

Pass It On...

Albuquerque Intergroup Central Office Newsletter 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 10: *“Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”*

As we work the first nine Steps, we prepare ourselves for the adventure of a new life. But when we approach Step Ten we commence to put our A.A. way of living to practical use, day by day, in fair weather or foul. Then comes the acid test: can we stay sober, keep in emotional balance, and live to good purpose under all conditions? *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p88* It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong *with us*. If somebody hurts us and we are sore, we are in the wrong also. But are there no exceptions to this rule? What about “justifiable” anger? If somebody cheats us, aren’t we entitled to be mad? Can’t we be properly angry with self-righteous folk? For us of A.A. these are dangerous exceptions. We have found that justified anger ought to be left to those better qualified to handle it. *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p90* I hope I never forget the day when it occurred to me that no matter how right I was, I absolutely needed to be free of the anger I was feeling. There was only one thing that I had control of in a situation, and that was how I was feeling. By utilizing the spot-check inventory tool I had learned in A.A. I was able to go from a terrifying raging state, to laughing and gratefully thanking God for restoring me to sanity within mere minutes. Today, when the choice comes down to being right or being happy, I am able to use Step 10 to free myself of whatever blocks me from the sunlight of the spirit and being truly happy.

Tradition 10: *“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”*

Let us reemphasize that this reluctance to fight one another or anybody else is not counted as some special virtue which makes us feel superior to other people. Nor does it mean that the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, now restored as citizens of the world, are going to back away from their individual responsibilities to act as they see the right upon issues of our time. But when it comes to A.A. as a whole, that’s quite a different matter. In this respect, we do not enter into public controversy, because we know that our Society will perish if it does. We conceive the survival and spread of Alcoholics Anonymous to be something of far greater importance than the weight we could collectively throw back of any other cause. Since recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, it is imperative that we preserve in full strength our means of survival. *-Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p177*

What this tradition tells me is that, while I have a right to my own belief and action upon matters religious, political, or anything else, for one hour a day when I am at a meeting of A.A. (or any time I am representative of A.A.—such as working with others) I should simply try to keep my opinions to myself. In meetings A.A. has no opinion on how someone introduces themselves so long as they have a desire to stop drinking. A.A. has no opinion on court-papers or what judges and probation officers do. A.A. has no opinion on religion. When we have no opinion on outside issues, we can provide the most help to the most alcoholics.

Concept 10: *“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.”*

Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously unless, at every level, each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it. This requires...that the responsibility and authority of every entity are well defined and clearly understood.

“It is perfectly clear,” says Bill, “that when *delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with.*” Otherwise, he warns, “those charged with operating responsibly will be demoralized.” For example, the General Service Board owns the two operating corporations and its authority over them is absolute. “Nevertheless, so long as things go well, it is highly important that the trustees do not unnecessarily interfere with or usurp the operating authority of these entities.”

“To sum up: Let us always be sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to reorganize; but let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and to discharge their clear responsibilities.

-The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated

I wish my job functioned with this principal! How often have I had a responsibility to accomplish a task, yet given no authority to actually do what is needed. In A.A. we trust those to whom we delegate responsibility and give them the appropriate authority to do what we ask of them.



NEW MEETINGS AND CHANGES

THE STRAIGHT PEPPER DIET GROUP AT 3715 SILVER AVE SE. THIS IS AT THE CORNER WILL BE MOVING FRIDAY, NOV 5TH @ 8^{PM} OF SILVER AVE & SOLANO, JUST 1 BLOCK SOUTH FROM THE DESERT CLUB TO A NEW HOME OF CENTRAL AND 2 BLOCKS EAST OF CARLISLE IN AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NOB HILL. SEE YOU THERE!

THE GIFT OF SOBRIETY—BECOMING YOUR TRUE SELF

Ever since I first entered the Program, I have heard the Twelve Steps described as a “program for living.” I remember musing early in sobriety: “but isn’t this just supposed to be about not drinking?” Indeed, an old-timer told me back then to “keep it simple: go to meetings, and don’t drink in between.” Ultimately, though, this begged the question—what do I do with myself when I am not in a meeting, aside from not drinking? As I later was to comprehend, this is what the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous is really about...

The man who would become my permanent sponsor gradually explained to me, just as discussed in the Big Book, that my drinking was but a symptom of my disease, that I had never learned how to live in the world as a healthy, mature human being. Thus, in going through the Steps with him, I could finally get down to root causes, admitting character defects, and assembling my “spiritual toolkit.” Now, years later, I can better appreciate the immense help that these skills have given me for leading a new, useful sober life.

I have come to believe that as alcoholics, our obsessive attachment to drink, our will and our delusions cripples our ability to discover and become the persons that God desires us to be. Of course, that path to full integration with God’s will is particular to each individual: we are not all meant to become the same persons, automatons, as it were. Nor are our respective relationships with our Higher Power identical. That being said, I will now speak of my own personal experience of recovery, and of God as I have come to understand Him.

One might accurately characterize my life before sobriety, even dating back to early childhood, with three words: fear, anger, and isolation. Despite success in school and a burgeoning career, happiness remained elusive. It was almost as if God were systematically granting me my every superficial desire so that he might tell me, “see, that ain’t going to work either; do you get it yet?” Unfortunately, the pain of escapism had to become excruciating before I would “get it”—the surrender following the last drink as the fitting epitome to the insanity preceding the first.

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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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The fact is, what a person thinks his or her life will be once God is invited in is a far cry from the reality—and the reality, if it is truly sought, is a gift of Grace. Sadly, it appears this is the stage that dooms many early in sobriety; the notion that God’s plan for us, His will must come first, before any of our own preconceptions or machinations. Such were the necessary growing pains that I endured as well.

My life today bears little resemblance to what it was only a few years ago; so much the better. A maturing prayer life with God eventually led me to rediscover my Roman Catholic faith and enter a religious Order, though I of course understand that this is not the Lord’s calling for everybody in sobriety (A.A. would get pretty dull if it were!). Still, I am physically, spiritually and emotionally healthier than ever before, and perhaps of even greater importance is the joy I experience in being able to serve God and others in need, both within and outside of my community. I am actually capable of love, and being loved today—and perhaps this is the greatest blessing of all.

-Frater Stephen G., O. Praem.

A note from your editor monkey:

I think we are truly blessed to have a history of support and participation from members of religious bodies throughout A.A.’s history. This support can come from those who are also A.A. members, such as our contributor Stephen, or simply those who like what it is that we are doing. I didn’t always feel that way, however. When I came to A.A. I was under the false impression that since A.A. was not a religious organization, we were in fact opposed to organized religion. I often heard comments at meetings where members would bash religions or members of religious bodies. However, I have since learned from more patient and tolerant members that this is not at all what A.A. is about.

The truth is we of A.A. have no opinion about outside issues, as stated in our Tenth Tradition. This does not mean we have no GOOD opinions but plenty of disparaging opinions; nor does it mean that we are only to say good things and keep the negative comments to ourselves. Quite simply we (A.A. as a whole) have NO opinion on religion.

This isn’t to say that each member’s religious experiences are to be kept secret, or that attending church service or having a particular concept or name for one’s higher power is a bad thing. Quite the opposite, in fact. Alcoholics Anonymous makes mention that members belonging to a religious denomination will want to attend to their daily devotions (paraphrased from page 87). All we are asked to do, as A.A. members, is to place our focus for the duration of a meeting upon being a member of A.A. rather than a church member.

I was so grateful, when I wound up in the rooms of A.A., that I didn’t have to believe in another’s conception of God. Not only that, but no one told me that my conception was limited, bad, stupid, or something that I had yet to outgrow. How often, I wonder, do churchgoers who attend A.A. feel that we are saying just that to them? How many attend meetings, looking for a way out, only to hear some A.A. members saying that the church member’s conception of God is wrong? How many of these have wandered away after hearing other’s negative opinions of religion? I’ve learned that telling someone that their conception of a higher power is wrong is just as bad as forcing my own on them.

I was so proud of our fellowship when I first saw Stephen in his habit (the traditional garb worn by members of his order). How lovely that he might feel comfortable enough around us to truly be himself! How wonderful that we, as A.A. members, try to make our program and way of life available and attractive to everyone! We accomplish this wonderfully unique feat by the means of our Tenth Tradition, where having no opinion means that we focus squarely on what we have in common: alcoholism. We give each other perfect freedom to be whomever and whatever we would like to be outside of A.A., and pass no judgement. When in a meeting, though, we can leave these outside issues outside to assure that none of these will conflict with our primary purpose, to help others find their own way to their own conception and relationship with a Higher Power, thus allowing them to recover.

At least that’s the way I understand it now. All of this is only my personal experience and understanding. I have yet to be hired as the official spokesperson for A.A. ;)

➤ **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

September 12, 2010

Submitted By Sean F.– Secretary

I. INTRODUCTIONS & ATTENDEES

Michael W.-Mountainside • John R.-Early Birds •
Mark D.-Last Call/After Hours • Martha M.-Promises •
Jeremy H., Jason K. & Morgan D.-Straight Pepper Diet •
Patrick H.-Nigh Noon • Emma D.-One Day at a Time •
M.L.J. & Jim M.-QIOF • Peggy A.-Member @ Large •
Bill D.-Seeking Serenity • Sharon-Any Lengths •
Alli-Singleness of Purpose • Dan S.-How It Works •
Sean F.-Serendipity • Dennis M.-Isleta

II. MINUTES

• The minutes of the August 2010 meeting were approved without discussion.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

• Total Revenues \$7,934.15
• Annual Revenue \$67,819.32
• Gross Income \$4,486.12
• Annual Gross Income \$45,700.93
• Total Expense \$5,604.05
• Total Annual Expense \$43,672.84
• Net Income -\$1,117.93
• Annual Net Income \$2,028.09
• Central Office still in the black for the year thanks to very good group contributions this month.

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

• Just place a book order (down to last case of hardbacks)
• Two open shifts: Tuesdays 4:00-7:00 and every other Saturday 3:00-6:00
• Night phones covered all month
• Training a new group of volunteers this month
• The Coordinator attended the Area 46 Assembly as part of ad hoc committee. Approximately 10 people attended. Silver City is trying to revive their Central Office. Also attended the Treatment Committee meeting. There was an Intergroup presence at the DCM meeting
• Calls for the month are up but down from last year
• Walk ins for the month are down and down from last year.
• Substitutes had to cover a large number of shifts, but this is expected over the summer.

V. ACTIVITIES/MEMBER AT LARGE

• Meeting with the Heights to work out details for Alcatraz.
• Still need to nail down a location for Alcatraz. The Heights and a church downtown are under consideration. There will

be a meeting to assign specific responsibilities. The Heights will go non-smoking for the night of the event. There will be an attendant in the parking lot (looking for volunteers). The band will take the stage at 9:30 because groups are meeting in the big room until then. Regularly scheduled groups will cover their normal slots.. Expected cost for Heights is \$400.00

VI. PASS IT ON

• If no submissions for Y.E.S. or V.S.O.P columns they will be discontinued.
• There is an article about SWRAASA including schedule
• The new print schedule has been moved to the beginning of the month.
• Increasing the size of the print run from 250 to 350 copies

VII. SCHEDULES

• No report.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

• No report.

IX. WEB SITE

• No report other than the availability of the position.

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

• No report, not present.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

• Providing meetings in a nursing home.
• Chair is stepping down to move out of state.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

• Lack of interest in assisting the organization means that Winter Bash will not happen next year.
• There are three open positions: Activities, Web site & Special Needs
• The Central Office Picnic is still on for September 18, 2010 at Alvarado Park. Drinks, BBQs and water have been donated. There will be kickball, volleyball etc. There is probably no band this year.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

• Alli volunteered for the Web site position and was universally accepted.
• Special needs and Activities positions are still open.
• There was a discussion about doing the Mid-Winter Bash as a formal dinner.

August 2010 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues \$7,934.15

Cost of Sales \$3,448.03

Gross Income \$4,486.12

Expenses \$5,604.05

NET INCOME \$-1,117.93

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.

August 2010 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
Information	808	824	885
12-Step	21	28	35
Al-Anon	26	17	11
Message	45	38	-
Other	127	102	102
TOTAL	1027	1018	1076

WALK INS	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
Information	24	18	16
12-Step	1	1	2
Al-Anon	6	1	4
Get Schedule	13	16	13
Purchase	159	172	187
Tapes	2	5	2
Message	1	3	5
Casual	27	28	44
Other	33	59	37
TOTAL	264	303	309

DESK WORKERS*	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
Regulars	50		
Substitutes	34		
TOTAL	84		

DESK SHIFTS*	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
Weekdays	126		
Weekends	45		
TOTAL	171		

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
Worked by Regulars	105/(85%)		
Worked by Substitutes	21/(15%)		
TOTAL	126		

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
Worked by Regulars	39/(87%)		
Worked by Substitutes	6/(13%)		
TOTAL	45		

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
3 hour shifts (5)	5 hours		
2 hour shifts (0)	0 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	AUG 10	JULY 10	AUG 09
3 hour shifts (5)	15 hours		
2 hour shifts (1)	2 hours		
Night phone (0)	0 hours		
TOTAL	32 hours		

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

Hosted by District 11

20th Annual

Alcoholics Anonymous Traditions Conference

PROGRAM

8:45-9:00 Coffee and Fellowship

9:00-Noon Presentation of Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

Noon-1:00 POTLUCK (Please bring a dish to share)

1:00-2:00 "Pathway to Unity" Marsha S. (Area 46 Delegate)

- Tradition one
- Tradition two
- Tradition three
- Tradition four
- Tradition five
- Tradition six
- Tradition seven
- Tradition eight
- Tradition nine
- Tradition ten
- Tradition eleven
- Tradition twelve



Pathway to Unity

Hosted by District 11



October 30th, 2010

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

(4th and Alameda)

Nativity Church

Nativity Parish Hall

OVERHEARD AT A MEETING: "MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR WIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD, AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM."



STRAIGHT PEPPER DIET
IS MOVING!

FRIDAY
NOV 5TH
 8 PM

NEW **HOME**

TRINITY UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH

SILVER 3715 AVE SE

WOW -- SAME FUN!
 SAME FELLOWSHIP!
 NEW PLACE! -- WOW

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
 YOUNG & OLD
IT'S AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

WE'LL
SEE YOU THERE!

ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SILVER AND SOLANO IN NOB HILL

BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridging the Gap helps alcoholics in an alcoholism treatment facility make a transition into A.A. by using Temporary Contacts. If you would like to help in this very important 12th Step work in Albuquerque and have at least one year of continuous sobriety in A.A., please contact me at d13bridgethegap@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. The calls are coming in, alcoholics are reaching out, and it's a great way to get your 12th step on!

Thank you, Jason K.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN!

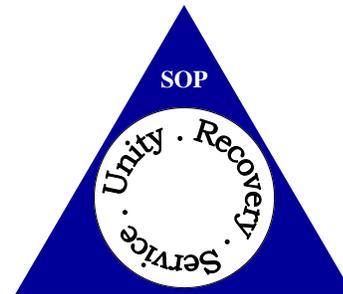
DOG ON THE ROOF GROUP

NEW MEETING STARTING
 SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

Hope in the Desert
 Episcopal Church
 8700 Alameda Blvd NE
 between Barstow and Ventura

A Wednesday Night 12 & 12
 Step Study meeting
 7:30 to 8:30 PM

NEW SATURDAY MEETING!



SINGLENESSE OF PURPOSE GROUP

When?

August 7th at 7:00 pm.

Where?

Rio Vista Church of the Nazarene
 8701 Golf Course Rd. NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87114
 (just north of Paseo Del Norte & Carl's Junior)

Closed topic/discussion
 Based on AA conference approved literature
Anyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome.

Albuquerque Central Office

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Albuquerque, NM 87110

{505} 266-1900

www.AlbuquerqueAA.org

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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,
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 of Constitution and
 four blocks east
 of San Mateo.
 www.AlbuquerqueAA.org