

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: www.albuquerqueaa.org

Young People's Groups

July 1969 Grapevine

A chance to share our "inexperience" within the framework of AA

MY FIRST contact with AA was in Buffalo, N.Y., over eleven years ago, at the age of twenty-three. The number of young people in AA was small, and I was lost and lonely as ever. I could identify readily with the members' stories, as I'd been in bad shape from day one, but how to get well was something else. I stayed sober purely on guts for almost two years.

This is probably the most significant problem the young person faces: He has little or no productive past, and organizing a life terrifies him. Being young, we recover fast physically, and some old-timers believe we're doing great. But our insides still boil like mad. It appears that members of young people's groups have faced this fact and begun to challenge each other's fronts. We pretend not to care about a job, a wife, a car, or anything else that is brought up, until somebody finally sits us down and tells us about fear of failure.

In Buffalo, and later in Colorado Springs, it seemed to me that AA people thought it was great for young people to join, but when it came to really "allowing" us to participate in group activities, that never happened. Feeling left out of society and merely tolerated really bugs many of us. I will add here that these sick feelings I had didn't help the group to warm to me, but many of us come to AA in that kind of shape.

In 1961, in Denver, I finally sobered up again and walked into a group with a new attitude: I am here, and I will get in, and I will get well in spite of my sick feelings, fears, hates. After a while, I realized that other young people weren't staying. I had to have someone to relate to and get

help from. So some of us got together to form a young people's group.

It had been tried before, and had failed. Over and over we heard that it was unnecessary and that ours would fold as the other had. Being an unpopular group, we were not particular about who came in, and we had all kinds. We struggled, and were still there to welcome the International Conference of Young People, held July 1967, in Denver. Yet the only thing we ever did in that early group was talk about us and how we really felt before and after getting sober. Had I not been forced to be responsible for my group, show up every week, and talk about me, I doubt if I'd be here and sober today.

In these groups, it's pretty hard to put up a front when everyone around you has the same hang-ups. That is the second significant characteristic of young people's groups. When you take the bottle away from a young, active, hostile, antisocial character, you have the same character, minus bottle. It is probably hard for any group to stomach this opinionated, obnoxious cat. Therefore, he doesn't fit in well and ends up with little activity in the group and few friends. In a young people's group, most of us were or are like this, and the group can understand and survive such behavior until the newcomer settles into the group. Like any group, most of us have lots of problems, but the understanding among us and the talking about ourselves prevail. I'm sure these facts are true of other groups, too, but I think they are most important in young people's groups.

Surprisingly, the problem of sex is not any bigger than in other groups. Some chasing goes on, as it does in any group of people. Most groups and individuals I've met face the problem with a good degree of honesty. Drug addiction is a

cont. on page 5

Volume 70, Issue 7

July 2008

Timber!

It has been said that we in AA certainly cannot afford to carry a chip on our shoulder, for this only indicates that there is wood higher up.

from the Grapevine

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Corrections Corner

In a recent *Pass It On* (PIO) Corrections Corner article, which appeared in the May issue of PIO, I shared about a lesson I learned while attending this year's Colorado Corrections Conference in Canyon City, CO. I just finished reading the July '08 issue of the *AA Grapevine*, and in an article titled All-American Alcoholic, the author reaffirms the point I was trying to make in my article. Here's part of what he said,

“My first AA meeting on the street was the same day I was released, which my sponsor suggested. I needed to get hooked into AA and the Fellowship. I wore my prison khakis to the meeting because I had gained seventy pounds and had no clothes that fit me. I had no wheels. The guys would pick me up and take me to meetings. Using the group as my Higher Power, I intuitively knew what to do—get myself to meetings and get to work. . . . Today, I have embraced this new way of life. AA has given me hope.”

I believe that quite often, when a person is released from a correctional facility, that person has very little resources to help out. Typically, the individual has very little or no money, no family support, no car or driver's license, no place to live, and not much hope. For many of them, A.A. is the only appreciable resource they have.

The second part of this article was written by Brian Valenzuela, District 11's Corrections Chair. Brian has done a considerable amount of work to coordinate the AA activities that take place at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), and here is what he wanted included in this article:

There are many new opportunities to be of service in Corrections. Some opportunities require an orientation and background check and some do not.

The Second Chance Center is located in the old Westside Jail near the Double Eagle Airport. A Big Book Study meeting is on Wednesday's from 7:00 – 8:00 PM and we're looking for volunteers to commit to one meeting a month. Clearance is not required; however you need at least one year of sobriety to chair a meeting.

A.A. Volunteers are needed on Sunday's at 6:30 for the Bernalillo Juvenile Detention and Youth Services Center located at 5100, 2nd St. in Albuquerque. An application and clearance are required.

The Regional Correctional Center is the commercially run downtown jail near the courthouse at 415 Roma NW. The meetings are on Tuesdays from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There is one man's meeting and one woman's meeting. An application and background check is required.

The Metropolitan Detention Center has asked Alcoholics Anonymous to increase the number of meetings taking place at this facility. Five mens' meetings have increased to eleven meetings and three women's meetings have increased to six meetings. Meetings in this facility take place from 6:00 to 7:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Orientation for this facility takes place every month on the first Thursday morning from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Criteria for clearance, is one year of sobriety and one year away from misdemeanors, three years away from felonies.

If Interested please contact either of us:

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Brian@utla.net

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Central Office Steering Committee E-mail addresses:

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Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

Intergroup Rep. Meeting
2:00 pm, 2nd Sunday
Desert Club

District 3
2:00 pm, 2nd Saturday
call the DCM for location

District 11
9:00 am, 2nd Saturday
Harwood Methodist Church
420 San Lorenzo NW (at 4th)

District 12
9:30 am, 2nd Saturday
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

6.8.08

Submitted By Brian H. – Secretary

Michael Q – Schedule Coordinator

Michael opened the meeting at 2:02 pm with the Serenity Prayer David C's (Chair) absence.

Secretary - Brian H

Review of May meeting minutes as published in the June *Pass It On*. Minutes as published approved by acclamation.

Treasurer - Steve P

Slightly in the red for the month; in the black for the year. Group contributions remain consistent, though individual contributions seem lower as compared to previous years. Question: Does Central Office budget on a calendar or fiscal year? Answer: Central Office's budgetary process operates following the calendar year. Question: Does Central Office often operate in the red? Answer: Things follow a fairly consistent annual pattern in which things typically balance out. Treasurer's Report accepted by acclamation.

Service Coordinator - Michael W

Fairly standard month in terms of traffic (calls; volume; contributions; more than usual number of walk-ins). Several day and nightphone shifts open for coverage. Contact Central Office for details.

Alternate Coordinator - Kathy H

Nothing much to report. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

7th Tradition Basket Passed.

Activities Coordinator – Brian H

Melissa C resigned effective May 15. Martha (Member At Large) will contribute as necessary until the position is filled. An election to fill the position of Activities Chair will occur as soon as willing candidates step forward. Upcoming InterGroup Speaker Meeting (Sponsored by District 12) – June 14 – 6pm potluck; 730pm speaker – St. Timothy's Church (Copper & Jefferson). Ralph T (Area

46 Delegate) will be offering his delegate report.

Member at Large - Martha G

Not present.

Pass It On Editor - Sally G

Some new features are included in the standard monthly *Pass It On* publication template, including a featured front page article and a monthly Treasurer's Report. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

Schedule Editor – Michael Q

Publication of next quarter's paper schedule will happen as soon as previous quarter's are gone.

Community Outreach - John S

Not present.

Special Needs – Peggy

Publication of "Open Letter" regarding Accommodations for Persons with Special Needs in June *Pass It On*. Peggy encourages groups to consult this document, as well as other relevant literature from GSO, when addressing matters of meeting accessibility.

Library - Grace L

Not present.

Web Guardian - Tom

Not present.

Old Business

Dave F (Isleta Group) reported on the pending proposal regarding InterGroup's sponsorship of the Polly P. Emotional Sobriety Workshop, possibly for the stated purpose of conducting a benefit for the InterGroup Association/Central Office. The workshop will be happening (10/11/08 at Monte Vista Christian Church; registration fee TBA). The workshop is premised upon romantic relationships but can apply to all interpersonal relationships. No group financial contributions solicited; all that remains to be coordinated is Polly's accommodation, publicizing the event, and providing hospitality support.

New Business

Announcement of necessity of election for the new Activities Coordinator at

upcoming Intergroup Meeting (Sunday, 6/8). Sally F (Experience Strength Hope) reported on some of her experiences in being "banned for life" from certain meetings and meeting locations because of her dependence on a service animal. Requests empathy, prayer and consideration for people with disabilities as they arrive to meetings in our fellowship. New Meeting Announcement: VIA – Wednesdays, 7pm (Pathways West – 2251 Coors NW). Look on website for map.

Michael closed the meeting at 2:43 pm with the Third Step prayer.

ATTENDEES

Michael Q (Dawn Patrol/Schedule Coordinator)
 Steve P (Free Spirits/CO Treasurer)
 Kathy H (Metropolitan/CO Alt-Coodinator)
 Michael W (Mountainside/CO Coordinator)
 Joseph F (Dawn Patrol)
 Dave F (Isleta Club)
 Gilbert C (Sunrise Sobriety)
 Terri R (Cosmopolitan)
 Jim S (Lone Rangers)
 Carlos R (VIA/Young People Sunday Night)
 Tom N (High Noon)
 Sally F (Experience Strength Hope)
 Mary C (Any Lengths)
 Sally G (How It Works/*Pass It On* Editor)
 Peggy A (Women on Wednesday/CO Special Needs Coordinator)
 Brian H (Dawn Patrol/CO Secretary)

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

See you there!!!

The following contributed to Central Office.....

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

Groups:	Robert U.
Basement Steps	Roger L.
Corrales Group	Faithful Fivers:
Corrales Men's Stag	Al. J.
Dawn Patrol	Andrew S.
Dawning Promises	Andi & Pam B.
East Mountain Group	Catherine A.
Foothills Group	Cecelia D.
Freedom From Bondage	Dan O'.
Happy Destiny	Dave N.
High Noon	Emma D.
Lone Rangers	Ilse G.
New Frontier	Jeanne Mac.
Placitas Group	Jim F.
Seeking Serenity	John K.
Seniors Seeking Serenity	Karen R.
Sponsorship and Growth	Mary Ann Mc.
Three Legacies Group	Mike D.
Tuesday 12 x 12	Nance C.
Wake Up Call	Partha B.
Individuals:	Phil & Barbara C.
Anonymous (x4)	Ralph & Gwen T.
Ilse G.	Rojo R.
Paul	Thank you all for supporting your Central Office!!!!

**Central Office of Albuquerque
Treasurers Report: May 2008**

Total Contributions/Sales	\$ 8333.50
Total Cost of Sales	-2,758.64
Gross Income	5,574.86
Total Expenses	\$5,097.39
Net Income	477.47

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.

May '08 Desk Activity

	May '08	Apr. '08	May '07
	This month	Last month	Last yr.
Phone calls	1269	1298	1281
Information	1063	1035	1034
12 step request	15	27	20
AI-Anon Info	14	20	31
Message	37	69	49
Other	140	147	147
Walk Ins	354	286	289
Information	12	18	16
12 step	2	0	1
AI-Anon	1	0	1
Schedules	28	30	23
Purchases	156	144	175
Tapes	6	6	2
Message	5	8	1
Casual	52	46	38
Other	92	34	32
Desk Workers*	86	83	
Regulars	50	49	
Substitutes	36	34	
Desk Shifts*	177	172	
Weekdays	132	132	
Weekends	45	40	
Weekday Shifts*	132	132	
Regulars	86% 113	89% 117	
Substitutes	14 19	11% 15	
Weekend Shifts*	45	40	
Regulars	71.5% 35	79% 33	
Substitutes	28.5% 10	21% 7	
Shifts by Michael*	5/23 hrs	10/37 hrs	
Shifts by Kathy*	2/5 hrs	2/6 hrs	

Thanks to all who participated this month.

* includes night phone

Young People's Groups *cont.*

problem in many groups, but here we have a slight advantage. A young addict who comes to one of our groups is accepted provided he remembers it *is* an AA group. Between the alcoholics and the addicts, the problem is usually faced; help is offered; and the person either gets well or gets lost, without spreading his problem to the sick alcoholic who is trying to get well.

The pill-head poses a real problem. Most young people who have been around awhile seem pretty adamantly antimedication. They feel most of us can survive without it and should suffer a little so that we will stick close to the group.

According to the World Directory and local financial statements, the financial contributions of young people's groups to GSO and Central Offices or Intergroups appear to be very low. Most of our groups are very poor. Many young people do not recover financially for a long time. Divorce, becoming more prevalent yearly, is one big cause. Many young men I know are either hung with high support payments or are running from them and are afraid to get

good jobs. Many others have little or no employment background and, therefore, end up starting out at low-salaried jobs.

Many view a young people's group as an immature bunch. That is probably true; often, the members include few stable, longtime-sober people. Good members with one, two, or three years of sobriety sometimes seem to gravitate to more mature groups as they grow, and then they only occasionally show up at young people's meetings. Although this keeps the group small and immature, it also keeps it from getting *too* big and creating a schism.

Also, we do not wish to draw our members away from the general run of AA activities in their areas. We want to participate in AA--all of it; but some of us do better if we first share our inexperience among ourselves.

J. G.

San Francisco, California

The Cool Dozen

Grapevine July 1969

1. **COPPED OUT that we were the least with the Lush--and, like, everything we were puttin' down was nowhere.**
2. **CAME ON that the Big Daddy-O could free us from Camarillo.**
3. **MADE IT TO TURN the whole Gig over to the Top Cat.**
4. **LIKE, WE SCANNED it all--our Cool Scenes and our Evil Riffs.**
5. **COPPED OUT to the Big Man, another Cat and to Number One just where we lost the Beat.**
6. **TOLD THE TOP CAT--"Like, Take it, Man!"**
7. **WALKIN' HUMBLE, we told the Man--"Let me cool these Evil Gigs."**
8. **MADE BOOK on all the Cats we had cut and came on to make it groovy.**
9. **MADE IT COOL with all these Cats, but not, like, if it bugged them or some other Stud.**
10. **KEPT SCANNING the Scene, and if we came on funky--Copped out.**
11. **CONTINUED TO MAKE IT with the Big Dad and tried to pick up on his Arrangement--and blow the Right Sounds.**
12. **HAVING DUG OUR DHARMA we came on with the Lush who is still turnin' on, and tried to be cool in all our Gigs.**

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

Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

Seniors Seeking Serenity

July

Dorothy L. 29 years
 Mary R. 26 years
 Marjorie G. 26 years

How It Works

Bob 25 years
 Winnie D. 2 years



We need your

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

266-1900

New Meeting!

“Simple Sobriety”

Thursdays 6:00 p.m.

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.

“Speaking & Exhibiting at Non A.A. Events”

The workshop is hosted by Area 46 in cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Literature and Public Information (PI) Committees. It will include a dress rehearsal of a talk being planned for the NM Conference on Aging, practice of booth scenarios, and questions and answers. This will help districts to reach out to professionals or to have a booth at a local health fair. This workshop is being piggybacked onto the Area planning meeting which runs noon—? All are welcome to attend the workshop, pot luck and planning meeting.

Saturday: July 19, 2008
 9:30 am - noon
 St. Thomas of Canterbury

For more information contact:

Ellen B. @ 505-660-9004
 (Area 46 P.I. Committee Chair)

Meredith B. @ 505-426-8575
 (Area 46 CPC Committee Chair)

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\$ 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!



Seeds of Serenity

***Third Annual A1-Anon/Alateen Convention
AA Participation
New Mexico/El Paso (Area 38)
August 1-3, 2008***

**Rio Rancho Inn
1465 Rio Rancho Drive SE
Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124
(505) 892-1700, 1-800-658-9558
www.riorancho-inn.com**

***Meetings • Workshops • Speakers
Banquet • Longtimers Speakers' Breakfast
Fellowship • Raffle
Entertainment
50's Sock Hop/featuring "Ritchie Valens"
A Blast from the Past***

Information:

John V. (505) 249-1385
Dolores T. (505) 362-7809
Jeannie G. jeanniego444@aol.com
Website: www.nmal-anon.org



Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

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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.