

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: www.albuquerqueaa.org

Intergroup Committee Meeting Minutes

4.13.08

Submitted By Brian H. – Secretary

Dave C - Chair

Dave opened the meeting at 2:02 with the Serenity Prayer.

Secretary - Brian H

Review of March meeting minutes as published in the April *Pass It On*. Motion to accept the minutes by acclamation. Special thanks to Terri (Cosmopolitan Group) for her help in preparing March meeting minutes.

Treasurer - Steve P

General Accounts are in the red for the second month in a row, but still in the black for the year. Quarterly Group Contributions list distributed to InterGroup reps. Treasurer's Report accepted by acclamation.

Service Coordinator - Michael W

Phone traffic up for the month. Some slippage in volunteer coverage of both night and day shifts. Two groups have encountered difficulties in maintaining their night phone coverage commitment. Central Office now stocks Big Book on CD for purchase. Coordinators continue to attend District meetings as opportunities arise. District 18 has expressed interest in hosting the InterGroup Speaker Meeting at a site in Rio Rancho. No action has been taken, but look for details in coming months. Office operations fine. Several desk shifts are open; contact Central Office for details.

Alternate Coordinator - Kathy H

Visited District 15 Meeting. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

7th Tradition Basket Passed.

Activities Coordinator - Melissa C

Visited District 12 Meeting this week. District 12 will sponsor upcoming Inter Group Speaker Meeting (6/14) – potluck at 6; speaker at 730 at St. Timothy's. Will confirm details for District 18 meeting soon. Planning underway for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Will be held on Saturday, July 19, 12 pm-4 pm; setup begins at 10 am. Lots of service opportunities available. Contact Melissa C to become involved or to donate supplies/food.

Member at Large - Martha G

Nothing to report.

Pass It On Editor - Sally

Great to see so many people here today. Always welcomes suggestions and contributions for *Pass It On*.

Schedule Editor – Michael Q

Brand new schedules done & available for purchase at Central Office. Since we printed the new schedule's a month late, we printed 5000 instead of 6000. Surplus schedules will be donated to a variety of community groups. Special thanks to the DCM of District 12 for checking through all the meetings in District 12 and reporting errors, additions, and inaccuracies to Schedule Editor.

Community Outreach - John S

Not present. Michael W (Coordinator) reports that John S is in the process of assembling volunteers for April events in Moriarty as well as for an upcoming classroom event at Bernalillo HS.

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Volume 70, Issue 5

May 2008

Righteous Indignation

“When we harbored grudges and planned revenge for defeats, we were really beating ourselves with the club of anger we had intended to use on others. We learned that if we were seriously disturbed, our very first need was to quiet that disturbance, regardless of who or what we thought caused it.”

Twelve and Twelve page 47

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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.

A few weeks ago, I attended Area 10's (Colorado's) annual Corrections Conference, held in Canyon City, located just west of Pueblo. I met two of my fellow Area 46 Trusted Servants there, Alan S. and Ralph T., and we all concurred it was well worth the trip. I learned a lot, and one thing I just wrote about was Area 10's use of the "Pink Can." For them, and apparently for California as well, that system is a very successful, second 7th Tradition collection, which is used to buy AA literature for people who are incarcerated. If interested, you can read my article about the Pink Can in the May edition of our Area newsletter, the *El Farolito*.

The topic I want to share about here has to do with just how important the role of A. A. is for recently released prisoners. I learned about this from two excellent talks given by Colorado's head of their Department of Corrections and by the head of that state's parole board. Here is what I learned from them:

Quite often, when a person is released from a correctional facility, that person has very little resources to help out. Typically, the individual has very little or no money, no family support, no car or driver's license, no place to live, and the person may have physical and/or mental health problems. Not only that, but the individually typically has to frequently check in with a parole officer, give frequent UAs (urine analysis), and attend classes for such things as anger management or relapse prevention. In theory, the person is supposed to jump through many legal hoops, on time, and with a positive attitude, so he or she can be fully re-integrated back into society. However, besides being alcoholic (or an addict), the reasons why many of those people get themselves "recycled" back into the correctional system is that there are limited programs available to help them, and/or they might miss one or more of the legal hoops they were supposed to jump through. One little screw-up and back to jail they go.

The bottom line is that for many of those people, A. A. is the only appreciable resource they have. By me attending this conference, I now have a much greater appreciation for the implications of what we regularly read in our Preamble: For me, the last line of the A. A. Preamble is much like a mission statement. It says, "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety." (The underlining is mine.) Given the plight of recently released offenders, I can now much better appreciate just how difficult it must be for those folks to "achieve sobriety." Mentally putting myself in their shoes; in other words, empathizing with them, I can clearly see why it's often just much easier to drink.

So, today I know that in order for them to achieve sobriety, I must do more than just introduce them to A. A. I frequently have to do what is suggested on pages 96 and 97 of our book. Page 97 states, "Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery. A kindly act once in a while isn't enough. You have to act the Good Samaritan every day, if need be."

Yours in service,
Rojo Rice (Home) 352-7590, (Cell) 238-8048

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.*

Special Needs - Peggy

Continues to handle a particular protocol request in consultation with Steering Committee.

Library - Grace L

Not present.

Web Guardian - Tom

Continuing to adapt/adjust to new webhost. Experienced a significant service interruption for only 3 days (including some loss of most recent data) and requiring upgrade of service contract (\$50 for 5 years). Tom (Web Guardian) & Michael Q (Schedule Editor) will continue to crosscheck the web schedule for accuracy; please forward corrections to them. Lots of stuff going up on the website every day/week.

Old Business:

GSO request for videos from young people deadline has been extended. See GSO website for details. No motion has been made to address the request for a Corrections Chair at the InterGroup level. Discussion of InterGroup's potential contribution and impact in

spreading word about Corrections opportunities. Look for announcements and ongoing initiatives in "Corrections Corner" in each month's *Pass It On*. Also please contact InterGroup Community Outreach Coordinator if you would like to become involved or if you are aware of a need at an area corrections or treatment facility.

New Business:

No new business.

Group Announcements:

Cosmopolitan will be hosting a Gratitude Meeting on May 24, 1-4 pm, at Alvarado Park.

Dave closed the meeting at 3:02 pm with the Third Step prayer.

ATTENDEES

Dave C (Dawn Patrol/Chair)
Rudy B (Queer Ideas of Fun, p36)
Paula G (Any Lengths)
Joseph F (Dawn Patrol)
Roni P (Seniors Seeking Serenity)
Dale M (Seniors Seeking Serenity)
Jim O (Live & Let Live)
Dave P (Live & Let Live)
Dennis M (Isleta/District 3)
Ben A (How It Works)
Stephen P (Free Spirits/CO Treasurer)
Kathy H (Metropolitan/CO Alt-Coordinator)

Michael W (Mountainside/CO Coordinator)
Jeremy H (Straight Pepper Diet)
Jason K (Straight Pepper Diet)
Mario T (Young People Sunday Night)
Carlos R (Young People Sunday Night)
Michael Q (Dawn Patrol/CO Schedule Editor)
Tom C (Basement Steps/CO Web Guardian)
Tom N (High Noon)
Carrol M (One Day at a Time)
Ernest V (Corrales Smoke Free)
Gilbert C (Sunrise Sobriety)
Terri R (Cosmopolitan)
Martha G (Cosmopolitan/CO Member at Large)
Melissa C (El Centro/Activities Coordinator)
Alan S (In The Book/Area 46 Chair)
Wendy F (Serendipity)
Sally G (How It Works/*Pass It On* Editor)
Peggy A (Women on Wednesday/CO Special Needs Coordinator)
Brian H (Secretary/Dawn Patrol)

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

Founders Day Picnic

Time: 11:00 am

Date: Saturday June 21

Las Huertas Picnic Area— Placitas

Join District 18 as we celebrate Dr. Bob's birthday and the founding of our program.

Call Doug for more information:
(505) 994-3978

A Full and Thankful Heart

One exercise that I practice is to try for a full inventory of my blessings and the for a right acceptance of the many gifts that are mine—both temporal and spiritual. Here I try to achieve a state of joyful gratitude. When such a brand of gratitude is repeatedly affirmed and pondered, it can finally displace the natural tendency to congratulate myself on whatever progress I may have been enabled to make in some area of living. I try hard to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits. When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know.

(Quote of the Month—December 1989, Grapevine)

The following contributed to Central Office.....

This data is from March 1 to March 29, 2008 and is inclusive for the entire calendar month!

<p>Groups: Campus Step Study Corrales Men's Stag Cosmopolitan Dawn Patrol Dawning Promises District 13 El Centro Foothills Freedom From Bondage Happy Hour Happy Valley Lone Rangers New Frontier Rio Amigos Rio Rancho Women's Sandia Serenity BBS Serendipity Westside Noon Zia Pueblo Group</p> <p>Individuals: Anonymous (x4) Chris Karen F.</p>	<p>Nancy Robert U. Rojo R.</p> <p>Faithful Fivers: Al. J. Andrew S. Andi & Pam B. Beverly D. Catherine A. Cecelia D. Dan O'. Dave N. Emma D. Ilse G. Jeanne Mac. Jim F. John K. Karen R. Mary Ann Mc. Mike D. Nance C. Partha B. Phil & Barbara C. Ralph & Gwen T. Rojo R.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you all for supporting your Central Office!!!!</i></p>
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Mar. 08 Desk Activity

	Mar. '08	Feb. '08	Mar. '07
	This month	Last month	Last yr.
Phone calls	1294	1157	1266
Information	1059	934	996
12 step request	17	28	39
AI-Anon Info	24	25	21
Message	52	29	45
Other	142	141	165
Walk Ins	276	276	295
Information	19	8	17
12 step	1	0	0
AI-Anon	1	1	3
Schedules	20	32	30
Purchases	159	155	172
Tapes	2	4	0
Message	4	3	1
Casual	42	41	46
Other	29	32	28
Desk Workers*	94	95	
Regulars	52	54	
Substitutes	42	41	
Desk Shifts*	176	166	
Weekdays	126	126	
Weekends	50	40	
Weekday Shifts*	126	126	
Regulars	87% 110	90% 114	
Substitutes	13% 16	10% 12	
Weekend Shifts*	40	40	
Regulars	82% 41	90% 36	
Substitutes	18% 9	10% 4	
Shifts by Michael*	13/72 hrs	1/3 hrs	
Shifts by Kathy*	3/9 hrs	4/12 hrs	

Thanks to all who participated this month.

* includes night phone

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!

Still Coming Of Age: A Trusted Servant Looks At AA**(Grapevine -July 2006)**

Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee Emeritus Jim Estelle served AA's General Service Board from 1977 to 1986 and was its chair from 1993 to 1997. He worked in the corrections field in California, Montana, and Texas, and served as director of the Texas Department of Corrections in the 1970s.

When you spoke to the AA World Services Conference in 1985, you had a vision of future possibilities for the Fellowship. Tell us about that vision and where you see AA today.

You know, when AA "came of age," I think too many people assumed that we had reached full adulthood in the process. We may have reached maturity and sobriety to some degree. But the movements that have had a real impact on the progress of mankind--which our Fellowship certainly has--are long-lived movements. And I'm not sure that the Fellowship as a whole has reached full maturity at this point. As a Fellowship we've still got a ways to go.

Twenty years ago, you said that you thought we had "a ways to go." You haven't seen the growth you hoped for?

The last twenty years have been, in some respects, disappointing.

Would you elaborate?

Well, in my discipline of corrections, for instance, I think I remarked then that we had about 450,000 people locked up in prisons, and at least that many in local jails. Now we have over 650,000 locked up in our prisons, and probably more than 650,000 in our jails. Anywhere from 75 to 85 percent of those in prison and jail are either alcoholic or addicted to some other substance. That has not changed in the last twenty years. Another major problem concerns me. We've made some inroads with our neighbors across the world in introducing the Steps and Traditions to still-suffering alcoholics, especially in third world countries. But, in the last twenty years, the same kind of growth has not occurred where the Fellowship was established originally, in the US and Canada. We find ourselves standing still. Right now, alcoholism is passing us up.

The disease itself is passing us up?

Yes, absolutely. That's not entirely the Fellowship's fault. But this lack of growth tells me that, somewhere along the line, we've lost the energy and enthusiasm and maturity of sobriety to carry that message more effectively than we have.

Is there reason to be concerned about the lack of growth here in the US and Canada?

Yes. If you're not matching the competition you will be swallowed up. If you think you're standing still, you're not standing still, you're going downhill because the rest of the world is coming up. Our competition is the disease of alcoholism. Maybe I'm off on a wrong tack, but I have to express this. In the last twenty years, almost two generations of sober alcoholics have come in the program who do not have the experience and skills to work effectively with a wet drunk. It ain't fun and it ain't easy. And it's not what a lot of people get sober to do. I say this because people get sober in detox centers and jump into a group. They do well, and do service well, and achieve a degree of maturity in their sobriety. But they didn't have the experience of somebody puking all over their new car and then still having to carry the person to a meeting. They didn't have the experience of somebody picking them up on the street saying, "Come on, we're going to another meeting." They were carried to a meeting sober and clean, and I think we've lost the gift of that degree of love. Because it takes a tremendous amount of love for somebody to pick up a sorry, slobbering drunk and care for him or her.

How do we regain that?

Spot some old-timers who remember and choose them as sponsors. Tell them, "I want to do some Twelfth-Step calls with you."

You think some of the old-timers are still finding wet drunks?

Yeah. I think Gary K. talked about this in a recent Grapevine issue. Sometimes he articulates the problem in frontier language, but I think he does it rather well.

What can we do differently in the area of corrections? Are there some ways we could change how we're carrying the message?

We need to do corrections work with what I refer to as the youthful exuberance and excitement about carrying the message that got us sober when talking to still-suffering alcoholics. We've watched the advent of detox centers, particularly when they came under the financing of the insurance industry a number of years ago. That popular concept became the answer to getting sober: We lost our energy and enthusiasm and exuberance for working with a wet drunk.

Most crimes, you said, are committed by males between the ages of seventeen and twenty-seven. Are you disappointed about where we've come with that?

It's probably as true today as it was when I said it twenty years ago. We are not addressing the growth of prisons and our carrying the message into those prisons.

Continued on page 7

Other Numbers: Al-Anon (505) 262-2177 Oficina Intergrupual Hispana (505) 266-3688

Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

Isleta Group

Fred P.	6 months
Eddie	6 months
Ed A.	2 years
Anthony G.	3 years
Laura	3 years
Robert	5 years
Julian S.	6 years
Barbara	12 years
Susan B.	18 years
Vera	30 years
Vincent	26 years
Dan	44 years

Cosmopolitan Group

Ruth G.	5/13/86
Amy R.	5/4/03



If your group is no longer meeting, please be sure to let Central Office know so that the meeting schedule can be updated. Thanks!!!

High Noon Group *is sponsoring*

“The 4th Step Experience” On Sunday
May 18th From 1:30—3:30 pm
at the

Desert Club,
4305 Mesa Grande Pl. SE

There will be a panel consisting of
Dale H., Ilse G., and Don S.
The purpose is to inform, enlighten and
stimulate thought and dialogue
on the 4th step.

A smoke-free event, people may bring their
favorite snacks for the break.

For more information call: Diana O. 255-9304
Or Wally L. 410-4868

Gratitude Picnic Longtimers Sharing Meeting

Jimmy D.—50 years

When: Saturday May 24th
12:00 noon—4 pm

Where: Alvarado Park

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Potluck
For more information, contact
Ray R. (505) 974-1772

Area 46 State Convention

June 6, 7, 8, 2008
Ruidoso New Mexico

National Speakers
Workshops
Banquet
Dance

Friday Night Happy Hour
Marathon Meetings!!!

www.2008convention@newmexicoaa.org

NM Women's Retreat

For recovering alcoholics

June 6th, 7th & 8th
Tohatchi, NM

Limited to 20 women

for more information
Call Pat B. at
(505) 733-2635

Deskworkers are always
needed at Central Office....
call 266-1900.

Also check out our cool
website....get maps to
meetings—find out all
there is to know about
what's happening in
Albuquerque AA.

www.albuquerqueaa.org

Still Coming Of Age: A Trusted Servant Looks At AA *cont.*

A significantly disproportionate number of our prisoners come from black and Hispanic neighborhoods in metropolitan areas.

They certainly do. This is a reflection of the makeup of our very communities. It's being reflected just as I said. There's still a highly disproportionate number of young men of color in the prison populations today. We're not addressing our youth before they become full-blown adult alcoholics.

Since the Fellowship was founded, the growth of drug use seems to have created more dually-addicted sufferers among young people. Could you speak a little about the singleness of purpose that serves us so well and anything we might be missing with youth.

If you have other twelve-step programs in prisons addressing specific substances other than alcohol, it's fine to adhere steadfastly to our singleness of purpose. But if you're the only twelve-step program in the house, you don't leave a bleeding body lying on the side of the road because they're there because of some other substance. If you're the only twelve-step program, you let them share in our program until they get to the street. Then you take them by the hand to Narcotics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, or whatever program they need. That was my position early on, and I still hold it.

I understand that racial lines are drawn and many inmates are quite self-segregated. Does this affect us when we try to carry the message inside?

There are some places that are sanctuaries. The classroom, the chapel, and Alcoholics Anonymous are generally recognized as neutral ground. We're there to talk about alcoholism and how we got sober. If we carry the message honestly, openly, and with a great deal of tolerance and integrity inside the institutions, we don't have to worry about that. That's been my experience and observation.

You have said AA must establish a cooperative relationship with overworked probation officers who need help.

This is an overlooked area. The probation officers in today's world, all they do is push paper. That's not what they're trained to do, and it's not what they want to do. But it's what conditions dictate they do today. They don't have time to be counselors, or sponsors. They haven't got-time to give people the emotional support that so many need. This is where we can be of some assistance.

In the 1985 speech, you said AA needs to test its collective maturity by examining attitudes about referrals from treatment centers and the lower courts. We need to receive them with the same loving discipline we were received with, you said.

Yes, this is an area where I've observed a lot of improvement. When the courts first understood that they could send someone to AA meetings as a condition of probation or the court's ruling instead of jail, there was a tremendous amount of resistance to this approach. Not universal resistance, but tremendous nonetheless. My counsel to those who had a problem was, Hey, I bet that you were not kicking the door down to get into your first meeting. Somebody put some heat on you; your wife, parents, employer, or a judge. People need to be reminded.

Are there any new models we need for transporting the message of recovery?

By now, the Fellowship should have learned about acceptance, tolerance, and love and care. That's part of the maturity of our emotional sobriety, in my opinion. The people I see who are most effective--the sponsors I've had who have had the greatest impact--were those who displayed those traits and skills. And they didn't always have them. They freely admitted, "This is something I learned in AA."

Although you're a nonalcoholic, you've had sponsors, Jim?

(Laughs) Anybody who is not an alcoholic and undertakes a role with Alcoholics Anonymous had better have a sponsor. I have always had at least one alcoholic sponsor and a nonalcoholic sponsor. Sometimes I've needed two alcoholic sponsors to keep my bearings. I'm not always sure they were successful but I really appreciated their efforts.

As AA faces the next thirty years, do you have any closing thoughts?

Let me suggest that those of you who are in service assume the mantle and the legacy of the founders. Whether you thought about it, whether you're conscious of it or not, you did. You also have a responsibility to extend their vision to give other people what you got so freely. We can't afford to dilute the Steps and Traditions, singleness of purpose, or anonymity. But that doesn't mean that we can go without constant awareness of our own frailties. We must take our own inventory, our group inventory, our district inventory, and our area inventory, clear on up to the General Service Board. We must constantly be diligent in doing these housekeeping things, like taking inventory, going to meetings, and sponsorship. Take care of the basics and listen to what our founders have counseled us. Don't worry about the growth. It will come.

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

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Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 266-1900

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