

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

www.albuquerqueaa.org

"I have seen hundreds of families set their feet in the path that really goes somewhere; have seen the most impossible domestic situations righted; feuds and bitterness of all sorts wiped out. I have seen men come out of asylums and resume a vital place in the lives of their families and communities. Business and professional men have regained their standing. There is scarcely any form of trouble and misery which has not been overcome among us."

- Bill W., Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book), Bill's Story, page 15

Step 6 Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition 6 (*Short Form*) An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose. (*Long Form*) Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.-and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

Concept 6 The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Ceramic Cups for the Coffee?

I'm on a trip to Denver right now and went to a noon meeting in downtown today. I went for a cup of coffee and found that they used ceramic mugs, not styrofoam. If you've ever gone to the How It Works group in Albuquerque, you've seen this before. The group here also had a time limit for sharing and a timekeeper to enforce it, just like How It Works. But that's a different story. If you've been to How It Works, did you speculate how the group came to use ceramic mugs? You might have imagined that our group conscious discussed environmental trade-offs between the energy to make and dispose of styrofoam and the energy to wash ceramic mugs. I like that story. But, come to one of our group conscious meetings and see for yourself why it's not very likely the real story.

Then, you ask, what is the real story? We have to go back to the mid-'80s when How It Works met on San Pedro. It was a typical meeting for the time: coffee in styrofoam cups and thick cigarette smoke. You could sit at one end of the room and not be able to see the people at the other end of the room.

How It Works was my home group and I was newly sober in 1986. It was about that time that the church where we met made all of their buildings non-smoking. We had an angry group conscious meeting and voted about finding a new home where members could smoke in the meetings. There was only one problem: all of the churches in town were going non-smoking!

At about this time, my family and I had a vacation to visit family in Seattle. We always liked to stop and spend the night in Moab on our way. It's not all that far, and we always got there in mid-afternoon. We checked into the motel and I went looking for an AA meeting. After dinner, I went to a small portable building that served as an AA meeting place. I enjoyed the meeting: lots of old timers and a few mountain bikers (today that balance is flipped over).

But, what struck me the most was that I was drinking coffee out of a ceramic mug! After the meeting got over and we were all chatting, I couldn't help but comment about the mugs. What I got back was a surprised stare. "What do you give the newcomers to do now that there aren't ashtrays to empty? What have you got that allows them to be of service?" Of course, I had no answer.

A few weeks later, I was back in Albuquerque and How It Works was having a group conscious meeting. I told everyone my story about the Moab meeting. A vote followed, and we all agreed to bring in our surplus mugs. We're happy to say that every meeting since has provided an opportunity for service to anyone willing.

After 25 years, the ceramic mug decision has caused only one controversy: the cockroach mug. Someone donated a mug that had a ceramic cockroach fired into the bottom of the mug. It was always entertaining when anyone got that mug without realizing the "treasure" in the bottom. It got clear when they reached the bottom of the mug during the meeting. There were people on both sides of the "cockroach mug" issue. Just like everything in AA. We never got to vote in a group conscious meeting; the cockroach mug mysteriously broke into numerous pieces one day.

Please, visit How It Works and enjoy your coffee. But feel free to stay and help wash the cups. It will keep you sober.

- Wendell J.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Thank you Albuquerque AA members!!! Reader submissions are way up and Sobriety Birthday Submissions are slowly on the rise. The Area 46 Convention is the first weekend this month, and there is a cornucopia of AA events on the calendar (see page6) for this & upcoming months. Be sure to check out the website at www.albuquerqueaa.org - Alli has been doing some real cool things I'm sure you'll want to check out - and keep checking. Be sure to catch Alan S. giving the Area 46 Delegate's report if you can - he's scheduled to give the report at multiple places over the next month or so, some of which are listed in the PIO AA Events Calendar on page 6. Don't forget - artistic submissions for the Pass It On masthead contest are due at the end of July - e-mail me for details. This month's issue of Pass It On has a special AA history article starting on page 3 in honor of Founders Day (June 10, 1935) - Happy 77th Birthday Alcoholics Anonymous! Hope to see you all at the convention & if I don't, have a happy, safe, sober & serene summer :)

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.

A Seeking Serenity Home Group Member on Tradition 2...

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.

Group decisions are just that, group decisions. Everyone in the group is equal no matter their background, education, or professional expertise; no one has authority "over" the group. Unfortunately for us, some people in AA think God put them on earth to tell the rest of us what they think we ought to do with our lives, whether we like it or not. But we don't have to do anything we don't want to do. To me, that is the beauty of Tradition Two, because it protects us from people like that!

In this way, AA reaches out to all who would seek its comfort. It provides a sense of "belonging". Before I came into AA I never really felt that I "belonged" to any group. I was a board member, a cheerleader, a family member, a church goer, a student, etc and always felt like I was just "sitting in" or a visitor. I was told how to vote, what to study, what to believe in to the point where sometimes I believed it and it became my identity. Learning my own truth and being in acceptance of the groups decisions takes practice. The more I trust God, the group and its decisions, the more I learn.

Tradition Two tells me who God is, where He is, and what He does. It says, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority...a loving God (= WHO) as He may express Himself in our group conscience." (WHERE) - God expresses Himself in a specific location--my conscience. In the last half of "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." WHAT = his will is expressed thru the vote of its group. I love the clarity and force of that simple word "but." As a leader I am but a trusted servant; I do not govern. I speak my truth and be ok with the results...or not

P.S. The difference between a group conscious and a group will. One shares and the other takes-Either way, it's His will.

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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 am, 2nd Saturday, Heights Club

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

District 18
1:30 pm, 2nd Sunday
RioWestChurch, 6751 Pasilla Rd, Rio Rancho

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Where Did The 12 Steps Come From?

A Fragment of History

by Bill W. - July 1953 A.A. Grapevine

(Editors Note: The first few paragraphs of this article were published last month - This month brings the full article in honor of Founders Day - June 10, 1935. This year marks the 77th Birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous!)

July 1953 A.A. Grapevine

AAs are always asking: "Where did the Twelve Steps come from?" In the last analysis, perhaps nobody knows. Yet some of the events which led to their formulation are as clear to me as though they took place yesterday.

So far as people were concerned, the main channels of inspiration for our Steps were three in number -- the Oxford Groups, Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital and the famed psychologist, William James, called by some the father of modern psychology. The story of how these streams of influence were brought together and how they led to the writing of our Twelve Steps is exciting and in spots downright incredible.

Many of us will remember the Oxford Groups as a modern evangelical movement which flourished in the 1920's and early 30's, led by a one-time Lutheran minister, Dr. Frank Buchman. The Oxford Groups of that day threw heavy emphasis on personal work, one member with another. AA's Twelfth Step had its origin in that vital practice. The moral backbone of the "O.G." was absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. They also practiced a type of confession, which they called "sharing"; the making of amends for harms done they called "restitution." They believed deeply in their "quiet time," a meditation practiced by groups and individuals alike, in which the guidance of God was sought for every detail of living, great or small.

These basic ideas were not new; they could have been found elsewhere. But the saving thing for us first alcoholics who contacted the Oxford Groupers was that they laid great stress on these particular principles. **And fortunate for us was the fact that the Groupers took special pains not to interfere with one's personal religious views. Their society, like ours later on, saw the need to be strictly non-denominational.**

In the late summer of 1934, my well-loved alcoholic friend and schoolmate "Ebbie" had fallen in with these good folks and had promptly sobered up. Being an alcoholic, and rather on the obstinate side, he hadn't been able to "buy" all the Oxford Group ideas and attitudes. Nevertheless, he was moved by their deep sincerity and felt mighty grateful for the fact that their ministrations had, for the time being, lifted his obsession to drink.

When he arrived in New York in the late fall of 1934, Ebbie thought at once of me. On a bleak November day he rang up. Soon he was looking at me across our kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York. As I remember that conversation, he constantly used phrases like these: "I found I couldn't run my own life;" "I had to get honest with myself and somebody else;" "I had to make restitution for the damage I had done;" "I had to pray to God for guidance and strength, even though I wasn't sure there was any God;" "And after I'd tried hard to do these things I found that my craving for alcohol left." Then over and over Ebbie would say something like this: **"Bill, it isn't a bit like being on the water wagon. You don't fight the desire to drink -- you get released from it. I never had such a feeling before."**

Such was the sum of what Ebbie had extracted from his Oxford Group friends and had transmitted to me that day. While these simple ideas were not new, they certainly hit me like tons of brick. Today we understand just why that was . . . one alcoholic was talking to another as no one else can.

Two or three weeks later, December 11th to be exact, I staggered into the Charles B. Towns Hospital, that famous drying-out emporium on Central Park West, New York City. I'd been there before, so I knew and already loved the doctor in charge -- Dr. Silkworth. It was he who was soon to contribute a very great idea without which AA could never have succeeded. For years he had been proclaiming alcoholism an illness, an obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body. By now I knew this meant me. I also understood what a fatal combination these twin ogres could be. Of course, I'd once hoped to be among the small percentage of victims who now and then escape their vengeance. But this outside hope was now gone. I was about to hit bottom. That verdict of science -- the obsession that condemned me to drink and the allergy that condemned me to die -- was about to do the trick. That's where the medical science, personified by this benign little doctor, began to fit it in. Held in the hands of one alcoholic talking to the next, this double-edged truth was a sledgehammer which could shatter the tough alcoholic's ego at depth and lay him wide open to the grace of God.

In my case it was of course Dr. Silkworth who swung the sledge while my friend Ebbie carried to me the spiritual principles and the grace which brought on my sudden spiritual awakening at the hospital three days later. [Dec. 14, 1934] I immediately knew that I was a free man. And with this astonishing experience came a feeling of wonderful certainty that great numbers of alcoholics might one day enjoy the priceless gift which had been bestowed upon me.

Third Influence

At this point a third stream of influence entered my life through the pages of William James' book, "Varieties of Religious Experience." Somebody had brought it to my hospital room. Following my sudden experience, Dr. Silkworth had taken great pains to convince me that I was not hallucinated. But William James did even more. Not only, he said, could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual, their variety could be almost infinite. But the biggest payoff of that noted book was this: **in most of the cases described, those who had been transformed were hopeless people. In some controlling area of their lives they had met absolute defeat. Well, that was me all right. In complete defeat, with no hope or faith whatever, I had made an appeal to a Higher Power.** I had taken Step One of today's AA program -- "admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable." I'd also taken Step Three -- "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to God as we understood him." Thus was I set free. It was just as simple, yet just as mysterious, as that.

These realizations were so exciting that I instantly joined up with the Oxford Groups. But to their consternation I insisted on devoting myself exclusively to drunks. This was disturbing to the O.G.'s on two counts. Firstly, they wanted to help save the whole world. Secondly, their luck with drunks had been poor. Just as I joined they had been working over a batch of alcoholics who had proved disappointing indeed. One of them, it was rumored, had flippantly cast his shoe through a valuable stained glass window of an Episcopal church across the alley from O.G. headquarters. Neither did they

(continued on the bottom of page 5)

But if you really and truly want to quit drinking liquor for good and all, and sincerely feel that you must have some help, we know that we have an answer for you. It never fails if you go about it with one half the zeal you have been in the habit of showing when getting another drink.

- Dr. Bob, Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book), Dr. Bob's Nightmare, page 181



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 May 13th, 2012

Open/ Attendees

Michael W.- Too Much for Us, Steve R.- Saturday Night Alive, Morgan D.- Straight Pepper Diet, George B.- Singleness of Purpose, All- Singleness of Purpose, Christy O.- Promises, Martha M.- Promises, Joe K.- Live & Let Live, Dan K.- Early Birds, Art L.- El Centro, Kristen E.- Free Spirits, Alison T.- Straight Pepper Diet, Cindy B.- Dawn/Dusk Patrol, Skitch F.- Isleta, Linda E.- Any Lengths, Bill D.- Seeking Serenity/ District 11, Tom B.- Seeking Serenity, Kathy H.- Metropolitan, Heather G.- QIOF, Don S.- Tuesday Knights

Minutes from last month accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Revenues - \$7,715.33; Cost of Sales - \$2,970.26; Gross Income - \$4,745.07; Expenses - \$7,025.76; Net Income - (\$2,280.69) *In the red*

Central Office Coordinator

Bills paid, books on shelf, and shifts covered. Desk: Increase call for 12 step calls as well as Alanon calls. 94% of weekday shifts worked by regulars. 84% of weekend shifts worked by regulars. Got a call for someone to rent a trailer, found out our number and address in listed as rental business. Going to take care of that. Got some calls that I passed onto Jerry, special needs coordinator. One who is home bound and desires to stop drinking. Another that is deaf/ hard of hearing.

Alternate Central Office Coordinator

No Report.

Member at Large

No report.

Pass it On Editor

Updated dates in pass it on for contest entries. Have not received any entries for the competition. I prefer jpeg format, but can work with anything. I also would like local submissions, rather than reprints which is what this months issue is filled with. Still want groups to submit sobriety birthdays. Just write down group, name, and birthday and email it to me. If individuals want to submit their own regardless of what their group wants, I accept all submissions. If your group cannot afford the Pass it On and would like some, just let me know and we can arrange something.

Media Librarian

No report.

Web Guardian

Treasurer's report is now posted on the site. Alcathon email link is also now on the web site: alcathon@albuquerqueaa.org. Looking into setting up an email newsletter for Pass it On that people can sign up for.

Schedule Editor

No report.

Community Outreach

All is going well.

Special Needs Coordinator

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Skitch: I would like to have the first committee meeting on June 10th at 3pm after the IG meeting. It might be at Sheppard of the Valley church which meets our requirements of having a kitchen and parking. Go back to your groups and let others know if they want to get involved. Please go online to see Peggy's corrections to the Bylaws and we will be voting on them

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS

EL CENTRO Jason - 3 months; Mark - 1 year; James - 2 years; Judy C. - 10 years; Carol - 17 years

SERENDIPITY Barbara H. - 1 year

SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE Phil O. - 10 years; Michael C. - 20 years; Bernie M. - 42 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.

next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule editor Michael is leaving and has found a willing person to take over, but the position is open and anyone who wants it can stand for it when we elect (experience with central office and 2 years of sobriety is suggested). They print schedules about 4 times a year. SWARSA has wanted schedules to make welcome packets. Motion: Steering Committee wants to donate them. We will only be donating 500. Passed

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Singleness of Purpose will have their anniversary some time in June, not next Saturday. Live and Let Live will have an AA booth at the LGBT fair on June 30th. District 11 hosting Delegate report at Nativity church on June 23rd. Potluck at 1pm with report at 2pm. Q/A from 3-4pm.

CLOSE.

Where Did The 12 Steps Come From?

A Fragment of History *(continued from page 3)*

take kindly to my repeated declaration that it shouldn't take long to sober up all the drunks in the world. They rightly declared that my conceit was still immense.

Something Missing

After some six months of violent exertion with scores of alcoholics which I found at a nearby mission and Towns Hospital, it began to look like the Groupers were right. I hadn't sobered up anybody. In Brooklyn we always had a houseful of drinkers living with us, sometimes as many as five. My valiant wife, Lois, once arrived home from work to find three of them fairly tight. They were whaling each other with two-by-fours. Though events like these slowed me down somewhat, the persistent conviction that a way to sobriety could be found never seemed to leave me. There was, though, one bright spot. My sponsor, Ebbie, still clung precariously to his new-found sobriety.

What was the reason for all these fiascoes? If Ebbie and I could achieve sobriety, why couldn't all the rest find it too? Some of those we'd worked on certainly wanted to get well. We speculated day and night why nothing much had happened to them. Maybe they couldn't stand the spiritual pace of the Oxford Group's four absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love. In fact some of the alcoholics declared that this was the trouble. The aggressive pressure upon them to get good overnight would make them fly high as geese for a few weeks and then flop dismally. They complained, too, about another form of coercion -- something the Oxford Groupers called "guidance for others." A "team" composed of non-alcoholic Groupers would sit down with an alcoholic and after a "quiet time" would come up with precise instructions as to how the alcoholic should run his own life. As grateful as we were to our O.G. friends, this was sometimes tough to take. It obviously had something to do with the wholesale skidding that went on.

But this wasn't the entire reason for failure. After months I saw the trouble was mainly in me. I had become very aggressive, very cocksure. I talked a lot about my sudden spiritual experience, as though it was something very special. I had been playing the double role of teacher and preacher. In my exhortations I'd forgotten all about the medical side of our malady, and that need for deflation at depth so emphasized by William James had been neglected. We weren't using that medical sledgehammer that Dr. Silkworth had so providentially given us.

Finally, one day, Dr. Silkworth took me back down to my right size. Said he, "**Bill, why don't you quit talking so much about that bright light experience of yours, it sounds too crazy. Though I'm convinced that nothing but better morals will make alcoholics really well, I do think you have got the cart before the horse. The point is that alcoholics won't buy all this moral exhortation until they convince**

(continued on page 7)



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

Friday June 1-3, 2012 New Mexico Area 46 State Convention

Starts Friday with registration beginning at 4pm - Hosted by District 2 - Santa Fe University of Art & Design, 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87507; for more info & schedule of events go to: <http://www.santafeaa.org>

Saturday June 9, 2012 District 3 Meeting

1:30pm potluck, 2-4pm meeting; Area 46 delegate will give Conference report; Hosted by Sunrise Catchers Group @ Isleta Club, 1829 Isleta Blvd. SW. Albuquerque, 87105

Saturday June 9, 2012

Founders Day Picnic

District 18 hosted potluck picnic from 11am - 2pm at Bernalillo (NM) Rotary Park @ Calle Laguna and Rotary Park Road; hotdogs & hamburgers provided, the rest is potluck; 2 speakers - George B. and Ralph T; Directions: 528 to 550 East, turn right on Don Thomas, a gas station go to the end of the road - Rotary Park on right, 370 Rotary Park Rd.

Sunday June 10, 2012 New Years Eve Alcathon Steering Committee Meeting

3pm, after the Intergroup Rep Meeting @ Brownbaggers, 3939 San Pedro, Building F, Suite A, Albuquerque - Near the corner Hendrix and Woodford Drive 87110 - Come help us plan for the New Years Eve 2012 Alcathon

Tuesday June 12, 2012 Serendipity Group BBQ

Potluck BBQ, meat supplied already. 6pm. Location: Mesa View United Methodist Church at Montano and Golf Course (4701 Montano Rd NW # 101 Albuquerque, NM 87120). East side of property.

Saturday June 16, 2012 NM State Corrections Orientation

NM State Corrections Orientation (for taking AA meetings inside correctional facilities); 8am - noon, God's House Church, 2335 Wyoming NE Albuquerque, NM 505-332-2457; Yearly attendance at an orientation is mandatory for volunteers taking meetings into the state correction facilities. The orientation schedule information is posted on the state corrections web site.

Saturday June 16, 2012 LBGT AA Public Info Booth, Albuquerque Pride Fair

The Live & Let Live group is sponsoring an AA Public Info booth at the Abq. Pride fair at the Abq fairgrounds. June 30 - from 10am to 5pm. The fair is focused on the LGBT community, but everyone is welcome. Volunteers for manning the booth are welcome. Contact info for volunteering is available by emailing PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

Sunday June 17, 2012 Founders Day Picnic

12 noon-5pm; BBQ & games 12-5, speaker meeting 5:30pm; BBQ, coffee & water provided, the rest is potluck. Sponsored by District 2, hosted by the Eldorado Group. Eldorado Community Center, 1 Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87508

Saturday June 23, 2012 District 11 Delegate's Report & Potluck

Saturday, June 23; 1:00 pm - Potluck, 2:00 pm - Delegate Alan S., 3:00 pm - Q & A; Nativity Church 9502 4th Street NW, Albuquerque

Saturday August 4, 2012 District 11 Picnic

Please bring a favorite side dish, dessert, chips, and/or beverage for the lunch potluck. Meat will be provided by District 11. Campsites may be reserved via recreation.gov.

8:00 am - Breakfast, 12:00 pm - Potluck Lunch, 2:00 pm - Open Meeting; Jemez Falls Group Area - Directions: From the Jemez Ranger Station, go 7.5 miles north to the junction of State Roads 4 and 126 at La Cueva Lodge. Follow State Road 4 approximately 6 miles east to the campground turnoff on your right (between mile markers 31 and 32). From the turnoff, continue 1.25 miles to Jemez Falls Group Area which is south of the family campground.

Saturday August 11, 2012 NM State Corrections Orientation

NM State Corrections Orientation (for taking AA meetings inside correctional facilities); 8am - noon, Hoffmantown Church 8888 Harper Dr NE Albuquerque, NM 505-828-2600;

Friday September 28-29, 2012 New Mexico Alcoholics Anonymous Women's Sobriety Fest 2012 25th Annual Celebration

All AA and Al-Anon members welcome! Friday: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Saturday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm - Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, 1801 Montano Road NW, Albuquerque - for more info go to <http://www.nmaawsf.com/>

Friday October 19-21, 2012 Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly (SWRAASA)

New Mexico is hosting the Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly in Albuquerque this year. SWRAASA is a 3-day meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous that meets every two years to share with each other how they carry the AA message of recovery. Albuquerque Marriott, 2101 Louisiana Boulevard NE, Albuquerque - Go to <http://swraasa.newmexicoaa.org/> for more details and registration info.

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.

SUBMIT YOUR AA EVENT TODAY to: PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

April 2012

Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	APR12	MAR12	APR11
Information	615	692	691
12-Step	31	16	1
Al-Anon	10	7	10
Message	39	35	21
Other	90	110	97
TOTAL	785	860	820

WALK INS

Information	14	19	21
12-Step	4	2	1
Al-Anon	0	0	3
Get Schedule	8	11	18
Purchase	151	173	167
Media	5	10	0
Message	0	2	1
Casual	23	21	33
Other	22	25	50
TOTAL	218	263	294

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS

Unique Visitors	2885	2951	2402
Number of Visits	5468	5918	
Pages	21,999	26,450	

DESK WORKERS*

Regulars	50	48
Substitutes	33	33
TOTAL	83	81

DESK SHIFTS*

Weekdays	126	132
Weekends	45	40
TOTAL	171	172

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*

Worked by Regulars	118(94%)	120(91%)
Worked by Substitutes	8(6%)	12 (9%)
TOTAL	126	132

WEEKEND SHIFTS*

Worked by Regulars	38(84%)	37 (92.5%)
Worked by Substitutes	7(16%)	3 (7.5%)
TOTAL	45	40

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL

3 - 3 hr (9)	6 hrs
0 - 2hr	0
Night - 0	0

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY

1 - 3 hr (3)	6
0 -2hr	2
Night - 0	0

TOTAL 12 hours 14 hours

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

There is no chemical solution to a spiritual problem...



Where Did The 12 Steps Come From?

A Fragment of History (*continued from page 6*)

themselves that they must. If I were you I'd go after them on the medical basis first. While it has never done any good for me to tell them how fatal their malady is, it might be a very different story if you, a formerly hopeless alcoholic, gave them the bad news. Because of this identification you naturally have with alcoholics, you might be able to penetrate where I can't. Give them the medical business first, and give it to them hard. This might soften them up so they will accept the principles that will really get them well."

Then Came Akron

Shortly after this history-making conversation, I found myself in Akron, Ohio, on a business venture which promptly collapsed. Alone in the town, I was scared to death of getting drunk. I was no longer a teacher or a preacher, I was an alcoholic who knew that he needed another alcoholic as much as that one could possibly need me. Driven by that urge, I was soon face to face with Dr. Bob. It was at once evident that Dr. Bob knew more of the spiritual things than I did. He also had been in touch with the Oxford Groupers at Akron. But somehow he simply couldn't get sober. Following Dr. Silkworth's advice, I used the medical sledgehammer. I told him what alcoholism was and just how fatal it could be.

Apparently this did something to Dr. Bob. On June 10, 1935, he sobered up, never to drink again. When, in 1939, Dr. Bob's story first appeared in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, he put one paragraph of it in italics. Speaking of me, he said: "*Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience. In other words, he talked my language.*"

The Missing Link

Dr. Silkworth had indeed supplied us the missing link without which the chain of principles now forged into our Twelve Steps could never have been complete. Then and there, the spark that was to become *Alcoholics Anonymous* had been struck.

During the next three years after Dr. Bob's recovery our growing groups at Akron, New York and Cleveland evolved the so-called word-of-mouth program of our pioneering time. As we commenced to form a society separate from the Oxford Group, we began to state our principles something like this:

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol. 2. We got honest with ourselves. 3. We got honest with another person, in confidence. 4. We made amends for harms done others. 5. We worked with other alcoholics without demand for prestige or money. 6. We prayed to God to help us to do these things as best we could.

Though these principles were advocated according to the whim or liking of each of us, and though in Akron and Cleveland they still stuck by the O.G. absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, this was the gist of our message to incoming alcoholics up to 1939, when our present Twelve Steps were put to paper.

I well remember the evening on which the Twelve Steps was written. I was lying in bed quite dejected and suffering from one of my imaginary ulcer attacks. Four chapters of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, had been roughed out and read in meetings at Akron and New York. We quickly found that everybody wanted to be an author. The hassles as to what should go into our new book were terrific. For example, some wanted a purely psychological book which would draw in alcoholics without scaring them. We could tell them about the "God business" afterwards. A few, led by our wonderful southern friend, Fitz M., wanted a fairly religious book infused with some of the dogma we had picked up from the churches and missions which had tried to help us. The louder the arguments, the more I felt in the middle. It appeared that I wasn't going to be the author at all. I was only going to be an umpire who would decide the contents of the book. This didn't mean, though, that there wasn't terrific enthusiasm for the undertaking. Every one of us was wildly excited at the possibility of getting our message before all those countless alcoholics who still didn't know.

Having arrived at Chapter Five, it seemed high time to state what our program really was. I remember running over in my mind the word-of-mouth phrases then in current use. Jotting these down, they added up to the six named above. Then came the idea that our program ought to be more accurately and clearly stated. Distant readers would have to have precise set of principles. Knowing the alcoholic's ability to rationalize, something airtight would have to be written. We couldn't let the reader wiggle out anywhere. Besides, a more complete statement would help in the chapters to come where we would need to show exactly how the recovery program ought to be worked.

12 Steps in 30 Minutes

At length I began to write on a cheap yellow tablet. I split the word-of-mouth program up into smaller pieces, meanwhile enlarging its scope considerably. Uninspired as I felt, I was surprised that in a short time, perhaps half an hour, I had set down certain principles which, on being counted, turned out to be twelve in number. And for some unaccountable reason, I had moved the idea of God into the Second Step, right up front. Besides, I had named God very liberally throughout the other steps. In one of the steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees.

When this document was shown to our New York meeting the protests were many and loud. Our agnostic friends didn't go at all for the idea of kneeling. Others said we were talking altogether too much about God. And anyhow, why should there be twelve steps when we had done fine on six? Let's keep it simple, they said.

This sort of heated discussion went on for days and nights. But out of it all there came a ten-strike for *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Our agnostic contingent, spearheaded by Hank P. and Jim B., finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as "a Higher Power" or "God as we understand Him!" Those expressions, as we so well know today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic. They have enabled thousands of us to make a beginning where none could have been made had we left the steps just as I originally wrote them. Happily for us there were no other changes in the original draft and the number of steps stood at twelve. Little did we then guess that our Twelve Steps would soon be widely approved by clergymen of all denominations and even by our latter-day friends, the psychiatrists.

This little fragment of history ought to convince the most skeptical that nobody invented *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

It just grew...by the grace of God.

- Bill W.

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