

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: www.albuquerqueaa.org

Intergroup Committee Meeting Minutes

6.10.07

submitted by Brain H.

David C – Chair

David opened the meeting at 2:00 with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions all around.

Brian – Secretary –

Review of May meeting Minutes as published in June 2007 *Pass It On*. Discussion of how names of attendees are included in minutes and how changes in InterGroup meeting date/time are communicated. Minutes accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report – Steve H.

Assets in good shape. Income statement: Year in the red by the end of May, but things already look to be picking in terms of Group and other contributions. In general, accounts look ok but we need to keep an eye on things. We may need to dip into Prudent Reserve if checking balance doesn't stabilize soon. Not unusual for typical summer doldrums and some of the other unusual expenses were incurred during this period (i.e. convention contributions, tax-related professional expenses). Heavy sales week toward the end of May. Treasurer's Report accepted by acclamation.

The 7th Tradition basket was passed.

Michael W – Coordinator's Report

Monthly service report: A fairly typical month in terms of phone and walk-in traffic. June & July are historically our heaviest call months. Currently have about 60 regular desk workers, and 20+ subs, which is where we want to be. A handful of desk shifts are open. Volunteer opportunities are always available at

Central Office. Call Central Office or check the website for details. Central Office participated in a workshop at the convention; a good event: Michael W. presented the history of InterGroup activities and discussed the history of our InterGroup in that context. We were fortunate to have panelists who were involved in getting Central Office started.

Kathy – Alternate Coordinator's Report

It's about time to update our rolodex. Great words coming in about the Convention.

Melissa – Activities Coordinator (not present)

Grateful for all who contributed to the success of the Convention. The 35th Annual Picnic (Saturday, July 21st) is coming up – save the date! Preparations are going very well. The Activities subcommittee is meeting on an ongoing basis; contact Activities chair if you would like to become involved. Due to generous donations, we seem to be staying within our modest budget. We will definitely need help in setting up and breaking down; please bring chairs and blankets for your own use during the event. Please bring bottles of water and watermelon to share. The 16th Annual Old Timer's Meeting – Saturday, August 18: 1:30-5 pm at the Heights Club. Check the website for updates and details. Still seeking Alkathon location.

Martha G. – Member at Large

Nothing to report.

Sally – Pass It On editor

Nothing to report. The new *Pass It On* includes some excellent articles by members. *PIO* always

cont. on page 3

Volume 69, Issue 7

July 2007

"I saw in the natural world an order and a flow, producing an intricate web in which everything has a place."
from the January 1980 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.

The summer months can be a time of transition; what a great opportunity to get involved in corrections service work. A good way to get started is attending meetings at the various halfway houses in the Albuquerque area. The men and women in these facilities are also transitioning ... from incarceration back into the world outside the walls. This is a challenging time for them and they have fear of re-entering society.

You can begin attending meetings immediately. Volunteer orientation and picture badges are usually not required.

Volunteers are needed at Diersen Charities, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Diersen houses Federal offenders. Native American members of the fellowship are especially needed as volunteers. Call Clint S. at 888-1553.

La Pasada has an active volunteer community and it's a great meeting on Friday nights at 7:00 pm. Call Brian V. at 833-0795 for more information.

Dismas House assists motivated men and women on probation and parole to transition successfully into society. There is a Monday meeting at 7:30 pm; call Pat McN. at 341-0377 for more information.

I am grateful for the hundreds of men and women in Area 46 who carry the message each and every week into the New Mexico prisons, jails, and halfway houses. Keeping commitments is extremely important in corrections service work, and that's exactly what you're doing. You are planting seeds at every meeting. And, perhaps the greatest benefit is to the person in the mirror.

Yours in service,
Ralph T.

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!*

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
- Al J.** - Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org
- Brian H.**
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org
- Melissa C.**
Activities@albuquerqueaa.org
- Martha G.**
Memberatlarge@albuquerqueaa.org
- Sally** - PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org
- Peggy-**
Specialneeds@albuquerqueaa.org
- Tom C.** - Website Chair
anonymous@albuquerqueaa.org
- Grace L.** - Media Librarian
media@albuquerqueaa.org
- John** -
publicinfo@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
Heights Club

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

Central Office Meeting Minutes *cont.*

welcomes contributions: articles, birthdays, etc.

Al J. – Schedule Editor

Not present. 600 copies of the schedule were donated to the 2007 Area 46 Convention.

John – Public Information/Community Outreach

No requests received in the last month. Been developing a list of folks available to fulfill non-AA speaker requests; contact John if you would like to be included in this database of non-AA speaker volunteers.

Peggy –Special Needs

Nothing to report.

Grace – Media Librarian

Always seeking volunteers to assist with digital transfer of audiotapes. A recent, very large donation of audiotapes has created a huge opportunity for this kind of service, contact Central Office and/or Grace to discuss details and arrange training.

Tom C. – Web Guardian

Always refer to website for most current flyers and event announcements. Website boasts new look (thanks to input derived from efforts to integrate looks of sites on Area 46 level). Discussions

are ongoing about linking to maps from meeting address.

Old Business –

Review of status of new volunteer forms. Members of the Steering Committee will soon review the job descriptions for their position in preparation for new cycle of nominations

New Business –

Discussion about keeping veteran/new desk workers up-to-date about relevant information and call-handling strategies.

Special Announcements –

Foothills hosting a July 4th Alkathon (first meeting begins at 7 am; last meeting begins at 9 pm). The Area 46 Convention Committee thanks everyone and groups for their contributions to make the convention such a success. District 11 will be holding a Sharing Session to discussion Service Structure-Redistricting on Saturday, June 30th, in Rio Rancho at the Community of Joy Lutheran Church on Northern Blvd. Milagros Center (pregnant women in recovery) seeks women to speak. Contact Central Office for contact information/details.

David closed the meeting with

the Third Step prayer.

ATTENDEES:

Dave C (Dawn Patrol/Chair)
Peg H (Seniors Seeking Serenity)
Dennis M (Isleta Group)
Jim O (Live and Let Live)
Paula G (Any Lengths)
Peggy A (Women On Wednesday/Special Needs)
Gene L (Foothills)
Nathan N (Foothills)
Paul M (Foothills)
Martha G (Cosmopolitan/Member At Large)
Melissa C. (Early Birds/Activities)
Grace L (Media Librarian)
Sally G. (How It Works/ *Pass It On*)
Greta S (Ladies Room)
Meghan M (El Centro)
John S (BrownBaggers/Community Outreach)
Tom N (High Noon)
Bill B (Goodfellows)
Alan S (District 11/ Conv. Committee)
Tom C (Basement Steps/Web Guardian)
David G (Goodfellows)
Michael W (East Mountain/Coordinator)
Kathy H (Metropolitan/Alt. Coordinator)
Dondo (Old66)
Eric B (Tuesday Knights)
Brian H. (CO Secretary/Dawn)

Please send a representative from your home group to the next Intergroup meeting. We meet the second Sunday of every month, at 2:00 pm, at the Desert Club.

See you there!

How should a sponsor be chosen?

The process of matching a newcomer and sponsor is as informal as everything else in A.A. Often, the new person simply approaches a more experienced member who seems compatible, and asks that member to be a sponsor. Most A.A.'s are happy and grateful to receive such a request.

An old A.A. saying suggests, "Stick with the winners." It's only reasonable to seek a sharing of experience with a member who seems to be using the A.A. program successfully in everyday life. There are no specific rules, but a good sponsor probably should be a year or more away from the last drink--and should seem to be *enjoying* sobriety.

from Questions & Answers on Sponsorship page 9

The Twelfth Concept:

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. traditions, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

from Questions & Answers on Sponsorship page 33

Other Numbers: Al-Anon 262-2177

Oficina Intergrupul Hispana 266-3688

The following contributed to Central Office.....

This data is from April 28 to May 31 and is not inclusive for the entire calendar month!

<p>Groups: Any Lengths Campus Step Study Corrales Men's Stag Dawn Patrol Dawning Promises District 11 Down Under Freedom From Bondage Group 164 Happy Hour Group Isleta Group Jemez Springs Group Lone Rangers Seeking Serenity Share the Legacy SOS Monday Night Step Along with AA Sunday Night Serenity Taylor Ranch Fellowship Tuesday Knights</p> <p>Individuals: Anonymous Dennis C. Diane T. John</p>	<p>Karen F. Michael W. Renee Robert</p> <p>Faithful Fivers: Beverly D. Catherine A. Cecelia D. Dan O'. Dave N. Don C. Ilse G. Jim F. John K. Karen R. Mark D. Mike D. Nance C. Partha B. Phil & Barbara C. Ralph T. Rojo R. Sarah F. Trudy H.</p> <p><i>Thank you all for supporting your Central Office!!!!</i></p>
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Running the Whole Show

Most people try to live by self-propulsion. Each person is like an actor who wants to run the whole show and is forever trying to arrange the lights, the scenery, and the rest of the players in his own way. If his arrangements would only stay put, if only people would do as he wished, the show would be great.

What usually happens? The show doesn't come off very well. Admitting he may be somewhat at fault, he is sure that other people are more to blame. He becomes angry, indignant, self-pitying.

Is he not really a self-seeker even when trying to be useful? Is he not a victim of the delusion that he can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if he only manages well?

from As Bill Sees It page 320

May Desk Activity

	May '07	Apr '07	May '06
	This month	Last month	Last yr.
Phone calls	1281	1227	1176
Information	1034	978	919
12 step request	20	39	25
Al-Anon Info	31	29	37
Message	49	31	43
Other	147	150	152
Walk Ins	289	296	211
Information	16	17	16
12 step	1	0	2
Al-Anon	1	1	3
Schedules	23	30	16
Purchases	175	178	120
Tapes	2	0	6
Message	1	1	3
Casual	38	47	19
Other	32	22	26
Desk Workers*	83	80	
Regulars	60	52	
Substitutes	23	28	
Desk Shifts*	178	171	
Weekdays	138	126	
Weekends	40	45	
Weekday Shifts*	138	126	
Regulars	83% 114	83% 109	
Substitutes	17% 24	17% 23	
Weekend Shifts*	40	45	
Regulars	67.5% 27	69% 31	
Substitutes	32.5% 13	31% 14	
Shifts by Michael*	7/31 hrs	7/45 hrs	
Shifts by Kathy*	5/31 hrs	8/54 hrs	
Thanks to all who participated this month.			
* includes night phone			

A Fly in the Ointment

An atheist comes to terms with the Steps - Grapevine Dec. 2005

I have read many pieces in the Grapevine from agnostics, but not many from bona fide atheists. As an atheist, I have found over fifteen years of rewarding growth in A.A., but the absence of agreement on religious issues has been a challenge in relating with some members in the Fellowship.

Once I started to take A.A.'s suggestions, confusion gave way to clarity and A.A.'s gifts of happiness, serenity, and gratitude (the big three) slowly made their way into my life.

But there was a fly in the ointment for me back in those early days. At meeting after meeting, I heard that I would have to turn my back on the evidence of my own eyes if I expected lasting sobriety: that I'd have to somehow "come to believe" that a supernatural force was in charge of my life, that I'd have to "turn my will" over to this supernatural force, and even seek to discover "his will for me." I was horrified to think that such a denial of reality would be the price of sobriety for me.

I found it ironic that just as the cloud of insanity was finally lifting from my life, and just as I was getting my own mind back after years of alcoholic insanity, A.A. was now telling me that I'd have to do with my mind in sobriety exactly what alcohol forced me to do with my mind while I was drunk--abdicate its use. I would have to renounce my rational convictions. The idea that a God controls the universe still holds remarkable sway in today's A.A. community. I was in

despair, as alcoholics told me that if I couldn't learn to give up my grasp of reality and embrace a belief in the supernatural, my sobriety would be short-lived.

Then I found a sponsor, and he showed me the ropes. He guided me through my First Step inventory and taught me that sobriety was even possible for an alcoholic who was unable to pretend that reality was something it wasn't. In fact, he told me, honesty required *not pretending* about anything; and honesty, he told me, was a non-negotiable requirement for sobriety.

But to be honest, I would have to examine myself carefully; I would have to embrace a power that would let me see myself for what I was. After two decades drunk, I would have to make cognitive contact with the world again; I would have to turn my life over to the power of reason if I were to be "restored to sanity." After all, the essence of my alcoholic insanity was a cognitive break with reality. And the last thing I needed now was a brand-new break with reality -- pretending to believe in the supernatural.

When I "turned my life over" to the higher power of reason, the insanity began to dissolve away. As it says on page 48 of our Big Book, "It finally beat us into a state of reasonableness."

Drawn to reason and away from mysticism, I discovered that life can be driven by the principles of the Steps rather than by my impulses and urges. As I "turned my life over" to the principles of

the Steps, my former alcoholic behaviors began to take a back seat.

My character defects and shortcomings were all tied with urges and whims axis of my former alcoholic life. The more I aligned my life with the principles of the Steps, the more clearly I was able to see the world, and less frequently I found myself at the mercy of urges and impulses, guilt from harm done to others, or just plain fears. I was being set free.

It could never have happened drunk; it could never have happened without discovering the principles of the Steps; it could never have happened with a mind paralyzed by superstitious belief in the supernatural. It happened when the principles of the Steps were put in to practice by a mind set free by the higher power of reason. It is a blessing for which I shall be forever grateful.

*Perry W.
Buxton, Maine*

**"Real change
starts within
and works
its way
outward."**

From the January 1985
Grapevine

Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

El Centro Group

Jakki 5 years
 Gus V. 1 month
 Brian V. 17 years
 Phoenix F. 20 years
 Julian 27 years
 Jimmy D. 49 years

Isleta Group

Les 6 months
 Max 9 months
 Raymond H 2 years
 Tracy 3 years
 Pauline V 13 years



Seniors Seeking Serenity Group

Marjorie G. 7/22/78 29 years
 Dorothy L. 7/1/79 28 years
 Mary R. 7/14/80 27 years

Way to Go!!!!

ALL THE GROUPS THAT HOLD MEETINGS AT THE DESERT CLUB LOCATION INVITE YOU

To the **50th Anniversary** of our meeting place.

Desert Club
 4305 Mesa Grande SE

July 28, 2007

4:00 Potluck and Barbeque
 6:00 - 8:00 Speakers

THEN A DANCE

Everything is free - so come on down! and help celebrate!

More info: call Wally
 @ 265-5526

If no answer, leave a message and we'll call you back.

Old Timers Meeting
 Saturday
 August 18th

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

to be held at

The Heights Club
 20+ years to share

The 35th Annual
 Central Office

2007 Summer Picnic

to be held Saturday July 21st
 at Alvarado Park

There will be a live band and lots of food, fun and fellowship.
 - starts around noon -
see you there!!!!

Recovering or Recovered? You Decide

submitted by Manuel P.

Forward - Page xiii - "To show other Alcoholics precisely how we have RECOVERED is the main purpose of this book".

The Doctor's Opinion - Page xxv - "This man and over one hundred others appear to have RECOVERED".

Chapter 2, There is a Solution - Page 17 - "Nearly all have RECOVERED, they have SOLVED the drink problem".

Chapter 4, We Agnostics - Page 44-45 - "If a mere code of morals.....many of us would have RECOVERED long ago".

Chapter 7, Working with Others - Page 90 - "If he says YES, then his attention should be drawn to you as a person who has RECOVERED".

Chapter 7, Working with others - Page 96 - "He often says that if he has continued to work on them he might have deprived many others who have since RECOVERED".

Chapter 8, To the Wives - Page 113 - "He knows that thousands of men much like himself have RECOVERED".

Chapter 9, The Family Afterward - Page 133 - "We who have RECOVERED FROM SERIOUS DRINKING ARE MIRICLES OF MENTAL HEALTH".

Chapter 12, To the Employers - Page 146 - "An Alcoholic who has RECOVERED, but holds a relatively unimportant job can talk to a man with a better position".

Chapter 12, To the Employers - Page 142 - "Will he take every necessary step, submit to anything to get well, To stop drinking FOREVER".

REDISTRICTING UPDATE

By: Alan S., District 11 DCM

At our June District Meeting, the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee made a recommendation that District 11 split into two districts. Groups residing north of Alameda to include Corrales, Bernalillo, Cochiti, San Felipe, Santo Domingo, Zia, Jemez Pueblo, Jemez Springs and Cuba along with Rio Rancho would become District 18. Groups presently residing in Albuquerque would remain as District 11. This will only come about if two-thirds of the Groups attending the District Meeting on July 14, 2007 agree in favor of splitting the District. Less than a two-thirds vote for redistricting would result in an unfavorable support of redistricting and the motion will fail. Only group representatives (GSRs) or alternate representatives will be eligible to vote for their group. Each group has one vote that will be cast by the GSR or Alternate GSR. District Meetings are open to all, and we encourage those interested to attend.

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Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

1921 Alvarado NE
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(505) 266-1900

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