

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

Website: www.albuquerqueaa.org

Landmarks Of AA

There are many landmarks in AA: the childhood homes of the co-founders; the houses they lived in as adults; the institutions that bore them; and the many hospitals, hotels, and flop-houses where early prospects were visited. While these places are independent sites and are not affiliated with AA, they are important to its members.

What one writer, Len E., from Denver, Colorado, says about his visit to Dr. Bob's hometown in Ohio speaks for many of us: "Our trip to Akron deepened my gratitude to AA by making the fragile history of the program more vivid. It is a story of real people and real places, and it could have gone any number of ways that would not have led to me having a sober life beyond my wildest imagining," he writes.

AAs visit these historical sites for many reasons. Many cite love and gratitude for the Fellowship. Others feel as Len E. does: "The more I learn of AA's beginnings, the more I feel responsible to do my part in carrying the message."

In the coming months, the Grapevine will report on several of the sites that AAs consider part of their heritage and look back on the people who were to have such an effect on alcoholics worldwide.

In this issue, Bill W.'s East Dorset, Vermont homes are highlighted, along with Dr. Bob's Kingsbury, Vermont, childhood home. In later issues, the Grapevine will report on Akron, Ohio, where AAs journey to see Dr. Bob's home, the Sieberling estate, and other sites that played key roles in the program's beginnings.

In the story in this issue, a member muses on the Brooklyn brownstone where Bill and his wife, Lois, lived when AA began taking root. It was here that Bill said he wrote the Twelve Steps, lying in bed, pencil in hand and pad of yellow scratch paper on his knee. Later, the

author describes her visit to Bill's childhood homes in East Dorset, Vermont. In the story, she invites us to reflect on the improbable origins of AA and to renew our gratitude for the Fellowship that has grown to save so many lives.

182 CLINTON STREET, BROOKLYN

History helped this AA member to see Bill W. in a different light

I had been living in Brooklyn for nearly fifteen years when I got sober, and in the very beginning, while I vaguely knew that Bill W. had lived nearby, it didn't mean much to me.

But then one day, when I had a few months, I was picking up my daughter at a friend's house on Clinton Street and realized that I was just a few doors down from Number 182, where Bill was living in the 1930s when he co-founded AA.

I had time before getting my daughter, so I walked down the tree-lined street, along the row of brownstones with their steep stoops, until I came to 182. There it was, a large, elegant, well-maintained home. It looked like any other house in what they call Brownstone Brooklyn.

I stood and gazed awhile. As I looked, I remembered that Bill wrote the Big Book in this house.

Lois had worked at the nearby Macy's department store. The trees were older, but otherwise the streets in this part of Brooklyn hadn't changed much since that time, and I knew that Bill had seen the same houses and taken the same subways that I did. I knew that just a block away he could look down Atlantic Avenue and see the East River where it empties into New York harbor. He had been here!

I imagined him walking these streets, drinking and throwing up and passing

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"When I was sixteen, I was trying to act forty-four, and when I was forty-four, I was trying to act sixteen. I am not sure how, but alcohol made both possible."
David B.
Arizona

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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.

No Messages This Month

Albuquerque Central Office Contributions January 2008 through June 2008

Alameda Men's Stag	\$200.00	One Day At A Time	\$150.00
Back to Basics – Albuq.	250.00	Placitas Group	90.00
Basement Steps Group	65.00	Promises Group	300.00
Brownbaggers	57.87	Refuge Group	60.00
Came to Believe – Estancia	10.00	Rio Amigos Group	40.00
Campus Step Study	13.00	Sandia Serenity Study Group	50.00
Corrales Group	175.00	Men's S.O.S. Group	25.00
Corrales Men's Stag	125.00	Seeking Serenity	390.00
Corrales Smokefree Group	117.82	Seniors Seeking Serenity	486.50
Dawn Patrol	980.85	Serendipity Group	239.43
Dawning Promises	61.25	Serenity Group of Albuq.	100.00
East Mountain Group	146.00	Share the Legacy	100.00
El Centro Group	75.00	Sober Valley Group	90.00
Edgewood Valley Group	50.00	Staying Sober At Sunrise	86.00
Foothills Group	3,125.21	Sunday Night Serenity	150.00
Free Spirits Group	98.00	Sunday Night Step Study	95.35
Freedom From Bondage	300.00	Sunrise Sobriety	193.12
Friday Night Smokeless	120.00	Taylor Ranch Fellowship	25.00
Girl's Night Out	100.00	The Ladies Room	122.71
Good Fellows Group	50.00	Tuesday 12 & 12	56.18
Group 164	70.00	Three Legacies Group	25.00
Happy Hour Group	33.34	Tuesday Knights	50.00
Happy Valley Group	1,547.99	Westside AA	337.50
High Country Group	100.00	Westside Noon Group	295.00
High Noon Group	225.00	Wake Up Call Group	30.00
How It Works	165.60	Women's Group – Rio Rancho	40.00
Isleta Group	139.01	Zia Pueblo Group	25.00
Isleta Pueblo Group	4.00	Group Totals	\$13,188.18
Jemez Springs Group	20.00	Individual Contributions	\$1,308.47
Kiva Group	50.00	Faithful Fivers	\$530.00
Live and Let Live	93.17	Special AA Event Contributions	748.80
Lone Rangers Group	440.18	Other AA Contributions	\$257.74
Ladies of Peaceful Serenity	50.00		
Magdalena Group	190.00		
Mountainside Group	38.00		
New Frontier Group	150.00		

Thank you all for supporting your Central Office!!!!

Central Office Steering Committee E-mail addresses:

Michael W. - CO Coordinator
Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

Kathy - Alt. CO Coordinator
AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

Dave C. - Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael Q. -
Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

Brian H.
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org
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

Steve-
treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

Albuquerque Area Business Meetings

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

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

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

District 12
9:30 am, 2nd Saturday
St. Bernadette's
11401 Indian School NE

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

7.13.08

Submitted By Brian H. – Secretary

Dave C - Chair

Dave opened the meeting at 2:00 with the Serenity Prayer.

Secretary - Brian H

Review of minutes of June InterGroup Meeting as published in July *Pass It On*. Minutes approved by acclamation.

Treasurer - Steve P

Provided summary reports for the first half of 2008 (including Income Statement, Balance Sheet, List of Contributors). Running on pace with previous years. Slightly in the red for the month; still in the red for the year; doing slightly better this year than last. Thanks to all groups and individuals for your sustaining contributions to Central Office in 2008! Treasurer's Report accepted by acclamation.

Service Coordinator - Michael W

June was very quiet (calls; volume; contributions) which is normal for this time of year. Number of deskworkers is good, though rate of substitutions is high. Always need Substitute Deskworkers. Contact Central Office for details about becoming involved. Donation of literature rack full of pamphlets to MATS (Metropolitan Assessment & Treatment Services). We will be supporting the upcoming conference on aging in collaboration with Area 46 Public Information Committee in September. October a big month for Central Office events: Emotional Sobriety workshop (10/11); Central Office benefit featuring skit from this year's Women's Sobriety Fest (10/18); annual Old-Timers Event (10/25), possibly to include an afternoon meal.

Alternate Coordinator - Kathy H

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

7th Tradition Basket Passed.

Activities Coordinator - More will be revealed. Job Descriptions available. Please consider standing for this important service opportunity.

Member at Large - Martha G

The annual Central Office Picnic will not be happening due to lack of coordination and volunteer support. Will continue to help out in covering responsibilities of Activities Coordinator until that position is filled.

Pass It On Editor - Sally

Thanks for all the support. Please consider submitting columns, announcements, and ideas for future issues!

Schedule Editor – Michael Q

Not present. Nothing to report.

Community Outreach - John S

No requests in the last month.

Special Needs – Peggy

Seeking to clarify "handicap access" designation in meeting schedule with individual groups. If your meeting is not designated correctly on this issue, please contact Peggy or Central Office.

Library - Grace L

Seeking volunteers to assist with digitizing audiotapes to cd format. Please contact Grace or Central Office to become involved.

Web Guardian - Tom

Things online are up-to-date, including schedule, bulletin board and *PIO*. Please submit your events, announcements, corrections to the Tom or Central Office for inclusion on the Central Office/Intergroup website.

Old Business

We need to find someone willing to stand for the position of the Activities Coordinator. Please contact Central Office, your InterGroup Rep, or any member of the Steering Committee to express your interest in standing for the position, or joining a list of volunteers available to support Central Office activities/events on a case-by-case basis. Central Office will secure the facility for Polly P's Emotional Sobriety Workshop (10/11). Will continue to seek donation of hospitality/accommodations so as not to incur the expense.

New Business

Michael W (Coordinator) would like to remove selected meetings (ie. meetings held in private residence; meetings listed by

reference phone) from the schedule. Steering Committee affirmed the decision to contact the organizers of these meetings to clarify the details of their schedule listings.

Announcements:

District 18 will be sponsoring an InterGroup Speaker meeting on August 23 @ St Paul's United Church, 6-9pm. Brownbaggers encourages folks to use the parking lot at the Baptist Church on the South side of Montgomery when attending noon meetings.

Dave closed the meeting at 2:48pm with the Third Step prayer.

ATTENDEES

Dave C (Dawn Patrol/CO Chair)
 Michael W (Mountainside/CO Coordinator)
 Steve P (Free Spirits/CO Treasurer)
 Kathy H (Metropolitan/CO Alt-Coordinator)
 Dennis M (Isleta/District 13)
 Jim O (Live & Let Live)
 Greg D (Tuesday 12&12/District 18)
 Dale (Seniors Seeking Serenity/District 13)
 Lynn H (Ladies Room)
 Susan B (El Centro)
 Joseph F (Dawn Patrol)
 Dondo (Happy Hour/Last Call/District 12)
 Peggy A (Women on Wednesday/CO Special Needs Coordinator)
 Sally G (How It Works/*Pass It On* Editor)
 Wendy F (Serendipity)
 Grace L (Media Library)
 Gilbert C (Sunrise Sobriety)
 Marilyn L (Queer Ideas of Fun)
 Tom N (High Noon)
 Tom C (Basement Steps/CO Web Guardian)
 Jeremy H (Straight Pepper Diet)
 Martha G (Cosmo/ CO Member at Large)
 Ernest V (Corrales Smoke Free)
 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 following contributed to Central Office.....

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

- Groups:**
 Back to Basics
 Cosmopolitan Group
 Dawning Promises
 District 12
 Foothills Group
 Girls Night Out
 Group 164
 Happy Hour (X3)
 High Noon
 How It Works
 Ladies of Peaceful Serenity
 Lone Rangers
 Magdalena Thursday Night
 Serendipity Group
 Serenity Group
 Sober Valley Group
 Taylor Ranch Fellowship
 Westside Group
 Westside Noon
- Individuals:**
 Al
 Anonymous (x5)
 Bill H.
 Rick

- Robert U.
Faithful Fivers:
 Al. J.
 Andrew S.
 Andi & Pam B.
 Catherine A.
 Cecelia D.
 Dan O'.
 Dave N.
 Emma D.
 Ilse G.
 Jeanne Mac.
 Jim F.
 John K.
 Karen R.
 Mary Ann Mc.
 Merle P.
 Mike D.
 Nance C.
 Partha B.
 Phil & Barbara C.
 Ralph & Gwen T.
 Rojo R.
- Thank you** all for supporting your Central Office!!!!

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

Total Contributions/Sales	\$ 6177.93
Total Cost of Sales	-2204.60
Gross Income	3973.33
Total Expenses	\$5278.97
Net Income	-1305.64

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.

June '08 Desk Activity

	June '08	May '08	June '07
	This month	Last month	Last yr.
Phone calls	1242	1269	1364
Information	1015	1063	1109
12 step request	18	15	23
AI-Anon Info	19	37	36
Message	40	37	36
Other	150	140	171
Walk Ins	352	354	330
Information	13	12	19
12 step	1	2	0
AI-Anon	0	1	1
Schedules	58	28	30
Purchases	141	156	177
Tapes	2	6	3
Message	6	5	1
Casual	50	52	42
Other	77	92	57
Desk Workers*	92	86	
Regulars	50	50	
Substitutes	42	36	
Desk Shifts*	171	177	
Weekdays	126	132	
Weekends	45	45	
Weekday Shifts*	126	132	
Regulars	82.5% 104	86% 113	
Substitutes	11.5% 19	14 % 19	
Weekend Shifts*	45	45	
Regulars	75.5% 34	71.5% 35	
Substitutes	24.5% 11	28.5 % 10	
Shifts by Michael*	11/42 hrs	5/23 hrs	
Shifts by Kathy*	5/21 hrs	2/5 hrs	

Thanks to all who participated this month.

* includes night phone

Landmarks of AA cont.

out in them, just as I did in my neighborhood. I could picture him walking up this stoop in the evenings, first staggering, as an active drunk, then perhaps with a spring in his step, as a newly sober man desperately trying not to drink. Many of these brownstone houses are similar, so I had a pretty good idea of the inside layout, the parlor in the front where he held meetings, and the kitchen in the back, where Lois made coffee and cooked dinner for the legions of alkies who came around. In my mind I could picture the upper story where, on one of his darkest days, Bill had to move his mattress to the first floor to prevent himself from jumping out.

From that point on, I made my pilgrimage to 182 Clinton Street every time I could, tipping an imaginary hat and saying thank you to the two of them, Bill and Lois, for giving their lives to this work so that I might get sober decades later.

Now, I live in western Massachusetts, and I recently had the opportunity to go to Bill's two childhood homes in East Dorset, Vermont. This time I could go inside and see his bedroom. I imagined the tall, ungainly boy, too big for the small room. Here the view is of Mount Aeolus across the street, protectively edging the little village. Bill used to hike there, and his grandfather famously had a white light experience on its peak and never drank again. I could visit the

church his family attended, and the inn, where Bill was born. Today it operates as a retreat for people in recovery, and it felt momentous to attend a meeting there with people from all around the world who had also come to this tiny village to pay their respects.

Today, many alcoholics idolize Bill, while some despise him. Seeing his former homes helps me to understand that he was just another bozo on the bus, as my first sponsor likes to call herself, a human being just like me, trying to stay sober the best way he knew how. Words cannot express my gratitude for his vision and devotion to AA, but I am also immensely grateful for his imperfections, because then I can identify with him, and that gives me hope. If Bill W. wasn't perfect, well then, I don't have to be perfect, either. I just have to clean my side of the street and trust God. If he could do that, so can I.

A friend from my original home group likes to say that he needs AA more than AA needs him. I believe when all is said and done, Bill W. needed AA more than AA needed him, too. I suspect he knew that, accepted it, and was willing to do whatever it took to fulfill our primary purpose of staying sober and helping another alcoholic.

Sasha, Massachusetts
Grapevine June 2007
Vol. 64 No. 1

Taos Mountain Fiesta!!!

Sagebrush Inn

September 19, 20, 21, 2008

Begins Friday at 3:30

Guest Speakers include:

Kris P. - Taos, NM
Herb L. - Santa Fe, NM
Jesus P. - ABQ. Spanish Speaker
Aaron J. - Charles, NC - Al-Anon Speaker
Sharon C. - Los Angeles, CA
KC C. - Los Angeles, CA

For more information Contact:

Jennifer 575-770-2596 or
Jeanelle 575-751-3913

Intergroup Speaker Meeting

Hosted by District 18

August 23, 2008

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner

6:30 pm Speaker

8:30 pm Raffle

Speakers: **Lee R. and Charlie C.**

St. Pauls United Church

2701 The Americas Rd

Rio Rancho— (across from Don Chalmers)

For more information call:

Jakki 228-5827 or Wendy 349-8890

(Proceeds to benefit Central Office)

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

Announcements, Reminders, Birthdays, etc.

How It Works

Elena	24 years
Sally	26 years
Michael	16 years

Ladies Room July

Donna B.	1 year
Catherine M.	7 years
Deborah B.	8 years

Ladies Room August

Ebony O.	3 months
Lisa M.	3 months
Nicole W.	1 year
Kimber C.	2 years
Shannon H.	3 years
Pat E.	27 years

Happy Birthday All!!



**New Women's Meeting
on the West Side!!**

**Women's Noon Gratitude
Meets every Wednesday
at noon**

4301 Atrisco Dr. NW
(corner of Milne & Atrisco)

Join us for an hour of AA fellowship,
sobriety and gratitude!
Questions? Call: Irine @ 505-831-1538
or Bev W. @ 915-478-7268

The Second Annual New Mexico Women's Retreat

For Recovering Alcoholics

October 24-26, 2008
Holy Cross Retreat Center
Mesilla Park, New Mexico

www.holycrossretreat.org

For more information call:
Maddy L. 505-867-2195 or Sheila C. 505-867-4659

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!

Emotional Sobriety *The Next Frontier*

**Old Timers Emotional Sobriety
Meeting**

Friday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
at St. Michael and All-Angels Church
601 Montano NW - Albuquerque NM 87107

Starting August 15, 2008
For information call: 342-1440

17th Annual Oldtimers Meeting



Sponsored by
 The Albuquerque Central Office Intergroup
 ALL ARE WELCOME!

Free Lunch served
 Dessert items
 Requested

Saturday, October 25th
 12 pm – 3 pm
 Monte Vista Christian Church
 3501 Campus Blvd. NE
 Bethany Hall
 20+ Years to Share
 First Come, First Served

Service opportunity!
 Call Central Office 266-1900
 or Martha B 804-2852
 for more info



12 pm – 1 pm Lunch
 1 pm – 3 pm Sharing
 Come hear long-timers share their
 Experience, Strength & Hope



New Mexico AA Women's Sobriety Fest 2008

New Roots.....New Soil
Daily Reflections Page 121

Saturday September 27, 2008
 8 am to 10 pm

UNM Continuing Ed. Building - 1634 University Blvd. NE

Registration fee: \$15.00 includes lunch!!

Free gift with early registration by 9/19/08

For more information: WWW.NMAAWSF.COM

Albuquerque Central Office Newsletter

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

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Pass It On Subscription Only \$7.00 Annually

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This is a gift, Please sign my name on the card

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Please make checks payable to Central Office of Albuquerque
Mail or drop by!

1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

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

• • • • •

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