

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 12: *“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”*

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.’s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety. When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has price tag on it.

When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. He has been set on a path which tells him he is really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered. In a very real sense he has been transformed, because he has laid hold of a source of strength which, in one way or another, he had hitherto denied himself. He finds himself in possession of a degree of honesty, tolerance, unselfishness, peace of mind, and love of which he had thought himself quite incapable.

-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p106-7
I can’t think of a better definition of spiritual experience than that, nor can I possibly imagine any greater vision for my life, now or in the future. What better way to express gratitude in action than a full life well-lived?

Tradition 12 (long form):

“And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.”

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

These experiences taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity. *-12 Steps & 12 Traditions p184 & 187*

The more I learn about our Traditions, the more I learn that there is less and less fear for A.A.’s future. For me, learning more about the traditions has involved looking back at my past understandings and learning that these very traditions allowed me to err long enough to grow and reach the point where I am today. Love and tolerance is our code!

Concept 12: *“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”*

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter “can be readily amended,” these General Warranties—like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions—be changed only by “written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups” in the world!

Why?

Because “these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess...These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.”

-12 Concepts for World Service Illustrated

★ ★ ★

I'M SO GRATEFUL TO YOU...

WELL, HERE IT IS. MY LAST ISSUE AS EDITOR MONKEY OF YOUR PASS IT ON. I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS SPACE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO, COMMENTED ON, WRITTEN FOR, READ, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, PASSED ON TO OTHERS, AN ISSUE OF THIS FINE RAG. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE AND MEET YOU. THANK YOU FOR TEACHING ME SO MUCH ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP, COMMITMENT, PATIENCE, GRATITUDE, AND (HOPEFULLY) A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HUMILITY TOO.—JK

MY JOURNEY

My journey thru sobriety started out like so many other journeys I had undertaken up to that point in my life. I was very uncertain as to what was going to happen and quite frankly, scared as all get out. My story is very typical of many of us; I defended my disease for a very long time. I was convinced that things would eventually get better and all that was wrong was just a string of bad luck I was having.

It was a strange assortment of friends and relationships I got involved with, as far as the relationships went all it took to end one was a simple sentence "Gee, you sure drink a lot." Then the search was on to find somebody who drank as much as I did. Another thing I noticed was that the quality of bars really changed as my drinking progressed. Early on, I was hitting some fairly classy places, nothing special, but the lights were on and the waitresses were dressed nicely. It wasn't long before I found myself being asked to not return. That was fine with me, I knew there are a lot more bars who would be pleased to have my business. Before too many more years passed, I found myself at a very depressing bar; the lights were turned up just enough to see, and the waitress was very rude. But I knew that I was able to be a big shot in such a place.

After many times of going thru Outpatient care, how many times I could not say but it was a lot. I found myself at Cottonwood, an Inpatient Facility. I had to make a choice of going there or going to jail, so my motives were not very conducive to recovery but I did stay sober for about 40 days. On day 40, I called my attorney as there was a court date the next day, he told me then that the Officer had quit APD and all charges were dropped, I was drunk within an hour.

The time came for me when my world crashed down upon me, though I had a roof over my head and a job, that huge empty hole in my soul was finally big enough to be noticed. I have heard in meetings that when the pain of our addictions finally overwhelms our fear of the unknown, that is when we take action. I knew all about AA from being sent to meetings for years, what was missing was the willingness. Not to mention the sheer terror of having to face life without getting drunk. The night it crashed in was the night I finally surrendered, what it took was 4 simple words: "God, please help me."

Even with a background of being raised going to church every week that was probably the first prayer I meant from my heart. My sponsor was wise enough to see that I needed to get involved in service work if I was to have a

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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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chance at sobriety. At 6 months, I was answering the phone at Central Office. This opened so many doors for me I am eternally grateful. After a few years it seemed to be time to get involved in service work at the District and Area level, this is a new chapter in my life that is still being written. One thing I do know is that if I remember to trust in God, clean house and work with others, I have a great chance of a happy life. For a guy who once ruled the world, talking to another person about feelings can be terrifying! AA has given me a new life.

Yours in Service,
DF



**★ ★ ★HAPPY HOLIDAYS!★ ★ ★
PRACTICE GRATITUDE AND STAY SOBER!**

➤ **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

Nov 13, 2011

Submitted By Jeremy H & Morgan D

I. OPEN/ATTENDEES

Jeremy H-Straight Pepper Diet • Skitch F-Isleta • Cindy B-Dawn Patrol • Rosie F-Serenity • Kris O-Serenity • Bill D-Seeking Serenity • Tom R-Seeking Serenity • Joe W-Straight Pepper Diet • Ralph T-Dawn Patrol • Martha G-Cosmopolitan • Martha M-Promises • Kristen E-Free Spirits • Maddy L-In the Book • Andrew S-Candle Light MC • Bernie J-Singleness of Purpose • Steve R-Saturday Night Alive • Michael C-Too Much for Us • Jason K-Straight Pepper Diet • Don S-Tuesday Knights • Tom T-Fellowship Group • Alan M-Happy Hour • Sharon H-Any Lengths • Alli V-Singleness of Purpose

II. MINUTES

- Passed.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Total Revenues: \$6,498.44
- Cost of Sales: \$2,539.62
- Gross Income: \$3,958.82
- Net Income: \$(1,890.23)
- Steve presented his report.
- Up coming audit to "explain" the numbers

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

- No activity report for October.
- Increase.

V. MEMBER AT LARGE

- No report.

VI. PASS IT ON

- No submissions.

VII. SCHEDULES

- No report.

VIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- No report.

IX. WEB SITE

- Media Library is available online.
- Not much activity event-wise.

X. MEDIA LIBRARIAN

- No report.

XI. SPECIAL NEEDS

- No report.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- Nominating Committee- 3 positions open:
- PIO editor- Steve R. is interested in standing.
- Treasurer- No one standing yet

IT WORKS, IT REALLY DOES!

Still Seeking Serenity: Jeanne B-34 years! Julia C-31 years! Hal M-7 years!

Seeking Serenity: Lydia R & Ray G-1 year! Victoria T-6 years! Karren S & Barry W-22 years! One day at a time! Please submit your group's sobriety birthdays to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org

- Community Outreach- Don S. is willing to stand.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- None. What can I say? Slow news month I guess.

XIV. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Martha- Area Assembly flier hosted by District 3 in Belen. Need coffee help and donations.
- Bill D.- December 10th Newcomer Workshop from 8-11am
- Rosie- Serenity Group Christmas Candle light meeting and Potluck. December 12th at 8pm @ St. Michaels church.

XV. CLOSE

- Time not provided.

READ
YOUR
BOOK.
CALL
YOUR
SPONSOR.



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.**

October 2011 Treasurer's Report

Total Revenues	\$6,498.44
Cost of Sales	\$2,539.62
Gross Income	\$3,958.82
Expenses	\$5,849.05
NET INCOME (month)	\$-1,890.23
NET INCOME (YTD)	\$-10,531.76

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

Archives Alert!

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

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

Corrections Corner

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

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

-Skitch F.

October 2011 Monthly Service Activities Report

PHONE CALLS	OCT 11	SEPT 11	OCT 10
Information	n/a	617	n/a
12-Step	n/a	24	n/a
AI-Anon	n/a	7	n/a
Message	n/a	20	n/a
Other	n/a	116	n/a
TOTAL	n/a	784	n/a

WALK INS	OCT 11	SEPT 11	OCT 10
Information	n/a	128	n/a
12-Step	n/a	6	n/a
AI-Anon	n/a	0	n/a
Get Schedule	n/a	13	n/a
Purchase	n/a	168	n/a
Media	n/a	1	n/a
Message	n/a	2	n/a
Casual	n/a	33	n/a
Other	n/a	46	n/a
TOTAL	n/a	397	n/a

ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG WEB STATS	
Unique Visitors	2695
Number of Visits	4980 (1.84 visits/visitor)
Pages viewed	24,266 (5 pages/visit)

DESK WORKERS*	
Regulars	n/a
Substitutes	n/a
TOTAL	n/a

DESK SHIFTS*	
Weekdays	n/a
Weekends	n/a
TOTAL	n/a

WEEKDAY SHIFTS*	
Worked by Regulars	n/a(n/a%)
Worked by Substitutes	n/a(n/a%)
TOTAL	n/a

WEEKEND SHIFTS*	
Worked by Regulars	n/a(n/a%)
Worked by Substitutes	n/a(n/a%)
TOTAL	n/a

SHIFTS WORKED BY MICHAEL	
3 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
2 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
Night phone (n/a)	n/a hours

SHIFTS WORKED BY KATHY	
3 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
2 hour shifts (n/a)	n/a hours
Night phone (n/a)	n/a hours
TOTAL	n/a hours

*INCLUDES NIGHT PHONE

**WHEN I WAS DRINKING, I WAS EXTREMELY SUICIDAL.
LUCKILY, I WAS ALSO A WORLD-CLASS PROCRASTINATOR.**





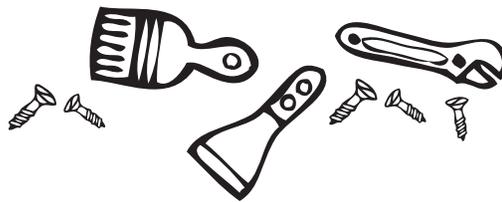
AA NEWCOMER WORKSHOP

8:30 AM — Doors open for fellowship,
coffee & donuts.

This is an OPEN workshop for ANYONE
wishing to learn more about

**“How Alcoholics Anonymous
can work for you.”**

Come with questions, leave with answers!



Nativity Church Pastoral Center
9502 4th Street NW (4th and Alameda)

Hosted by Seeking Serenity Group

**Saturday, December 10th
9-11 AM**



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ALCOHOLISM

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