



Pass It On

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albuquerqueaa.org

Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

505.266.1900

Yes, there is a substitute and it is vastly more than that. It is a fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous. There you will find release from care, boredom and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus we find the fellowship, and so will you. Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book), A Vision For You, p.152

Step 9 Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Tradition 9 (Short Form) A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

(Long Form) Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Concept 9 (Short Form) Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

(Long Form) Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Intergroup/Central Offices: A.A.'s Front Line

from the August-September 2007 issue of Box 459, the AA GSO newsletter

Back in 1946 when only a handful of intergroup/central offices were fully operative—including those in California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New York and Ohio—A.A. cofounder Bill W. observed in the June issue of the Grapevine, “Heaven has surely reserved a special place for every one of them.” Even as he was writing, service centers were opening in Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Wisconsin and—Canada’s first—Alberta.

Both Bill and his fellow A.A. cofounder Dr. Bob early saw that “to save whole areas from turmoil, small offices had to be set up, telephones installed, and a few full-time secretaries hired. ... If they weren’t, the man coming in the door couldn’t get a break.” (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 161) The early service centers were plagued by a lack of money, space, help and an abundance of conflicting opinions, but still they persevered.

So when representatives from many of the 500 intergroup/central offices across the U.S. and Canada—together with trustees of A.A.’s General Service Board and directors and staff of A.A. World Services and the Grapevine—gather from October 4-9, 2007 at the 21st Annual Central Office/Intergroup/A.A. World Services Seminar at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Oklahoma City to share the spirit and substance of service, they will be mindful that the effectiveness of their own operations owes much to the trials, tribulations and collective sharing of their predecessors. As Jan D., formerly

(continued on page 5)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

And the winner is...Alli V., our own Web Site Chair and Central Office Intergroup Steering Committee member. Alli designed and submitted the winning entry for the Pass It On (PIO) Masthead Contest. Two entries were submitted, and since the plan was to bring the top 3 entries to Intergroup for them to vote on, the Steering Committee decided that the 3rd entry should be to leave the masthead as is. Alli's entry took the prize, a 5-year subscription to Pass It On. The new masthead debuts in this issue of PIO - just look at the top of the front page. Congrats Alli!

By now, I'm sure many of you have heard many announcements about **SWRAASA**, and some of you may still be wondering what all the buzz is about - look on page 3 to learn more.

Intergroup/Central Offices: A.A.'s Front Line, an informative and interesting article reprint from GSO's *Box 459*, begins on the first page. Speaking of articles and reprints...submissions of articles by and from local AA members has once again dwindled to none. So unless some locals get on the ball and off their laurels, reprints it will be.

The AA Events Calendar (page 6) continues to grow, but many of the events are gleaned from other sources (the Area 46 website and albuquerqueaa.org. to name a few) rather than from direct submissions to PIO. And I always hear announcements at meetings that I haven't heard about or seen anywhere else. Please, to be sure your event gets published, submit it directly to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org.

The Sobriety Birthday List (page 5) continues to grow, albeit at an extremely slow rate. Decades ago, this list took up most of one page in PIO...and I know Albuquerque is much bigger and has more groups and fellowship members than it did way back then. C'mon, people, lets get on the ball and submit our sobriety birthdays (by group, district, club or individually)! Guidelines for submission are on page 5 with the list.

SUBMISSIONS for PIO publication (articles, stories, announcements, flyers, sobriety birthdays, etc.), letters to the editor, questions, comments, suggestions and criticism are always welcomed at PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org and will receive a prompt reply and appropriate consideration for publication.

"We are like men who have lost their legs; they never grow new ones. Neither does there appear to be any kind of treatment which will make alcoholics of our kind like other men. In some instances there has been brief recovery, followed always by a still worse relapse."

- Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book), More About Alcoholism, p.30

Central Office Intergroup
Steering Committee

Jeremy H. - Chair
Chair@albuquerqueaa.org

Morgan D. - Secretary
Secretary@albuquerqueaa.org

Ashley F. - Treasurer
Treasurer@albuquerqueaa.org

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Schedule@albuquerqueaa.org

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Al J. - Media Librarian
Media@albuquerqueaa.org

Don S. - Community Outreach
PublicInfo@albuquerqueaa.org

Michael W. - CO Coordinator
Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

(Position vacant) - Alternate CO Coordinator
AltCoordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

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

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

Excerpts from Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and Living Sober, are printed with permission of A.A.W.S., Inc. Excerpts from The Grapevine, are printed with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.

SWRAASA

Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

Editor's Note: SWAARSA is coming to Albuquerque and New Mexico for the first time in 22 years on the weekend of October 19-21, 2012. More information on SWAARSA, such as registration details, the schedule, room reservations at the Uptown Marriott, volunteering information and much much more are available at swraasa.newmexicoaa.org. I'll be there the whole weekend, as will many other A.A.s from all over the Southwest Region (Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas). This is a rare opportunity to fellowship with and learn from other members of the fellowship from all over the Southwest - and it's happening right in our own backyard. Please don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to expand your horizons of serenity :)

What is SWRAASA About? It is a Service Assembly about carrying the A.A. message at the Group, District, and Area level. We also hear how the General Service Conference (GSC), attended by our Delegate, General Service Board (GSB), made up of Alcoholic and non-alcoholic Trustees who oversee our two corporations the Grapevine and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A. A. W. S.) serves to support A.A. as a whole. There are 36 roundtable discussions to choose from which include all of Area 46's standing committees, plus roundtables for service position from GSR down to Trustees. Presentations from Delegates, our Trustee, past Trustees, 12 Concepts, plenty of opportunities to ask questions, fellowship and an ice cream social Friday and Saturday evening.

Who can attend? Every member of A.A. can attend. You do not have to be a GSR, DCM, District or Area Committee Chair, Area Trusted Servants or a current or past delegate. **SWRAASA is open to all A.A. members** who are interested in service and carrying the message inside and outside the rooms of A.A.

Why attend SWRAASA? It is like everything in life until it is experienced -- it really isn't known. There is an unbelievable amount of energy and excitement. A.A. from across the region are overflowing with gratitude and joy for being sober, getting the opportunity to carry the A.A. message and being part of SWRAASA. Hearing people from Groups, Districts and Area's across the Southwest talk about problems they have carrying the message, and then hearing others with similar problems talk about the solutions they found to help them improve carrying the message is just one more reminder we are not alone in this journey and we certainly are not unique. It is also interesting to hear other places doing things a little or a lot differently and getting great results, which is a good lesson for me that there is often more than one way to do this effectively.

Service Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to serve as cub reporters during the SWRAASA on October 19 th – 21 st in Albuquerque. These reporters will attend workshops and write down a few key bullet points for inclusion in the Highlights document to be published and distributed Sunday morning at the event. This approach to documenting a SWRAASA is an experiment and has never been tried before. We need your help to make it successful. The intent is that each reporter will attend one or two workshops as a reporter. We will be holding a workshop / training prior to the event to outline specific goals for this service commitment. If you would like to vounteer or if you have any questions please contact Brett at swraasa@newmexicoaa.org.

The idea that somehow, someday he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker. The persistence of this illusion is astonishing. Many pursue it into the gates of insanity or death.

- Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book), More About Alcoholism, p.30



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 August 12, 2012

Open @ 14:01

Open/ Attendees Morgan D.- Straight Pepper Diet, Steve R.- Saturday Night Alive, George B.- Singleness of Purpose, Becky L.- Isleta Club, Martha M.- Promises, Christy O.- Promises, Janet B.- ODAAT, Art L.- El Centro, Kris O.- Serenity Group, Sharon H.- Any Lengths, Ally T.- Straight Pepper Diet, Kristen E.- District 13, Cindy B.- Dawn Patrol, Skitch F.- Isleta, Ralph T.- Dawn Patrol, Dan K.- Early Birds, Ashley F.- Alameda Men's Stag, Bill D.- Seeking Serenity, Tom R.- Seeking Serenity, Alan M.- Happy Hour, Don S.- Tuesday Knights, Michael W.- Too Much for Us, Al J.- Still Seeking Serenity, Debra K.- Brown Baggers Women's, Frank P.- Candlelight, Christina W.-Candlelight, Heather G.- QIOF, Linda E.- Any Lengths, Peggy A.- Free Spirits, Jennifer- How it Works

Minutes from last month accepted.

Treasurer's Report Total Sales Revenues: \$4,424.49; Cost of Sales: (\$3,573.72); Other Revenues: \$3,697.91; Total Expenses: \$4,105.71; Net Income: \$442.97

Central Office Coordinator Received a check from a non AA entity. I thanked them and returned the check informing them why. We received good contributions for July. Brought report that shows the contributions. Getting low on inventory, will order some soon. Some confusion with inventory regarding a product code. It was messing up the inventory numbers so we made some adjustments. Made updated price list which should help clarify our sales and inventory. Looking to hire an alternate coordinator at end of the month. Received 9 resumes. That person will have to be approved by steering committee.

Alternate Central Office Coordinator (Position currently vacant)

Member at Large Produced report on other central offices similar to Albuquerque's central office and their business models. Let me know if you want one.

Pass it On Editor Did extra printing run and I am distributing them to uninvolved groups. Will bring up motion next month to do another extra run for SWARSA. They are very excited about it. Article submissions have diminished to none. Want some local flavor. Sobriety birthdays are on the rise- Historically we have had a lot more birthday submissions. The birthday submission states their name, time, and home group. It will only be published the following month to avoid embarrassment if someone relapses. I am passing around the entries for the masthead contest. There are two entries and one voting option is to keep the current one. When submitting announcements I cannot publish your email if it is not anonymous (ie. your last name is in email address). I will also not publish phone numbers. It is important for groups to be involved in intergroup. There is a great article from GSO about central offices and intergroup. Lets vote for the masthead contest. Motion: Allan- Vote for entry #1. All in favor. None opposed. Pass it On Masthead submission #1 wins! One sobriety birthday from candlelight was spelled wrong but that was how he submitted it.

Media Librarian Working on copying CD's that have not been returned.

Web Guardian No report.

Schedule Editor Gave SWARSA 500 copies of schedules that go in the registration packets.

Community Outreach No report

Special Needs Coordinator Doing two deaf/hard of hearing meetings a week. One is the Friday nights Ladies Room and the other is a Saturday noon meeting. E-mail me if you know of

SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS

EL CENTRO July: Stacy N. 17 years

HEIGHTS July: Becka C. (Blackouts) 1 year, Ashley S. (Dessert Club) 1 year, Kathy F. (Nooners) 1 year, Wendy C. (Happy Hour) 2 years, Cecelia (Happy Hour) 2 years, Tim (Happy Hour) 2 years, Ray (AA) 2 years, R.J.L. (Nooners) 3 years, Ruby! (Happy Hour) 3 years, Keeling C. (Candlelite) 8 years, Ms. Marlene T. (Native Noon) 11 years, Tom Mc. (Happy Hour) 13 years, Mike S. (High Noon) 16 years

ISLETA July: Becky 9 months, Damion 18 Months, Tino 1 year, Dennis 8 years, Mike 10 years, Ray S. 11 years, Terry 11 years, Stacy 17 years, Bellina 26 years

SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE July: Gerdean O. 21 years

Please submit your sobriety birthday(s) (including homegroup, name, sobriety date & length of continuous sobriety) to PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org. Failure to properly submit s-b days may result in non-publication.

someone who has a special need.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS Skitch: We are going to have the alcathon committee meetings following every intergroup rep meeting- which starts today. I have gone to many district meetings in order to generate interest. Location is Sheppard of the Valley church. Not going to have meetings around the clock. I am going to have the districts sponsor the meetings rather than get groups to take them.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday Night Alive- September 1st-Labor Day extravaganza with Michael as speaker with talent show and dance. **Women's Sobriety fest** is taking registrations online. **Happy Hour** Summer Luau- August 25th- dinner at 6 and dance in the evening at Heights club. Last Saturday of every month **Candlelight group** has a potluck and speaker meeting at the Mesa Club. **Dawn Patrol** Picnic- Aug 19th at Los Ranchos Park unknown time.

Close @ 1447.

Intergroup/Central Offices: A.A.'s Front Line

(continued from page 1)

manager of the Edmonton, Alberta, Central Service Office, has pointed out, "Nothing in A.A. today is original. Everything we know and do to help the suffering alcoholic find sobriety came from our predecessors, whether the Oxford Group or intergroup/central office workers who came before and shared freely of their spiritual experiences and common sense gained the hard way."

Many, if not most, service offices in A.A.'s early days, such as those in Chicago and Los Angeles, grew out of a phone number, listed as belonging to A.A., that plugged into a member's home. Some—in New York City, Newark, New Jersey, and Toronto, Ontario, to name a few—were outgrowths of clubhouses that had been hubs for A.A. activities. Sometimes the clubs served as distribution points for A.A. literature, then began providing other services as well. Over time the service operations became entities separate from the clubhouses. Today clubhouses are not affiliated with A.A. In a surprising number of other localities, notably in the Upper Midwest and Canada, intergroups or central service committees were in existence (several still are) long before there were actual offices.

In the beginning there was the Central Committee in Cleveland, Ohio, where by October 1939—little more than four years after Bill and Dr. Bob had their historical

(continued on page 7)



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.

AA EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday September 8 High Noon Group 35th Anniversary Celebration
1:30 - 5:30 pm, speakers 3:30-5; Potluck - hamburgers, hot dogs & drinks provided...bring a side dish. 2 raffles: 50/50 & donated items. Desert Club, 4305 Mesa Grande SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

Saturday September 8-9 2012 Area 46 Assembly Hosted by District 9. Future Foundations Family Center, 551 Washington Ave., Grants, NM 87020

Thursday September 13-16 22nd Annual National/International Native American Indian AA Convention All AA members welcome. Dance, raffle, speaker & marathon meetings, banquet, flag ceremony, talking circles, etc. Radisson Fort McDowell Casino & Resort, 10438 N. Ft. McDowell Rd., Scottsdale, AZ. For more info visit: www.nai-aa.com

Friday September 14-16 2012 Taos Mountain Fiesta 3:30pm Friday - Noon Sunday, meetings, alcahthon, relationship workshop, dance, raffle, etc. Sagebrush Inn, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM 87571. More info: <http://www.taosmountainfiesta.org/>

Friday September 14-16 32nd Annual Tumbleweed Conference Speakers, meetings, ice cream social, bbq, etc. Lea County Event Center, 5101 Lovington Hwy., Hobbs, NM (see flyer at: <http://newmexicoaa.org/images/pdf/32ndTumbleweedFlyer.pdf>)

Saturday September 15 District 3 September Meeting Potluck 1:30pm, Meeting 2pm. Hosted by Cosmopolitan Group, 600 Coors NW Albuquerque @ Rio Grande Presbyterian Church

Friday September 28-29 New Mexico AA Women's Sobriety Fest 2012 25th Annual Celebration All AA and AI-Anon members welcome! Friday: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Saturday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm - Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, 1801 Montano Road NW, Albuquerque - for more info go to <http://www.nmaawf.com/>

Friday October 5-7 An AA Group 12th Anniversary Retreat 12 step study retreat. Theme: "Mercy rather than Justice". Angel Fire Resort, Angel Fire, NM. More info: http://newmexicoaa.org/images/pdf/An_AA_Group_Anniversary.pdf

Friday October 19-21 Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly (SWRAASA) New Mexico is hosting the Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly in Albuquerque this year. SWRAARA is a 3-day meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous that meets every two years to share with each other how they carry the AA message of recovery. Albuquerque Marriott, 2101 Louisiana Boulevard NE, Albuquerque - Go to <http://swraasa.newmexicoaa.org/> for more details and registration info.

Saturday October 27 2012 Traditions Conference 8:30am - 2pm, Hosted by District 11, 8:30am: Registration, light breakfast; 9am - noon: Traditions presentations; 12pm: Potluck lunch (bring a dish to share); 1pm: Speaker; 2pm: Door prize drawing and close; Nativity Church Parish Hall, 9502 4th Street NW, Albuquerque, 87114

Monday December 31, 2012 - Tuesday January 1, 2013 Albuquerque Central Office/Intergroup 2012 New Year's Eve Alcahthon Speaker & discussion meetings, pot luck dinner, dance, New Year's Day breakfast. Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, 1801 Montano Rd. NW, Albuquerque. For more info, to join the Alcahthon committee or to volunteer for service work contact Skitch at alcahthon@albuquerqueaa.org

For more and/or updated information on Albuquerque and New Mexico AA Events go to: <http://albuquerqueaa.org> and <http://www.newmexicoaa.org/>. For other AA events nationally and worldwide visit www.aa.org.
SUBMIT YOUR AA EVENT TODAY to: PassItOn@albuquerqueaa.org

July 2012 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	JUL12	JUN12	JUL11
Information	672	644	725
12-Step	19	18	17
AI-Anon	12	1	12
Message	40	54	30
Other	147	88	78
TOTAL	890	805	862

WALK INS	JUL12	JUN12	JUL11
Information	15	17	24
12-Step	1	0	2
AI-Anon	0	1	1
Get Schedule	11	8	16
Purchase	155	161	142
Media	3	2	0
Message	4	3	3
Casual	47	29	35
Other	35	25	41
TOTAL	271	246	264

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS	JUL12	JUN12	JUL11
Unique Visitors	3202	3008	2824
Number of Visits	5838	5971	
Pages	24,638	23,332	

DESK WORKERS*	JUL12	JUN12
Regulars	49	48
Substitutes	29	35
TOTAL	78	83

DESK SHIFTS*	JUL12	JUN12
Weekdays	132	126
Weekends	45	45
TOTAL	177	171

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	JUL12	JUN12
Worked by Regulars	114(89%)	110(87%)
Worked by Substitutes	18(11%)	16(13%)
TOTAL	132	126

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	JUL12	JUN12
Worked by Regulars	33(73%)	36(90%)
Worked by Substitutes	12(27%)	9(10%)
TOTAL	45	45

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	JUL12	JUN12
4 - 3 hr (12)	12	12
2hr (0)	0	2
Night - 0	0	0
NIGHT SHIFTS NOT COVERED	2	1

TOTAL 12 hours 114 hours
*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

The road to sobriety is a simple journey for confused people with a complicated disease.

- Anonymous



Intergroup/Central Offices: A.A.'s Front Line (continued from page 5)

historical first meeting—a group of seven was meeting once a month, among other things to coordinate efforts regarding hospitalizations and sponsorship. Dr. Bob was not only a supporter but an active participant, according to fellow Akron member Dan K. “Doc used to play an important part in the Central Committee,” Dan reported, and the going could get rough: “During the meeting, sometimes, the words would fly like you were in a barroom.” One time, he related, “Dr. Bob stood up, hushed the crowd and said, ‘Gentlemen, please. We’re still members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Let’s carry the principles of A.A. into these business meetings. You are servants of your group, here to take the ideas formulated by the committee. Let one man talk at a time, and let us conduct this business meeting as a service to the Lord and a service to our fellow members. ...’ After that there were no more brawls when Dr. Bob was around.” (Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, p. 288-89)

Columbus, Ohio, followed almost immediately with a service center, today called the Fellowship Intergroup, which started up in 1943. In nearby Akron, the birthplace of A.A., an Intergroup office was opened in April 1954. Its first newsletter, published that same year, commemorated November 18 as Gratitude Day. The cover, block-lettered by hand, signaled the dedication of the struggling little office that, with minimal financial support, was willing to go to any lengths to carry A.A.’s message of sobriety.

Bill W. acknowledged in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (p. 23) that “A.A.’s first organized service center” sprang up in Chicago, where an A.A. named Sylvia utilized her \$700 monthly alimony checks (a very large sum at a time when Bill and Lois were living on \$55 a week) to rent an apartment in the suburb of Evanston, also the locale of the area’s first A.A. meeting in 1939. So busy was the phone that Sylvia’s nonalcoholic personal secretary Grace Cultice rapidly evolved into an A.A. girl Friday.

By 1941, following publication of the Jack Alexander article about A.A. in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Sylvia’s place “became something of a Chicago Grand Central,” Bill W. later affirmed (*ibid.*), “and something had to be done.” So the A.A.s rented a one-room office in the Loop; there, Bill wrote, “Grace was installed to direct the stream of applicants for Twelfth Step attention, hospitalization, or other help.”

New York’s first local service center operated informally for years out of a clubhouse on Manhattan’s West 24th Street. The first local Central Committee was established in 1942, but the Intergroup wasn’t officially established until June 1946, when there were 22 groups in the metropolitan area. “Because of ongoing conflicts at the club, Intergroup moved into a storeroom on West 75th Street in November,” reported archivist Wally P., now of Tucson, Arizona, “and that’s when order started to grow out of chaos.” In the beginning, only 50 percent of the groups subscribed to intergroup and helped defray its expenses. But by 1951 every group in the district was fulfilling a group pledge to help maintain the office.

Minutes of a meeting of delegates to the Intergroup Association of New York in January 1950 recorded an anecdote told by Bill W. He said that “a woman came into the program stating, ‘My name is Toodles and I’m down to my last \$3 million.’ Toodles found sobriety but then died suddenly of diabetes and left \$10,000 to A.A.” The Alcoholic Foundation (renamed the General Service Board of A.A. in 1954) had earlier passed a resolution that no money could be received from individuals or outside services (unlike today, when an annual contribution up to \$3,000 may be made by an A.A. member, who also may leave a onetime bequest in the same amount). However, since the money had been left to Intergroup, Bill felt that “it’s your money to do with as you see fit.”

The Los Angeles Central Office started in 1944. “In those days A.A. wasn’t easy to find—and we kept it that way,” an oldtimer, sober since 1940, remembered later. “A carefully selected group of priests, judges and policemen knew about A.A.; our phone number wasn’t listed and could be gotten only from information. That way we knew that any newcomer who found us had generally made enough of an effort to guarantee the sincerity of his desire for sobriety.” And in Newark, where the Big Book had been put together in the offices of Hank P., for a time Bill W.’s business partner and sponsee, Hank served as the first full-time paid secretary of the New Jersey Intergroup office from 1944-49.

In Charleston, West Virginia, the term “intergroup” was first used in 1953. The association evolved directly from the state’s first treatment center, founded in 1944. Named the Alcan Center, Inc., it was fondly referred to by locals as “the jitter joint.”

By the time the first General Service Conference was held in April 1951, at least 16 intergroup/central offices were serving local groups. Since they predated the formation of the General Service structure and performed a different function, they were not a part of the A.A. structure (except in Chicago, where the Area Service Office and Area Committee are essentially one). Sometimes over the years there was overlapping of services, especially when both entities were performing similar services; but eventually, thanks to shared experience and improved communication, in many places intergroups and General Service have come to work hand-in-glove.

Since intergroup/central offices are established and supported by local groups; they have no authority of their own. Each intergroup/central office is unique, reflecting the needs and wishes of its own community, and is responsible to the groups it serves. Typically each participating group has an intergroup representative. These reps meet periodically to elect a steering committee, or board of directors, responsible for administering the office. They also keep their groups informed. A continuing flow of communication is vital, because the groups are completely responsible for the financial support of the office that services them, and local group members provide the volunteers to do the necessary Twelfth Step work.

Unity is the glue that holds the intergroup/central offices and general services together, but it is communication that jumpstarts mutual cooperation and harmony—vital both in reaching suffering alcoholics and in being attuned to the needs of those who are recovering in A.A. Many local intergroups produce their own flyers or information pieces. Also, the General Service Office publishes Guidelines and other service material that share the accumulated experience of intergroups and central offices in the United States-Canada and world-wide. These define an intergroup as “an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community—just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. It is established to carry out functions which are best handled by a centralized office. ... It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the Alcoholics Anonymous message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Albuquerque Central Office
1921 Alvarado NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 266-1900
www.AlbuquerqueAA.org
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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1921 Alvarado NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110



Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office

1921 Alvarado NE
2 blocks north of Constitution and
4 blocks east of San Mateo

(505) 266-1900
www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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