

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: www.albuquerqueaa.org

Intergroup Committee Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Brian H. (Secretary)
12.09.07*

Chair – Dave C.

Dave opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions around the room.

Secretary - Brian H.

Motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published in *Pass It On*.

Service Coordinator - Michael W.

Distribution of new InterGroup Representative packets. Monthly Activities Report: Phone traffic dropping a little bit; sales through the roof. Desk coverage strong; for information about available shifts, call Central Office. Some groups stepping up for Night Phone coverage – thanks!

Alternate Coordinator - Kathy H.

Seconds everything Michael said.

Activities Coordinator - Kris H. reported on behalf of Melissa C.

Kris H. is helping Melissa with Alkathon event. Next InterGroup Speaker Meeting on 12/15 - Mike E – at St. Timothy's. Donations for raffle & potluck always welcome. Dinner at 6:00 pm. Speaker at 7:30 pm. Alkathon preparations continuing -- facility walk-through on 12/17; seeking donations from groups of coffee; dinner will start at 7:30 pm; seeking service support for cooking, security, hospitality, child care, marathon meetings, setup/cleanup, butt patrol. We are going to pay for Child Care - Two people to supervise the Child Care.

Member at Large - Martha G.

Nothing to report - thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

Pass It On Editor - Sally G.

Ideas cooking for upcoming issues of *PIO*. New *PIO* available now.

Schedule Editor - Al J.

Got out a new schedule. Standard number of changes as well as incorporation of District 18 information and area codes into the schedule. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service over the last 4 1/2 years as schedule editor.

Community Outreach - John S.

Got thank you letters for participating in two events at UNM. Recently did Health Fair at Job Corps on 11/30 with 400 students, worked the booth with 5 volunteers.

7th Tradition Basket Passed.

Treasurer - Steve H.

Month okay. Group and Special Event (Women's Sobriety Fest and SoberMan Blues) Contributions are strong. Number of Groups contributing continue to grow. In the black for the month, and the deficit for the year has gotten better. Inventory solid. Looking good to at least break even with this year's Alkathon. Treasurer's Report accepted by acclamation.

Special Needs - Peggy A.

Nothing to report.

Media Library - Grace L.

New CDs available in Media

Volume 70, Issue 1

January 2008

Congratulations!
and
Welcome!
to
Michael Q.
(Schedule Editor)
and
Steve P.
(Treasurer)

The two new
Steering
Committee
Members!!!

Inside this issue:

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Corrections Corner

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

No messages for the Month of January!

Balancing the books

(from *A.A. in Prison - Inmate to Inmate* pages. 23 & 24)

My first experience of freedom came while I was locked up in the state penitentiary. I had been carefully guided through the first seven steps and had begun to awaken spiritually. I trusted the A.A. process and was beginning to trust God.

But my sponsors and I were faced with a logistical problem. No matter how willing we were to make direct amends, the state would not let us out to do so. One of my sponsors had committed murder, and for him to directly contact the victim's family would cause much undue harm.

As we discussed these issues, it became clear that the key to the Eighth Step was willingness; if this God were truly loving and merciful as it appeared, we would not be kept in bondage simply because we could not reach those to whom we owed restitution. Freedom would come, it seemed, when I stood entirely ready to make amends wherever possible.

My sponsor gave me an exercise to do. I was to make a list of all the people I had harmed. This list would start with the names from my inventory. It was suggested that there were many others I had harmed that also must go on the list, even though there was no resentment or fear connected with them. I was to be as clear as possible as to the harm I had done. *But*--my sponsor pointed out--even though I knew what I had done to each person, I was so insensitive that I probably did not know the consequences of my actions. He gave me the key to freedom; I was to close my eyes and picture each person separately in front of me. I was to look each person straight in the eye and see if I could feel a willingness to say: "I have been wrong and have cause you harm. Will you please tell me what I must do so that we can get the books to balance?" As I sat in the cell that night going over my list, I had the experience I had been looking for all my life: I was lifted and set free.

In my blindness I had always believed that a spiritual awakening was the end of the road. Now, having had one, I knew it was but the beginning. Finally, at thirty-four years of age, I could truly begin to live.

Don P., Aurora, Colo.

Central Office Steering Committee E-mail addresses:

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Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

District 18
9:30 am 4th, Sunday
Rio West Church
6751 Pasilla Rd., RR, NM

Central Office Meeting Minutes *cont.*

Library. Audio transfer efforts ongoing; new volunteers always needed to review tapes.

Web Guardian - Tom C.

PIO online. Schedule's up to date. Enhanced mapping functions on the online schedule up and running. Adjusted some details of recently changed Rio Rancho meetings. Working to implement a donated desktop computer for deskworkers at Central Office to search the database of meetings.

Old Business:

CO will donate Gift Certificates for Alkathon; prizes to be Literature/Merchandise Gift Certificates with 90-day expiration date (in the amount of \$100, \$50, \$25) and specification of no-cash-back. Discussion of inclusion of full names & address in *PIO* (in both hardcopy and web versions. Tom C will remove last names and physical addresses from materials published in hardcopy of *PIO* prior to publication on Albuquerque InterGroup website.

New Business:

ELECTIONS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE.

All positions open for election. The following incumbents were approved by acclamation to continue in positions of service, as listed below.

Chair - Dave C.
Secretary - Brian H.
Special Needs - Peggy A.
Activities Chair - Melissa C.
Pass It On Editor - Sally G.
Media Librarian - Grace L.

Web Guardian - Tom C.
Community Outreach - John S.
Member At Large - Martha G. Michael Q. was appointed to the position of Schedule Editor by acclamation. Steve P. was appointed to the position of Treasurer by paper ballot voting, one vote per InterGroup Representative and Steering Committee Member. Ralph T (Area 46 Delegate-elect) tallied and announced the votes.

Announcements:

BrownBaggers will likely be moving to a new location in early 2008. Look for details.
Cosmopolitan Group celebrating 20th Anniversary on January 11 (Beverly D - featured speaker). If interested in a Concept Study Meeting - contact Grace L (Media Librarian). FYI - Area 46 will be staging Concept Meetings at future Area Assemblies.

Dave closed the meeting at 3:10 pm with the Third Step prayer.

ATTENDEES:

Dave C (CO Chair/Dawn Patrol)
Joseph F (Dawn Patrol - Rep)
Kris H (Dawn Patrol)
Lisa S (Straight Pepper Diet)
Brian H (CO Secretary/Dawn Patrol)
Emma D (One Day at a Time)
Carrol M (One Day at a Time)
John S (CO Community Outreach/Brownbaggers)
Jim O (Live and Let Live)
Lynn H (Ladies Room)
Dondo (Old 66)

Ralph T (Dawn Patrol)
Greg S (Dawn Patrol)
Janis B (Seeking Serenity)
Al J (CO Schedule Editor/District 13)
Kathy H (CO Alternate Coordinator/Metropolitan)
Michael W (CO Coordinator/Mountainside)
Jason K (Sunday Night Young People's)
Tom C (CO Web Guardian/Basement Steps)
Eric B (Tuesday Knights)
Michael Q (Dawn Patrol)
Tom N (High Noon)
Grace L (CO Media Librarian/Free Spirits)
Steve P (Free Spirits)
Dennis M (Isleta)
Peggy A (CO Special Needs/Women on Wednesday)
Beverly D (Cosmopolitan)
Martha G (CO Member at Large/Cosmopolitan)
Sally G (CO Pass It On/How It Works)
Terri R (Cosmopolitan)
Meghan M (El Centro)
Stephen H (CO Treasurer/Men's Lunch Box)

The Steering Committee at Central Office encourage all groups to elect a InterGroup representative and come join us at the next InterGroup meeting. We meet the second Sunday of every month, at 2:00 pm, at the Desert Club.

See You There!!!

Excerpts from Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, A.A. in Prison - Inmate to Inmate are printed with permission of AAWS, Inc. Excerpts from, AA Around the World - Adventures in Recovery, The Grapevine are printed with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.

The following contributed to Central Office.....

This data is from November 1 to November 31, 2007 and is inclusive for the entire calendar month!

Groups:

- Basement Steps
- Brownbaggers Group
- Chama Group
- Corrales Group
- Dawn Patrol
- Dawning Promises
- Direct Amends
- Foothills Group
- Freedom From Bondage
- Free Spirits
- Friday Night Smokeless
- Happy Hour
- High Country
- How It Works
- Lone Rangers
- NM Men's Retreat
- Placitas Group
- Raymac Group
- Soberman Blues
- Sunday Night Serenity
- Sunday Night Step Study
- Sunrise Catchers
- Three Legacies
- Women's Sobriety Fest

Individuals:

- Anonymous
- David C.
- Karen F.
- Robert U.
- Rojo R.
- Steve
- Faithful Fivers:**
- Beverly D.
- Catherine A.
- Cecelia D.
- Don C.
- Emma D.
- Geraldine C.
- Ilse G.
- Karen R.
- Mark D.
- Melissa C.
- Mike D.
- Nance C.
- Partha B.
- Phil & Barbara C.
- Ralph T.
- Trudy H.

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

Become a Faithful Fiver !!

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



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

Nov. 07 Desk Activity

| | Nov. '07 | Oct. '07 | Nov. '06 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | This month | Last month | Last yr. |
| Phone calls | 1061 | 1011 | 1154 |
| Information | 834 | 817 | 921 |
| 12 step request | 13 | 7 | 22 |
| AI-Anon Info | 19 | 13 | 31 |
| Message | 42 | 34 | 46 |
| Other | 153 | 140 | 134 |
| Walk Ins | 230 | 234 | 226 |
| Information | 13 | 17 | 18 |
| 12 step | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| AI-Anon | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Schedules | 4 | 10 | 20 |
| Purchases | 138 | 141 | 133 |
| Tapes | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Message | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Casual | 3 | 28 | 24 |
| Other | 35 | 34 | 22 |
| Desk Workers* | 88 | 90 | |
| Regulars | 53 | 52 | |
| Substitutes | 35 | 38 | |
| Desk Shifts* | 172 | 178 | |
| Weekdays | 132 | 138 | |
| Weekends | 40 | 40 | |
| Weekday Shifts* | 132 | 138 | |
| Regulars | 88% 116 | 83% 114 | |
| Substitutes | 12% 16 | 17% 24 | |
| Weekend Shifts* | 40 | 40 | |
| Regulars | 77.5% 31 | 70% 28 | |
| Substitutes | 22.5% 9 | 30% 12 | |
| Shifts by Michael* | 6/33 hrs | 9/39 hrs | |
| Shifts by Kathy* | 3/9 hrs | 6/34 hrs | |

Thanks to all who participated this month.

* includes night phone

"In a Bamboo House on Stilts"

Maryknoll, New York

from AA Around the World: Adventures in Recovery, pages 14 and 15

All my adult life, owing to my line of work, I've had to travel to some pretty isolated spots in the world. About nineteen years ago, my Higher Power caught up with me, and unexpectedly I found myself in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. When I'd reached the ripe old age of six months in the program, I was asked to go on assignment to the "Green Hell," the Amazon jungles of Bolivia. Unsure of myself, and feeling sort of wobbly about my fledgling sobriety, I asked my sponsor Jim, for advice. "What should I do?" He assured me that if I was doing the will of my Higher Power and if, through prayer and meditation, I were to stay in contact with God and with my sponsor, God wouldn't let me get into a situation where I couldn't remain sober. He would always be there to lend me a hand and to give me strength when I felt I was growing weak. Jim pointed out that the name of the game was "trust." "Are you ready to turn your will and your life over to the Higher Power?" he asked. His final words of advice were, "Remember, Dan, easy does it." But as I made arrangements to head for South America, I thought, "What if Jim is wrong?"

To my surprise and delight, Jim had told me the truth! Three months later, I returned from the jungle sunburned and mosquito-bitten but with my sobriety intact, if not strengthened.

And now, nearly two decades of sobriety later, I am still "on the road." Not too many months ago, I spent nine weeks on assignment in Southeast Asia, and was badly in need of an AA meeting. I'd attended a large meeting in a church hall in hot and sultry Bangkok, Thailand, and had been to another smaller one on a sunny front porch in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. But two meetings in two months was not enough. Since leaving Cambodia, I'd traipsed around the steamy wilds of Borneo in Malaysia. Everywhere I went, I looked in vain for an AA meeting. I did a lot of praying and meditating, but I could find no meeting. I really needed to talk to someone who would understand an alcoholic who was turning a bit raggedy around the travel-worn edges.

That was on my mind as the dugout canoe in which I was riding made its way across the crocodile-infested water to the town of Agats in Irian Jaya. If you're not-quite sure where that is, take out your atlas and find a map of the South Pacific. There you will locate the island of New Guinea just north of Australia. Then look at the western half of the island--the part which belongs to Indonesia. That side is the province of Irian Jaya; on the southwest coast, on the Arafura Sea, where the Asmat people live, is the little settlement of Agats.

In this remote corner of the globe, it seemed an even remoter possibility that I would find an AA meeting. The canoe pulled up to shore, and I waded across the squishy mudflats, gratefully heading for dry land. It had been arranged that I would stay with some Catholic missionaries there in the village. Meeting me graciously at the shore, they demonstrated their hospitality by offering me a cold beer. I thanked them for their offer but opted for lemonade instead.

Several hours later, I found myself seated in the missionaries' dining room, having supper with them. The conversation ebbed and flowed around me, and I gradually grew drowsy in the equatorial heat. But all of a sudden, one of my table mates, James, said, "As we say, easy does it...." A shock ran through me. After the meal ended, the missionaries headed off to their various chores and I followed James outside to ask, "You wouldn't be a friend of Bill's would you?" Grinning, he nodded.

That evening, in a bamboo house on stilts above the tidal waters of the Arafura Sea, James and I had a meeting, accompanied by the rhythmic drumming of the Asmat people who were celebrating a local feast. The collective wisdom of Bill and Bob, and the voices of so many uncounted members over the past sixty years wrapped around us in the tropical night. It was a lesson in trust.

Daniel J.
(January 1966)

Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

The Ladies Room

| | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| Katheryn J. | 1/1/06 | 2 years |
| Renee | 4/23/07 | 9 months |
| Lisa M. | 7/20/07 | 6 months |
| Donna B. | 7/24/07 | 6 months |

Seeking Serenity

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Bruce M. | 29 years |
| Julie D. | 23 years |
| Aaron | 9 years |

Isleta Group

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Jacob | 6 months |
| Darlene | 6 months |
| Glory | 9 months |

Isleta Group cont.

| | |
|--------|----------|
| Maria | 1 year |
| Pete | 1 year |
| Alfred | 1 year |
| John | 15 years |
| Robert | 20 years |

El Centro

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Sue | 1 month |
| Jesse | 1 year |
| Melissa C. | 3 years |
| Althea | 15 years |
| Oscar R. | 15 years |
| Art L. | 21 years |
| Jimmy M. | 37 years |

How It Works

| | | |
|----------|------|----------|
| Marshall | Oct. | 1 year |
| Alberta | | 2 years |
| Mike | | 8 years |
| Jennifer | | 10 years |
| Renee | | 12 years |
| Bob | | 14 years |
| Tom R. | | 14 years |
| Robin | | 15 years |
| David | | 31 years |
| Eric | Nov. | 30 days |
| Clint | | 1 year |
| Michael | | 11 years |
| Jack | | 20 years |

CENTRAL OFFICE GRATITUDE SPEAKER MEETING

**Hosted by
District 3, District 11,
District 12,
District 13 and District 18**

- **Six Speakers**
- **Learn how Central Office/
Intergroup affects you**
- **Potluck**

**January 26, 2008
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sombra del Monte Church
2528 Utah St. NE**

We, at Central Office encourage each and every group to choose an Intergroup Representative and come join us!!! Our monthly meeting is the second Sunday of every month. We meet at the Desert Club at 2:00 pm.

You can learn about what the Central Office does and how it can affect your recovery by offering ways to be of service.

Please feel free to stop by the Central Office to see all there is to offer in the ways of literature, reference material, specialty chips, and more. See you Soon!

1921 Alvarado NE (505) 266-1900

5 = J
7 = I
4 = H
9 = G
8 = F
01 = E
1 = D
6 = C
2 = B
3 = A

Answers to Mix and Match

Would you like to have your name and number in someone's little black book?

Call John S., he's the Central Office Community Outreach person. There are numerous opportunities to be of service.

To find out more information call John at (505) 304- 2654

Did you know that Central Office has recordings of historical proportions?

You too can hear Bill W. give talks on a few different topics.

Please contact Grace L., our Media Librarian at (505) 315-0333 to discover new worlds while traveling backward in time.

Mix and Match the 12 x 12 *and* The Big Book.

1. That was the beginning of a new life, a fuller life, a happier life than I had ever known or believed possible. I had found friends--understanding friends who often knew what I was thinking and feeling better than I knew myself --and who didn't allow me to retreat into my prison of loneliness and fear over a fancied slight or hurt. Talking things over with them, great floods of enlightenment showed me myself as I really was--and I was like them. We all had hundreds of character traits, fears and phobias, like and dislikes, in common. Suddenly I could accept myself, faults and all, as I was-- for weren't we all like that? And accepting, I felt a new inner comfort and the willingness and strength to do something about the traits I couldn't live with.
2. How true this is, few realize. In a vague way their families and friends sense that these drinkers are abnormal, but everybody hopefully awaits the day when the sufferer will rouse himself from his lethargy and assert his power of will.
The tragic truth is that if the man be a real alcoholic, the happy day may not arrive. He has lost control. At a certain point in the drinking of every alcoholic, he passes into a state where the most powerful desire to stop drinking is of absolutely no avail. This tragic situation has already arrived in practically every case long before it is suspected.
3. This attitude, of course, is the end result of purposeful forgetting. It is an attitude which can only be changed by a deep and honest search of our motives and actions.
4. Through my efforts to get down to "causes and conditions," I stand convinced that my emotional illness has been present from my earliest recollection. I never did react normally to any emotional situation.
5. The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the group, too, can deteriorate and die. So we of A.A. do obey spiritual principles, first because we must, and ultimately because we love the kind of life such obedience brings. Great suffering and great love are A.A.'s disciplinarians; we need no others.
6. The moment we say, "No, never!" our minds close against the grace of God. Delay is dangerous, and rebellion may be fatal. This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives, and move toward God's will for us.
7. Alcohol helped. At least I thought it helped until I saw the oppressive thirty-year shadow it cast on my life. I discovered it in college, and although at first I didn't drink often (didn't have the opportunity), whenever I started, I drank as long as there was any alcohol around. It was a reflex. I don't remember liking the taste, but I liked that it seemed to bring me to life and get me through a date or a party able to talk. It moved me outside of that hole I felt in myself and any person or situation that made me uncomfortable.
8. To those now in its fold, Alcoholics Anonymous has made the difference between misery and sobriety, and often the difference between life and death. A.A. can, of course, mean just as much to uncounted alcoholics not yet reached.
9. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.
10. This feeling of being at one with God and man, this emerging from isolation through the open and honest sharing of our terrible burden of guilt, brings us to a resting place where we may prepare ourselves for the following Steps toward a full and meaningful sobriety.

- A. Step Eight _____ B. There is a Solution _____ C. Tradition Three, Long Form _____
- D. Women Suffer Too _____ E. Step Five _____ F. Appendix I _____ G. Step Six _____
- H. Freedom From Bondage _____ I. Because I'm An Alcoholic _____
- J. Tradition Nine _____

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

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

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1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

The Central Office of
Albuquerque is open:

Monday through Friday

8:00 am to 10:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday

9:00 am to 9:00 pm

• • • • •

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