

# 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 8:** *“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”*

...we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know. This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure. *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p77*

This is one of my all-time favorite passages from our literature. What a wonderful ideal to aspire to! Often, in my early sobriety, becoming willing to make amends meant that I made mistakes, eventually making myself uncomfortable (pain is a great motivator). Upon some maturation, though, I can use the “newfound knowledge of myself” and prayer to recognize how others see me, not how I would like to see myself. Here, I become willing to admit that my best intentions might not make everyone as happy as I wanted. I learned that I am to adapt myself to the world; I cannot expect the world to change itself to suit me. Admitting that I’ve wronged someone even when I think I’m right is a big step for me.

**Tradition 8:** *“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”*

Our Twelfth Step is never to be paid for, but those who labor in service for us are worthy of their hire. *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p171*

Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words “Freely ye have received, freely give.” We have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p166*

On that fateful night when I was twelfth-stepped in treatment, the night-worker who pulled me into the little staff room told me that I couldn’t tell anyone what we were doing, as he could lose his job for talking about A.A. With that statement I knew it was something different from all the lectures I’d endured. It wasn’t part of the treatment center’s curriculum. It was one drunk, talking to another. That little statement he made might be the thing that caused me to listen, rather than ignoring him like everything else I heard there in treatment. He put himself at risk to help me, rather than talking to me because he was paid to.

**Concept 8:** *“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”*

This concept deals with the ways the General Service Board “discharges its heavy obligations,” and its relationship with its two subsidiary corporations: A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Long experience has proven that the board “must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger questions of policy, finance, group relations and leadership...In these matters, it must act with great care and *skill to plan, manage and execute.*” The board, therefore, must not be distracted or burdened with the details or the endless questions which arise daily in the routine operation of the General Service Office for the publishing operations, including the *Grapevine*. “It must *delegate* its executive function” to its subsidiary, operating boards. *-The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*

# ★ ★ ★ WINTERBASH! ★ ★ ★ INTERGROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS, INPUT AND LEADERSHIP TO HEAD UP THE COMMITTEE TO PRESENT NEXT YEARS WINTER BASH. TIME IS RUNNING SHORT, SO PLEASE JOIN US AT THE NEXT INTERGROUP REP MEETING (2PM ON THE 2ND SUNDAY AT BROWNBAGGERS). SEE YOU THERE!

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## MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The road trip of four guys was not going to be just any ordinary excursion of dirty jokes and flatulence, we were going to our first International Convention and we were like four nine-year-olds on our way to a bottle-rocket fight. The walk to the convention center from where parked was somewhat surreal and exited. My friends began to run like they were kids at Disneyland. Inside, it did not seem crowded but I quickly realized that there were more A.A.s in that huge hall than at my most attended area convention event. It reminded me of large airport but with an atmosphere of joy as opposed to impatience. A friendly lady in line started to talk with me right away. This type of genuine interest set the precedent for the rest of the week. I would later refer to the convention as the easiest place on earth to start a conversation.

There were impressive displays set up, including one by GSO Archives and another area called International Hospitality, which my friends allowed me to think had something to do with food. It didn't, but my bro had a seemingly miraculous chance encounter with a member he had met in Germany.

We hit a local meeting that first night that was mostly convention-goers and the locals were very friendly. It was exciting to see a newcomer who was attending his first meeting ever. The next day I was to help a friend attend his booth where the vendors were set up. Despite the rain, people showed up and I began to grasp the global scope of the convention, not only meeting people from all over the country, but also the entire planet. Something really sunk in for me among these good people who spoke different languages. The desperation of alcoholics, in the face of failure by other means, had extended the hand of A.A. to all continents in only 75 years. Ironically, in the muggy rain, everyone seemed so happy. The convention had not even begun.

That night I was on my way to rejoin friends at a restaurant on the nearby and totally cool Riverwalk. I began to really notice the immense volume of convention-goers. Convention badges were everywhere! Alcoholics had taken over downtown San Antonio! Thank God for that town we were sober. I was caught up in a big crowd crossing the street,

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## Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee

Jeremy H. *Chair*  
Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Sean F. *Secretary*  
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve P. *Treasurer*  
treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael Q. *Schedule Editor*  
Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

Al J. *Activities Coordinator*  
Activities@albuquerqueaa.org

Peggy A. *Member-at-Large*  
Memberatlarge@albuquerqueaa.org

Jason K. *Pass It On Editor*  
PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

Jim M. *Special Needs Coordinator*  
Specialneeds@albuquerqueaa.org

Steve F. *Web Site Chair*  
anonymous@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael S. *Media Librarian*  
media@albuquerqueaa.org

John S. *Public Information Coordinator*  
publicinfo@albuquerqueaa.org

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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under the direction of the ever-present San Antonio police, when an A.A. in the large group crossing opposite of us began to yell and shout in rowdy convention fervor. It started a chain reaction and there were suddenly hundreds of pedestrians gleefully cheering in celebration of our gathering. I felt part of something special and awesome.

That night I checked out the dance with the live band where the band members were admittedly awestruck by the enthusiasm of the sober crowd in the thousands. The jubilation was deafening between songs. I was fascinated by the group of old timers towards the back of the dance floor who were gettin' down and stealing the show amongst the couple of hundred people watching in admiration around them. There was also a few thousand testing the fire code regulations at the first marathon meeting at midnight. The newcomer from the local meeting the night before was up front.

The itinerary included over two hundred meetings. The convention center is built to handle many, large and small, separate events at the same time, but this weekend we had the whole frikkin' place. I later found out that this was the largest convention San Antonio had ever seen. The next day I attended a meeting called "Twelfth-Stepping The Old Fashioned Way" with a panel of old timers. I began to want some grounding, in the midst of all the excitement, to remind me of what A.A. is all about. A story by one of the panel members caused me to more than recall the last cheap apartment I trashed. I was there again with puke on the bed sheets, bottles everywhere and the stench of hopeless despair. I had to take a couple of deep breaths and I thanked God and A.A. that I hadn't been in a spot like that in a while. Millions had avoided misery and death. That was our message. That is what we were celebrating.

There are countless special moments of the convention that I can recall; the total excitement and anticipation of 50,000+ A.A.s before the flag ceremony and first big meeting, the spontaneous meetings randomly popping up here and there, the sharing by a young woman who had gone through the book with new A.A.s in Russia, feeling joined with thousands during my morning meditation, the real effort of one of my fellow travelers to say "Hi!" and talk to as many people as he could, the last old timer standing who sobered up in 1947, and finding out later that people were still wearing their badges and having an impromptu meeting at the Alamo on the Monday after the convention. My friends and I spent the fourth of July with a couple in the fellowship and their two kids: a symbolic exclamation point for our trip. Since my return, my mind sometimes feels like I am still there. The totality of emotions and thoughts is an inexplicable mosaic that will always be a part of me. The simple message I heard over and over is, however, explainable: the energy of love is real. To my Creator and the fellowship that extends worldwide, I am grateful for that message. To my comrades who shared a special moment of their lives with me, I thank you.

—Jim "Long-Legs" M.

Editor's note: Unfortunately I received no submission for either the Y.E.S. or the V.S.O.P. sections this month. Luckily we were blessed with this wonderful story from a grateful member. I'm glad I didn't have to shorten it, so the lack of submissions helped in giving some space for this. Hopefully there will be a submission for both sections next month.

➤ **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**

**July 11, 2010**

*Submitted By Sean F.- Secretary*

### **I. INTRODUCTIONS & ATTENDEES**

Unavailable

### **II. MINUTES**

- The minutes of the June 2010 meeting were approved without discussion.

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

- Total Revenues \$6,203.43
- Annual Revenue \$50,559.71
- Gross Income \$3,162.73
- Annual Gross Income \$35,370.14
- Total Expense \$5,693.83
- Total Annual Expense \$32,871.61
- Net Income \$-2,531.10
- Annual Net Income \$2,498.53
- Still in the black for the year. Treasurer presented a two year comparison. Group contributions are down over two years. Total Revenues are down but are still over \$100K which is good for year. Big difference in sales cost. Usually in red for month but black for the year at this time. Historically 70% of Central Office budget comes from group contributions and 30% from literature sales, faithful fivers etc. Treasurer presented list of group contributions for the first six months

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

- The reason cost of sales maybe less this year is because sales are down from last year.
- Phones are also slower than last year. Possibly because the website traffic has been up.
- Desk worker noticed the phones were not working on July 10, 2010 but are up at this time.
- Regular desk workers covered approximately 85% of the shifts substitutes covered the remainder.
- Recent order included a couple of new products, History of AA, Partners on the Journey, Language of the Heart Pathways to Spirituality, and Man on the Bed posters.
- Prices are up on material from World Services and Grapevine.
- Central Office will have a table at the Alanon Convention. Volunteers for table needed call Central Office if interested.
- There were a couple of Special Needs requests to Central Office

### **V. ACTIVITIES**

- The Intergroup Speaker meeting will be at Shepherd of the Valley Church. Potluck starts at 5:30. Area 46 Delegate gives her report at 6:30.
- Central Office picnic is scheduled for September 18, 2010. Volunteers needed. Contact Central Office if interested.
- The alcahthon still needs a location. The Activities chairperson spoke with a representative from St. John's Church who declined to provide a space. The possibility of finding a school was discussed. Several venues have mentioned that going all night was one of the reasons for declining to provide space. The possibility of working with other groups or clubs discussed. This might cause conflict with traditions.
- A band has offered to play at alcahthon. Entertainment is needed for picnic.

### **VI. MEMBER AT LARGE REPORT**

- No report

### **VII. PASS IT ON**

- The new issue is out.
- Discussed the "It Works, It Really Does" section (birthdays). An attempt was made to encourage other groups to contribute in such an exemplary way as the seeking serenity group.
- Pass It On is available at Central Office until they run out after that it is available on website. Subscriptions are also available to individuals and groups. (\$7/year) All Faithful Fivers, who contribute five dollars a month to Central Office, receive a subscription to Pass It On.
- The new issue has not been uploaded yet

### **VIII. SCHEDULES**

- The latest edition is out. The next edition will be printed in August/September. Meeting changes can be reported to the Central Office or directly to the Schedule editor.

### **IX. COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- No report, not present.

### **X. WEB SITE**

- No activity, not present.

### **XI. MEDIA LIBRARIAN**

- No report, not present.

## IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

**Seeking Serenity:** Vickie-30 days! Cricket, Carol W., David T. & Joy L.-1 year! Henry L.-5 years!!! **Seniors Seeking Serenity:** Mary R.-36 years!!!  
Please submit your sobriety birthdays to [passiton@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:passiton@albuquerqueaa.org)

### XII. SPECIAL NEEDS

- Took a nursing home at the request of longtime member.
- Three requests for ASL translation.
- Working on setting up an e-mail meeting for people unable to get to meetings.
- Setting up a closed ASL meeting.
- Group Reps are encouraged to assist in taking Grapevine drive back to groups. Contact Central Office with back issues.

### XIII. OLD BUSINESS

- The Central Office Coordinator and Steering Committee Chairman will attend the Area 46 trusted servants meeting in an effort to increase cooperation between Area 46 and Central Office.
- A group has been formed to start planning Winter Bash, tentatively planned for 1/29/11. Volunteers are needed including a chairperson. Contact Activities Chair on website if interested.

### XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- Several people mentioned that they had been in contact with other members and groups at the International Convention in San Antonio TX.
- It was suggested to use the 12 step call list as a source for Bridge The Gap volunteers.
- The Central Office Coordinator wanted to notify people on the 12 step volunteer list before doing so.
- Motion made: Resolved that a line should be

added on to the form for 12 step volunteers asking permission to be Bridge the Gap volunteers as well (Passed unanimously).

- Motion made: Resolved that the Central Office Coordinator contact members currently on 12 step list asking their permission to become Bridge the Gap volunteers (1 Nay vote) Second vote after Minority Report motion unanimously passed.
- Central Office Coordinator suggested separate lines for Treatment and Corrections Bridge the Gap.
- If members are interested in more information about corrections contact Central Office.
- Group Reps are strongly encouraged to carry requests for volunteers for Winter Bash back to groups.

### XV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NMCYPAA is sponsoring "Sober Olympics" on July 24, 2010 at Alvarado Park.
- District 13 is holding a "Court Paper Workshop" August 8, 2010 at St Thomas of Canterbury Church.
- Dawn Patrol is holding a picnic on August 21, 2010.
- District 11 picnic at Jemez Falls, scheduled for August 5 & 6, 2010, moved to August 21 & 22, 2010 because campsite not available for the original date.
- Volunteers are needed for Intergroup Speaker Meeting on Saturday

### XVI. MEETING CLOSED

- With the 3rd Step prayer.



## Central Office Urgently Needs Deskworkers

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.**

## ★ ★ ★ TALES FROM THE DESK ★ ★ ★

**I LIKE TO WORK AT CENTRAL OFFICE TO TRY TO HELP OTHERS AND TELL OTHERS ABOUT ALL THE GREAT MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE AREA THAT I KNOW OF AND TO LEARN TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS SINCE MY PART IS TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHER ALCOHOLICS. —Jim M.**

Thrills and chills! An exciting time is to be had volunteering at Central Office!

## June 2010 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$6,203.43
Cost of Sales	\$3,040.70
Gross Income	\$3,162.73
Expenses	\$5,693.83

**NET INCOME**      **\$-2,531.10**

*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.*

*Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us. —Alcoholics Anonymous, p77*



## ATTENTION Women in Sobriety

*Women in corrections facilities need you.*

Join us for an informal meeting for all women interested in carrying the AA message of recovery to women in corrections facilities. Whether you are currently involved in corrections service work, have been involved in the past, or have considered becoming involved in this kind of service work, please join the conversation.

7:30 – 8:30 PM

Third Wednesday of every month  
617 Edith Blvd NE #8, Albuquerque

For more information contact:  
Carol M. 505-615-9494  
Kris H. 505-250-6704

## June 2010 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	JUN 10	MAY 10	JUN 09
Information	942	840	895
12-Step	6	19	29
Al-Anon	17	19	29
Message	23	29	35
Other	156	113	156
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1144</b>

WALK INS	JUN 10	MAY 10	JUN 09
Information	18	39	17
12-Step	1	5	0
Al-Anon	2	2	1
Get Schedule	15	12	11
Purchase	172	81	161
Tapes	6	5	6
Message	0	2	1
Casual	25	26	41
Other	70	28	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>258</b>

DESKWORKERS*	JUN 10	MAY 10	JUN 09
Regulars	48		
Substitutes	37		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>		

DESK SHIFTS*	JUN 10	MAY 10	JUN 09
Weekdays	132		
Weekends	40		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>		

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	JUN 10	MAY 10	JUN 09
Worked by Regulars	113/(86%)		
Worked by Substitutes	19/(14%)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132</b>		

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	JUN 10	MAY 10	JUN 09
Worked by Regulars	32/(80%)		
Worked by Substitutes	8/(20%)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>		

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	
3 hour shifts (5)	13 hours
2 hour shifts (1)	2 hours
Night phone (0)	0 hours

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	
3 hour shifts (3)	9 hours
2 hour shifts (2)	4 hours
Night phone (0)	0 hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28 hours</b>

\*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

**OVERHEARD AT A MEETING: "STEP 11: SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDICATION TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIOUS CONTACT WITH GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM."**



# COURT PAPERS IN A.A.

Do we sign? What does your group do?

What does A.A. suggest?

Are we carrying the message?

Are we welcoming?

Join us August 28th at St. Thomas of  
Canterbury-425 University NE @10 AM.  
District 13 will be hosting a workshop  
with open participation for all A.A.s.  
Featuring speakers from both A.A. and  
the Drug Court/Professional field.  
Bring a dish, if you wish, for our potluck lunch.  
We want to hear from you!

Many of us exclaimed, "What a court order! I can't go through with it."

## Special Needs Committee: Grapevine Drive- July, August, September

There are no special alcoholics only people with Special Needs.....

We will use the "meeting in print" to distribute to:

- o People that are homebound



- o People that have limited access of transportation
- o Our Deaf/ Hard of Hearing members

Please bring the Grapevine magazine to the Central Office

- 1921 Alvarado NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
(505) 266-1900
- If your group will collect them; we will come and pick them up.

You can contact us at: SpecialNeeds/ albuquerqueaa.org

*We look forward to serving you.*

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!

### DISTRICT 11 ANNUAL PICNIC

Friday Aug 20th @ 11am  
through Saturday the 21st at 3pm  
Free picnic and meetings all weekend long! Strictly A.A.  
fellowship, no business meetings, raffles or any of that  
stuff. Please drop in any time during the event and enjoy  
yourself!

**Jemez Falls Campground**  
in the lovely Sante Fe National Forest.

For more information please contact Phil O. at  
505.459.3164

## Why Mix It Up?

12 & 12 Study

Open Discussion

Big Book Study

Closed Meetings, Open Meetings, Speaker Meetings, Etc...

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### WORKSHOP

On participating in meetings, study groups, literature and service.

Area 46 Trusted Servant Ray R. will be our Guest Speaker!  
There will also be a Raffle, with proceeds going to GSO.

SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 3

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2010  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
The Isleta Club - 1829 Isleta Blvd. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87121

\*Light refreshments will be provided by the Sunrise Catchers Group.\*

**Albuquerque Central Office**

1921 Alvarado NE

Albuquerque, NM 87110

{505} 266-1900

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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Mail your check or come by the office and drop it off.

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