

# Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter [www.albuquerqueaa.org](http://www.albuquerqueaa.org)

*"I'll never forget the first time I met Bill Wilson. I was a couple months sober and so excited, so thrilled to actually meet the cofounder that I gushed all over him with what my sobriety meant to me and my undying gratitude for his starting A.A. When I ran down, he took my hand in his and said simply, 'Pass it on.'"* —FROM A LETTER TO THE A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

## **Step 7:** *"Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings."*

Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it can mean to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.'s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

...our crippling handicap had been our lack of humility. We had lacked the perspective to see that character-building and spiritual values had to come first, and that material satisfactions were not the purpose of living.

For us, the process of gaining a new perspective was unbelievably painful. It was only by repeated humiliations that we were forced to learn something about humility. It was only at the end of a long road, marked by successive defeats and humiliations, and the final crushing of our self-sufficiency, that we began to feel humility as something more than a condition of groveling despair. Every newcomer in A.A. is told, and soon realizes for himself, that his humble admission of powerlessness over alcohol is his first step toward liberation from its paralyzing grip.

*-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p70-73*  
If humbly surrendering in the face of alcohol can help me be free, I can do the same with my character defects and be truly happy.

## **Tradition 7:** *"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."*

...we had to recognize the fact that A.A. had to function. Meeting places cost something. To save whole areas from turmoil, small offices had to be set up, telephones installed, and a few full-time secretaries hired. Over many protests, these things were accomplished. We saw that if they weren't, the man coming in the door couldn't get a break. These simple services would require small sums of money which we could and would pay ourselves. At last the pendulum stopped swinging and pointed straight at Tradition Seven as it reads today.

*-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p161-162*

The story that follows this quote from the 12 & 12 is one I really like. Bill talks about how "cheap" some of the members were in helping support the fledgling office, while he wallowed in his own self importance when he helped out a slippee. It reminds me of myself, and how my attitude with money is directly proportional to my level of humility. When I put a dollar or two into the basket, am I doing it so that someone will notice me doing it? Do I make a show of my donation to "teach" others how they should act? Does my contribution make me feel like a big shot? A "hooray for me" attitude doesn't help anyone. On the other hand, I can be grateful when I contribute. I can feel a sense of duty and welcome obligation. I can do my part. I can keep in mind that, at the end of that dollar's travels, it will somehow, somehow, help a new alcoholic to become sober and happy, just like me.

## **Concept 6:** *"The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness."*

This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and "balance of powers" between the Conference and the General Service Board. "This...may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object." On the one hand, "the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

"Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members"; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. "Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need."

*-The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*

I tell you what, after studying this concept with my service sponsor, I am once again reminded of the Grace that has been with this fellowship from the very beginning. There could be no other way for this thing to work.



# WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT...

FOOTHILLS REGULAR EVENTS: ALL ARE WELCOME

KARAOKE NIGHT IS THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:15 TO 10:00 PM

BIRTHDAY NIGHT IS THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 7:15 PM

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## WHAT IS ALL THIS STUFF?

And What Does it Have to Do with ME?

Intergroup, what's that? Central Office, what's that? Steering Committee, what's that? Now these are commonplace observations we hear all the time, but what does it all mean? It is the purpose of this article to answer such questions specifically. We shall tell you what we have done.

A.A. Guideline (MG-02), "Central or Intergroup Offices" defines a Central Office as "...an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community..." That pretty well sums up the 'office' part. An office is a physical entity, a business address that facilitates the service function of the above definition. In the case of Central Office of Albuquerque, Inc. it is a corporate entity under section 501(c)3 of the IRS tax code. It exists in this manner to comply with Tradition 6- "We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the spiritual from the material". The same as World Services Incorporated and Grapevine Incorporated, having considerable property of genuine use to A.A. are separately incorporated, dividing the material from the spiritual. All the material stuff is in the office-the phone, computers, meeting schedules, books and pamphlets, chips-you know, stuff..., stuff that takes business and contracts and money- stuff that protects groups from the perils of business and contracts and money, and helps them to fulfill their primary purpose.

The 'Intergroup' part is the spiritual entity that facilitates that partnership. It is a registered AA group, group number

### Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

Jeremy H. *Chair*  
Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Morgan D. *Secretary*  
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

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Treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

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

Kathy H. *Alternate CO Coordinator*  
AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

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

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

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109289. Like your group, it too thrives on active participation by all its members. In an ideal universe it is composed of representatives from all the groups served by the office, (a count from the 2010-2011 Western United States A.A. Directory (MD-3) shows 124 groups within the geographical service area of Albuquerque Intergroup). The earliest mention of Albuquerque Intergroup found by the author is from Intergroup Meeting Minutes January 9, 1966. It shows three officers-chair, secretary, and treasurer present- and 11 group representatives (then referred to as ‘delegates’), plus one attendee with no group affiliation given. Mention is made of the previous year’s minutes being passed to the newly-elected secretary and financial reports being transferred to the incoming treasurer, so the Intergroup had been in existence since at least 1965. (Any information or records on Intergroup prior to this date would be greatly appreciated!) By 1974 the Intergroup conscience decided that to better serve the growing Fellowship a stable location should be sought. Intergroup Meeting Minutes from July 14, 1974 contain the first mention of the possibility of an office to fulfill that need. An Albuquerque Journal article dated Monday, June 23, 1975, entitled “Central Office Announced By Alcoholics Anonymous” details fruits of that effort. It also states, “There are now 32 A.A. groups in Albuquerque and three or four meetings are held daily at various locations in the city”, an interesting snapshot of the time.

In order to comply with the New Mexico State Corporation Commission requirements governing non-profit companies a board of directors is necessary, and that is the purpose of the Central Office Steering Committee. It is the board of directors for Central Office of Albuquerque Inc. The By-laws state that all members of that body be members in good standing of Alcoholics Anonymous, have two years of continuous sobriety, and previous experience with Intergroup. The Steering Committee answers to Albuquerque Intergroup, the de-facto voice of the groups within its service area. All of these entities are structured so that the groups are protected so they are not diverted from their primary purpose, and serves them in the manner determined by a loving God as expressed in our group conscience.

“We can only clear the ground a bit. If our testimony helps sweep away prejudice, enables you to think honestly, encourages you to search diligently within yourself, then, if you wish, you can join us on the Broad Highway.” That might just be what all this has to do with you.

—Anonymous in Albuquerque

Editor’s Note: If you should have further questions dealing with the contents of this article, come to the next Albuquerque Intergroup meeting and ask! All are welcome to attend, even those who aren’t group representatives. This is YOUR Central Office. Hope to see you soon!

➤ **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**

**June 12, 2011**

*Submitted By Peggy A.-Member at Large*

### **I. OPEN AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jeremy H-Chair • Peggy A-Free Spirits/Member at Large • Michael W-CO Coordinator • Larry L-Penny Lane/District 12 rep • Arthur T-Straight Pepper Diet • Al J-Seniors Seeking Serenity/Media Librarian John R-Early Birds • Christy O-Promises • Martha M-Promises • Maddy L-In the Book • Dolores B-Foothills • Mark E-New Frontiers • Emma D-ODAT • Cindy B-Dawn Patrol • Skitch F-District 3 Corrections • Jason K-Pass It On Editor • Ralph T-Dawn Patrol • Alli V-Web Coordinator • Alan M-Happy Hour • Bill D-Seeking Serenity-District 11

### **II. MINUTES**

- Approved

### **III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Revenues: \$8,966.24
- Costs: \$2,847.35
- Gross Income \$6,118.89
- Total Expenses \$5,618.18
- Net Income \$500.71
- We are in the black for the month, but in the red for the year by \$2,151.

### **IV. CENTRAL OFFICE COORDINATOR'S & ALT. COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

- Web visits - 4867
- Desk workers: Weekday shifts - 80% reg/20% subs, weekend shifts - 62% reg/38% subs. Open shifts: Sunday 9-11 am, every other Saturday 6-9 pm, and every other Sunday 6-9 pm.
- Coverage erratic for Monday & Tuesday night phones (10 pm - 8 am, forwarded)

### **V. MEMBER AT LARGE**

- An Ad Hoc group of interested AAs will meet briefly at the end of the July 2011 Integroup meeting (July 10) to determine the mechanics of the Group Inventory for the Intergroup and the Steering Committee. A date will be set then. The Inventory process is open to everyone.

### **VI. PASS IT ON**

- This month's PIO is goldenrod.
- No one has volunteered submissions for future issues.

### **VII. SCHEDULES**

- Pink for Spring.

### **VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- No report.

### **IX. WEB SITE**

- Send announcements of upcoming events to [web@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:web@albuquerqueaa.org).

### **X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN**

- The master disks have been catalogued.

### **XI. SPECIAL NEEDS**

- Coordinator is asking for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters who signed at three meetings recently and the AA members request. Discussion followed on the possibility of an ASL meeting.

## IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

**Seniors Seeking Serenity:** Mary R-31 years! Dorothy L-32 years!  
**Seeking Serenity:** Ron M-6 months! Greg D-5 years! Tom G-20 years!  
One day at a time! Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to  
[passiton@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:passiton@albuquerqueaa.org)

Discussion also on who is responsible for paying ASL interpreters, and whether it violates the self-support Tradition for a non-AA volunteer to interpret for a deaf/hard-of-hearing AA member.

### XII. OLD BUSINESS

- Nothin'.

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Nothin'.

### XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Meeting: South Valley Bikers on Wednesday at 7 pm.
- July 9: Next Intergroup Speakers Meeting is Sponsored by District 11 at 6:30 pm, Shepherd of the Valley Church, 1801 Montañó NW.
- July 16: Brown Baggers picnic at Alvarado Park.

Close @ 14:47.

**CHILDREN OF CHAOS**

➤ Finding a roadmap to recovery through the Traditions.

Saturday 29 October 2011  
9am – 2pm  
Nativity Church Parish Hall  
9502 4th St NW at Alameda

★ FREE raffle, archives and Grapevine displays

8:30 – 9am  
REGISTRATION, FELLOWSHIP, LIGHT BREAKFAST  
9am – 12pm  
TRADITIONS PRESENTATIONS  
12pm  
POTLUCK LUNCH BRING A DISH TO SHARE  
1pm  
SPEAKER  
2pm  
RAFFLE DRAWING AND CLOSE



## 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.**

## April 2011 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$8,966.24
Cost of Sales	\$2,847.35
Gross Income	\$6,118.89
Expenses	\$5,681.18
<b>NET INCOME (month)</b>	<b>\$500.71</b>
<b>NET INCOME (YTD)</b>	<b>\$-2,151.14</b>

*For a copy of the full Central Office income/expense report, join us at the next Intergroup Meeting on the second Sunday of the month, 2 pm, at the Brownbaggers.*

### Archives Alert!

I'm Manuel and I am an Alcoholic, I am the new archivist for District 3. That's all groups that fall along the line from Cosmopolitan Group to Soccoro. Albuquerque, Belen, Las Lunas, Magdalena, Peralta & Soccoro. If I missed your group and you know your in district 3 this message is for your group too. Please at your next Group Conscience if you can write out a Group History, when started, by whom, locations group has been, a picture of your meeting place, members past and present, group officers, meeting address, meeting days and times.. I'll start a file on all groups in District 3 for our district archives. My address is:

Manuel P.  
P.O. Box 72583  
Albuquerque, NM  
87195

### Corrections Corner

The District 3 Corrections Committee is looking for AA members, men and women like you, who are willing to help make it possible for the AA message to be carried to those on the "inside." Taking meetings into correctional facilities is not for everyone. Jim P. lived and breathed Step 12, but he couldn't go inside. Because of his own story of finding recovery inside the Kansas State Penitentiary, he wanted to but he couldn't stand the sound of the steel doors locking. But did you know you don't have to go inside to do corrections service work?

Now there's a rewarding and barely ever mentioned form of Twelve Step work that's "a special kind of AA service." In Corrections Correspondence AA members on the "outside" correspond with AA members in correctional facilities. Like sponsorship, it is suggested that men correspond with men and women with women. District 3 Corrections wants to support and facilitate Corrections Correspondence and is planning Pen & Paper Pot Lucks. The DCM and Corrections Chair are working on a date for the first one. Watch for more information in our AA service newsletters. You do not need to be in District 3 to participate. All you need is a desire to share your experience, strength and hope with A.A.s who are confined.

-Skitch F.

## May 2011 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	MAY 11	APR 11	MAY 10
Information	785	691	840
12-Step	27	1	19
AI-Anon	0	10	19
Message	1	21	29
Other	98	97	113
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>1020</b>

WALK INS	MAY 11	APR 11	MAY 10
Information	13	21	39
12-Step	0	1	5
AI-Anon	0	3	2
Get Schedule	22	18	12
Purchase	132	167	81
Tapes	0	0	5
Message	1	1	2
Casual	57	33	26
Other	33	50	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>200</b>

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS	
Unique Visitors	2464
Number of Visits	4867 (1.97 visits/visitor)
Pages viewed	24659 (5 pages/visit)

DESK WORKERS*	
Regulars	48
Substitutes	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>

DESK SHIFTS*	
Weekdays	132
Weekends	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	
Worked by Regulars	105(80%)
Worked by Substitutes	28(20%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132</b>

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	
Worked by Regulars	28(62%)
Worked by Substitutes	17(38%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	
3 hour shifts (5)	15 hours
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours
Night phone (0)	0 hours

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	
3 hour shifts (5)	15 hours
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours
Night phone (0)	0 hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30 hours</b>

\*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

**OVERHEARD IN A MEETING: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS DOES NOT WORK IN THEORY—IT ONLY WORKS IN PRACTICE!**



## 2011 Delegates Report and Speaker Meeting

Our Delegate Marsha S will be providing her report on the 2011 General Service Conference

5:00 PM  
DINNER

Hamburgers/Hotdogs provided  
POTLUCK - Side Dishes and Deserts

6:30 PM  
Area 46 Past Delegate George B

7:15 PM  
Area 46 Delegate  
Marsha S

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Shepherd of the Valley Church  
1801 Montañño NW  
Albuquerque, NM

Hosted by  
Greater Albuquerque Area Service Districts  
(3, 11, 12, 13, and 18)



*But we aren't a glum lot...  
We absolutely insist on enjoying life.  
-ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS P.132*

## DISTRICT 11 PICNIC

*Bring a newcomer, bring the family,  
bring an oldtimer, bring a spouse,  
bring a dish to share or just show up.*

Saturday, August 20, 2011  
Jemez Falls Group Area

8AM Breakfast  
12PM Potluck Lunch  
*meat provided by District 11, bring a favorite side dish/dessert/chips/beverage*  
2PM Open meeting

FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND GAMES ALL DAY  
*volleyball, horseshoes and biking*

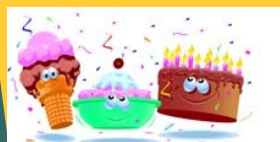
DIRECTIONS From the Jemez Ranger Station go 7½ miles north to the junction of State Roads 4 and 126 at La Cueva. Follow State Road 4 approximately 6 miles east to the campground turnoff on your right (between mile marker 31 and 32). From the turn-off continue approximately 1¼ miles to Jemez Falls Group Area which is south of the family campground.

For those who want to camp, campsites are available and may be reserved at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).



# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!

## Dog on the Roof Group Anniversary Celebration



Please join us in our SOBRIETY CELEBRATION the first Wednesday in September. Last years was so much fun we just had to do it again. Bring your family, friends or a Newcomer and enjoy the fellowship.

### First Year Anniversary

- Fellowship
- Sobriety
- Fun

### DOG ON THE ROOF GROUP

Hope in the Desert Episcopal Church (8700 Alameda NE) Alameda and Barstow

Time: 7-9 PM

Date: Wednesday September 7th, 2011

Alcoholics Anonymous  
NM District 18 Presents

## Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Literature Information Workshop

Saturday, July 30, 2011  
10:00 AM-1:30 PM  
Lunch Provided

Please RSVP For Lunch by July 25, 2011

This workshop is presented for both those in recovery and those who work with those who may need help. Join us bringing community together to help carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, through professionals working in the fields of health, justice and education.

### LOCATION:

St. Paul's United Church  
2701 The American Road, Rio Rancho, NM

**Albuquerque Central Office**

1921 Alvarado NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110

{505} 266-1900

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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 1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110



## Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office

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



The Office is at  
 1921 Alvarado NE,  
 two blocks north  
 of Constitution and  
 four blocks east  
 of San Mateo.  
 www.AlbuquerqueAA.org