA Group 12th Anniversary Retreat 12 step study retreat. Theme: "Mercy rather than Justice". Angel Fire Resort, Angel Fire, NM. More info: http://newmexicoaa.org/images/pdf/An_AA_Group_Anniversary.pdf

Saturday October 13 District 3 Meeting Hosted by Sunrise Catchers Group, Isleta Club, 1829 Isleta Blvd. SW, Albuquerque. Potluck 1:30pm, Meeting 2pm, Ray R. from SWRAASA will be guest.

Friday October 19-21 Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly (SWRAASA) New Mexico is hosting the Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly in Albuquerque this year. SWRAARA is a 3-day meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous that meets every two years to share with each other how they carry the AA message of recovery. Albuquerque Marriott, 2101 Louisiana Boulevard NE, Albuquerque — Go to http://swraasa.newmexicoaa.org/ for more details and registration info.

Friday October 26-28 New Mexico Conference of Young People in AA (NMCYPAA) Convention: Satisfied By Candy Court Youth Center, 402 West Court Ave., Las Cruces, NM For more info: http://www.santafeaa.org/NMCYPAA_Pre-registration_Flyer.pdf

Saturday October 27 2012 Traditions Conference 8:30am - 2pm, Hosted by District 11, 8:30am: Registration, light breakfast; 9am - noon: Traditions presentations; 12pm: Potluck lunch (bring a dish to share); 1pm: Speaker; 2pm: Door prize drawing and close; Nativity Church Parish Hall, 9502 4th Street NW, Albuquerque, 87114

Saturday October 27 Halloween Dance Sponsored by the Red Road AA Convention. 9pm-midnight. Adults \$3, Couples \$5, 12 & under free. Dance, costume contest, cake walks, 50/50 raffle. Heights Club, 8520 Marble St. NE (Wyoming/Lomas), Albuquerque

Saturday November 3 AA Sponsorship Teach & Learn Seminar Hosted by the Lunchbox Group & District 18. Experienced speakers share their "how to" teach and work the steps. Brekafast 8am, Seminar starts 9am, Lunch about noon, seminar ends 2:15pm. Jemez Springs Presbyterian Church.

Saturday December 1-2 Area 46 Assembly Hosted by District 10. NMSU - Carlsbad, 1500 University Dr., Carlsbad, NM. For more info: http://newmexicoaa.org/images/pdf/December_Assembly_2012.pdf

Monday December 31, 2012 - Tuesday January 1, 2013 Albuquerque Central Office/Intergroup 2012 New Year's Eve Alcathon Speaker & discussion meetings, pot luck dinner, dance, New Year's Day breakfast. Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, 1801 Montano Rd. NW, Albuquerque. For more info, to join the Alcathon committee or to volunteer for service work contact Skitch at alcathon@albuquerqueaa.org

For more and/or updated information on Albuquerque and New Mexico AA Events go to: http://albuquerqueaa.org and http://www.newmexicoaa.org/. For other AA events nationally and worldwide visit www.aa.org.

SUBMIT YOUR AA EVENT TODAY to: PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

August 2012 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	AUG12	JUL12	AUG11
Information	655	672	621
12-Step	25	19	11
Al-Anon	20	12	15
Message	55	40	41
Other	88	147	94
TOTAL	843	890	782
TOTAL	0+3	090	702
WALK INS			
Information	13	15	16
12-Step	1	1	0
Al-Anon	1	0	4
Get Schedule	16	11	16
Purchase	167	155	167
Media	8	3	1
Message	6	4	30
Casual	33	47	18
Other	53	35	33
TOTAL	298	271	285
ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG Unique Visitors	WEB STATS 2988	3202	2848
Number of Visits	5253	5838	
Pages	22,861	24,638	
	22,001	2 1,030	
DESK WORKERS*			
Regulars	49	49	
Substitutes	33	29	
TOTAL	82	78	
DESK SHIFTS*			
Weekdays	138	132	
Weekends	40	45	
TOTAL	178	177	
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	117(85%)	114(89	9%)
Worked by Substitutes	21(15%)	18(11	
TOTAL	138	132	, , ,
WEEKEND SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	30(75%)	33(73	%)
Worked by Negulars Worked by Substitutes	10(25%)	12(27%)	
TOTAL	40	45	/ /0]
	40	45	
IIGHT SHIFTS NOT COVERED 1		2	
SHIFTS WORKED BY MIC			
	3 - 3 hr (9)	12 hrs	
	2hr (0)	2	
	Night - 0	0	

TOTAL 9 hours 14 hours

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



SPONSORSHIP – A VITAL STEPPING-STONE TO SERVICE & SOBRIETY

(continued from page 3)

George believes that general service may not be for everyone. "Instead of pushing people into it," he suggests, "I think we should lead them by example. We need to treat each other in service with the same sensitivity we bring to recovery."

Past trustee Dick D., Springfield, Massachusetts: "My late sponsor got me to intergroup and area institutions when I was still fairly new to A.A. He did the same with another Springfielder, Margaret C., who also is a past trustee. Then I sponsored a couple of A.A.s who later became delegates, and they've sponsored just as actively in turn. We have a living chain of service activity in this area.

Dick encourages people he sponsors to participate in service work, but notes that "much depends on the individuals, their family problems and other factors." Importantly, he notes, "I don't just send them to service meetings at the beginning, I take them myself."

He feels that the young people coming into A.A. today are motivated to get into service work. "Many have come to our program before hitting the bottom of the barrel. They're dedicated and grateful enough to pass it on."

CONCEPTS CHECKLIST: CONCEPT X

From the General Service Office (GSO) Concepts Checklist

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?

Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority?"

SWRAASA Service Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to serve as cub reporters during the SWRAASA on October 19 th -21 st in Albuquerque. These reporters will attend workshops and write down a few key bullet points for inclusion in the Highlights document to be published and distributed Sunday morning at the event. This approach to documenting a SWRAASA is an experiment and has never been tried before. We need your help to make it successful.

The intent is that each reporter will attend one or two workshops as a reporter. We will be holding a workshop / training prior to the event to outline specific goals for this service commitment. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions please contact Brett B. through *passiton@albuquerqueaa.org*

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Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE 2 blocks north of Constitution and 4 blocks east of San Mateo

(505) 266-1900 www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

> Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am to 10 pm Saturday and Sunday 9 am to 9 pm