



Pass It On

Albuquerque AA Intergroup Central Office Newsletter
<https://www.albuquerqueaa.org/>

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

February 2025 25/2

Central Office News

Job Announcement: Central Office Coordinator

The Central Office of Albuquerque is seeking a Coordinator to oversee daily operations, manage volunteers, maintain financial records, and support the A.A. community. This paid special worker position is distinct from trusted servant roles and follows A.A. traditions. Preferred qualifications include experience in business administration, nonprofit management, or a related field. For full details and application instructions, visit: <https://albuquerqueaa.org/coordinator-position/>

Holiday Bustle at Central Office

Central Office was hopping in the month of December, the last month for which we have counts of contacts. Volunteers took 227 phone calls and visited with 314 people who walked in the door. Over half of the people who called were seeking basic information about AA; about 10 percent of the people who walked in the doors of Central Office were seeking such information. The largest proportion of in-person visitors, about half, came to buy recovery-related literature. All of these services are facilitated by dozens of Central Office volunteers who say it's deeply rewarding to make sure the doors of AA are open (**see page 3!**). Central Office is staffed by a combination of several paid trusted servants and the many volunteers. Your contributions keep the lights on and the phone lines open. A special thanks to all the groups who contributed in the last reporting cycle (December):

Bozos On The Bus; Dawn Patrol; Free Spirits; Freedom from Bondage; Freethinkers Group; Goodfellas; Ladies' Room; Live And Let Live; Lone Rangers; Monday night ABC; North Valley Group; Old 66 Group; One Day At A Time; Penny Lane Group; Promises Group; Roundup Group; Saturday Morning Men's Book Study; Serendipity Group; Sober Elements; Strange Mental Blank Spots; Sunrise Catchers; Tuesday Knights; Tuesday Women's; Wake Up Call; Women's Gratitude Group.

- ♦ **Pass it On needs writers! We'll take sobriety-related stories (what it was like, what happened, what it's like now), short reports on group events, even sobriety-related jokes! This month we feature a road trip to WACYPAA, karaoke at Isleta Club, artwork by our new Art Editor Heather H., and more. Please send submissions or feedback for *Pass It On* to passiton@albuquerqueaa.org.**
- ♦ Sober Super Bowl! 4 – 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, at the Heights Club, 8520 Marble Ave. in Albuquerque. Potluck at halftime and a 50/50 football pool!
- ♦ Intergroup is looking for dependable sober folks to take meetings into various treatment facilities. Visit albuquerqueaa.org or text the District 18 Treatment Chair at 702-882-5744 or 505-417-4296.
- ♦ Area 46 will host the Southwest Regional Forum November 14-16, 2025, in Albuquerque. Contact 2025SWRegionalForum@nm-aa.org.
- ♦ Central Office Intergroup meets the second Sunday every month, 2 p.m. at 1921 Alvarado Dr. NE or on Zoom.
- ♦ Hablemos Español - Oficina Intergrupala Hispana, 505-266-3688, 1923 Alvarado Dr. NE, ABQ. (Ste 3); aaoficinahispanadealbuquerque.org

YPAA Till We DIEPAA

By Lizzi J.

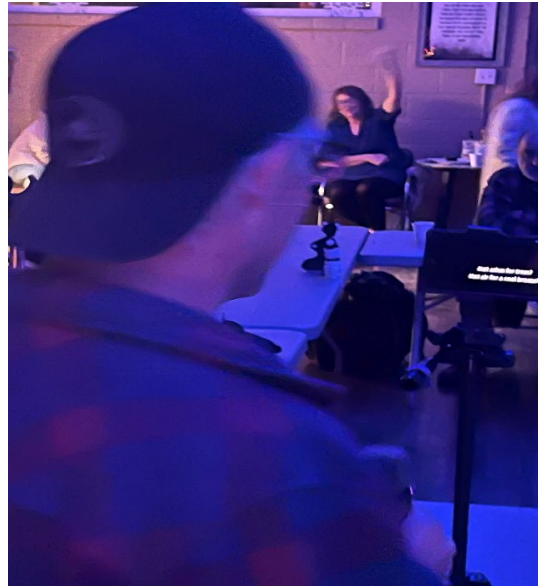
When I got sober, I never imagined I'd be shot gunning Redbull with my besties in a Downtown Denver hotel room, but here we are.

I came into the rooms just before the pandemic shut down the rooms and I became known as a Zoom baby. If anyone wonders if Zoom works, I'm living proof. I heard so much wonderful recovery through the speakers on my computer, and something I kept hearing about was conventions. They sounded absolutely life changing and a bit like music festivals, which I quite enjoyed. When restrictions began to lift and we were able to gather again, I got on Google and looked up AA Conventions. I found the International Conference for Young People in AA (ICYPAA). I had to look up the definition of "young people," as I was in my early thirties, and to my delight it said young at heart. I reached out to a friend in the Albuquerque Area that I met on Zoom and we planned our trip to ICYPAA New Orleans. I had never seen anything like it. People were shouting during the readings, dancing on chairs, and incredibly pumped up about recovery and the chance to be together. It was overwhelming – and of course I had to get more.

At ICYPAA, a whole group from Albuquerque welcomed my friend and I with open arms. They were doing outreach to get people to sign up for SWACYPAA, the Southwest Area Conference, which was being held in Albuquerque. At this point I was completely taken with the whole experience, when we got home I went to the SWACYPAA host committee meeting, got a service position, and a new world was born around me. We traveled together, did events together, and got deep in service as a team. I made lifelong friends and we all stayed sober together. Out of this convention BURQYPAA was born, and we headed to WACYPAA Denver this January to start off the New Year right.

WACYPAA is the Western Area Conference, and BURQYPAA is planning on bidding for it next year. There were about 20 of us from the Albuquerque area there and it could not have been more fun. We danced the night away, played games until the early hours of the morning and made new friends that we will continue this journey with. We also went to panels, were of service, and heard some amazing speakers. The car ride home was full of conversation about the program, naps, and giggles. Without the YPAA community and these wonderful opportunities to enhance my program, my sobriety would not be the same. After every conference I come home with a renewed vigor for Alcoholics Anonymous and am reminded of the immense amount of freedom and fun this program has brought into my life. I am forever grateful for the group that showed me love and friendship at my first YPAA and brought me into this wonderful sub culture of AA.

Sound fun? To get involved, contact Lizzi at 575-937-1720 or join the BURQYPAA group on Facebook.



An anonymous karaoke singer performs in front of anonymous meeting makers at the Isleta Club.

Karaoke night at Isleta Club

On the last Friday of every month, the Isleta Club takes birthday meetings to the next level. The Isleta Group normally meets at 7:30 each Friday, but on the last Friday the group hosts a potluck at 6:30, turns the regular meeting into a birthday meeting, and follows it up with karaoke.

On a recent last Friday, the potluck featured homemade chili with local flair (rich and spicy, with more green chili than tomato), shepherd's pie, loads of side dishes and desserts, and two ginormous pizzas. The regulars to the meeting enjoy obvious camaraderie, but warmly welcomed a handful of newcomers and visitors, including one young man who was attending his very first meeting. Anniversaries ranged from that young man's 24-hour chips to a perplexingly young woman who picked up a chip for 24 years. (Just kidding – that woman was me and I'm not really that young!) And the karaoke, assisted by an enthusiastic DJ named Rocky, was relaxed and fun, showcasing a diverse range of genres and talents. So if you're looking for something fun to do on a last Friday, consider the Isleta Club, 1829 Isleta Blvd SW, from 6:30 until the singing stops.

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

Meet Your Central Office Volunteer:

Jay

Home group: Free Spirits, 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Monte Vista Christian Church.

What other kinds of service roles have you filled in AA? I was the Corrections Chair for District 12, and then I was District Committee Member (DCM) representing the District at Area meetings. I was also the schedule editor for Central Office, a Steering Committee position.

How long have you been working at Central Office? My first sponsor wanted me to go be a desk worker. They had a rule about you needed to be sober for six months or a year, and I'd only been in AA for a few months. So I waited until that time period was up, and then I started volunteering. That would have been in late 1991-ish and have done it on and off ever since.

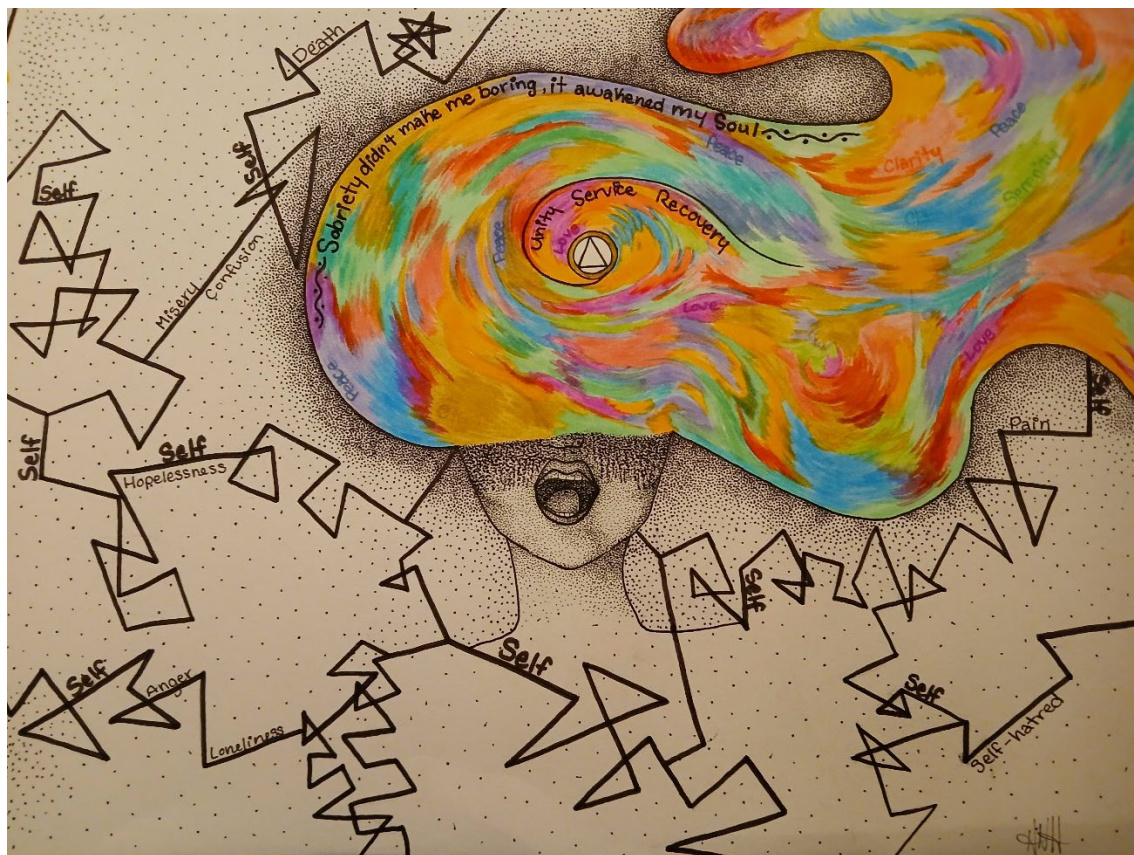
Why did you decide to work a desk shift at Central Office? To give back, to be of service, and to honor the Responsibility Pledge: when anybody reaches out, I want AA to be there. Back then there were no

computers. If somebody was looking for a meeting, they had to call Central Office. We'd get 10, 12 calls in a typical shift, just people looking for a meeting. We had a big map on the wall with all the meetings marked. That was up on the wall for a really long time.

How has working at Central Office benefitted your sobriety? Well, I'm sober still! I guess it helped! Maybe it's the feeling that I'm a part of something that works, and I want to help keep it going.

What is the best part about working at Central Office? In the beginning, I read every piece of literature that was in the building. I worked the late shift and there was lots of time. That was very good for me in my early recovery. *AA Comes of Age* brought tears to my eyes, the miracle of AA coming into being.

Any words for someone thinking about a shift at Central Office? Oh, do it. You won't be sorry.



Have sobriety-related art you'd like to see in Pass It On? Send a jpeg to Heather H., aprilanimal4@gmail.com. This is Heather's piece. She says: My artwork represents my miserable chaotic life before AA, and how the miracle of the program is changing my life.

In the Spirit of Rotation: Outgoing Intergroup Officers Reflect on Their Service

With the end of the year arrived the end of several terms of service at Albuquerque AA Intergroup. And as with any ending and new beginning, the transitions provided an opportunity to reflect on the nature of the positions and how they serve the Albuquerque AA. Gary, the outgoing Treasurer and Tawnya, the outgoing Vice Chair, took a few moments to reflect on their service.

Gary got sober in Philadelphia, where he worked his way through a number of positions in his home group and then in one of five Intergroups there, finally settling into the finance committee. Later, he and his wife decided to move to Albuquerque, and it wasn't long before the Central Office Coordinator, Steve V., approached him and let him know Intergroup needed a treasurer.

"My wife was laughing like a hyena," he remembers, but he had to say yes: "I could never pay back to AA what AA has given so freely to me."

Although Gary's sophisticated numbers and charts have been invaluable as Intergroup has navigated important financial decisions during his term, Gary says the actual money part of the job isn't that important. "The big deal is the traditions and the principles," he says. "Really, ultimately, I have very little control over the money. That's to be delegated to the people responsible for the various functions. I'm only there to provide a sanity check, not to control the money." He said that's different from an ordinary business, where the treasurer might oversee the actual spending. With Intergroup, where many officers oversee programs such as community outreach or hospitals and institutions, he says, "you have faith that the person with the budget is implementing it wisely."

Looking back on his two-year term, Gary notes that he changed the office quite a bit. When he started, Intergroup would look at the previous year's spending and create a budget based on that. "The problem was, we had to increase our office space and increase our spending exponentially." So Gary took the approach of assessing what Intergroup would need to meet those budgetary requirements. "We do our best to predict our spending and the groups and individuals agreeing to the budget is saying, 'we will fund that.'"

The other big change, Gary notes, is the sales and inventory system at Central Office. "We used to have this awful paper receipt system. It was a nightmare for me to reconcile, and our inventory was never correct. The volunteers were responsible for noting exactly which inventory was sold but we have five different types of Big Books, for example, and the volunteers work maybe three hours a week. Our

bookkeeping was so atrocious." During Gary's term, Central Office transitioned to a digital system that allows the volunteers to simply scan barcodes. "For a small office like this," he says, "that is like giving a cave man an iPhone. It's an immense jump."

As he prepares to finalize a year-end report and rotate off Intergroup, Gary says he's satisfied that his term went well. "I feel I met the needs of the groups and the community and left it better than I found it," he said.

When Tawnya became Intergroup's vice chair, she hadn't been involved from service in a little while and she'd gotten disconnected from local meetings. She first got involved as an Intergroup representative for her home group, but soon discovered there was a vacancy for a Vice Chair. "I thought it would be a good role that matches my experience," she says. "I had previously worked the desk at Central Office, so I already knew the environment."

Tawnya said the biggest surprise of her role was how busy it got. "This cycle we accomplished a lot. We got policies and procedures in place, revamped the bylaws, hired Karl (Central Office's Alternate Coordinator). We changed the bylaws so it's clear to Intergroup that they've got the power and they tell the Steering committee what do to, and not vice versa." She said the most enjoyable aspect of the position has been working with the small group on the Steering Committee.

"Brian, Gary, Steve K were most consistent on Steering Committee. That was a really nice, community-building experience."

She said she'd advise her replacement to "be prepared for challenges that will require you to practice your principles. Keep your program strong, and make sure you're checking in with your sponsor." She also said studying up on [AA Conference Service Manual] would be a good idea for anyone not familiar with the AA service structure. "AA tends to do things a little differently and a little more effectively, I think."

As for what's next after Intergroup, Tawnya said she's working on service projects outside of AA, specifically community initiatives in Albuquerque's International District.

But she said her time on Intergroup has been fulfilling. "The surest thing that's going to keep us sober is working with another alcoholic. You're helping hold together this entity that lets us have an office open every day of the week. I think it's incredibly important to give back."

What is the Steering Committee? The Intergroup Steering Committee is an advisory board made up of trusted servants that makes business decisions for Intergroup, is overseen by Intergroup, and may make recommendations to Intergroup related to Traditions and Concepts.