



Pass It On

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albuquerqueaa.org

Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

505.266.1900

Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book), page 164

Step 5 Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition 5 (Short Form & Long Form) Each group has but one primary purpose -- to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept 5 (Short Form) Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

(Long Form) Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

On Tradition Five

Editorial by Bill W.

A.A. Grapevine, April, 1948

"Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose -- that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Says the old proverb, "Shoemaker, stick to thy last." Trite, yes. But very true for us of A.A. How well we need to heed the principle that it is better to do one thing supremely well than many things badly.

Because it has now become plain enough that only a recovered alcoholic can do much for a sick alcoholic, a tremendous responsibility has descended upon us all, an obligation so great that it amounts to a sacred trust. For to our kind, those who suffer alcoholism, recovery is a matter of life or death. So the society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not ever be diverted from its primary purpose.

Temptation to do otherwise will come aplenty. Seeing fine works afoot in the field of alcohol, we shall be sorely tempted to loan out the name and credit of Alcoholics Anonymous to them; as a movement we shall be beset to finance and endorse other causes. Should our present success continue, people will commence to assert that A.A. is a brand new way of life, maybe a new religion, capable of saving the world. We shall be told it is our bounden duty to show modern society how it ought to live.

Oh, how very attractive these projects and ideas can be! How flattering to imagine that we might be chosen to demonstrate that olden mystic promise: "The first shall be last and the last shall be first." Fantastic, you say. Yet some of our well-wishers have begun to say such things.

Fortunately most of us are convinced that these are perilous speculations, alluring ingredients of that new heady wine we are now being offered, each bottle marked "Success!"

Of this subtle vintage may we never drink too deeply. May we never forget that we live by the Grace of God -- on borrowed time; that anonymity is better than acclaim; that for us as a movement poverty is better than wealth.

And may we reflect with ever deepening conviction, that we shall never be at our best except when we hew only to the primary spiritual aim of A.A. -- "That of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers alcoholism."

Bill W., A.A. Grapevine, April, 1948

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, so much for not running reprints. There's one last article submitted by a local fellowship member (see "You Don't Have to be Spiritual to Pray" on page 3). There have been no more submissions of articles for publication...even with me suggesting worthwhile topics. Hopefully those that heard (and didn't heed) my requests and pleas for article submissions are more motivated in their recovery. Helping others is a big part of what this thing is all about, and by putting things down in words (that get published) you are helping others as well as yourself. Look at penning an article for PIO publication as being able to share your experience, strength and hope with a much wider audience. Watch out...here come the reprints (I hate that word...sounds too much like relapse).

There are lots of events on the AA Event Calendar (page 6). Let me know what you think of the change in the events calendar - there are 2 sections: 1) This Month's Events (in a bigger font) and 2) Upcoming Events (in a smaller font).

The Sobriety Birthday list is steadily shrinking - if you think it shouldn't be published, by all means say so. This is your newsletter, not mine. If you DO think it should be in PIO, how about SUBMITTING YOUR GROUP (or personal) SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS? (duh).

Central Office (and Intergroup) are throwing a Central Office Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on June 30th - see the flyer on page 7 or the events calendar for all the details. Most of what is done at Central Office (managing the 24-hour hotline, staffing the desk, etc.) is done by volunteers. Central Office is often the first contact point with AA for newcomers and therefore serves a very important purpose. Come to the picnic and show these volunteers that you truly appreciate what they do - and if you're interested in volunteering at Central Office, this is an excellent opportunity to find out more about it and to sign up.

I hope to see you all in Taos June 7-9 for the AA Area 46 State Convention (see Events Calendar on page 6) and NMCYPAA (New Mexico Conference of Young People in AA) exactly 2 months later up in Santa Fe. I haven't heard anything about Taos Mountain Fiesta for this year yet, but I can't imagine it not happening...

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

Central Office Intergroup
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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 - 10:15 am, 2nd Saturday,
Heights Club, 8520 Marble NE
in Rm #3

District 13 - 10 am, 2nd Saturday,
St Thomas of Canterbury (2nd
floor) 425 University Blvd NE (1 blk
N of MLK Blvd)

District 18 - 9am, 2nd Saturday,
St. Paul's United Church of Christ,
2701 The American Rd. SE, Rio
Rancho

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You Don't Have to be Spiritual to Pray

by Sarah F.

Early in my sobriety my sponsor said to pray each morning for G-d to help me stay sober that day, and as I went to bed to thank G-d for helping me stay sober. I did it.

Then when we did the third step, she said to read with her the third step prayer from the Big Book. I did. And of course I recited the Serenity Prayer at meetings and whatever prayer the group said at the end. I did all that.

I balked even though I did it. I felt it was “inauthentic” to pray to G-d or anything for that matter, as I didn't believe in anything, except myself of course.

As time passed and I continued these (inauthentic) practices, I came to rely on the results of these prayers more and more, and I was staying sober! My will was more obviously inadequate, and praying was kind of working.

After I did my fifth step I had to go get willing to have G-d remove my character defects (step 6). How was that going to happen!? But I followed instructions anyway, found a place to try to talk with G-d to get willing. I thought, “How can I live without pride or greed? Those were the very things that I used to make everything happen in my life.” So I talked to G-d, I prayed, I asked G-d, “How am I supposed to live without pride and greed?” No answer. I persevered, and suddenly without explanation I was willing. “Holy cow”, I thought, “how did that happen?” But before I messed it up, I asked G-d to remove my character defects (step 7).

I believe that was my first act of faith, knowing something was possible and doing it without knowing how or figuring it out in advance.

My sponsor always said, “You don't have to be spiritual to pray.” I now know that spirituality comes from praying, and then taking the next right action.

Tradition 5 Checklist

Courtesy of A.A. General Service Office (GSO), from the A.A. Grapevine

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, “I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me”?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Say that you believe he is a gravely ill person, with this qualification--being perhaps fatally ill, does he want to get well? You ask, because many alcoholics, being warped and drugged, do not want to quit.....Either you are dealing with a man who can and will get well or you are not. If not, why waste time with him? This may seem severe, but it is usually the best course.

Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book) page 142

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 April 14, 2013

Open @ 14:00

Open/ Attendees Mac L.- How it Works, Jacob- Straight Pepper Diet, Melissa C.- Sunrise Catchers, Steven D.- Rebellion Dogs, Colin M.- Candle Light Group, George B.- Singleness of Purpose, Pam B.- Corrales/ Alt. Coord., Michael W.- Too Much for Us, Debra K.- Brown Bag, Heather G.- QIOF, Tom N.- High Noon, Joe K.- Live & Let Live, Martha M- Promises, Christy O.- Promises, Art L.- El Centro, Aaron C.- Too Much for Us, Chyna B.- Dawn Patrol, Sarah E.- Strange Mental Blank Spot, Jamie M.- One Day at a Time, Kristen E.- Grateful Girls, Mike W.- Westside AA, Dina J.- Women in Progress, George H.- In The Book, Henry L.- Seeking Serenity/ District 11, Tom R.- Seeking Serenity, Alli- Singleness of Purpose, Steve R.- Saturday Night Alive, Michal C.- Happy Hour

Minutes accepted amending 6 new gay and lesbian CD's instead of 6. As well as change "So for we..." to "So far we..."

Treasurer's Report Been a pleasure to be the treasurer. - Revenues are down due to sales because group contributions are up for the year. - It is also what made our gross income decrease by about \$3,000. We have decreased our expenses to compensate. - Group contributions are included in report. - Filed the 941 Tax forms. - Why are the contributions different from the total on front and group list? Because the district contributions are not included on the back, just the total for groups. - Our gross income is down about 20%. - Revenue: \$7,574.38 - Cost of sales: \$2,744.95 - Gross Income: \$4,829.43 - Expenses: \$5,386.15 - Net Income: (\$556.72)

Central Office Coordinator We are waiting for the large print Big Books. They should be in soon. - Desk worker subs are doing a good job helping us cover open shifts. - Everything is operating at the office, going to be switching to air-co from heater soon. - Thanks to District 3 for hosting the Intergroup speaker meeting last night. - Working to get a Native American with a disability connected with someone in AA. Jerry is taking care of that. - Going to have a table at the Round-Up on May 10th and 11th let me know if you are willing to help man the table. - Open desk shift: Every other Sunday from noon-3.

Alternate Central Office Coordinator 1 night phone desk shift was uncovered. - Phone calls: 778, Walk-ins: 260, Web Hits: 3481. - We are always taking volunteers to help sub the desk. - We want to add people to the 12-step list. Sometimes all we need is help to meet someone new at a meeting, for coffee, or just talk to them on the phone. If you want to be on the list there is a form at central office you can fill out. There are also some guidelines we give you that are helpful.

Member at Large Sorry I was not here last month. - The area discussed putting central office's number in the newspaper. I looked at what it would cost in ABQ Journal: \$14. Lobo: About \$5/week. Alibi: \$1/line. - What do the groups want to do? - It would only say: Alcoholics Anonymous 266-1900. - Where would it be? Classifieds. - The Journal has a support group sheet two times a year. - I think the Alibi and Lobo are the best. I don't think Journal is read that much. - I think it is good to have our info out there. But is this something Central Office should be doing, or something the area should take care of. I think central office should since all the areas use one central office. - I think this is a good idea. I propose we come up with a proposal. Then we can vote. - We will finish this discussion in new business.

Pass it On Editor Got 2 local articles published this month! - It would be great to have an article come in about conventions. I would also like something about the Spanish central office. - Birthdays have increased, but would like to see more. - Some groups do not want to submit their birthdays, but I also take individuals who want to submit. - Please submit the birthdays by the 15th. But it will not be published until the birthday has already occurred.

Media Librarian We have cd's and dvd's. - We received a cd that was donated in memory of Kathy.

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS

COSMOPOLITAN March: Melissa C. 30 days - Courtney U. 90 days - Jim M. 7 years - Laura S. 8 years - Martha B. & John G. 11 years - Barbara B. 17 years - Ben A. 40 years

ISLETA March: Fernando & Luke 90 days - Nathan 4 months - Diane 9 months - Debra 18 months - Anthony 8 years - Susan 23 years - Dan 51 years

SEEKING SERENITY March: Dereld P. 4 years - Caroline P. & Paul P. 11 years

WESTSIDE AA March: Kali P. & Rudy M. 2 years - Bernard S. & Duane H. 3 years

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

- We are going through the list to get rid of duplicates.

Web Guardian - Made a new interactive map on the site. The link is on the meeting page.

Schedule Editor Absent

Community Outreach A woman and her friend in the program are coming for Balloon Fiesta and wondering if we could house them during their trip. - This a weird request, I don't want anyone to have a bad experience. - I don't think this is Intergroups Job to provide housing. - I am looking for volunteers who are available during the day when I get requests that are not on the evenings and weekends. They are rare, but do need some help. - What are the requirements: About 6 months of sobriety. But I am willing to help anyone willing. - Still looking for volunteers to go into the woman's integration center who wants a meeting taken into inmates. - Is this a 1 time thing? No, probably about once a month.

Special Needs Coordinator - Hands On Group will be moving soon, but I will get that info to you as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS Do we want to print group contributions? - Colin: Not \$ amounts, but levels would be cool. - Henry: My group and district want to have it quarterly. - Michal: We also want quarterly. - Sara: We also want quarterly. - Christen: Ditto. - Melissa: Ditto. - Motion: We print group contributions with names and \$ amounts quarterly in the Pass it On: - Vote: All in favor none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS Do we want to move next IG rep meeting to May 19th, since it would fall on Mother's day? - Yes good idea. - Motion: Move next IG rep meeting to May 19th. - Vote: All in favor none opposed. - Motion: A couple of us get together to put together a proposal, including getting the distribution as wide as we can throughout our service area. - Vote: All in favor none opposed. - Motion: I would like IG to officially tell me what to do about requests like the lady in California. - Jeremy: how about we deal with this issue at the steering committee. - Melissa: Have the central office picnic this summer. Do not have a date yet, but would like to have it at Alvarado Park with a porter potty, BBQ and perhaps some live music. I welcome volunteers to help me plan and coordinate this. I'm looking at the weekend before the 4th of July.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS George: Singleness of Purpose is having their 5th anniversary on May 11th. Potluck and open meeting at Rio Vista church starting at 5:30.

Close @ 15:16



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.

AA EVENTS CALENDAR

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Friday May 10 - Saturday May 11, 2013 - 1st Annual NM LGBT Roundup 2013 "Unity in Diversity" - St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, 425 University NE, Albuquerque. For more info go to: www.nmroundup.com

Saturday May 11, 2013 - Singleness of Purpose group 5th Anniversary Potluck & Gratitude meeting. 5pm Setup, 5:45 Potluck, 7pm Meeting, 8pm Cleanup. Rio Vista Church of the Nazarene, 8701 Golf Course Rd NW, Albuquerque

Saturday May 11, 2013 - District 3 Meeting Potluck 1:30pm, Meeting 2pm. Alan S. will give delegate report. Hosted by Rio Amigos Group, Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle Ranch Ln., Belen, NM

Saturday May 18, 2013 - Corrections Mini-Conference 9am - 3pm, Speakers Include: Men & Women AA Corrections Volunteers, Representatives from State and County Correctional Facilities. Question and Answer Panels. Light breakfast at 8:00 a.m.; Lunch 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Daniel Fernandez Community Center, 1103 Highway 314, Los Lunas, NM 87031, (505) 839-3845

Saturday May 25, 2013 - Cooperation with Professional Community and Public Information Committees 2-5pm. Refreshments will be provided and potluck. Non-smoking event. Sponsored by District 3. Rio Grande Presbyterian Church, 600 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday June 1, 2013 District 13 Meeting - Delegate Report 10am Continental Breakfast served. 11am District 13 meeting. Church of Christ, 211 Irene St., Moriarity, NM

Friday June 7 - Sunday June 9, 2013 - Area 46 New Mexico State Convention Events & Activities: Meetings, Speakers, Art Raffle, Workshops, Banquet & Dancing, Meditation & Alcahion Meetings, Al-anon Meetings, Hospitality Room. Full program is available at www.nmaastateconvention2013.org - Sagebrush Conference Center 1508 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM. Hosted by District 14

Friday June 7 - Sunday June 9, 2013 - Founders' Day Akron OH. More info: www.foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org

Saturday July 27, 2013 Intergroup Speaker Meeting Hosted by District 18. 6pm. Jemez Springs Presbyterian Church, Jemez Springs, NM

Friday August 7 - Sunday August 9, 2013 - New Mexico Conference of Young People in AA (NMCYPAA) 2013 Convention Warehouse 21, 1614 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe. For more info: www.nmcypaa.com

Friday August 9 - Sunday August 11, 2013 - Camp-O-Rama 2013 Aspendale Mountain Retreat Center, Cloudcroft, NM. More info at: www.newmexicoaa.org

Saturday September 28, 2013 26th Annual New Mexico AA Women's Sobriety Fest More info at: www.nmaawsf.com

For more and/or updated information on Albuquerque and New Mexico AA Events go to:

<http://albuquerqueaa.org> and <http://www.newmexicoaa.org/>

For other AA events nationally and worldwide visit www.aa.org.

MARCH 2013

Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	MAR13	FEB13	MAR12
Information	585	535	692
12-Step	22	13	16
Al-Anon	15	7	7
Message	36	44	35
Other	120	117	110
TOTAL	778	716	860

WALK INS

Information	18	15	19
12-Step	1	4	2
Al-Anon	0	2	0
Get Schedule	19	4	11
Purchase	164	158	173
Media	3	0	10
Message	3	4	2
Casual	33	24	21
Other	19	26	25
TOTAL	260	237	263

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS

Unique Visitors	3481	3221	2951
Number of Visits	6313		
Pages	26328		

DESK WORKERS*

Regulars	45	45	48
Substitutes	37	38	33
TOTAL	82	83	81

DESK SHIFTS*

Weekdays	126	120	132
Weekends	50	40	40
TOTAL	176	160	172

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*

Worked by Regulars	112(88%)	107(90%)	120(90%)
Worked by Substitutes	14(12%)	13(10%)	12(10%)
TOTAL	126	120	132

WEEKEND SHIFTS*

Worked by Regulars	42(80%)	30(75%)	37(97%)
Worked by Substitutes	8(20%)	10(25%)	3(7%)
TOTAL	50	40	40

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL

5.5 - 3 hr (16.5)	3hrs
0 - 2hr (0)	0
Night - 0	0

SHIFTS WORKED BY PAM

2.5 - 3 hr (7.5)	0
0 - 2hr (0)	0
0 - Night - (0)	11

TOTAL 24 hours 14 hours

NIGHT SHIFTS NOT COVERED 1 0

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

Nothing is so bad, a drink won't make it worse...

Fear is the darkroom where negatives are developed...





**AA CENTRAL OFFICE
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION PICNIC
SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH
11AM - 4PM**

ALVARADO PARK
(ACROSS THE STREET FROM CENTRAL OFFICE
1921 ALVARADO DR. NE)

BBQ HOTS DOGS AND HAMBURGERS PROVIDED
BOTTLED WATER PROVIDED
SIDE DISH POTLUCK

LIVE MUSIC

THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT, SO FEEL FREE TO
BRING YOUR LOVED ONES TO ENJOY THE
AFTERNOON WITH US!

PLEASE CONTACT CENTRAL OFFICE IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN SERVICE WORK, OR JUST SHOW UP
AND LEND A HELPING HAND, THERE WILL BE
PLENTY TO DO!

CENTRAL OFFICE: 266-1900

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Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE
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4 blocks east of San Mateo

(505) 266-1900

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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