

# Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: [www.albuquerqueaa.org](http://www.albuquerqueaa.org)

## **An Open Letter to the Albuquerque AA Community: Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities in AA Meetings —**

*From Albuquerque Intergroup Special Needs Coordinator*

The AA Guidelines from the General Services Office says:

When a group includes and respects a person with special needs as a fully participating member, its fellowship grows stronger and everyone's sobriety is strengthened.

In fact, many accommodations can be made so that alcoholics with special needs can be active, participating members of a regular AA group. Some adjustments are simple and some are more complicated — but all are possible for the member willing to "go to any lengths" for his or her own sobriety and to help another alcoholic.

An AA member with special needs contacted the Albuquerque AA Central Office for help. The member had been banned by a group conscience because the member brought a service animal to meetings. The question was whether this group conscience decision was legal, because the right to attend is protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Intergroup Special Needs coordinator interviewed the AA member and officials of the group in question. A Justice Department public information officer provided information about the ADA, which is enforced by the U.S. Department of

Justice, Civil Rights Division. After extensive discussions, AA tools for handling this issue were found in the following AA Traditions:

*Tradition 10: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.*

Some members questioned if the ADA is an outside issue for Alcoholics Anonymous. ADA is a law of the United States. It is unhelpful to think of it as either an outside or an inside issue, nor ought any member be encouraged to think that AA groups or individuals are exempt from the laws of the land. AA groups are public accommodations and, therefore, subject to ADA regulations.

AA groups may discover that the ADA protects them, too, by not requiring an organization to make modifications that would "fundamentally alter the nature of the services provided by the public accommodation." Its regulations are also based on the assumption that the disabled person will maintain control of the service animal at all times.

The AA name would be "drawn into public controversy," should a

cont. on page 5

Volume 70, Issue 6

June 2008

Always  
remember  
that if you  
got all that  
you prayed  
for, there  
would not be  
enough to go  
around.

*From the Grapevine*

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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.*

### Inside the Walls

#### Some Tips for Carrying the Message into Prisons, from an Area Correctional Facilities Committee

1. First impressions are important, so look your best and be on time.
2. Using the AA Preamble as your frame of reference, begin by stating what AA is and is not.
3. Most inmates will want to know why you are there. Briefly, talk about the way things were (e. g., your last drink) and what things are like now that you are a member of AA. (This portion of your talk should be fairly brief.)
4. Describe the format of the AA meetings you will be bringing into the facility, how often meetings will be held, and how inmates may participate. (Be certain to obtain information on the proper procedure for inmate participation from the facility staff.)
5. You may want to distribute and briefly describe the following pamphlets: "This Is AA," "Is AA for You?" "A Newcomer Asks," "44 Questions," "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," "Memo to an Inmate." Add any other pamphlets you think appropriate.
6. It's very important to pace yourself so that there's ample time to answer as many inmate questions as possible.
7. Remember to keep it simple.

AAs wishing to carry the message into correctional facilities are encouraged to attend Correctional Facilities Committee meetings. And, remember, having once been an inmate is not a requirement.

July 1994 Grapevine

## Central Office Steering Committee E-mail addresses:

**Michael W.** - CO Coordinator  
Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

**Kathy** - Alt. CO Coordinator  
AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

**Dave C.** - Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

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

**Brian H.**  
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org  
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Memberatlarge@albuquerqueaa.org

**Sally** - PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

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**Tom C.** - Website Chair  
anonymous@albuquerqueaa.org

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media@albuquerqueaa.org

**John** -  
publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

**Steve**-  
treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

### 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  
St. Bernadette's

**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 Intergroup Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Brian H. (notes taken by Sally G.)  
5.11.08

Dave C. opened the meeting at 2:03 with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Introductions all around.

## Meeting minute corrections.

Kathy H. visited District 13 district meeting, not 15. In the attendance sign in sheet, Queer Ideas of Fun is from page 38 not page 36. Meeting minutes accepted by acclamation.

## Steve P. – Treasurer

Expenses up due to office insurance, taxes, newsletter expense. Small expenses add up. Small literature purchase of \$2000.00. Individual contributions down from last year. Treasurers report accepted by acclamation.

## Michael W. – CO Coordinator

Brought and sold literature at the Red Road Convention. Desk workers down but there have been several new desk workers in training. Substitutes down and still trying to smooth out the groups participation in the night phone hosting. Participated in District 13 workshop "What would AA be like without GSO?" Felt the workshop was very beneficial. Mentioned that normally this meeting would have been rescheduled due to Mother's day.

## Kathy H. – Alt. Coordinator

Nothing to report. Thanks for opportunity to serve.

7<sup>th</sup> tradition basket passed.

## Melissa C. – Activities Chair

Not present. Michael added on Melissa's behalf that the 2nd Quarter was covered for the

Intergroup Speaker Meeting.

## Martha G. – Member at Large

Not present.

## Sally G. – Pass It On Editor

Will be re-arranging location of some of the articles in the newsletter. Wants to include a brief synopsis of the Treasurers report in the newsletter. Will get with Michael and Steve to go over the particulars.

## Michael Q. – Schedule Editor

Not present

## John S. - Community Outreach

Not present. Michael gave report. Bernalillo High School asked John to come out for a health fair at the school. Went very well. Michael feels that information calls from Bernalillo are up slightly since John's visit. John also participated in a health fair in Moriarty.

## Peggy A. – Special Needs.

Not present.

## Grace L. – Media Librarian

Not present.

## Tom C. -Web Guardian

Not present.

## New Business:

Dave F. handed out a flyer in regards to a workshop he is trying to bring to Albuquerque. Polly P.'s "Working the Traditions in Your Relationship".

The one day workshop is already scheduled for October 11, 2008. Dave is asking if the Central Office would consider hosting or supporting the event by buying the airfare. Lodging is not an issue. Since Melissa was not present it was unclear if she could and would take this event as part of her activities commitment.

The groups decision on this matter was to take it back to the groups and find out what the groups thought. It

was also asked if there could be clarification from Polly the exact nature of the word "Relationship".

## Group announcements:

Live and Let Live group is hosting a Workshop/Speaker Meeting and would like group participation. "Celebrate Diversity" is the name of the workshop. It is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. There will be a flyer circulating very soon with the location.

District 12 is moving from the Heights club to St. Bernadette's on Indian School for their regular district meeting. The time is the same.

New meetings in Belen. Every Friday and Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm. First Baptist Church, 115 S. 4<sup>th</sup> ST.

New meeting in Los Lunas. The Roundup Group. West side of Hwy 314, 1 ¼ miles north of Main St.. Fridays at 7:00 pm. (Community Bible Church. 1467 N. Hwy 314)

Dave closed the meeting at 3:00 with the Third Step Prayer.

## Attendees:

Jeremy - Straight Pepper Diet  
Sally G. - PIO and How it Works  
John. – Live and Let Live  
Ben – How It Works  
Steve P. – Treasurer/Free Spirits

*The remaining attendees for this meeting were on a separate sheet of paper and could not be located.*

***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 following contributed to Central Office.....**

*This data is from April 1 to April 30, 2008 and is inclusive for the entire calendar month!*

<p><b>Groups:</b>                  Back to Basics                  Corrales Smokefree                  Dawn Patrol                  Dawning Promises                  Edgewood Valley Group                  Foothills Group                  Free Spirits                  High Country Group                  Isleta Group                  Isleta Pueblo Group                  Jemez Springs Group                  Live and Let Live (x2)                  Lone Rangers                  Refuge Group                  Sunday Night Serenity                  Sunday Night Step Study                  Sunrise Sobriety                  Tuesday Knights</p> <p><b>Individuals:</b>                  Anonymous (x5)                  Catherine W.                  Karen F.                  Robert U.</p>	<p><b>Faithful Fivers:</b>                  Al. J.                  Andrew S.                  Andi &amp; 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 &amp; Barbara C.                  Ralph &amp; Gwen T.                  Rojo R.</p> <p><b>Thank you</b> all for supporting your Central Office!!!!</p>
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**Central Office of Albuquerque  
 Treasurers Report: April 2008**

Total Contributions/Sales	\$7406.09
Total Cost of Sales	-2,793.05
Gross Profit	4,613.04
Total Expenses	\$7,160.46
Net Income	-2,547.42

For a copy of the full Central Office income/expense report, please join us at the next Intergroup Committee Meeting. It's the second Sunday of the month, 2 pm, at the Desert Club.

**April '08 Desk Activity**

	Apr. '08	Mar. '08	Apr. '07
	This month	Last month	Last yr.
<b>Phone calls</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>1227</b>
Information	1035	1059	978
12 step request	27	17	39
AI-Anon Info	20	24	29
Message	69	52	31
Other	147	142	150
<b>Walk Ins</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>296</b>
Information	18	19	17
12 step	0	1	0
AI-Anon	0	0	1
Schedules	30	20	30
Purchases	144	159	178
Tapes	6	2	0
Message	8	4	1
Casual	46	42	47
Other	34	29	22
<b>Desk Workers*</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>94</b>	
Regulars	49	52	
Substitutes	34	42	
<b>Desk Shifts*</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>176</b>	
Weekdays	132	126	
Weekends	40	50	
<b>Weekday Shifts*</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>126</b>	
Regulars	89% 117	87% 110	
Substitutes	11% 15	13% 16	
<b>Weekend Shifts*</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	
Regulars	79% 33	82% 41	
Substitutes	21% 7	18% 9	
<b>Shifts by Michael*</b>	<b>10/37 hrs</b>	<b>13/72 hrs</b>	
<b>Shifts by Kathy*</b>	<b>2/6 hrs</b>	<b>3/9 hrs</b>	

**Thanks to all who participated this month.**

\* includes night phone

*An Open Letter to the Albuquerque AA Community:* continued from page 1

member pursue legal remedies for violations of this law or should a group allow the issue to continue to that point. In such a case, both parties would be failing to observe Tradition 10.

*Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.*

The right of AA groups to be autonomous is a fundamental principle of our fourth tradition. However, we have just outlined the potential for this issue to draw us into public controversy. Such an eventuality would affect other AA groups and AA as a whole.

*Tradition 3: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.*

Tradition 3 in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* tells of early efforts of AA groups to limit membership to "that hypothetical class of people we termed 'pure alcoholics.'" It describes how Alcoholics Anonymous came to decide that it "would neither punish nor deprive any A.A. of membership."

*Tradition 1: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.*

The practice of the first tradition is the primary guarantee of the ongoing success of our fellowship and the individuals and groups that make it up. The *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* asks individual members to put aside the "clamor of desires and ambitions...whenever these could damage the group." We urge individual AA members to examine whether any position they take could cause such "damage" to AA unity.

*Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

A group conscience process can express the authority of "a loving God" if the group is asking itself what that would be. Otherwise, it will reflect the influence of individuals and agendas.

Both of these last traditions reflect the concept in Tradition 12, which reminds us to "place principles before personalities."

Special Needs Chairperson

### Blind Trust?

"Most surely, there can be no trust where there is no love, nor can there be real love where distrust holds its malign sway.

"But does trust require that we be blind to other people's motives or, indeed, to our own? Not at all; this would be folly. Most certainly, we should assess the capacity for harm as well as the capacity for good in every person that we would trust. Such a private inventory can reveal the degree of confidence we should extend in any given situation.

"However, this inventory needs to be taken in a spirit of understanding and love. Nothing can so much bias our judgment as the negative emotions of suspicion, jealousy, or anger.

"Having vested our confidence in another person, we ought to let him know of our full support. Because of this, more often than not he will respond magnificently, and far beyond our first expectations."

*from page 144* "As Bill Sees It" Letter 1966

## Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

### Isleta Group

Ray	6 months
Reuhl	1 year
Angel	2 years
Jonathon	6 years
Valerie	7 years
Ivan	8 years
Carol	13 years
Al	21 years
Refugio R.	23 years
Steve H.	25 years
Bruce	28 years

### Cosmopolitan Group

Michelle M. 6/24/02

### Seniors Seeking Serenity

June

Jessie A. 26 years

July

Dorothy L. 29 years

Mary R. 26 years

Marjorie G. 26 years



## District 13

has made a one-time change to our meeting for June. Instead of meeting Sunday, June 8, we have moved the June meeting to Sunday June 15, to avoid conflict with the Convention in Ruidoso. We'll see you Sunday at 10:00 am at the Desert Club. All are welcome!!!!

## New Meeting!

“Simple Sobriety”

Thursdays 6 pm

Open discussion meeting with the topic chosen from one of several AA approved literature.

#### Location:

Alternatively Seeking  
5850 Eubank Blvd.  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

At the Mountain Run Shopping Center, in the middle of the first floor, just below the big clock tower—where Juan Tabo and Eubank meet.

Deskworkers are always needed and appreciated 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](http://www.albuquerqueaa.org)  
We also have a large selection of speaker tapes (cd's) that are available to check out.

### 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!*

## District 18's Founders Day Picnic

### Has Been Cancelled Due to Fire Restrictions

Date: Saturday June 21  
Las Huertas Picnic Area— Placitas

## Courage

### **We have learned courage by trying, and through AA we can channel it into new and beautiful ways**

ACROSS THE YEARS of sober living in AA, I must have said and heard the words "grant me the courage" several thousand times. Yet only recently did I sit down and figure out exactly what courage means to me.

I had thought about it vaguely in the past. I might picture a soldier charging up a hill into the teeth of enemy gunfire. The idea of physical action overcoming bodily danger was about as far as I ever went in thinking about courage.

It never occurred to me in my drinking days that I did have one kind of courage common to many drunks who slid along their bottoms for some time before floundering into AA. That is, I *kept trying*. I *kept trying* to quit drinking.

When a man opens his eyes each morning on a frightening reality and rises through sweaty nausea, his bones rattling and his nerves screaming; when he stumbles through the day like one in a pit of despair, wishing he could die, but refusing to die; when he gets up the next day and does it all over again--well, that takes guts. That takes a kind of real, basic survival courage, a courage that can be put to good use if this man ever finds his way to AA. He's learned his courage the hard way, and when he comes to AA, he'll find ways to use it, new and beautiful ways.

Someone has said that the only difference between a saint and a sinner is that the saint is still trying. The main attribute of courage is *to continue trying*.

One of the greatest examples of continued trying I've ever witnessed happened at an AA participation meeting. There were about a dozen of us present. Each of us spoke around the table until the turn fell to a man who shared with us the news that he had terminal cancer. He'd been given only a few months to live, but he seemed to be at peace, and his voice was underlaid with a great strength. "If these Steps are good enough to live by, they're good enough to die by," he said. "Dying sober, working these Steps, is the greatest thing that can happen to any of us in AA."

During the next few months, he continued attending that meeting and making an effort to work the Steps as he understood them. His manner remained cheerful, even though he suffered almost continuous pain. Clearly, he had made his peace with his God. Then he was confined to bed. A few weeks later, he died--sober. I never even learned his last name, but he left a mighty heritage. He had kept trying. And what else is there to courage except this?

In partnership with my Higher Power, I discover my directions and the way to pursue them. As long as I keep spiritually fit, I can follow my dreams. This is the great promise of AA. Whenever I'm discouraged about my failure to make the progress I think I should be making, whenever I reach the point where I want to throw up my hands in despair, feeling that I'll never be able to change, I remember this man. And then it's all right. I'll never be perfect, so it follows that I simply need to keep on trying. And that's exactly as it should be. The AA *courage to try* got me sober and kept me sober, and anything that can do that has got to be worth living by for the rest of my life.

V. W. C. Long Beach, California

August 1974 Grapevine

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## Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

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

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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**

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