



# Pass It On

Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

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

Central Office, 1921 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 505-266-1900

January 2025 25/1

- ◆ Intergroup is looking for dependable sober folks to take meetings into various Sandoval County treatment facilities. For more information, visit [albuquerqueaa.org](http://albuquerqueaa.org) or text the District 18 Treatment Chair at 702-882-5744 or 505-417-4296.
- ◆ The 61<sup>st</sup> International Women's Conference (IWC) will be Jan. 30 – Feb. 3, 2025 in San Diego, CA. The IWC Advisory Council is also seeking volunteers for two service positions (treasurer and technology chair-in-training). Visit [albuquerqueaa.org](http://albuquerqueaa.org) for more details.
- ◆ Area 46 will host the Southwest Regional Forum November 14-16, 2025, in Albuquerque. Contact [2025SWRegionalForum@nm-aa.org](mailto:2025SWRegionalForum@nm-aa.org).
- ◆ Central Office Intergroup meetings are on the second Sunday of every month, 2 p.m. in person at 1921 Alvarado Dr. NE or on Zoom.
- ◆ Please send submissions or feedback for *Pass It On* to [passiton@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:passiton@albuquerqueaa.org).
- ◆ Hablemos Español - Oficina Intergrupala Hispana, 505-266-3688, 1923 Alvarado Dr NE, ABQ. NE (Ste 3); [aaoficinahispanadealbuquerque.org](http://aaoficinahispanadealbuquerque.org)

## Pass It On is Back!

**Happy New Year! Granted, it's early, but it feels like a great year to be sober.** My name is Anne, I'm an alcoholic, and I've just joined the Albuquerque Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup as the volunteer editor of *Pass It On*. If you've been sober in Albuquerque for more than a few years, you may remember this little newsletter, and you may realize you haven't seen it in a while. Like too many things, *Pass It On* faded out toward the end of the pandemic.

**I also faded out of AA toward the end of the pandemic.** The best I can explain it, even to myself, is that after multiple decades in AA I got burned out. I didn't go to any meetings at all for what felt like two years but might not have been quite that long. Around October, I got a nudge to return, and decided to seal the deal by hitting 30 meetings in 30 days. One of my first meetings was the Friday night speaker meeting at "the Bag" featuring Jaclyn S., Intergroup's Outreach Coordinator. She spoke with enthusiasm about her service work, and in doing so fired me up about it. She also mentioned the need for an editor to bring back *Pass It On*. I was all in. After my "break," I am freshly enthusiastic about AA, and my willingness to resurrect *Pass It On* has been greeted with similar enthusiasm at Intergroup. So here we are – new beginnings, just in time for the New Year.

**There is room for you in *Pass It On*.** The newsletter is an outlet for all things Intergroup – upcoming events, service opportunities, and the hard work that's happening at Central Office to provide support for people getting and staying sober. Beyond that, we're still open to ideas – maybe your ideas! Want to write up your experience, strength, and hope? Got special insight to share about a step, tradition, concept, or principle of AA? Feel like writing up your home group's upcoming event, or reporting on one that's just happened? Maybe you've created a sobriety-related joke or cartoon. Send any of it to [passiton@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:passiton@albuquerqueaa.org); we'd love to include it.

**Meanwhile, a special thanks** to Guy S. and Martin W., whose words from 2022 I'm enjoying very much as I use the last issue of *Pass It On* as a template. Thank you for your service, and if you're still around, we hope you enjoy the *Pass It On* of today.

## Adopt A Library!

Intergroup's Community Outreach Committee has received approval from Albuquerque Public Libraries to have A.A. public information materials available in its 19 libraries.

The six large libraries (Central and Unser, Cherry Hills, Erna Fergusson, International District, Main Library and Taylor Ranch) will carry subscriptions to the Grapevine and La Vina, a brochure rack with 4 pamphlets, and a 4 x 6" sign with contact information and the QR code for the Central Office. The smaller libraries will have the pamphlets, pamphlet rack, and sign. Visit <https://abqlibrary.org/hours-locations> for a list of the libraries.

We are asking Albuquerque Intergroup districts and A.A. groups to select one or more of these libraries to "adopt." By "adopt" we mean help Community Outreach pay the costs of the materials for that library and perhaps take an interest in how these materials are being received by the public. (For example, if one pamphlet is not moving at all, or another is "flying" off the rack, please let us know!) Groups will not need to keep the pamphlet racks filled; Main Library has graciously agreed to restock pamphlet racks at all of the branches as needed.

As of this writing, all of the large libraries have been adopted for 2025, but none of the smaller libraries has been spoken for. We have asked for a donation of \$82 for a large library and \$32 for a small one to cover anticipated expenses for one year. If you do not want to adopt anything, but want to donate to the effort, please feel free to do so!

So that we can keep accurate records of donations for this project, we ask: (1) that donations be made by check payable to Central Office of Albuquerque, (2) that the memo section of the check state "library project" and, if you wish to adopt a library, provide the name of the library you wish to adopt, and (3) that the check arrive as soon as possible in 2025.

Because A.A. is a "guest" of the library system, adopters should not seek to have their library do anything "extra" like carry additional A.A. publications, provide meeting space, or post flyers for your events. Please go through Community Outreach with any questions or suggestions.

Questions? Contact Jenn. S. at 505-220-0790 or [AdoptALibrary@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:AdoptALibrary@albuquerqueaa.org) or Jaclyn S. at [communityoutreach@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:communityoutreach@albuquerqueaa.org).



*A cutting descended from a Swedish ivy that once adorned Bill W.'s office, from a past Any Lengths fundraiser.*

## The Annual Any Lengths Fundraiser

The Any Lengths women's group is gearing up for its 9<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser for the Albuquerque Central Office. This year's theme is "Staying in the Fold of Love," with an emcee, speakers, lots of food, a silent auction and more from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at Monte Vista Cristian Church.

Melissa G., one of this year's organizers, said the first of three 20-minute speakers (on Steps 7, 8, and 9) will begin at 1, and from there the day unfolds like a cross between a workshop and a mini-retreat.

"We open it like a regular meeting. We have little breaks and that's when we announce the silent auction or say 'Hey, come get some posolé!' We have regular food so people don't get all sugared up on the snacks."

The silent auction features art, crafts, baked goods and other items from local sober talent as well as cuttings from a variety of plants in the homes of the group members—including, last year, cuttings descended from Bill W.'s Swedish ivy.

The Any Lengths group wants to make sure AA members know they are all welcome (not just women)!

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*Write about your home group's upcoming event! [passiton@albuquerqueaa.org](mailto:passiton@albuquerqueaa.org). Pictures welcome (with no identifiable faces).*

# The first step: a reminder of powerlessness and surrender

By Tom C.

Why is it that everyone seems to have something to say about Step One in those January meetings? You know the ones—the meetings where we dissect the first step, and every daily reflection somehow circles back to it, often focusing on powerlessness.

For me, these moments have become something to appreciate. It's a blessing that, at least once a year, we're reminded to reflect on our powerlessness and unmanageability, no matter where we are in our sobriety.

I especially enjoy attending meetings with newcomers. When I see someone truly struggling—and they manage to speak the truth about life's pain, describing how they're just trying to stay alive, stay out of jail, maintain a connection with a partner, or salvage a relationship—it reminds me of how grateful I am to have something to offer in the area of surrender.

Shouldn't we all carry a key to the door of surrender? I try to keep mine close at hand, so I can access it whenever needed. This seems to keep an open connection with a higher power, and I believe that when I stay open, the universe sends newcomers my way—people who need help finding that key. And I can help.

There's something refreshingly honest about a newcomer walking in with wide-eyed curiosity, asking, "Why does life feel so awful? And why do I have this urge to make it worse?" It's like being caught in a double bind—trapped in suffering, yet craving more. But in sobriety, each act of surrender is personal. I get to uncover, define, and embrace where I need to raise my white flag. Sometimes it happens while I'm driving; other times, it's while I'm waiting in line at a store. Surrender isn't a one-time event—it's an ongoing practice, much like when I first recognized my powerlessness over alcohol and surrendered to that truth.

These annual reminders are invaluable. They help me reconnect with my purpose, especially when it comes to working with others. Whether as a spiritual advisor, a step study guide, a living version of the Big Book, or just someone who listens with love and care, remembering my own powerlessness keeps me grounded. I need to remember who I was when I first walked through those doors—shaking and holding that Styrofoam cup of hot coffee. Would I still recognize that person?

When I look at a newcomer, I know I need to embrace that version of myself. I need to recognize the shadow of who I once was in them—and meet that with

compassion. This is echoed every time I say the Serenity Prayer: "Accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

I'm grateful for the opportunity to regain perspective on my sober journey. Seeing newcomers surrender and ask for help is a beautiful thing to behold. I continue to practice gratitude for what I have today, always keeping in mind the essential lesson of powerlessness and surrender.

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## Meet Your Central Office Volunteer: *Margaret*

**Home group:** Spark of Light, 9 p.m. most nights at the Heights Club (9:15 on Sundays).

**What other kinds of service roles do you fill in AA?** I have four sponsees, and I take a meeting into Kaseman Behavioral Health Center on Tuesdays. I speak at meetings at hospitals and institutions; Karl will ask me to speak and I'll go do that. I host a Thursday Zoom meeting.

**What do you do during your shifts?** I clean a lot. I vacuum a lot, clean the tables, ring up customers, answer the phone. Right now I'm taking a little bit of inventory, counting booklets and things. If I get any time, I sometimes go read the books on the bookshelves. The new Plain Language Big Book has been my recent one.

**How has working at Central Office benefitted your sobriety?** The service part of our triangle is the spiritual part of our triangle. That's the thing that brings me closer to my higher power.

**Any particular call you received that stands out in your mind?** A lot of times, if it's a newcomer, especially a female, I'll go and meet them at a meeting and introduce them around. Those are the ones that stand out.

**Any words for someone thinking about a shift at Central Office?** Do it. This is the most chill desk job you'll ever have. You get to help people, it's just a few hours, and you can really make a difference.

## Keep Your Seatbelts Fastened

Intergroup's Chair Stays for a Second Term

When Brian N.'s first term was coming to an end as Intergroup's Chair, he offered to decline to run for a second term, even though the bylaws allow for one. It wasn't that Brian was burned out—he wasn't. But he wondered if he'd worn out his fellow trusted servants. "I said hey, there have been a lot of changes in the past two years. We have new bylaws. We have new policies. We have new insurance. We doubled our space. There were many decisions related to the traditions and the concepts. If there's been enough and you need to digest all this, let me know and I'll step down."

But no one cried uncle, and no one else ran. So at the December Intergroup meeting, Brian left the (Zoom) meeting while the membership voted, unanimously, to re-elect him, and promptly rejoined the meeting as its continuing Chair. Brian's rejected offer to walk away comes after two years that saw important shifts in the way Intergroup conducts the business of Albuquerque AA.

When the Intergroup first elected him, there were a lot of issues to address. For example, Central Office was on month-to-month rent. And although the landlord was trustworthy and a friend of the program, the arrangement didn't provide the stability befitting a city's AA program. The list went on: Central Office had not filed some of the paperwork necessary to do business in New Mexico. Central Office's employees weren't getting sick leave as required by a new law. There was non-Conference approved literature for sale in the bookstore.

The Steering Committee oversaw the process to get Central Office into a lease and double its size, filed appropriate paperwork with the New Mexico Attorney General, acquired insurance, addressed new policies on complying with the traditions, and made a number of other upgrades.

The end of his first term wasn't the only time Brian initiated a gut-check with the other Intergroup members. During the term, he once told the group, "if it looks to you like I'm acting like a director, that's what it looks like to me too. I'll stop doing what I'm doing if the Intergroup tells me to, but we have some situations here." Although he occasionally encountered gentle resistance in the form of requests to keep things simple, for the most part Intergroup pulled together to make the changes.

As he embarks on a second term, Brian says the

position "is good for my soul. It's good for me and so far, as far as I can tell, the changes the Intergroup and Steering Committee have made are good for the fellowship." In the coming two years, Brian says his hope for Intergroup is that it continues to become "empowered," realizing that "it is the group conscience for the Central Office, and it is the final authority on everything that occurs there." And he looks forward to watching the Central Office settle into its stable and expanded digs as it serves the Albuquerque AA fellowship. Beyond that, he says, he's eager to find the person who will step into the role next. "Two years is no time at all," he said. "Who wants to do it? Let's get you comfortable with whatever you need to learn."



*After a holiday season of heavy drinking, we want alcoholics who are suffering to know how to find us. The Community Outreach Committee has printed these flyers on bright yellow paper so they will stand out on a bulletin board. Copies are available at Central Office, and Community Outreach hopes that AA members will post them at post offices, banks, restaurants, bars(!), churches, libraries, senior centers, day care centers, hospitals, medical centers, MVD locations, offices of bail bondsmen, or any place with a public bulletin board. Please ask permission before posting and be careful not to use tape, adhesive, or tacks that could damage a wall or surface!*