DECEMBER 2010 ★ VOLUME 35 ISSUE 12

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter www.albuquerqueaa.org

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 GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE his and said simply, 'Pass it on.'"-FROM A LETTER TO THE A.A.

Step 12: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.

-Alcoholics Anonymous p89

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety. When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it. -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p106

Our cofounder Dr. Bob stated in his farewell talk that, "our 12 Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service." I'm so thankful someone reached out to me when I was in the darkness of alcoholism. Every time I work with a newcomer, I am reminded that A.A. really saved my life. I have found myself, at times, feeling satisfied with my sobriety. Ego slowly creeps back in and I get comfortable and forget just where I came from. When working with newcomers, that ego and complacency is replaced with gratitude—a gratitude that can extend into my entire life. My job. my problems, my whatever seems less important...more like a gift. I try to remember to reach out to the alcoholics, and not wait for them to come to me.

Tradition 12: *"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."*

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit-well symbolized by anonymity-is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future. -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions n184

These experiences taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

We are sure that humility, expressed as anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have. -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p187 It's one of the many paradoxes of Alcoholics Anonymous that when I step down from my soapbox that someone might actually want to hear what I have to say. Trying to tell someone what to do or how to do it only alienates them. In turn, I lose the rewards of being helpful. But when I am just a member among members and share my experience, strength and hope, I might attract someone who wants what I have been given—a life (in progress) in A.A.

Concept 12: "General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible. by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter "can be readily amended," these General Warranties—like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions—be changed only by "written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups" in the world! Why?

"these Warranties Because indicate *aualities* the of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess...These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement is serves." -The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated For more information on the General Warranties, see the above named pamphlet or the Service Manual.

* * * NEW MEETINGS AND CHANGES

The straight pepper diet group has moved from the desert club to a new nonsmoking home at trinity united methodist church at 3715 silver ave se. This is at the corner of silver ave & solano, just 1 block south of central and 2 blocks east of carlisle in Nob Hill. See you there!

CORRALES GROUP IS MOVING FROM THE SYC TO THE CORRALES COMMUNITY CENTER.

CORRECTION: IT WAS INCORRECTLY STATED IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE THAT THE SOBER VALLEY GROUP IN PERALTA NO LONGER MET AT ALL; IT SHOULD HAVE STATED THAT IT NO LONGER MEETS ON SATURDAY.

MIRACLES HAPPEN!

Do you believe in miracles? I do. In April 1978 I insisted that my husband go to an alcoholism treatment program because his drinking was "ruining my life." They treated spouses also. The outcome: maybe he wasn't an alcoholic, but I AM! It changed my life. My husband did not like the changes so I divorced him thinking that would solve my problem. It was a gift to him. He married a lovely woman and lived a happy life. I, however, have been working on myself ever since.

I love AA – have always attended meetings, had and been a sponsor, worked the Steps, prayed, meditated off and on (I've been "on" for a long time) and have done service. Not perfectly.

My life journey has not been smooth. After a year and a half of not drinking I decided to learn how to be an addiction counselor so I could "save the world from alcoholism". Since I had done none of my own recovery work that was not a successful venture. I used food, sugar in particular, to keep from feeling the emotions that tormented me. Then for three years I had an exciting relationship with an active alcoholic. I escaped from it by going to codependency treatment, and moved from South Dakota to New Mexico. In treatment I had been told that I am a sexual abuse survivor. I went to in-patient treatment and then weekly counselling sessions for seven years to deal with that issue.

In 1994 I received another miracle. I visited a spiritual woman, Mother Meera, in Germany to learn about the feminine side of God. That experience strengthened and deepened my relationship with my Higher Power. It also helped me become and remain abstinent with a 12-Step recovery program for compulsive eating.

Some of the gifts I have received from HP have been: sponsors in both 12-Step programs who love and support me and share their wisdom along with their experience, strength and hope; swimming with dolphins in Hawaii; singing with a group in Switzerland, Italy and Croatia; recovery from two major surgeries (after one it was thought I might never sing again and now I sing in our church choir); recent recovery from breast cancer and best of all a loving, healthy relationship with my son and daughter and their spouses.

It seems to me that another miracle is "in the making". After my surgeries

Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

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Sean F. *Secretary* Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

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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

Excerpts from Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and Living Sober, are printed with permission of A.A.W.S., Inc. Excerpts from The Grapevine, are printed with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc. my daughter invited me to move to Lummi Island, WA where she lives. She and her husband had a wonderful home with a spectacular view built for me to rent at my Albuquerque rent amount. The island is beautiful and peaceful. I have all the things I have wished for including many varieties of birds to feed and deer that visit (and unfortunately eat some of my flowers). I have many friends, Tai Chi, yoga, massages and a church that I like on the island. A friend and I re-started a defunct A.A. meeting. It is 1½ hours of heart-felt sharing that several islanders and as many as fifteen mainland visitors enjoy. We help pay their ferry fare with our 7th tradition. I go to town (Bellingham) once a week for shopping, medical appointments etc. and my other 12-Step meeting and an occasional AA meeting. It is a six minute ferry ride and fifteen minute drive.

The miracle is that after living much of my life dissociated I am actually, finally, able to feel my body and my feelings most of the time.

Keep coming back. Miracles happen! P.S. I miss you Albuquerque folks!

-Beverly D. (all the way from WA)

DO WE MAKE 12 STEP CALLS?

During our meetings we often talk about being 12-Stepped or making a 12-Step Call where we actually go to the suffering alcoholic that has reached out their hand for help. Right here in Albuquerque we have a Central Office that takes calls for hopeless individuals reaching out for help who are then matched with people willing to make face to face contact. Although talking to the individual on the phone to find out where they are is always important; the face to face contact is what can make the difference between sobriety and possibly death. Not every alcoholic who reaches out for help has the courage to go to a meeting alone in hopes of meeting with the caller on the other end. Courage that exists when making the call often vanishes without face to face contact. It is so much easier to attend that first meeting with a friend than going alone. I for one was taken to my first meeting, and if the person I called had told me to meet him there, or go to a meeting (alone) and call him back I may have never made it to Alcoholics Anonymous.

More and more we are hearing about the 12 Step becoming a lost art. Often the cause is blamed on the majority of people coming to A.A. through treatment facilities or being sent from the courts. Even if the actual calls reaching out for help have stopped (which they have not) there is still a need for 12 Stepping the individual who walks through our doors and into our lives. Often we hear in the rooms how important a newcomer is. Do our actions match our talk? All too often, I let them slip out the door without introducing myself, giving my phone number, asking for their number or most importantly inviting them out for coffee. Do I exhibit the same desperation our pioneers had in carrying this message to another alcoholic? When the call comes do I make excuses to myself that I am too busy, too tired, not in the mood, scared? Will I take the right action and go with gratitude in my heart and help a suffering alcoholic?

Have we really lost the art of talking to another alcoholic who is suffering? Actually, I don't think we have, but we may have lost the desire to understand that our personal sobriety is dependent on how well we carry our A.A. message to those outside the meeting rooms. We do owe it to the fellowship to make the call because so many have made themselves available to us. My hope is that more of us will make the call when asked. Also I would like to encourage our Intergroup Committee to consider doing 12 Step Call Workshops across the Central Office Area. If it is a lost art, we need to learn what they are and how to make them.

Anonymous

\triangleright 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.

Minutes for the Intergroup Representative meeting were not provided to me. In its place I present to you a member's report from S.W.R.A.A.S.A. 2010 in Denver. Friday:

• Opening meeting and introductions followed by a meeting where the 11 Delegates (from the 11 areas that make up the SW region: 4 in TX, 2 in MO, CO, AK, KS, OK, NM) each spoke on a chosen topic. Topics were as follows:

- Collective Participation
- Practicing These Principles: The Pathway To Unity
 - New Members must see the hope older members have
- Communication: The Key To An Informed Decision
- Love & Tolerance Is Our Code
 - A.A. is the language of what works, not an absolute right or wrong. We speak of love and tolerance.
 - What's good for the group can be hard for the individual. We (as members) strive to achieve respect and tolerance.
- The Difference Between General Service & Service In General
- This We Owe To A.A.'s Future-A.A.'s Declaration Of Unity (from our Delegate, Marsha)
- Our Common Welfare Should Come First
- Your Grapevine, Your Electronic Meeting In Print
- How It Works
- Setting An Example: Attraction Into Service
- What Happens After Inventory

• Report from our Regional Trustee, Conley B. He talked about diversity in Alcoholics Anonymous, the International Convention, Class A non-alcoholic Trustees, treatment (outpatient), the Grapevine, group contributions vs. individual contributions & rotating executives. Saturday:

• 06:30 I started the day with an A.A. meeting.

08:00 I attended the Intergroup Representative meeting. Key points from the meeting were as follows:
Talked about how newcomers or those who don't yet understand how A.A. functions will call into central

offices to "report" other members for not giving rides, not chairing meetings properly etc. Funny stuff! • Central Offices/Intergroups are not part of the General Service structure, but they the part of A.A. that exists to provide timely local service that the G.S.O., Areas & Districts could rarely do themselves.

- An Intergroup Representative is similar to a G.S.R. in terms of reporting to the Group and voting.
- Intergroup Reps are part of the Central Office too.
- In KC-MO, they do an annual Xmas tree lighting ceremony that is a big, city-wide deal.
- Being an Intergroup Rep is a great place to start in service.
- Some Central Office/Intergroup meetings travel every month.
- How do Central Offices work with/coordinate with Districts?
 - Office reps can attend Area/District events & meetings
 - Each district can have an Intergroup rep
- How does the Central Office help the overlap of service committees within different Districts or Areas? • Committees do not happen at Central Offices, that is left to the Districts.
- How does a Central Office start?

• One attendee talked about how their office started in an apartment with a phone and literature. Not much happened, though, until the got some advertising in local publications, schools, clinics etc. Use the A.A. guidelines (yellow sheets).

• For Intergroup events, some places do a "bring your sponsor" instead of "bring your sponsee." The older folks/old timers like to see the old faces, and give off some magical warm glow that makes A.A. more attractive to everyone.

• We are a fellowship of men & women, not just of districts, areas & committees. When a district or an area says, "We'll do..." that means the men & women take the responsibility. The A.A. groups are not meant to allow us to pass the buck.

- Intergroup reps need to make Central Offices accountable to where the money goes.
- 09:00 I attended the Bridge the Gap meeting, chaired by our Area 46 BtG Chair, Ellen R.
- Work as a team with treatment & corrections.
- BtG is about a 1 on 1 connection.
- Denver Intergroup has a BtG chair.
- Signing up young people for the BtG contact list.
- BTGWW.org a secure website.
- Going by zip code, rather than arbitrary and confusing district boundaries.
- BtG forms that list expectations of the "Patient" and "The Bridge" so that they know what to expect when they sign up, on either side.

• Cards get taken in by the treatment volunteers (or corrections) for patients/inmates to provide their information.

• Talked of the importance of keeping the same contact info (either address or phone number) through the rotation of committee members/chairs.

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Cosmo: Christine L.-16 years! Seniors Seeking Serenity: Hal M.-6 years! Julia C.-30 years! Jeanne B.-33 years! Seeking Serenity: Ken Z.-9 months! John O.-1 year! Victoria T.-5 years! Alex S.-8 years! Laura T.-11 years! Sean F. 17 years! Barry W.-21 years! Mary A.-31 years! Please submit your sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

• A "List Angel" who can occasionally call the volunteers on the contact list to keep them interested and make sure the list is up to date.

• Use the list (sorted by zip code or district) to identify holes in the list i.g. age, sobriety time, location etc.

• Make a sign up sheet for volunteers and take it to meetings, rather than simply making announcements which have no action for people to take.Treatment centers took the bulk of our 12th Step work, we can use BtG to get it back.

• Working with our CPC committees to get the word out about BtG. They facilities that people are coming from need to know we exist. • We should have a unified voice about who/what we (A.A.) are, rather than 3 or 10 or 50

people with their own views.

11:00 I saw an old friend who sobered up here and is now living in Colorado. 11:01 I attended a meeting about the history of A.A. from 1939-1950.

13:30 I attended a meeting about the 7th & 8th Traditions. An interesting topic ensued:

• If an al-anon registers for an A.A. conference and that conference then turns its money over to the Area/District/G.S.O., is that al-anon's registration fee considered an outside contribution? Who's keeping track?

15:00 I attended a meeting on the A.A. Group. Key points were as follows:

• We don't use our pamphlets enough.

• A strong group (from whence 5 Delegates had come) folded after the old-timers left and tradition violations became rampant.

• Difference between open & closed meetings.

• What does autonomy mean when a group refuses to utilize A.A. approved literature and suggestions?

• We should not participate with Tradition breakers.

We should not participate with fraction breakers.
We should not neglect the sick group members just because they don't do things "right."
The most indispensable service position is the coffee maker. A bunch of people standing around in the cold waiting for the doors to open will kill a meeting quicker than anything else.
Keeping to the primary purpose-Alcoholism. Reading the blue card before meetings.
Are we telling newcomers to "sit down, shut up & listen" or are we saying, "get involved, take action und do engrise".

and do service?

16:30 I attended a workshop on newsletters. Key points were as follows:

• Newsletters should inform those who can't attend an A.A. event/meeting personally. • We saw several historic newsletters from the NW TX area, along with a GvR newsletter and some old Box 459s.

• Newsletters should be creative and should attract readers with a nice look, intriguing content and ;pictures?

• Reach out to smaller groups to get submissions and participation.

• Talked about Spanish translation.

• Talked about the A.A. guidelines on using A.A. approved literature as content.

• An Area newsletter is often different (in content) than an Intergroup/Central Office newsletter.

• Talked about distribution, where they are found or how they are mailed.

20:00 I attended the Concepts presentation.

Sunday:

09:00 I attended the Trustees Sharing Session. Key points were as follows:
Service in A.A. has transcended our towns and reached beyond all language & cultural barriers to bring hope, harmony and fellowship. We own this priceless fellowship. Why should we change or fix it? We want to preserve it.

• How do we preserve unity & not go off on tangents? We pray for open-mindedness. We owe more than \$1 in the basket. Rotation is important. When I finish an A.A. job, I'm done. I don't need to stick around to control the next guy. • S.W.R.A.A.S.A. is meant to put like minded service people in conversation to find what makes

our jobs better or harder. We are doing all of this to build the best possible service people to maybe one day serve as Delegate.

• We need to inform ourselves and vote accordingly.

• Regions are more than groups to choose a Trustee, and should be considered as such and be put on the A.A. map, so to speak.

• I'm a work in progress. We do together what I can't do myself. Getting out of our A.A. comfort zone is important. Getting better able to serve our home groups is the real deal. We have one service: to carry the message of A.A.



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 2010 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$6,448.97
Cost of Sales	\$2,552.25
Gross Income	\$3,896.72
Expenses	\$5,307.19

NET INCOME \$-1,140.47

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

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap helps alcoholics in an alcoholism treatment facility make a transition into A.A. by using Temporary Contacts. If you would like to help in this very important 12th Step work in Albuquerque and have at least one year of continuous sobriety in A.A., please contact me at d13bridgethegap@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. The calls are coming in, alcoholics are reaching out, and it's a great way to get your 12th step on!

Thank you.

Jason K.

JOKE OF THE MONTH: "WHAT DO YOU CALL A DRUNK WHO WORKS At an upholstery repair shop? A recovering alcoholic!"

September 2010 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	OCT 10	SEPT 10	OCT OS
Information	874	852	830
12-Step	27	10	17
AI-Anon	10	10	13
Message	24	33	5
Other	90	123	11
TOTAL	1022	1028	1036
WALK INS			
Information	15	10	16
12-Step	0	1	
Al-Anon	0	0	
Get Schedule	13	7	1
Purchase	175	137	13
Tapes	3	2	1
Message	0	2	Į
Casual	25	23	2
Other	19	35	19
TOTAL	250	217	23
DESK WORKERS*			
Regulars	51		
Substitutes	40		
TOTAL	91		
DESK SHIFTS*			
Weekdays	126		
Weekends	50		
TOTAL	176		
WEEKDAY SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	106(84%)		
Worked by Substitutes	20(16%)		
TOTAL	126		
WEEKEND SHIFTS*			
Worked by Regulars	42(84%)		
Worked by Substitutes	8(16%)		
TOTAL	50		
SHIFTS WORKED BY MIC	HAFI		
3 hour shifts (4)	12 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
SHIFTS WORKED BY KATH			
3 hour shifts (5)	15 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0) TOTAL	0 hours		
TUTAL	27 hours		



THE ALBUQUERQUE INTERGROUP ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S ALCATHON WILL BE HELD AT THE HEIGHTS CLUB. THE CLUB WILL BE NON-SMOKING FOR THE DURATION OF THE EVENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMOKING LOUNGE NEAR THE BACK DOOR. PLEASE CALL CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE SCHEDULE AND TO VOLUNTEER FOR SERVICE! 266.1900

In Memoriam:

Glenn (Captain Freedom) Miller 7/20/49 - 9/9/10

Glenn went to rest with his "New found friend", a phrase he quoted often from page 13 of Bill's story describing the God of his understanding.

He lived in Albuquerque NM for many years, and participated with many AA groups, the Isleta Group and mostly known at the Desert Club. Glenn served as President for awhile of the Desert Club. He was staying in his van at the time and policy said no over night parking in the parking lot, and Glenn joked that when he became President of the Club he was then able to park in the parking lot over night. He always stated he had many meetings before the meeting and after the meeting in that van. Glenn was a plumber by trade and served many AA's, and AA meeting places sometimes at no cost in fixing their plumbing problems. He would state, "How can I charge you when we've been here talking AA." Most recently Glenn had moved to Quemado NM. He immediately started a 12x12 study there on Thursday night. Glenn joked that all his life he was told to stay away from the wrong crowd, and old timers like Dave M., and Louie B. two of his previous sponsors, told him after hearing his story, "Hell you are the wrong crowd". LOL

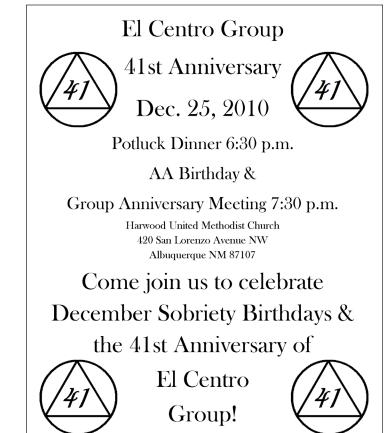
Glenn sobered in May of 1982 and unfortunately with 26 years of sobriety his past came back to haunt him and he got Cirrhosis of the Liver as a direct result of being a carrier of Hep C. Glenn suffered a 2 year illness and all during that time sponsored many people and attended meetings regularly. Glenn moved to Scottsville Kentucky to live with his brother Bruce and sister-in-law his final year. He quickly became the GSR of the group in Scottsville. Now I must clear up one myth of Glenn. He always stated he was just an ole HillBilly. Now this may have been true, but Laura and I went out to visit him and found all his family "Pretty Domestic", Glenn was the HillBilly although southern accents are shared by Miller's. LOL. Another quote of Glenn's was that "in AA we have 10 people pulling the wagon and 300 in the wagon and the 300 in the wagon are complaining of the way the 10 are pulling it." The one quote Glenn said every time he spoke was, "I'm the luckiest man I know." We are all lucky for having known you Glenn, an example that AA works having passed on to the AA meeting in the sky with 28 years Sober.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!

AA 101 Study Group

LOCATION: University of New Mexico Place: Mesa Vista Hall, Women's Resource Center

Note: we will not be meeting during the UNM Winter Break. The last meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8th. We will resume meetings on Wednesday, January 19th. We also have a coffee/tea and a co-secretary position open for next semester. Please join us!



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