NOV 2011 VOLUME 36 ISSUE 11

Pass It On.

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

Step 11: "Sought through prayer and Tradition 11: "Our public relations meditation to improve our conscious policy is based on attraction rather than contact with God as we understood Him, promotion; we need always maintain praying only for knowledge of His will for personal anonymity at the level of us and the power to carry that out." Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious the press of America thought contact with God. We A.A.'s are active folk, enjoying for us than some of our own

the satisfactions of dealing with the realities of life, usually for the first time in our lives, and strenuously trying to help the next alcoholic who comes along. So it isn't surprising that we often the principle of anonymity was tend to slight serious meditation and prayer as something not really necessary.

were quick to say that it had done miracles. But we recoiled from meditation and prayer as obstinately as the scientist who refused to perform a certain experiment lest it prove his pet theory wrong. Of course we finally did experiment, and when unexpected results followed, we felt different; in fact we knew different: and so we were sold on meditation and prayer. And that, we have found, can happen to anybody who tries. It has been well said that "almost the only scoffers at prayer are those who never tried it enough."

to make regular use of prayer would no more do without it than we would refuse air, food, or sunshine.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p96-7 As the days go by I find myself growing still more and more dependant upon a power greater than myself. The best tool I've found to keep in touch with that actions online every time I go to power is prayer and meditation. As a meeting, and by not doing so I continue to try to practice these principles, the more sensitive I become to my actions and the more I need God to help me behave.

press, radio, and films."

There was actually a time when the anonymity of A.A. was better members did. At one point. about a hundred of our Society were breaking anonymity at the public level. With perfectly good intent, these folks declared that horse-and-buggy stuff, something appropriate to A.A.'s pioneering days. They were sure that A.A. ...We liked A.A. all right, and could go faster and farther if it availed itself of modern publicity methods. A.A., they pointed out, included many persons of local, national, or international fame. Provided they were willing,—and many were—why shouldn't their membership be publicized, thereby encouraging others to join us? These were plausible arguments, but happily our friends of the writing profession disagreed with them.

...To us, however, it represents far more than a sound public relations policy. It is more than a denial of self-seeking. This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder Those of us who have come that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p182-183

> I remember when the force of that last statement hit me the first time, "each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship." I don't have to publicize my I can become an active guardian too. I try to let my actions speak louder than my twitter updates, as it's not all about me today.

Concept 11: "While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executive, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern."

In this, the second longest of the Concepts, Bill explains in great detail the composition, functions and relationships of the standing committees of the General Service Board, its subsidiary operating boards, the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine—as they existed in 1962. As A.A. has grown and changed, many of the descriptions would be different today, and some of the issues that are addressed are no longer relevant. Nevertheless, the full text is valuable as an historical document, and many of the principles still apply.

Underlying the service structure we have been discussing, there is another, internal structure of service consisting of the nontrustee members of the trustees' committees: the nontrustee directors of the two operating boards, and the executives and staff members. "Members of this group," declares Bill, "not only support the leadership of the trustees: they share leadership with them."

-12 Concepts for World Service **Illustrated**

thrilled to actually meet the cofounder that I gushed all over him with what my sobriety meant "I'll never forget the first time I met Bill Wilson. I was a couple months sober and so excited, so to me and my undying gratitude for his starting A.A. When I ran down, he took my hand in OFFICE SERVICE GENERAL TO THE A.A. FROM A LETTER Pass it on. his and said simply,

* * * IT'S YOUR TURN NOW!

WHILE I HAVE VERY MUCH ENJOYED MY TIME SERVING AS YOUR PASS IT ON EDITOR, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO PASS IT ON. YOU KNOW, THAT WHOLE "SPIRIT OF ROTATION" THING. WHETER YOU HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE PUTTING NEWSLETTERS TOGETHER, OR JUST A DESIRE TO LEARN, YOU'LL FIND THIS TO BE AN EASY AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE. OR PERHAPS YOU KNOW SOMEONE AT YOUR GROUP WHO WOULD BE THE RIGHT CANDIDATE TO BE MY SUCCESSOR. AT ANY RATE, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE YOU.—JK

HUMILITY ON BIRTHDAY NIGHT

I learned a little something from my service sponsor a while back. You know those bronze medallions that we typically receive when we celebrate a sobriety anniversary? We A.A.s certainly do spend a hefty sum of money on these. In fact, if the money that we spend on these coins were matched in contributions to G.S.O. they could give Big Books to everyone who wanted one, for free. I've talked to several A.A.s who weren't aware that these medallions aren't produced or furnished by A.A., and that the money we spend on them goes to the company that makes them and doesn't benefit A.A. at all.

I learned a little something else when I brought this up at my homegroup and suggested that we stop purchasing and giving these out: We are very attached to our medallions. My idea was quickly put to rest, with a resounding "Nay!" We didn't stop there, though. Armed with this new information, the group decided to hand out the G.S.O. birthday contribution envelopes along with the medallions. I was proud of the group for that. It was a creative solution that pleases everyone and encourages further learning about our fellowship and service structure, while allowing those celebrants to give something back to A.A. rather than just taking something cherished away.

This happened a couple months ago, right as my own anniversary was looming on the near horizon. It got me started thinking about the whole occasion. Why do I celebrate? For so long I have heard people say that you have to announce your birthdays to "let the newcomer know that it works." Well, my thinking was that I'm here at my homegroup every week; I shake hands; I relate my experience, strength and hope; I am showing them by example rather than by words. There are plenty of people who come to one meeting a year just to pick up their coin and get some praise; are they letting the newcomer know that it works too?

After some discussion and debate with friends and my sponsor, I had decided that I was not going to celebrate my anniversary publicly. The essay on the Twelfth Tradition talks about how we learn to let go of the desire for distinction as alcoholics, both in and out of the fellowship. It says that anonymity is the greatest safeguard our fellowship can ever have. I wasn't going to celebrate because, simply, I didn't want to be special; I just want to be another member of Alcoholics Anonymous, sober one day at a time.

The plan went fine at first. My anniversary is on the 2nd (or perhaps the 4th, I woke up from a blackout but I'm not sure exactly which day it was) and birthday night at most groups here in Albuquerque is at the end of the

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

Jeremy H. *Chair* Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Morgan D. *Secretary* Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve P. *Treasurer*Treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael Q. *Schedule Editor* Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

Open Activities Coordinator Activities@albuquerqueaa.org

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

Jason K. *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@albuquerqueaa.org

John S. *Public Information Coordinator* PublicInfo@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael W. CO Coordinator Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

Kathy H. *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 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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month. I didn't announce it on the day of, and had almost forgotten about it by the time the last Friday of the month rolled around when we had our birthday night at the homegroup.

As others were celebrating and collecting their birthday envelopes and coins (I mailed my envelope earlier in the month), one of my good friends looked right at me and remarked how important it is that people celebrate so that the new guy knows it works. I felt a pang of guilt. I was the last person to share at the meeting and I sheepishly announced my anniversary. There was a new guy there, sober but a few days (who had just survived a sober thanksgiving with a drinking family) whose jaw dropped when I announced that I had been sober for 19 years.

I should point out that my homegroup is a young people's meeting. I didn't know that young people's meetings existed when I first arrived in A.A., 19 years ago, at the ripe old age of 15. While I never felt out of place in the fellowship (in fact, the older members seemed to try their very hardest to make sure I felt welcomed) I did feel special. I was the youngest member of that group by at least 20 years and I received more than my share of attention at times.

After about a year or so, I discovered Y.P.A.A. (Young People in A.A.). What a revelation that was! I quickly became involved with the various Y.P.A.A. conference committees in my area, and earned a host of friends. I was travelling around the country attending conferences and making A.A. friends from all over. These conferences were, for me, huge sober parties where all the A.A. "cool kids" would gather.

The years passed by and I started to grow up. I was calming down a little bit as I grew in sobriety. Eventually I took a look around me and noticed that this circle of friends I had was growing smaller and smaller by the year. At one of these conferences I felt so utterly alone, so out of place; I sat alone and decided that I was going to give up these Y.P.A.A. events. I had no more friends there! There were a bunch of overly-hyper teenagers (just like I was no too long ago) and a bunch of oldsters that had been there way before I got there, and I fit squarely in the middle, all by myself.

Imagine being at an A.A. event, surrounded by thousands of sober A.A.'s, and feeling totally alone! I moped my way down to the marathon meeting room where I shared my feelings. The meeting ended and the room cleared. There was just me, and one older guy. He approached me and said, "Hey Jason, do you remember me?" My God, it was Joe! I met him at my very first Y.P.A.A. conference when I was 16!

He was older than me at the time (still is), and I never really took the time to get to know the "older" young people. It always seemed that the younger/newer crowd had a little more fun. Those older guys just wanted to go to workshops and whatnot. Here I was, smack in the middle of my realization that I had outgrown the rowdy younger crowd, presented with a bridge to the "older" crowd. I started talking to these older guys who I'd been seeing around every year (but never took the time to get to know) and started to learn that there are plenty of us who sobered up very young and have been sober for 20+ years. I didn't feel alone anymore! When I go to Y.P.A.A. conferences now, I tend to spend more time in meetings and workshops and reaching my hand out to the guy who looks uncomfortable and lonely. I sure know how that feels!

Flash forward to birthday night—I was sitting here telling myself that I didn't want to publicly celebrate because I didn't want to feel special, but what was I offering in return? I remembered how when those older cats told me how long they'd been sober, I felt less like some weirdo who got sober way too young and more like another link in the chain. If I don't say anything, who is going to feel weird and alone some day because I was "too humble" to let them know that, yes, A.A. works? Paradoxically, by not saying anything I am still holding on to that part of me that thinks I'm special because I got sober so young.

There's one other thing I learned about birthday celebrations: When I announce my anniversary with a heart full of gratitude for the miracle of my life, when I want others to know that they, too, can have this (whether they are young or old), it is another form of A.A. service. It is just one more way I can reach out to the alcoholic who might still be suffering alone and scared to speak up. It is one more way that I can encourage someone to pick up the chain and forge their own link. It is one more way that I might help someone, even myself, to feel a part of, rather than apart from.

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 11, 2011

Submitted By Morgan D-Secretary extraordinaire

I. OPEN/ATTENDEES

Unavailable

II. MINUTES

• Amendment: Page 5- New Years Alk-a-thon has had no volunteers, not the Winter Bash.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Total Revenues: \$7,142.68
Cost of Sales: \$3,484.21
Gross Income: \$3,658.47
Net Income: \$(1,778.16)

- It looks like our expenses have gone up a lot, but we haven't increased the cost of anything.
- Why was cost of schedules so low last year and so high this year? Steve will look into it.

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

- Monday and Tuesday nights still need coverage.
- We do have a lot of revenue worth of literature and pamphlets in the office.
- Donated \$64.25 of literature to treatment and other facilities.
- Went to Assembly and voted again to have Central Office in service structure, did not pass.
- Went to the Seminar in Tucson: World Services is going to start doing online literature sales and e-books. Grape Vine reduced their staff and is working on some changes. They also have a new web site.
- We support an ASL interpreter.
- Phone calls are down, internet hits are up, but down a bit from last month.
- Michael and Kathy haven't worked a lot extra this month.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

• Nothing to report.

VI. PASS IT ON

- Gold this month.
- Only two months left as editor. Go back to groups to see if people are able or willing to take position.
- Anyone can do this, all they need is the ability to use a computer. In Design is the program we use.

VII. SCHEDULES

• Check out group's information on schedule and online to make sure everything is current.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Kiwanis group Breakfast meeting went well.
- UNM class on alcoholism wants a guest speaker. John is going to go as the speaker on 9/19 (120 students).

IX. WEB SITE

• Going to get catalog on-line.

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

• The catalog is in the Pass it On, and will update it as needed on the website, but keep a master copy.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

• Still doing ASL at Hands on and also the Ladies Room.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Corrales Group: Jim F-43 years! Seniors Seeking Serenity: Marshall F-31 years! Jerry S-30 years! Seeking Serenity: Gerard C-1 year! Peggy F-2 years! One day at a time! Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

XII. OLD BUSINESS

• Discussed positions and elections nominating committee last month, we will discuss positions today.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Open Needed Positions: Treasure, Community Outreach, PIO editor.
- Open Positions that have officers standing: Secretary, Web Guardian, Chair, Activities (may change duties), Member at large.
- We need a nominating committee, about 3-5 people who will decide on officers.
- How do people put their name in?
- Go back to groups and bring back names to central office or contact someone on the nominating committee. That doesn't always work so the nominating committee will go out and ask people who they think will be a good candidate and ask them.
- Volunteers for nominating committee: Cindy, Kristen, & Chris

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jamez sponsorship workshop Saturday 10/16
- Traditions conference 10/29 at Nativity @ 8:30am.
- District 11- Literature workshop coming up
- District 13- elections will be next Saturday at 10 at St. Thomas of Canterbury

XV. CLOSE

Happy Destiny Group

• 1507.

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Jan-Sept 2011	<u> </u>	Happy Hour Group	\$214.75	Sponsorship & Growth	\$492.85
ABC Monday Night	\$9.50	High Country Group	\$35.00	Staying Sober at Sunrise	\$560.00
R.R.		High Noon Group	\$420.00	Strange Mental Blank	\$300.00
Amameda Men's Stag	\$300.00	How It Works	\$256.00	Spots	
Acceptance Group	\$100.00	In The Book	\$101.50	Strictly Solutions MC	\$102.00
Any Lengths Women's	\$480.00	Isleta Group	\$188.19	Sunrise Catchers	\$17.50
Group		Jemez Springs Group	\$35.00	Sunday Night Serenity	\$370.00
Back to Basics	\$250.00	Kiva Group	\$50.00	Sunrise Sobriety	\$239.56
Basement Steps	\$60	Ladies of Peaceful	\$45.00	Straight Pepper Diet	\$68.50
Beginners Group R.R.	\$50.00	Serenity		Taylor Ranch Fellowship	\$117.50
Blackouts Group	\$1005.00	Last Call	\$25.00	The Ladies Room	\$584.09
Brownbaggers	\$995.13	Live and Let Live	\$49.65	There Is A Solution	\$225.53
Came to Believe	\$30.00	Lone Rangers Group	\$404.47	Thinking Straight	\$100.00
Estancia		Magdelena Group	\$70.00	Too Much For Us	\$51.00
Candlelight Group R.R.	\$675.35	Miracles Group	\$901.00	Tuesday 12 & 12	\$75.00
Corrales Group	\$120.00	New Frontier Group	\$532.65	Tuesday Knights	\$30.00
Corrales Men's Stag	\$250.00	North Valley Group	\$166.50	Wake Up Call Group	\$750.05
Cosmopolitan Group	\$34.80	Old 66 Group Edge-	\$156.05	Westside AA	\$322.00
Dawn Patrol	\$2616.71	wood		Westside Noon Group	\$518.00
Dawning Promises	\$61.17	One Day At A Time	\$854.40	Women in Progress	\$50.00
Direct Amends Group	\$63.00	Penny Lane Group	\$105.07	Women's Noon	\$20.00
Dog On The Roof	\$42.50	Primary Purpose Group	\$400.00	Gratitude	
Down Under Group	\$200.00	Promises Group	\$84.31	V.A. Campus Group	\$59.65
Downtown Lunch	\$293.40	Queer Ideas of Fun	\$400.00	Valley Girls Estancia	\$25.00
Bunch		Raymac Group	\$17.50	Group Totals	\$23,827.82
Drunkin Donuts	\$80.00	Roadrunner Group	\$127.31	1	ĺ
Early Birds	\$200.00	Round Up Group	\$35.00	Faithful Fivers	\$1105.00
East Mountain Group	\$150.00	Sandia Serenity Study	\$50.00	Individual Contributors	\$1956.10
Foothills Group	\$2178.44	Group		Other AA Contributors	\$643.74
Freedom First	\$21.00	Seeking Serenity	\$554.55	Special AA Events	\$3496.13
Freedom From Bondage	\$625.00	Seniors Seeking Serenity	\$207.10	Alcothon	\$236.00
Free Spirits Group	\$22.00	Serendipity Group	\$225.31		
Friday Night	\$135.00	Serenity Group	\$154.96]	
Smokeless		Share The Legacy	\$50.00	1	
Good Fellows Group	\$210.00	Singleness of Purpose	40.50	1	
Group 164	\$70.00	South Valley Bikers	\$10.00	1	
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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.

September 2011 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$7,142.68				
Cost of Sales	\$3,484.21				
Gross Income	\$3,658.47				
Expenses	\$7,761.68				
NET INCOME (month) \$-1,778.16					
NET INCOME (YTD) \$-8,768.61					

For a copy of the full Central Office incomelexpense report, join us at the next Intergroup Meeting on the second Sunday of the month, 2 pm, at the Brownbaggers.

Archives Alert!

I'm Manuel and I am an Alcoholic,

I am the new archivist for District 3. That's all groups that fall along the line from Cosmopolitan Group to Soccoro. Albuquerque, Belen, Las Lunas, Magdelena, Peralta & Soccoro. If I missed your group and you know your in district 3 this message is for your group too.

Please at your next Group Conscience if you can write out a Group History, when started, by whom, locations group has been, a picture of your meeting place, members past and present, group officers, meeting address, meeting days and times.. I'll start a file on all groups in District 3 for our district archives. My address is:

Manuel P. P.O. Box 72583 Albuquerque, NM 87195

Corrections Corner

The District 3 Corrections Committee is looking for AA members, men and women like you, who are willing to help make it possible for the AA message to be carried to those on the "inside." Taking meetings into correctional facilities is not for everyone. Jim P. lived and breathed Step 12, but he couldn't go inside. Because of his own story of finding recovery inside the Kansas State Penitentiary, he wanted to but he couldn't stand the sound of the steel doors locking. But did you know you don't have to go inside to do corrections service work?

Now there's a rewarding and barely ever mentioned form of Twelve Step work that's "a special kind of AA service." In Corrections Correspondence AA members on the "outside" correspond with AA members in correctional facilities. Like sponsorship, it is suggested that men correspond with men and women with women. District 3 Corrections wants to support and facilitate Corrections Correspondence and is planning Pen & Paper Pot Lucks. The DCM and Corrections Chair are working on a date for the first one. Watch for more information in our AA service newsletters. You do not need to be in District 3 to participate. All you need is a desire to share your experience, strength and hope with A.A.s who are confined.

-Skitch F.

September 2011 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	SEPT 11	AUG 11	SEPT 10
Information	617	621	862
12-Step	24	11	10
Al-Anon	7	15	10
Message	20	41	33
Other	116	94	123
TOTAL	784	782	1028
WALK INS			
Information	128	16	10
12-Step	6	0	1
Al-Anon	0	4	0
Get Schedule	13	16	7
Purchase	168	167	137
Media	1	1	2
Message	2	30	2
Casual	33	18	23
Other	46	33	35
TOTAL	397	285	217
ALDUQUEDQUEAA ODO WED	CTATO		
ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB : Unique Visitors	2725		
Number of Visits		1.86 visits/	(visitor)
Pages viewed		5 pages/vis	
i agos viewea	20,210 (o pages/vic	,,,
DESK WORKERS*			
Regulars	48		
Substitutes	40		
TOTAL	88		
DESK SHIFTS*			
Weekdays	132		
Weekends	40		
TOTAL	172		
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	115(87%)		
Worked by Substitutes	17(13%)		
TOTAL	132		
WEEKEND SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	29(72%)		
Worked by Substitutes	11(28%)		
TOTAL	40		
OHIETO WORKER BY MICHAEL	1		
SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL			
3 hour shifts (1)	3 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY			
3 hour shifts (5)	15 hours		
2 hour shifts (1)	2 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
TOTAL	1E hours		

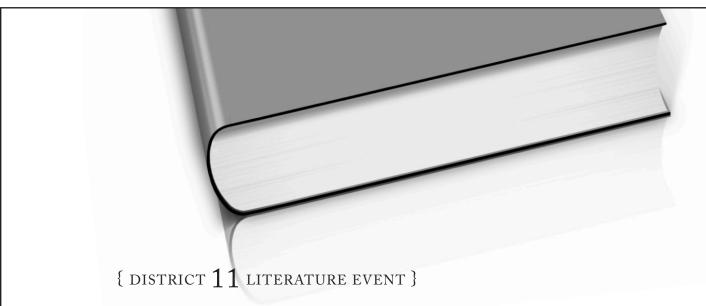
WHEN I WAS DRINKING, I WAS EXTREMELY SUICIDAL. LUCKILY, I WAS ALSO A WORLD-CLASS PROCRASTINATOR.



*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

TOTAL

15 hours



Words that will save your life





Come after your noon meeting...

come before your evening meeting...

just come and bring a sponsee or newcomer.

Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
1801 Montano Rd NW, Albuquerque across from Unser Racing Museum
park on the northeast side of the building and enter through rear doors

Coffee and munchies will be served.

Free raffle for Conference approved literature.

Literature and Grapevine display.

Great ideas for holiday gifts.

Albuquerque Central Office

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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