



August 2022
vol 22/2

Pass It On

Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

<https://www.albuquerqueaa.org/>

505.266.1900

AA News

- ◆ **Central Office is seeking candidates for the position of Alternate Coordinator.** Must have two (2) years continuous sobriety, be a member of a listed A.A. group, and have previous experience working at Central Office.

Must also have a good understanding of Central Office's overall structure, and a good understanding of the 12 Traditions of A.A. as they apply in everyday situations.

Submit resume to:

Central Office of Albuquerque
1921 Alvarado Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

505-266-1900

or

Coordinator@albuquerqueaa.org

- ◆ **The August Area 46 Assembly** is hosted by District 3. It will begin at 8 AM on August 6th and conclude at Noon on August 7th. The location is the Raymond S. Sarracino Middle School in Socorro. See albuquerqueaa.org for more info.

What my Sobriety Means to Me

There was a moment during my rock bottom when a flash of insight hit me: "Something is very wrong with me, and as long as I stay drunk, I will never figure out what that is." This may seem obvious to some, but we alcoholics are usually the last to recognize that our drinking has, at some imperceptible point, morphed from being the solution to everything, to the common denominator behind every disaster.

I have been sober for three years now, and I've only begun to scratch the surface of "what's wrong with me." Moreover, I've come to view the conundrum differently: *what's* wrong with me doesn't matter nearly as much as *how* I can do the next right thing. Without my sobriety, I have no hope of stumbling upon the next right thing. Sobriety, therefore, is a necessary, although not sufficient, requirement for a serene and meaningful life. Sobriety is the foundation of my life, while recovery is the house I build upon that foundation.

Sobriety at least gives me a *chance*. Everybody needs a chance. What I do with that chance is up to me. Sobriety gives me *hope*. It gives me the hope that tomorrow will be better than today, that a year from now will be better than a year ago. Without sobriety, no such hope exists for me.

Sobriety is the first, and most important thing, I have to take care of every day. Without it, nothing else matters. For that reason, I view each day as a success if, at the end of the day, I am sober when my head hits the pillow. Such an achievement is no minor feat for an alcoholic, but a miracle that I get to avail myself of every day, thanks to God and the fellowship of AA.

Stephanie P.

"The purpose of this newsletter is to offer information that may further readers' understanding of the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism; the severity and international scope of the illness; and the worldwide efforts being made to combat it. Publication here does not imply endorsement or affiliation. AA does not conduct or participate in research, nor does it hold any opinion on research conducted by others."



From the Editor...

I welcome contributions from groups, individuals, and AAs from any location. If your group would like to see its monthly birthday list in the PIO, send it to me! I especially appreciate articles such as "What My Sobriety Means to Me." I am looking for the *personal* view on your struggle with alcoholism. Remember Tradition Ten states that "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues." The length for articles is 300 words and can be emailed to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org.
Steven G.

Oldie but Goodie

Two narcissistic AAs had the following conversation as they walked into their meeting room:

AA #1: "I didn't appreciate what you said about me in yesterday's meeting when you said a lot of us in AA are narcissistic."

AA #2: "I was talking about me, because when I share it's always about me."

AA #1: "I know you were talking about me; you were looking right at me when you said it!"

AA #2: "Oh. Were you at the meeting?"

Sheila R.

Fort Worth, Texas

Letter from the Chair

What is the Albuquerque Central Office and Intergroup? (part one)

Our Intergroup was formed almost 50 years ago by the AA groups in the Albuquerque area. As several groups started to grow, they realized they needed someplace public that people could go to find out about AA in our area. There needed to be a phone number people could call and someone to answer it. We needed volume buying power to get books and literature locally available that were cheaper than an individual ordering them from New York. We needed a formal way to exchange ideas amongst the groups. Thus, the Central Office was established and the Intergroup formed to govern it. All the groups decided to contribute on a monthly or quarterly basis to fund this endeavor. The Albuquerque Central Office and the Intergroup includes all groups in Districts 3, 11, 12, 13 & 18.

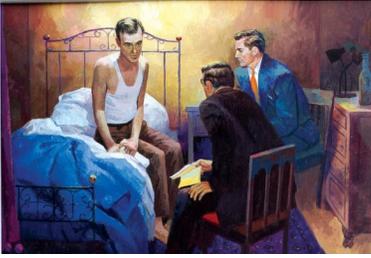
The Central Office has evolved a bit over time but the mission is still the same: ***To do what no one group can do alone.*** The biggest change over all those years was the creation of a website. The Central Office is located at 1921 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, phone number 505-266-1900 and its website is albuquerqueaa.org.

So, what is a Central Office or Intergroup? This is from AA GSO New York:

A central or intergroup office is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community — just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central/intergroup office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups — functions which are best handled by a centralized office — and it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Most members just think our Central Office is a book store and a place to buy medallions. It is that, for sure, and you will not find any place to buy those things cheaper. **But probably the most important function the Central Office provides is being a contact for the AA newcomer.** When someone looks up AA in the phone book or does a web search for "AA Albuquerque" what they find is our Central Office. There are over 2,900 new visits to our website each month. The first AA phone contact for over 80 people each month is with our Central Office. They either call and ask where they can find AA meetings or to find out what AA is all about. That newcomer who came to your meeting last night more than likely found your meeting by contacting our Central Office.

Martin W., Steering Committee Chair, Keep on Keepin' On



From the Westside Noon Group:

WORKING WITH OTHERS

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics!” (Big Book page 89)

But just what do we mean by this and what do we do? The A.A. Pamphlet Questions & Answers on Sponsorship states on page 23, “Carefully planned sponsorship activity within a group is often likely to produce better results than sponsorship left to chance” and suggests:

“Closed-meeting discussions of sponsorship problems and opportunities. Some groups schedule meetings especially for this purpose.

Study of Chapter 7 in the Big Book (“Working With Others”).”

In December 2021 the Westside Noon Group decided to do just this. We started a weekly zoom meeting where we explore these questions by reading and discussing various A.A. literature on the subject and share our experiences, challenges, opportunities and successes with each other. We encourage discussion without descending into harmful cross-talk or anonymity breaks. The results have exceeded our expectations.

Our Discussion Guide includes:

20 Readings from Big Book, Chapter 7 Working With Others

4 Readings from Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, Step 12

A.A. Pamphlet P-15 Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (What Is Sponsorship?; For the Person Seeking a Sponsor; For the Person Wanting to Be a Sponsor; For Groups Planning Sponsorship Activity; Service Sponsorship)

Over 30 entries on Twelfth-Stepping from As Bill Sees It

We welcome all A.A. members, new and seasoned, to join us on Thursdays at 1:30 PM. You can find the details on the Central Office website <https://albuquerqueaa.org/meetings/working-with-others-2/> and the Meeting Guide App.

Short bio of Dr. Bob (from *PASS IT ON—Bill Wilson and the A.A. message*)

Dr. Bob, 55 years old at the time of their meeting, was about 15 years older than Bill. He, too, was a native Vermonter - from St. Johnsbury, about 75 miles north of East Dorset. As the only child of a prominent judge, he grew up in comfortable circumstances but chafed under the strict discipline of his early years.

Bob's drinking started while he was a student at Dartmouth College. He had a large capacity for alcohol during his undergraduate years, and by the time he was in medical school, drinking had become a problem. In fact, he dropped out of the University of Michigan during his second year because of drinking. Although he made up his work and did well in his exams, he was asked to leave the university. He completed his professional studies at Rush Medical School in Chicago. He almost failed to graduate from Rush; by his senior year, his drinking became so bad that he was unable to complete final exams and was obliged to attend school for two additional quarters - and to remain absolutely dry - in order to graduate.

Bob remained dry during a hard two years' internship at Akron City Hospital, then opened an office in a downtown Akron office building. Both his scholarship and his professional work were commendable when he was sober.

Soon after opening his office, Dr. Bob started drinking again, and was eventually in such difficulty that his father sent another doctor out to Akron to bring him home. Several months of rest and recuperation in Vermont enabled Bob to return to Akron and his medical practice. After a "whirlwind" 17-year courtship, he and Ann Ripley married in 1915, when Bob was 36. They bought a home, and in 1918 their first child Bob, was born. Another child, Sue, was adopted.

With the passage of Prohibition, Bob started drinking yet again. His rationale was that he was now safe, because soon there would be nothing available anyhow! He continued to drink heavily through the 1920s, and both his practice and his family life deteriorated. By the early 1930s, he and his family were desperate.

During this 17-year period, Dr Bob had worked out a grim routine that permitted him to drink and somehow still maintain his medical practice. Careful never to go near the hospital while he was drinking, he would stay sober until four o'clock in the afternoon. "It was really a horrible nightmare, this earning money, getting liquor, smuggling it home, getting drunk, morning jitters, taking large doses of sedatives to make it possible for me to earn more money, and so on ad nauseam," he wrote. "I used to promise my wife, my friends, and my children that I would drink no more - promises which seldom kept me sober through the day, though I was very sincere when I made them."

In contrast with that way of life, the Oxford group members were attractive to Dr. Bob because of their apparent "poise, health, and happiness. They spoke with great freedom from embarrassment, which I could never do," he wrote, "and they seemed very much at ease on all occasions and appeared very healthy... I was self-conscious and ill at ease most of the time, my health was at the breaking point, and I was thoroughly miserable." He said he gave their program much time and study but got tight every night nevertheless. (To be continued...)

From General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

March 9, 2022

Story Solicitation Fifth Edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous —Big Book Deadline for submissions: October 31, 2022 5BBStory@aa.org

The Preface to the Second Edition of the Big Book explains that revisions to the personal history section of the book were made in order “to represent the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby to reach more Alcoholics.” In that spirit, the 2021 General Service Conference recommended that “a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect the current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action:

“The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion’, ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare’, and the Appendices remain as is.”

In response to the 2021 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a Fifth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking a wide range of A.A. recovery experience of members in the Fellowship.

The trustees’ Literature Committee is searching for recovery stories of our members for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition which are from a broad cross-section of our local communities, all stories are of value. As Bill writes on page 29 of the book Alcoholics Anonymous: “Our hope is that many alcoholic men and women, desperately in need, will see these pages, and we believe that it is only by fully disclosing ourselves and our problems that they will be persuaded to say, ‘Yes, I am one of them too; I must have this thing.’”

It is the Literature Committee’s shared hope that any new stories from our current membership will help future alcoholics to identify and find recovery in the pages of a Fifth edition. The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 3500 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages.

Central Office Profit and Loss	June 2022	Jan to June 2022 (YTD)
Revenue		
Contributions	7,584.33	31,161.90
Other income from AA sources		
Rent income - Area 46 Archives		900.00
Total - Income from AA sources		900.00
Interest - Nusenda Savings Account	1.85	21.94
Sales of Inventory	2,779.10	17,448.56
Total Revenue	\$10,365.28	\$49,532.40
Cost of goods sold	\$1,892.25	\$11,896.82
Gross Profit	\$8,473.03	\$37,635.58
Expenditures		
Business expenses	735.77	1,781.72
Office expenses	1,080.27	7,163.82
Special Events expense	285.59	872.50
Payroll Expense	4,476.09	26,691.82
Total Expenditures	\$6,577.72	\$37,892.01
Purchases		1,382.15
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,895.31	\$-256.43
Net Revenue	\$1,895.31	\$-256.43

Please include your complete name, address, and email/ phone information on the first page of the submission. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files. anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not. Stories will be accepted in English, French or Spanish.

Further information on where to submit your story will be provided to the Fellowship through Box 459, the A.A. website and more. If you have any questions, please write to 5BBStory@aa.org

Thank you to all who are participating in this process!