



# EL FAROLITO

Official Newsletter of New Mexico Area 46 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

## Delegate Report Jen's Cranky A.A. Opinions

For my second-to-last *El Farolito* report, I'd like to toss out a few opinions I've formed during my time in Alcoholics Anonymous.

**1. AA is not a selfish program.** Don't get me wrong. I understand what people mean when they say this is a selfish program. It has saved my life and benefitted me immeasurably. But I think it's important to remember that this was intended to be an altruistic program. We help ourselves by helping others. I think if we lose sight of the "helping others" part of the equation, we're not going to be much help to ourselves.

**2. Conformity is not mandatory.** Some bleeding deacons give the impression that theirs is the only way to stay sober. But throughout Bill W.'s writings, he emphasizes the importance of tolerance and acceptance. The long form of Tradition Three states that AA membership ought never depend on money or conformity. If we want to help as many people as we can, we need to accept that they may have different beliefs and different approaches to applying the program. I think the pamphlet "A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" expresses it very nicely: "What is really important is that AA has more than demonstrated that the house it builds can accommodate the rebel as well as the conformist, the radical as well as the conservative, the agnostic as well as the believer." But, feel free to disagree with me. That's what non-conformity is all about!

**3. Rotation, rotation, rotation.** We often say in AA that we only learn our jobs once we're rotating out, but I think we can do better. It's no exaggeration to say that lives are at stake here. When we begin something new, we can seek out the experience of those who came before us, both face-to-face and through our literature. And, as soon as we rotate into a position, we can start thinking about who might come after us. We can start encouraging and developing them. And once we rotate on, we have to let it go and let our successors do things their own way. Concept IX encourages each of us, as AA leaders, to develop our own vision.

**4. No one cares how they did it where you used to live.** It's true, a good idea can come from anywhere. But it doesn't add anything to say, "This is the way they did in my old Area/District/Home Group." We tend to be sensitive people and no one likes to be told they're doing it wrong. A genuinely helpful and non-judgmental suggestion will go a lot further. I think we also need to consider whether we're trying to remake our new AA home in the image of the one we left behind. "Different" doesn't always mean "worse."

### INSIDE

...

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Area Contacts         | 2  |
| Trusted Servants      | 4  |
| Area Financials       | 5  |
| Committee News        | 6  |
| District News         | 11 |
| Birthdays             | 14 |
| ELF Financials        | 15 |
| Ass'y Minutes         | 16 |
| Flyers                | 18 |
| Interview w/Nell Wing |    |

**5. If we focus on the solution, singleness of purpose will follow.** I don't want to listen to lengthy drug stories any more than anyone else. But I don't want to listen to lengthy drunkalogs, traffic tales, and other irrelevant nonsense either. Identification is important, especially for newcomers. So I think we do need to share enough of our stories of alcoholism to know we all belong in the same room. But after that, we can turn our attention to the solution. When the focus is on applying the program in our lives, we can spend less time worrying about the differences in our backgrounds.

We alcoholics tend to run to extremes and have difficulty achieving a balance. I think AA succeeds when we have people of different views balancing each other out. That's the way it's been throughout our history, much to our benefit. So if your opinions are exactly the opposite

(Continued on page 3)

## Area Trusted Servants and District DCMs Contact List

| OFFICERS   | COMMITTEE CHAIRS  | DCMs   |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| DELEGATE<br>Jen N.<br>Delegate@nm-aa.org                   | CPC<br>Brian V.<br>cpc@nm-aa.org                                    | DISTRICT 1<br>Deanna L.<br>district1@nm-aa.org   | DISTRICT 12<br>Jaclyn S.<br>district12@nm-aa.org  |
| ALT DELEGATE<br>Jim H.<br>altdelegate@nm-aa.org            | CORRECTIONAL FAC.<br>Eloy M.<br>corrections@nm-aa.org               | DISTRICT 2<br>Michelle B.<br>district2@nm-aa.org | DISTRICT 13<br>Rich R.<br>district13@nm-aa.org    |
| AREA CHAIRPERSON<br>Teresa F.<br>chair@nm-aa.org           | EL FAROLITO EDITOR<br>(2015-2016)<br>Jay M.<br>elfarolito@nm-aa.org | DISTRICT 3<br>Martha G.<br>district3@nm-aa.org   | DISTRICT 14<br>Deb M.<br>district14@nm-aa.org     |
| ALT AREA CHAIRPERSON<br>Francisco A.<br>altchair@nm-aa.org | FINANCE<br>Kurt K.<br>finance@nm-aa.org                             | DISTRICT 4<br>Ron N.<br>district4@nm-aa.org      | DISTRICT 15<br>Jeffrey H.<br>District15@nm-aa.org |
| SECRETARY<br>Patty H.<br>secretary@nm-aa.org               | GRAPEVINE<br>Zachery (Zac) D.<br>grapevine@nm-aa.org                | DISTRICT 5<br>Patience B.<br>District5@nm-aa.org | DISTRICT 16<br>Merri B.<br>district16@nm-aa.org   |
| REGISTRAR<br>Rosie F.<br>registrar@nm-aa.org               | LITERATURE<br>John T.<br>literature@nm-aa.org                       | DISTRICT 6<br>Coral C.<br>district6@nm-aa.org    | DISTRICT 17<br>Antonio C.<br>district17@nm-aa.org |
| TREASURER<br>Teresa J.<br>treasurer@nm-aa.org              | PUBLIC INFORMATION<br>Tom C.<br>pi@nm-aa.org                        | DISTRICT 7<br>Nabor M.<br>district7@nm-aa.org    | DISTRICT 18<br>Mike D.<br>district18@nm-aa.org    |
| COMMITTEE CHAIRS   | TREATMENT<br>Lawrence M.<br>treatment@nm-aa.org                     | DISTRICT 8<br>Mikel W.<br>district8@nm-aa.org    | DISTRICT 19<br>Eduardo J.<br>district19@nm-aa.org |
| ARCHIVES<br>Bill L.<br>archiveschair@nm-aa.org             | WEB SITE<br>Brett B.<br>webchair@nm-aa.org                          | DISTRICT 9<br>Steve D.<br>district9@nm-aa.org    |   |
| ARCHIVIST<br>Olivia O.<br>archivist@nm-aa.org              | YOUNG PEOPLE<br>Allison (Ally) T.<br>ypaa@nm-aa.org                 | DISTRICT 10<br>Marcus B.<br>District10@nm-aa.org |   |
| BILINGUAL<br>Oscar R.<br>bilingual@nm-aa.org               |   | DISTRICT 11<br>Joseph T.<br>district11@nm-aa.org |   |
| BRIDGE THE GAP<br>Dave F.<br>btg@nm-aa.org                 |   |  |   |



*(Continued from page 1)*

of mine, I say, that's great! Your voice is needed in the group conscience.

In grateful service, Jen N.

## *Delegado Informe*

### **A.A. Opiniones de Jen**

Por mi segundo al último informe de El Farolito, me gustaría brindar algunas opiniones que he formado durante mi tiempo en Alcohólicos Anónimos.

1. A.A. no es un programa egoísta. No me malinterpreten. Yo entiendo lo que quieren decir las personas cuando dicen que este es un programa egoísta. Se ha salvado mi vida y me ha beneficiado enormemente. Pero creo que es importante recordar que esta fue la intención de ser un programa altruista. Le ayudamos a nosotros mismos por ayudar a los demás. Creo que si perdemos de vista el "ayudar a los demás" parte de la ecuación, no vamos a ser de mucha ayuda para nosotros.

2. La conformidad no es obligatorio. Algunos diáconos sangrado dan la impresión de que la suya es la única manera de mantenerse sobrios. Pero a través de los escritos de Bill W., que hace hincapié en la importancia de la tolerancia y la aceptación. La forma larga de la Tradición tres estados que A.A. membresía nunca debe depender de dinero o de la conformidad. Si queremos ayudar a tantas personas como podamos, tenemos que aceptar que pueden tener diferentes creencias y diferentes enfoques para la aplicación del programa. Creo que el folleto "Un miembro de la opinión del ojo de Alcohólicos Anónimos" lo expresa muy bien: "Lo que es realmente importante es que AA se ha más que demostrado que la casa se construye con capacidad para el rebelde, así como el conformista, el radical, así como el conservador, el agnóstico, así como el creyente. "Pero, no dude en desacuerdo conmigo. Eso es lo que la no conformidad se trata!

3. Rotación, la rotación, la rotación. A menudo decimos en A.A. que sólo nos enteramos de nuestros puestos de trabajo, una vez que estamos girando, pero creo que podemos hacerlo mejor. No es ninguna exageración decir que hay vidas en juego aquí. Cuando empezamos algo nuevo, podemos buscar la experiencia de aquellos que vinieron antes que nosotros, tanto cara a cara ya través de nuestra literatura. Y, en cuanto giramos a una posición, podemos empezar a pensar en que podría venir después de nosotros. Podemos empezar a fomentar y desarrollar ellos. Y una vez que giramos, tenemos que dejarlo ir y dejar a nuestros sucesores hacen las cosas a su manera. Concepto IX anima a cada uno de nosotros, como A.A. líderes, desarrollar nuestra propia visión.

4. A nadie le importa cómo lo hicieron donde solía vivir. Es cierto, una buena idea puede venir de cualquier parte. Pero no añade nada a decir: "Esta es la manera que lo hicieron en mi antigua Área / Distrito / Home Group." Tendemos a ser personas sensibles ya nadie le gusta que le digan que están haciendo mal. Una sugerencia genuinamente servicial y sin prejuicios irá mucho más lejos. Creo que también tenemos que considerar si estamos tratando de rehacer nuestro nuevo AA casa en la imagen de la que dejamos atrás. "Diferente" no siempre significa "peor".

5. Si nos centramos en la solución, unidad de propósito seguirá. No quiero escuchar largas historias de drogas ninguna más que nadie. Pero yo no quiero escuchar largas drunkalogs, cuentos de tráfico, y otras tonterías irrelevantes tampoco. La identificación es importante, especialmente para los recién llegados. Así que creo que necesitamos compartir lo suficiente de nuestras historias de alcoholismo saber que todos pertenecemos a la misma habitación. Pero después de eso, podemos dirigir nuestra atención a la solución. Cuando la atención se centra en la aplicación del programa en nuestras vidas, podemos pasar menos tiempo preocupándose por las diferencias en nuestros orígenes.

Nosotros los alcohólicos tienden a correr a los extremos y tienen dificultades para lograr un equilibrio. Creo A.A. tiene éxito cuando tenemos personas de diferentes puntos de vista de equilibrio entre sí. Esa es la forma que ha sido a lo largo de nuestra historia, tanto para nuestro beneficio. Así que si sus opiniones son exactamente lo contrario de lo mío, digo, eso es genial! Se necesita su voz en la conciencia de grupo.

En servicio agradecido, Jen N.

# ***Area Trusted Servants Reports***

## ***Alternate Delegate***

First, let me thank you for allowing Teresa and I to continue to be of service to Area 46 as your Alternate Delegate and Delegate. We both have big things in store for us and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve.

Since the September Assembly I attended the Southwest Regional Forum in St. Louis. Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, then Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. They were to be weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure. The Forum is unique opportunity to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. The Forum was moderated by our new SW Regional Trustee, Yoli F.

In September I participated in a conference call with Yoli and the SW Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates. Since this was our first call with Yoli it was mostly centered on getting to know one another. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the December Assembly in Farmington. My very first Assembly was in Farmington and I know we will be welcomed by their loving hospitality.

If I can be of service, please don't hesitate to call – We'll have coffee. Jim H. – Alt Delegate

**December Issue Deadline:  
Friday November 13th or 20th  
will email and post final date**

## ***Chair***

I am looking forward to our next Assembly in Farmington. The groups of Area 46 are thankful for your service and continued dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous. District 8 will find it a great opportunity for their district to build unity in their town and many times bringing in newcomers and other members who normally do not attend the Assembly to see the business of service in action. I remember the first time I went to a Service Assembly and realized I was in a room of Alcoholics that loved AA like I do. I love it when I see other members have that experience of love and service.

If you are a district that is hesitant to offer to host an assembly, please reach out to districts that have recently hosted an Area Assembly and also to the Area Committee for help or to ask questions. There is a great help on the New Mexico Website to offer some guidance -

[http://www.newmexicoaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/01/images\\_pdf\\_AssemblySuggest.pdf](http://www.newmexicoaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/01/images_pdf_AssemblySuggest.pdf)

We realize there is a lot to do and we are here to help you help us. Reach out to the groups in your district to help bring food, coffee, water, paper-ware, plastic-ware, cups, cream, sugar etc, and especially to volunteer during the Area Assembly.

We had an Assembly planning meeting and workshop on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. This included a workshop to introduce the Special Needs Toolbox, the opportunity to plan for the next Assembly, a discussion about the upcoming Area Inventory for the Saturday night sharing session and as always a tasty Potluck.

See you all at the next assembly will be held on December 5th and 6th 2015 and hosted by District 8, Farmington.

GRATEFUL!!

Teresa F, Area 46 Chair..chair@nm-aa.org



## *Treasurer*

Thank you to the 24 groups who contributed to the Area in September. Unfortunately, the number of groups contributing in September was much lower than the monthly average for this year. The total amount contributed in September was about half of what our groups have been contributing on average this year. If you are reading the printed version of this report, you will find the amount of the September contributions in the Financial Table. The Area also received 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions from the members who attended the Assembly in September.

Total expenses for the Area Assembly were lower than expected. Primarily this was due to the fact that we did not pay out seed money for the September 2016 Area Assembly since no bids were made to host it. I hope some of your Districts are considering making bids at our next Assembly to host either the 2016 September or December Assemblies. Also, we only paid the expenses of our Delegate to attend the Regional Forum. I forgot to write the check for our Delegate-elect, so that expense will appear in the October expenses. (Sorry, Jim!)

As this is the November issue of *El Farolito*, we have now just one month left to raise the money needed to fund next year's budget. Please talk to your group about making a 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contribution to the Area if they haven't already

Speaking of the budget, there is one month remaining for you to review it and discuss it with your home group. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kurt K. or me (contact information provided on page 2).

In grateful service, Teresa J.

## *Registrar*

The extra few days that Jay M gave us to get our reports in almost caused me to miss the new deadline. O sloth thy name is procrastination.

Actually it has been a busy and eventful month since my last report. This had nothing to do with my duties as Registrar but I had the opportunity to cross Akron off of my bucket list. I accompanied Olivia O our Area Archivist to the National AA Archives workshop in Akron and got to visit their intergroup office and archives, St Thomas Hospital, the Mayflower, Dr Bob's house and gravesite and the gate house where Bill and Dr Bob had their first meeting. (I get goose bumps just typing it).

On Wednesday prior to the start of the workshops Jay M our *El Farolito* editor who is from that neck of the woods took us to the King School Meeting (Group #1). Jay was also the Saturday night speaker at the banquet. Jay has written a book on the Rockefeller connection to AA. I got to spend the weekend with a bunch of folks from around the country and Canada who are dedicated to preserving our history. We finished up on Sunday with a visit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. Got back to Albuquerque in time on Monday to visit our Central Office and pick up supplies for my Home Group that night. Sobriety Rocks!!!

Now to get back to work. I am in the process of contacting the DCMs from this rotation and getting info on their elections. I will be sending out the agenda and Assembly flier for the Assembly in Farmington next week and attending the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditions Conference. I will also be sending out change forms to assist the DCMs (both current and incoming) in getting new GSR info for the next rotation.

I am so grateful to this fellowship which continues to allow me as a 70 year old teenager to grow and be of service.

Rosie F. , Area 46 Registrar

# ***Service Committee Reports***

## ***Archives***

Our Archivist, Olivia, was able to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> National AA Archives Workshop held in Independence, Ohio. (Basically Cleveland/Akron area.) What a wonderful experience for her. Many thanks to Area 46 for funding her attendance. Half of the funds were contributed directly from the Area Budget, and additional funds were raised at various events, and donations from Districts. Thank you Area 46 for your investment in our Archives Holdings.

The committee has seven PowerPoint Presentations for use by the Area. These presentations cover AA History, Workshops, and Entertainment. Please feel free to visit the Area 46 website archives page [www.nm-aa.org](http://www.nm-aa.org) for a listing of presentations available.

We have had the opportunity to set up our display at Conventions, NMCYPAA, Workshops, and most recently at the D11 Traditions Conference October 31. Upcoming schedule will include a workshop in D4 and D12, and a Christmas Event in D5 on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who have requested Archives presence at your events. It is an honor to serve.

If you have, or would like to prepare and submit a group history for your home group, please feel free to download the Group History form from our Area Website and send it in to either the Archivist, Olivia, or to the Archives Chair. Street Address for the Archives Chair is in the front of the El Farolito.

In Love and Service, Bill L...Area 46, Archives Chair

*Send contributions*  
  
*for El Farolito to:*  
***El Farolito***  
***PO Box 35876***  
***Albuquerque, NM 87176***

*Send contributions*  
  
*for the Area to:*  
***Area Treasurer***  
***PO Box 35785***  
***Albuquerque, NM 87176***

## *Ad Hoc Fun-raising Committee*

The Ad Hoc Committee on Assembly Development and FUN-raising announces:

### **NAME OUR COMMITTEE CONTEST!**

We are getting feedback that “Assembly Development and FUN-Raising” is not only hard to remember, it is also just too much of a mouthful. So, we are holding a contest seeking a new name for our committee.

Although we have been fondly referred to as the “Fun” Committee, we do not want our name to suggest that our committee is only concerned with fun. We are also considering substantive changes to the assembly agenda which will make our assemblies more interesting, relevant and efficient, and will hopefully inspire long-term commitments to general service by attendees.

So, if you have a catchy, clever, memorable or improved name to offer, please send it to our committee email: [dandfr@nm-aa.org](mailto:dandfr@nm-aa.org). You can also drop it off in our suggestion box which will be available at the December Assembly in Farmington. **THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR THE WINNING ENTRY!** The cut-off date for submissions will be December 31, 2015.

In grateful service, Jaclyn S., Committee Chair

## *Finance Committee*

Congratulations to all of those elected for the coming two years as our trusted servants. I am sure you all will be doing a great job. I have not that much to report at this time. The draft budget is in process for the upcoming year. The contributions are down and thus the budget has some changes to it. I will have travel expenses updated within the next couple of weeks and then we will see what else needs to be changed.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to drop me a line or give me a call.

Yours in Service, Kurt K.

## *Treatment Committee*

Greetings from Taos! As we prepare for the December Area Assembly, I want to thank District 3 for hosting the September Assembly. We had over 40 participants in the meetings. We reviewed basic functions of the treatment committee in districts with the help of Treatment Alternate Chair, Carrie N. There was discussion on cooperation with treatment facilities and sometime it can be a challenge; however, it's important for members to be patient and work in the spirit of cooperation. The principle of carrying the AA message to other alcoholics was fundamental to the recovery and continued sobriety of AA's co-founders and early AA members. Considerable changes over the last three decades regarding treatment services provided, by whom, and in which settings: More women and young people in treatment, more drug problems and mental illness; higher bottoms, decrease in inpatient facilities; increase in outpatient facilities, shorter stays in treatment; reduced insurance coverage, more Narcotics Anonymous – and other fellowships – meetings, more alcoholics seeking treatment in individual or group therapy.

It is important to understand and follow the “guidelines” GSO provides: 1. While we cannot compromise our AA Traditions, we should remember that we are there as guests of the facility and we must abide by its rules; 2. Statements that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnoses or advice on medication should be avoided; 3. No one speaks for

(Continued on page 8)

# ***Service Committee Reports***

*(Continued from page 7)*

AA as a whole. When carrying the message to those in treatment, we are just one drunk talking with another. How we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about AA; 4. It typically take months of hard work to gain the confidence of the staff and get invited into a facility. A single careless action could damage or even destroy that trust and interfere with our ability to carry the message. Distribution of literature came up and an example of a home group passing a can around to raise money to purchase and distribute literature such as Big Books and pamphlets. If you have any questions, please contact me.

In the Spirit of Service, Lawrence M.

## ***CPC***

Excitement is building as the Area 46 CPC Committee readies itself to participate in the Commission on Lawyer Assistance Program Conference (COLAP) on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be manning a literature booth at this conference for lawyers in recovery. We have received a huge AA banner, a literature rack, two boxes of literature, and a graphic display stand (that was used at the International Convention in Atlanta), all sent to us from G.S.O. New York. We look forward to carrying the message of AA to the many registered attendees at the conference.

Anyone interested in participating on the Area 46 CPC Committee please contact the CPC Chair, Brian V. at 505-417-8817, or email to [cpc@nm-aa.org](mailto:cpc@nm-aa.org)

## ***Literature***

I will be making my last book and pamphlet order soon. If you have a special request, contact me at (505) 360- 6450 or email me.

My goodness, how time fly's. I can't believe this rotation is about over. I am just full of gratitude that I can be of service, no matter what the job or position. I learn as I go; staying green and growing and not ripe and rotten!

TYFLMBOS, John T.

## **NMAA CONTACTS**

DISTRICT 1 AA HOTLINE

575 769-6052

DISTRICT 2

SANTA FE CENTRAL OFFICE

505 982-8932

505 CAMINO DE LOS MARQUEZ,

SANTA FE, NM 87505

DISTRICTS 3, 11, 12, 13, 18

ALBUQUERQUE CENTRAL OFFICE

505 266-1900

1921 ALVARADO NE

ALBUQUERQUE

DISTRICT 4 (LAS CRUCES)

575 527-1803

DISTRICT 5 AA HOTLINE

575 430-9502

DISTRICT 6 (LAS VEGAS)

505 425-3577

DISTRICT 7 (ROSWELL)

575 622-6560

DISTRICT 8 (FARMINGTON)

505 327-0731

DISTRICT 9 (GALLUP)

505 722-4818

DISTRICT 10 (HOBBS)

575 397-7009, 392-5259

DISTRICT 10 (CARLSBAD)

575 887-0119

DISTRICT 14 (TAOS)

575 758-3318

DISTRICT 15

505 920-8799

DISTRICT 16

(SILVER CITY) 575 388-1802

(T OR C) 575 740-9380

DISTRICT 17

OFICINA INTERGRUPAL HISPANA

3000 2ND ST. NW, ALB 87107

505-266-3688

AREA 46 WEBSITE:

[WWW.NEWMEXICOOAA.ORG](http://WWW.NEWMEXICOOAA.ORG)

ALBUQUERQUE

[WWW.ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG](http://WWW.ALBUQUERQUEAA.ORG)

DISTRICT 2 WEBSITE:

[WWW.SANTAFEAA.ORG](http://WWW.SANTAFEAA.ORG)



## *Corrections*

I hope you are all well and in good health. It seems we have slowed down as far as workshops and visiting districts. So DCMs we can still get together at your districts send me a invite. And Districts 3 and 9 there was talk of possible workshops we can still do one if you like.

District 3 is now taking both Men and Women's meetings into Valencia County. There is a Orientation to go into state facilities on Saturday November 14 8:00 to 12:00 at Gods House Church 2335 Wyoming Blvd Albuquerque If you are thinking of Twelve Step service work please come, it might be what you need. We especially need women as they are in dire need to go into Grants Women facilities.

In service Eloy M (Note my new phone number on P. 2)

## *Archivist*

Thank you, Area 46 for your support in allowing me to attend the National AA Archives Workshop which took place in Independence, OH. September 24 – 27. Over the course of the 6 days in Akron/Cleveland and attending the workshop I was overcome with many gifts of the heart. The kind of priceless gifts of knowing and understanding the hardships and sacrifices of the fellowship members that came before. A special thanks to Rosie F. who went with and shared great fellowship, love and wisdom. Looking forward to seeing all of you in December.

Love and Service, Olivia O. - Area 46 Archivist

## *P.I. Committee*

Our PI committee will be making an appearance the City Health Fair at the convention center on Oct 29. I have three volunteers attending with me. We also have member of the district 17/Spanish lingual district representing the Oficina Intergrupul. They have also agreed to send representatives to the January KOB Health fair at the Expo New Mexico. We will be providing literature in both Spanish and English.

We continue to promote our books and literature to people and places where the AA message can be carried. We have new data on our web page and you can also find new material recently released PSA by GSO. I invite you to log on and take a look at [http://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/public-information-committees](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees) and click on video to the right. As always, it is a pleasure to serve.

In loving service of AA, Tom C

## Upcoming Area Events

Area Assembly December 5,6 District 8; St. Mary's Church - 2100 E. 20th St., Farmington 87401

Area Assembly March 5, 6 District 14 Taos

## **METROPOLITAN GROUP 66TH ANNIVERSARY**

**November 24, 2015 - 6pm Potluck - 7pm Meeting**  
**318 Silver Ave SW—Albuquerque 87102 - Bring side dishes, desserts, sodas.**



## **INTERGROUP SPEAKER MEETING**

**Sunday November 15, 2015**  
**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
**4301 Atrisco Dr, NW - Albuquerque**  
**Sponsored by District 11**

# Service Committee Reports

## *Ad Hoc Special Needs*

I wanted to share a few things that were discussed at the Special Needs presentation/ Area Assembly planning meeting Saturday October 24 with area 46 members so that they could talk about this at the local level and prepare for the December assembly in Farmington.

In December, I will be making a motion to have a standing Special Needs Committee that can be financed the first year from the discretionary fund. There is overlap between special needs and some other committees (PI, CPC, Institutions) but special needs is a specific focus that can be expected to reach still suffering alcoholics that might otherwise not hear the message of recovery. Discussion between now and December can help all of us clarify our thinking so that the assembly can determine what we would like to do.

A second motion I will be introducing is to purchase equipment for our existing translation gear that would use a second frequency our existing gear already has to transmit what is being said to those who are hard of hearing. The cost is expected to be under \$1000 and can be financed and purchased later when funds are available. Specific cost and equipment will be available by the next publication of *El Farolito*.

Yours in service, George M. Ad Hoc Special Needs Committee

## *YPPA*

**Workshop:** We are beginning to plan for 2nd annual young people *three legacies workshop* in Albuquerque proposing two dates January 23 or 30<sup>th</sup>...will bring up to district 11 about still hosting that and see what dates we can get nativity church.

We discussed what we thought went well last year we thought we could do better this year. Committee will start thinking of people who they want to have speak and possibly getting some young people from different cities in New Mexico. We want to have a date and flyer by first week in December so we can have it available at December assembly.

**Next Meeting** will be held at Flying Star on Paseo and Wyoming in Albuquerque Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 8:00 pm

## **EL FAROLITO,**

*Founded in 1970, is the official publication of the New Mexico Area 46 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous. El Farolito is self-supporting through contributions and subscriptions made directly to the newsletter.*

*All AA groups who want to receive El Farolito may do so by contacting the editor.*

*Contributions from groups are the primary source of support and are gratefully accepted.*  
[elfarolito@nm-aa.org](mailto:elfarolito@nm-aa.org)

# District Reports

## *District 2 - Santa Fe*

Giving thanks for our blessings is November's gift to us. District Two is thankful for a successful October starting with a successful Recovery People Health Fair, sponsoring a Seventh Tradition Workshop, and last, but not least, food and fellowship at our annual Halloween party.

November also brings thoughts of service as many of our trusted District Servants are rotating out in December. In addition, the Central Office has three Board positions available, including Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations will be taken on November 2, 2015, at the Central Office Meeting at St. John's Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. On November 14, 2015, the New Mexico State Penitentiary Volunteer Orientation will take place at Hoffman Town Church, 8888 Harper Drive NE, in Albuquerque. Anyone who is planning on attending must bring a valid driver's license.

Santa Fe has a lively meeting scene, so don't forget to check out [santafeaa.org](http://santafeaa.org) when you're planning a trip to the Capital City. We're holding a chair for you!

In Service, Analee N.

## *District 4 - Las Cruces*

District 4 Las Cruces October events included the 18th Annual Full Moon Madness 10/24 at WSNM 6-10 pm. Pot Luck and AA Meeting sponsored by District 4 & 5 and the Beginners group. Halloween Costume Contest and Birthday Bash Saturday Night Arid hosted by the beginners group. Pot luck, 6:30 then chip ceremony at 7:30. Includes raffle, live entertainment, Cake, fun and fellowship.

10/25 at the home of Downtown Group at 10:30 on Piñon St. LC we had our monthly District Meeting to include discussion with the Young Peoples group who are hosting and finalizing our Area New Year's Eve Gala. Additionally our Area 46 Archives Chair Bill L. will be doing a presentation, after we will play AA Jeopardy.

Thank You to our Area 46 Delegate Jen N. for Giving us the Delegate report at September 27th District Meeting!

Lisa E.

## *District 6— Las Vegas, Clayton, Raton*

Hello from District 6! Tony T. has become the new DCM and Mary M. replaced Victor R as Treasurer. Our district has acquired two new meetings: a new women's meeting that needs our support: Mountain Girls, in Cleveland (just past Mora) and In the Solution in Springer that would be glad of support, too. Our Keep it Simple beginners group has given up the ghost, alas. It was a very good meeting

In August we held a second District Picnic at Storrie Lake Park just north of Las Vegas. We had a wonderful speaker, Theresa F. I really wish we could have recorded her story to share further. The District provided meat and the associated condiments and breads and coffee. The rest who attended brought lots of great salads, beans, desserts, etc. Jenni of Happy Hour did most of the cooking and Tony T. spelled her later on. We had a great time, but could have had more people there from our meetings. The day was perfect: even soft breezes to blow away grill smoke. I believe everyone there had a good time. Even though we had group members there prepared to play music, *Viento*, a Mariachi band were having a birthday party at a neighboring pavilion and kept us happily entertained during our meal and after.

*(Continued on page 12)*

# ***District Reports***

*(Continued from page 11)*

October brings a round-robin pot-luck speaker meeting at the Esperanza, Sobriedad y Paz group at 6:30 October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran Church (7<sup>th</sup> & Lutheran) in Las Vegas. Julian S. was the speaker. We are thinking of launching an All-Groups Thanksgiving pot-luck speaker meeting this year as November's round-robin meeting.

The District presented a sponsorship workshop from 3 to 5 pm October 24<sup>th</sup> at Faith Hall (8<sup>th</sup> & National in Las Vegas). We had two speakers: Debra K. from Albuquerque and Alan S. from Rio Rancho.

Tony, Meredith and Jennifer reported on the Area Assembly in Belen in August. They came back spiritually stimulated and inspired. They feel they learned a lot from the workshops and the elections. They learned a lot and certainly were energized and uplifted. We are hoping to put in a bid for an assembly in District 6.

Aside from Keep it Simple and Mountain Girls, the groups in this district seem to be having the usual ups and but trundling along OK. The new Springer meeting, In the Solution, has only two members at this point and could do with support. Our district has openings for officers. Most of us wear more than one hat and would be glad to share them.

Keep it simple. Mary M.

## ***District 8 - Farmington***

We are having our District 8 elections at the next monthly meeting on November 12th. Please attend to be of service to other AA's.

We are also having our two last December Assembly planning meetings scheduled to iron out any last minute details. We are happy and exited to be hosting the Area 46 Assembly. We are looking forward to seeing you all this December 4-6 in beautiful Farmington and San Juan County.

Tickets for the annual District 8 Christmas Banquet will be available soon. We have a venue, speaker, caterer and raffle items. It is sure to be an event you will not want to miss. See your group GSR for tickets.

TYFLMBOS, John T.

## ***District 9 - Grants, Gallup, Zuni, Laguna***

There are many great ways to support AA and a travel meeting is one fun way. Just pick a town, invite some AA friends and take a short road trip to a new meeting. District 9 has many very small AA meetings in need of support: Tohatchi, Grants, Laguna and Zuni to name a few. We are also supporting a new group in Sanders, AZ. Having visitors adds to the group and is a great way to meet new AA friends.

Also, listed below are some fun pot-luck/speaker meetings in District 9 to check out:

Wings of the Storm in Gallup on the second Wednesday of the month  
The Home Group in Gallup on the third Friday of the month  
Zuni, NM and Ft. Defiance, AZ meetings both on the last Friday of the month  
Laguna on the last Tuesday of the month

*(Continued on page 13)*



(Continued from page 12)

Most groups celebrate sobriety birthdays on those nights but Wings of the Storm has a separate birthday night on the second Friday of the month with cake and ice cream after the 7:00 p.m. Meeting.

Laguna is a great example of how a “visitor” made a big difference. After a year of struggling to get a meeting going, Mike M. came from ABQ almost every week to support the one or two who really wanted and needed a group in their home community. That commitment lasted for 5 years and formed close bonds between AA members. Recently, Mike was there to speak at their 8-year meeting celebration. What a legacy his service has helped create.

You don't need that level of commitment to make a difference however. Support for our little meetings from the “outside” can mean a lot and offer encouragement to the one or two stalwarts to continue their efforts, sometimes alone week after week. For information on our meeting schedules, directions or information about upcoming AA holiday celebrations/dinners, please feel free to contact me: 206-962-1023.

In Service and Gratitude, Beverly T., District 9 El Farolito Rep.

## *District 11 - West Albuquerque*

Committee Chairs : Intergroup , Literature and Special needs are OPEN!

Traditions Conference planning meeting was October 15<sup>th</sup> at Nativity. Sign language for special needs provided throughout. Involving Spanish language community and will have speaker from Mexico. Newcomers with under a year needed to introduce speakers.

Intergroup speaker meeting Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

### **ELECTIONS FOR 2016-2017 ROTATION**

**DCM** : Congratulations to **Debra W.** - **ALT DCM** : Congratulations to **Sue B.**

**TREASURER** : Congratulations to **Barbara H.** - **SECRETARY** : Congratulations to **Kevin C.**

## *District 12 - East Albuquerque*

Happy (soon-to-be) Holiday Greetings from Dist. 12. Daylight is definitely getting shorter as we approach the end of the year, but we are hoping to finish strong.

District 12 has just recently finished up elections for a new slate of “Trusted Servants” to guide us into the next term beginning at the first of the year. Long time District 12 officer Mark B. will serve as our next DCM. Michael A. has agreed to extend his service to the District as Alternate DCM. Janet F. will be next term’s Secretary and Tim T. is the incoming D12 Treasurer.

Many thanks from all of us serving District 12 goes out to Jaclyn S. for her outstanding service as DCM over the past term. She and her team worked tirelessly in support of Dist. 12.

In other District news, we have agreed to continue the Thanksgiving tradition of hosting the holiday feast at The Heights Club. Likely to be nearly 300 grateful AA members and family at that long standing event, so drop in if you can. Turkey and all the trimmings from about 11AM-3PM (Look for the flyer at AlbuquerqueAA.org. Of course, that Thanksgiving Day tradition will follow “Gratitude Night” (AKA Pie Nite) speaker meeting and social on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving.

Hope to see you all at a meeting soon. Yours in service, Milt B.

# District Reports

## District 14 - Taos

District elections will be held in November for DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar. Deb M. will put together a flyer to announce at meetings. Please consider district service!

There will be an event on November 7, 2015 at the Presbyterian Church which will involve a repeat performance of the TMF play, a panel, and pot luck. Please check for more information via groups.

Renee S. represented District 14 at the recent Area Assembly in Belen. The meeting list is the same with no changes. It is possible that the Young People's meeting may be starting up again.

The Taos Mountain Fiesta went very well and it is estimated that 565 people were in attendance. The hotline is doing well. Please ask GSRs to ask groups for any history for archives and forward Daniel T. Area 46 will plan the General Assembly to be held next March 2016 that District 14 will host in at UNM-Taos.

The ad hoc committee for the District Handbook is comprised of Eileen M., Shanti V. and Christoph E. District Committee members are asked to please turn in your district service descriptions via email to Shanti V. asap.

District 14 hosted an *El Farolito* newsletter mailing party on 10/31/15 at the Presbyterian Church. Editor Jay M. was the speaker along with a potluck. Thanks to Ellen M. for organizing and to all who attended and participated.

Thanks for letting me be of service. Kate O.

B  
i  
r  
t  
h  
d  
a  
y  
s

### Birthday Celebrations for this month:

Aryn and Albert, both from Ft. Defiance and both with one year.

Ruidoso Arid Group: group: Jason 1 yr., Jackie J. 4yrs., Shannon M. 12 yrs., Ed B. 14 yrs., Deborah R. 18 yrs., Gary G. 19 yrs., Betty L. 28 yrs., Stan 38 yrs

Serenity Group/ Alamogordo: September: Steve W 33 years - Russ R 24 years - Lee W 23 years  
Penny M 19 years - Kathie M 15 years - Dan B 11 years - Mary P 2 years - Dawn L 1 year

Isleta Group Sobriety Birthdays, September 2015: Ken 90 days - Dina 3 years - Joe Q 10 years -  
David 18 years - Higinio N 19 years - Gayle W 32 years

Laguna AA Group (Dist. 9); Ernestine F. Nov. 7, 1982 - Julian C. Nov. 10, 2014  
Harry R. Oct. 24, 2007

District 4: Daniel S. 11-14-07 8yrs - Ron N 11-20-93 22 yrs - Jerry G. 11-1-87 28yrs - Steve P. 11-30-07 8 years - Juan N. 11-11-14 1year - Tres S. 11-14-11 4 years - Leah V 10-5-88 27 years

The El Centro Group of ABQ had one birthday in September: Sue B. 8 years





## *El Farolito Committee*

As it is gratitude month, we want to thank the following groups who have donated to El Farolito over the past twelve months. It costs \$20.80 per group to cover the base expenses (bulk mail fee; post office box, etc) and the printing and mailing costs to send a copy each month to each group. It is a vital part of the Area's basic mission to carry the message. If your group is not listed and you did send a contribution, please let me know. If your group is not listed because you did not contribute, we need your support and please send what you can, even if your group can only afford \$1. If all groups contribute the total will take care of itself.

|                       |                 |                         |               |                          |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Any Length Women's Gr | Albuquerque     | In the Book             | Rio Rancho    | Sober at Sunrise         | Las Cruces      |
| Aztec Group           | Aztec           | Into Action Group       | Taos          | SOP Group                | Carlsbad        |
| Bayard Group          | Bayard          | Into Action Sunday AM   | Taos          | Spiritual Awakening      | Las Vegas       |
| Big Book Study        | Ranchos de Taos | Isleta Group            | Albuquerque   | Spiritual Awakening      | Defiance AZ     |
| Brown Baggers         | Albuquerque     | Jaywalkers              | Taos          | Sponsorship & Growth     | Albuquerque     |
| Cloudcroft Group      | Cloudcroft      | Jemez Springs           | Jemez Springs | Step Sisters Group       | Silver City     |
| Crossroads            | San Luis        | La Buena Vida           | Espanola      | Steven Summers           | Albuquerque     |
| Dawn Patrol           | Albuquerque     | Live and Let Live       | Santa Fe      | Students of the Big Book | Silver City     |
| Daybreak Group        | Farmington      | Living In the Solution  | Fairview      | Sun Rise Catchers        | Albuquerque     |
| District 11           | Albuquerque     | Los Alamos Women's      | Los Alamos    | Sunday Night Step Study  | Albuquerque     |
| District 18           | Rio Rancho      | Los Mesilleros          | Las Cruces    | Talpa Linger Longer      | Ranchos de Taos |
| Dixon Group           | Dixon           | Lunch Bunch             | Roswell       | TGIF Taos                | Taos            |
| Early Birds           | Las Vegas       | Mayhill Miracles Group  | Mayhill       | There is a Solution      | Taos            |
| El Centro Group       | Albuquerque     | New Hope Shiprock       | Farmington    | Too Much for Us          | Tijeras         |
| Farmington Group      | Farmington      | New Life Group          | Hobbs         | Trinity Site Group       | Tularosa        |
| Foothills Group       | Albuquerque     | ODAAT/Circle of Love    | Bernalillo    | Tues 12+12               | Rio Rancho      |
| Forever Eleven Group  | Taos            | One Day at a Time       | Bernalillo    | Tues Serendipity Group   | Albuquerque     |
| Friends of Sobriety   | Roswell         | Primary Purpose Group   | Las Vegas     | Twelve Squared           | Carlsbad        |
| Ft Bayard Group       | Santa Clara     | Questa Crossroads       | San Luis      | Unity Group              | Tucumcari       |
| Hi Nooners            | Farmington      | Rebellion Dogs          | Albuquerque   | We Aren't Saints         | Artesia         |
| High Noon Group       | Albuquerque     | Road Runners Book Study | Las Cruces    | Westside AA              | Albuquerque     |
| Highlands Happy Hour  | Las Vegas       | Road Runners Book Study | Madrid        | Westside Noon            | Albuquerque     |
| Highlands Happy Hour  | Rocianda        | Ruidoso Arid Group      | Ruidoso       | White Rock AA Group      | Los Alamos      |
| Hill Top              | Gallup          | Serenity Group          | Albuquerque   | White Rock Women's Group | Los Alamos      |
| How It Works          | Taos            | Serenity Group          | Alamogordo    | Wings of the Storm       | Gallup          |
|                       |                 | Serenity Group          | Los Alamos    | Women's Gratitude        | Albuquerque     |

### **Schedule a mailing party!**

**Need**  
**11/28/15**  
**3/26/16**  
**4/30/16**  
**5/28/16**



## **AREA 46 ASSEMBLY MINUTES September 12-13, 2015 - District 3 Belen**

### **Saturday September 12**

**8:30 am -12:30 pm :** Breakout meetings for CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community), Corrections, Website, GSR(General Service Representative) Orientation, Special Needs ad hoc, FUN(Assembly Development and Fun-raising) Committee ad hoc, Bilingual, Finance, Literature, PI(Public Information ), Treatment, Grapevine, Archives, BTG(Bridging the Gap), Finance, Convention 2016, El Farolito, Young People, GSR, DCM(District Committee Members), Area Trusted Servants, and Past Delegates.

**12:30-1:45 pm** Lunch break and Delegate General Service Conference Report

**1:45pm** Teresa F, Area Chair, opened the afternoon session with various readings by Assembly members. This was followed by introductions of the Southwest Regional Trustee, Past Delegates, Trusted Servants, District DCMs, GSRs and members and any other guests.

**2:35 pm** Summary of March 2015 Assembly minutes read by Ellen R, acting secretary; Motion to accept by Jen D18, seconded Myra D13 passed with correction to Sept 12-13, 2015, instead of Sept 7-8 for next Assembly date.

**2:50 pm** Treasurer's report by Teresa J: presented explanation of her printed report; we have a healthy prudent reserve; spending pattern similar to last year but there is a project loss due to decreased group contributions; will be able to use convention overage to keep up prudent reserve; DCMs and GSRs asked to consult groups about reasons for decreased contributions. Motion to accept by Marcus D10, seconded by Eric D4 passed.

**3:00 pm** Registrar report, Rosie F: group officer change forms available for DCMs (helps keep your group connected to Area information); Rosie can provide correct GSO group registration numbers; FYI : Area 46's lowest group number is 100191 (Alamagordo Serenity Group) and the newest is 716117; if your group isn't registered, it is considered unknown; inactive groups are those which have closed down or not contributed to GSO, but former inactive group members may have moved on to other active groups.

**3:10 pm** Delegate report, Jen N: Yolanda F, the SW Region Trustee, will conduct the evening Sharing Session and also shared her story on Friday night . Yoli will also assist with the election on Sunday. Jen will be distributing the General Service Conference Report and first inventory summary at the December Assembly; plans to attend the October Forum (personnel from GSO,GSW , Grapevine etc come to AA members for concerns and information) in St Louis; the Navajo translation is up to Chapter 8; Navajo members still needed to comment and assist with the translation; Jen urged eligible members to consider standing for positions in the election as a service opportunity.

**3:15 pm** Alternate Delegate, Jim H: has been attending conventions and AA workshops; will be going to SWARDA (Southwest Area Delegate Assembly).

**3:20 pm** NMCYPAA Ally T: had an awesome time in Roswell; 2016 will be held in Los Cruces.

**3:30 pm** Comite de Pro –Convenciones 2016 Oscar R: No state convention this year due to the International Spanish Convention; have contributed \$1664 to the International as well as sending 40 volunteers; will present more information on the state convention 2016 at the December Assembly for registration etc; Oscar will be moving to Pennsylvania soon.

**3:40 pm** General Announcements made.

**3:50 pm** Old Business

Area 46 December 5-6, 2015, Assembly Farmington D8, Mikel: Assembly will be held at St Mary's Church Parish; flyer available with details of activities, meeting schedule, map and lodging choices.

Area 46 March 5-6, 2016, Assembly Taos D14, Renee: Had walk-through at UNM-Taos to view facilities and room layout. Sagebrush Inn providing a discounted rate for the weekend.

Area 46 June 5-7, 2015, Post State Convention Report Hobbs D10, Robin: 188 people attended; overage of \$468; small but enthusiastic and effective.

Area46 June 3-5, 2016, State Convention Espanola D15, Lori and Jeff: All of Ghost Ranch will be open for the week-

*(Continued on page 17)*



end events; free meals will be provided on Friday night and Sunday morning; camping and rv sites available as well as several types of lodging at the ranch; assortment of activities planned (see flyer); setting up shuttle service for day attendance from/to Santa Fe; meal reservations need to be in a month before the convention.

**3:55 pm** New Business

Bid for Sept 2016 Assembly: None presented

Presentation of 2016 Draft Budget Proposal by Kurt K, Finance chair: Since contributions are down, the budget for next year is also down; the committee approved the proposed budget; Kurt thanked the Assembly for all contributions to date.

There were no other new motions or discussions. The SW Regional Trustee, Yolanda F, starting at 7:30 pm, led the Sharing Session.

**Sunday September 13**

**8:00 am** Teresa F, Area chair, opened the session with the Serenity Prayer and various readings in both Spanish and English. There were no motions, bids, or Ask-It-Basket questions presented. There were 119 voting and 66 non-voting members registered. Since the elections followed, no oral committee reports were made. Reports will appear in the October El Farolito. The Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition was \$333.12; Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition was \$213.42 for a total of \$551.54. AIP contribution was \$28.75. The Big Book presentation was made to the youngest sober person by the oldest member. District 3 was thanked and acknowledged for its service. The Assembly was adjourned.

**Next Assembly Planning meeting will be October 24, 2015. Next Assembly will be in Farmington D8 December 5-6, 2015.**

**Election results for 2016-2017 rotation**

Delegate: Jim H, Carlsbad                      Area 46 Chair: Teresa J, Albuquerque

Alt. Delegate: Teresa F, Santa Fe              Alt. 46 Chair: Eloy M, Los Lunas

Area 46 Secretary: Rosie F, Albuquerque    Area 46 Treasurer: John T, Flora Vista

Area 46 Registrar: Bill L, Placitas



# Metropolitan Group Celebrates 66 Years! November 24, 2015

6 p.m. Potluck 7 p.m.  
Meeting

Do you have a November AA Anniversary?

Come celebrate with us!

318 Silver Ave SW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Metropolitan provides main dishes

Please bring side dishes, desserts, sodas  
or just yourself and a friend!





1:30 Potluck, 2:30 Speaker-Alan S.

3:30 Raffle

Please bring raffle items to  
CO or to meeting

## **Intergroup Speaker Meeting**

Sunday

**11/15/15**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**

**4301 Atrisco Dr NW**

**Albuquerque**

**Sponsored by  
District 11**

**Proceeds go to Central  
Office**

# AREA 46 ASSEMBLY

## DECEMBER ~~4-5~~, 2015

4-6

St. Mary's Church (parish) @ 2100 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Farmington, NM 87401  
(The large building behind the church)

It is free to attend. There will be translators for our Spanish-speaking friends, and the building is handicap accessible.

See reverse for a list of hotels and room rates, Local AA meetings for Friday night and Saturday are listed below.

Friday night reception @ 6:00 PM at St. Mary's for finger foods and fellowship.

Friday night speaker meeting @ 7:00 PM at St. Mary's: Deborah R. speaking

Saturday morning coffee and pastries are served at 8:30 AM with breakout groups to follow.

Come join us for a FUN weekend of food, fellowship, learning, and meetings!  
Participate in the business side of AA, as well!

### **LOCAL MEETINGS**

#### **FRIDAY**

5:30 PM (O, BS) 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Group, 404 W. Animas St., Farmington  
6:30 PM (O, D) Keep it Simple Group, Arid Acre, 2650 La Plata Hwy., Farmington  
7:00 PM (O, Candlelight) Aztec Group, 123 E. Chaco St., Aztec  
8:00 PM (O, D) Downtown Group, 865 N. Dustin Ave., Farmington (SE door)

#### **SATURDAY**

8:00 AM (C, D) 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Group, 404 W. Animas St., Farmington  
9:00 AM (O, W) Sisters in Sobriety Group, Arid Acre, 2650 La Plata Hwy., Farmington  
Noon (O, D) Hi-Nooners Group, Arid Acre, 2650 La Plata Hwy., Farmington  
Noon (C, W) 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Group, 404 W. Animas St., Farmington  
Noon (O, D) Steps to Sobriety Group, The Well, 309 W. Animas St., Farmington  
6:00 PM (O, Young People) Downtown Group, 865 N. Dustin Ave., Farmington (SE door)  
7:00 PM (O, BS) Aztec Group, 123 E. Chaco St., Aztec  
8:00 PM (C, D) Bloomfield Group, 307-B N. Church St., Bloomfield  
8:30 PM (O, Speaker) Force Fellowship Group, 801 N. Monterey Ave., Farmington



Here is an interview with Nell Wing published in the Grapevine in 1994

## SPELLBOUND BY AA: AN INTERVIEW WITH NELL WING

June 1994

Nine years after the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous began in Akron, Ohio, the Grapevine magazine published its first issue in June 1944. Three years after that, Nell Wing arrived in New York. A young woman in her late twenties, Nell had decided to go to Mexico to pursue a career in sculpture. In the meantime, she wanted a temporary job to earn a little more money for the journey. The agency where she applied for a temporary job told her about an opening at the headquarters office of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nell knew about AA, having read Morris Markey's article "Alcoholics and God" in the September 1939 Liberty magazine, and through other magazine articles in the early forties, as well.

In 1947, she started working in the office of the Alcoholic Foundation (now the General Service Office), and in 1950 became Bill W.'s secretary. Within a few years, she became close friends with Bill and his wife, Lois, and on weekends she regularly went up to Stepping Stones, their home in Bedford Hills, New York, to help Bill with correspondence or research, or just to keep him and Lois company.

After Bill died in 1971, Nell continued her close association with the General Service Office and with Lois. She organized the AA Archives, and in 1993 published a memoir called Grateful to Have Been There.

Nell never got to Mexico, but she worked for AA for thirty-six years. She still travels frequently around the country, speaking to groups about AA history. Two Grapevine staff members interviewed Nell Wing at the Grapevine office in New York.

Grapevine: You've described the Grapevine as having an "improbable history." What did you mean?

Nell Wing: It's miraculous that the Grapevine is still in existence fifty years later. The Grapevine doesn't have what a lot of magazines have, like ads or a sales force. It has to stick to its primary purpose and basically that's to ask members to write articles and to share their stories. But the Grapevine has kept going because there are many, many people who understand and appreciate it. There are always enough members who find it useful and helpful in maintaining sobriety and keep it going. Some even read it long before becoming members of AA.

Grapevine: What was it about the Grapevine that Bill W. found so appealing?

Nell Wing: He quickly saw it as a means of carrying the message. And since he couldn't connect personally with all groups and areas in AA on a regular basis, he used it as a primary source of sharing and explaining the important issues that he wanted accepted by the Fellowship. It took several years, as we know, before there was a steady and enthusiastic growth of Grapevine readers. But Bill thought that sharing his ideas in print this way was important. It was there - you could read it, you could think about it, you could refer to it later.

Grapevine: That was one of the reasons for writing the Big Book - so the program wouldn't get "garbled" in transmission

Nell Wing: Exactly. If it's in print, it's a matter of record. And the fact is, Bill was perhaps his own worst enemy in trying to get his ideas across. He could pound you into a corner, so to speak, because of his frustration when his ideas were not understood and accepted by the trustees and the membership at large. So the Grapevine was an effective way for him to reach people - without the pounding!

Grapevine: The Grapevine is now fifty years old, and we're considering what our role for the future will be. Do you have any thoughts about where the Grapevine fits in?

Nell Wing: Preserving the experience - to my mind that's what you do in the Grapevine. The Grapevine's purpose is similar to the purpose of archives in general: to preserve the past, understand the present, and discuss the future. So many young people are coming in today and they need to know about the history of AA.

Grapevine: What was your first acquaintance with alcoholics or AA?

Nell Wing: My dad was a teacher and a justice of the peace in our small town. I knew about alcoholics very early on because

*(Continued on page 22)*

*(Continued from page 21)*

the state police would often drag guys over at three in the morning, rapping on our door. And many of these drunks were professional people in our town or nearby towns, and perhaps good friends of my dad's. Occasionally he'd pay their fines for them - when you've been out drinking until three A.M., who has any money left to pay fines with? I read about AA in the September Liberty magazine - sitting in my college dorm - in 1939. So when I first came to work at AA, I knew about it, and I also knew that a drunk was not always a Bowery bum.

Grapevine: You worked with Bill W. for twenty years. Tell us more about him.

Nell Wing: As I said, he could be adamant about what he knew had to be accomplished. He had the vision to see what was needed in order to preserve the Fellowship. But everybody liked to argue with Bill, and he liked to argue, too! Listening to Bill was some experience. When Bill would be talking, say at a banquet, many in the audience would be very moved and even weeping at what and how he shared. He could touch you in ways that were really remarkable. Generally, he could learn from experience. Like for example when he was advised to set the tone and tense for the text of the Big Book: don't say, you must do it this way. Just say, Look, this is what we do. He was a teacher but not a preacher!

Grapevine: What's amazing is that he listened.

Nell Wing: I always think how Bill was so much like the philosopher and writer William James. Both Bill and James were spiritual, though not necessarily deeply religious; they were also both pragmatic New Englanders. Bill had a way of talking about a deep faith inside himself the way James did. Bill liked to read about different interpretations of what God was like. He was very philosophical, and James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience* was very meaningful to him, as it was to many AAs both in those early years and since.

Grapevine: How were Bill and Dr. Bob different from each other? Was Bill the greater risk-taker?

Nell Wing: I think so. Dr. Bob, as a doctor, believed in being cautious and advising people how to evaluate ideas and solutions, to weigh them carefully - have everyone in agreement before taking action. Bill believed in putting the goal forward and aiming for it. No matter who liked it or who didn't like it: aim for that goal. Bill always thought way ahead. Dr. Bob was the monitor, evaluator, the ground level, the supporter of Bill's ideas, even perhaps not always agreeing with the timing of an idea. Another miracle! A perfect match! A wonderful partnership, indeed. Yes, Dr. Bob was the right person to balance Bill. His view was, Keep it simple. Bill had vision; that was one of his gifts - he could see the road ahead.

Grapevine: Where do you think he got this?

Nell Wing: I don't know. He simply was of that character. He had a need to think ahead to the next step, a sense of direction, an ability to judge what the needs were, and a great ability to bring different streams of thought together. But he took time to think things through. People said that up at Stepping Stones, Lois was the one who did the yardwork, the plumbing, and the daily things that husbands usually do. It was true. Bill would be walking a lot, contemplating, just thinking ahead.

Grapevine: Did Bill have a sense of humor?

Nell Wing: Yes, he'd knock us off our chairs sometimes. He'd tell Lois and me something funny that happened to somebody he'd heard about, and the way he told it, we would just absolutely go into hysterics. He could tell a naughty story, too. It wasn't that he was always pristine about everything. In the office, Bill and I used to share a big room; I was at one end and he was at the other end. So I saw the "passing parade," as it were - people coming in to see him. Occasionally somebody would say, "Hey, Bill, I just heard this," and then tell a joke currently making the rounds. And Bill would look at him as if the guy was crazy. If he didn't relate to a story or it didn't have a spark, he'd just kind of look at you. The poor guy would be standing there, so disappointed that he was telling Bill a joke and Bill wasn't laughing.

Grapevine: Lois and Bill never had children. Do you think they wanted them?

Nell Wing: Lois did, certainly. She always wanted children but she had three ectopic pregnancies back in the twenties. She and Bill tried to adopt but the adoption facility said they needed a friend who could recommend them, and the friend they asked - an old friend of Lois's - said that quite frankly she didn't think it was the right thing to do, because of Bill's drinking. So they never got the go-ahead to adopt. But Lois loved children. Up at Stepping Stones, young kids would come running

*(Continued on page 23)*

*(Continued from page 22)*

over to visit with her. She didn't treat them like silly children but would talk to them as if they were adults. And even years later, the grown-up children would come back and see her. At Halloween time especially there were always lots of neighborhood kids - I never think of Halloween without remembering Bill and Lois. Lois always had the table full of pumpkins and treats. When the children knocked at the door she'd be there to give them a little something. Then the kids would pull straws to see who got the biggest pumpkin.

Grapevine: You mentioned before about Bill reading. Did he like to read?

Nell Wing: He read a lot in earlier years. One of Bill's great attributes was that he could listen and learn. And a lot of very well-informed people came to visit Stepping Stones over the years. A lot of ideas were expressed there and talked about.

Grapevine: Did Bill imagine that AA was going to be as big as it is today?

Nell Wing: I remember in the late 1940s I said, "Bill, this Fellowship is going to go all over the world." He laughed and said, "Nell, you can say that - I can't." But the growth was phenomenal. After the war, many servicemen in AA were stationed overseas and were responsible for getting AA started in Japan in the late forties and in Frankfurt, Germany. Actually, in Japan, the program started out with thirteen steps, not Twelve. And do you know what the wives were called in Japan? The Chrysanthemums. Wives were invited to open meetings - well, not invited, but tolerated, and they definitely did participate!

Grapevine: Any thought on what made AA so successful?

Nell Wing: You know, one reason is that Bill wanted to avoid the mistakes of the past. He paid great attention to what made the Washingtonians and other similar movements fail back in the nineteenth century.

Grapevine: That's true, especially in Grapevine article in 1948 - "Modesty One Plank for Good Public Relations." [In this article, Bill discusses how the Washingtonians veered from their initial singleness of purpose - which was helping alcoholics - and how they didn't have a national public relations policy - a Tradition, as AA does.]

Nell Wing: Yes, that was a marvelous article. But there were also plenty of things going on in the present that helped shape AA policy and Traditions, too.

Grapevine: Such as?

Nell Wing: Well, for one thing, when Marty M. was soliciting for the new National Committee for Education on Alcoholism (later the National Council on Alcoholism), she made a big error in 1946. She said that whoever contributed to the NCEA would also be contributing to AA, or that AA would benefit from it. Well, that created some explosion! Bill was traveling and speaking out West and AAs were bombarding him with questions: "What's going on? What is this woman saying?" The trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation had their first press conference because of this, explaining that what Marty said was not endorsed by AA, and that the trustees had nothing to do with the solicitation announcement. Bill and Dr. Bob had earlier let their names be put on the NCEA letterhead because Bill was very supportive of what Marty was doing in the field of alcoholism. Bill never believed that AA had all the answers for every alcoholic. He always said that whatever worked for the individual was what was needed. Anyway, the Marty M. controversy lasted four years - it was a fast and furious business at the time. But it helped galvanize acceptance of the short form of the Traditions, which were later accepted in 1950 at the Cleveland Conference.

Grapevine: While Bill was clearly one of the Fellowship's old-timers, it seems he was often at loggerheads with other members about a variety of things.

Nell Wing: Well, when he wrote the Twelve Concepts in 1959, most of the Fellowship wasn't interested at all. And in the early fifties he proposed a change in the ratio of alcoholics to nonalcoholics on the Board of Trustees. And nobody wanted to hear about that proposal, either. Nevertheless, both the Concepts and the ratio proposal were eventually accepted by both the Board of Trustees and the Fellowship as a whole.

Grapevine: These are more examples of how Bill looked ahead.

*(Continued on page 24)*

Nell Wing: Absolutely. That's why he was so concerned about establishing the General Service Conference in 1951. By the late 1940s, it was no secret that Dr. Bob probably didn't have long to live. [Dr. Bob died in 1950.] And Bill was wondering how much time he himself might have. He wanted and expected the Fellowship to be able to go on without him and Dr. Bob. But nobody wanted to face the fact that he was going to die some day.

Grapevine: Weren't there a number of projects Bill wanted to get to in the years following Dr. Bob's death?

Nell Wing: In 1954, Bill had the idea of creating a writing and research team to help him with, among other things, a major history of AA. Bill's depression was still with him and he knew that if he could give a lot of time to doing something specific and keep at it, that would help the depression. He wanted to do a good, thorough history and also put together a new edition of the Big Book. The scope of the history project proved to be too much, though, and had to be scaled back. Nevertheless, the result was AA Comes of Age. The new edition of the Big Book finally did get completed, and Bill was also eager to do a summing up of what he had learned, the wisdom that had come up through the Fellowship. He had a very precise idea of the kind of book he wanted to write, but he wasn't able to do it. In the end, what took its place was As Bill Sees It - not a bad substitute!

Grapevine: What were Bill's depressions like?

Nell Wing: Most times you didn't know he was going through it. His depressions came and went. Sometimes, not often, but occasionally, when he was dictating to me in the office, he would just put his head in his hands and weep for a bit. The worst of these depressive bouts were between 1945 and 1955. What he accomplished, AA-wise, despite his depressions, is a miracle. So many people wanted Bill's advice - not just AA and Al-Anon friends, but nearby neighbors at Bedford Hills. They'd ask if they could come over to Stepping Stones, and Bill always said yes to everyone. To get away from the phone ringing and all the people, Bill and Lois would often go away in the middle of the week - to their "hideaway," they called it, a small rented cottage ten or fifteen miles away. Lois would write and work on Al-Anon matters and Bill would catch up on correspondence and memos regarding current AA projects. Then, once a year they often took an overseas trip, usually in the fall, and in the spring they would take a trip around the United States and Canada, visiting AA friends and discussing AA matters. Harriet, the housekeeper, would pick up their mail, and I'd go through it to see what needed to be answered right away and what could wait for their return.

Grapevine: Bill seems to have taken every opportunity possible to communicate - through memos, letters, Grapevine articles, the Big Book, the "Twelve and Twelve," traveling around, talking to groups.

Nell Wing: Yes, he was a terrific communicator! And he felt intensely the need to share his plans for AA's future and to receive endorsement of them - despite the often feisty opposition from some. Right here, I would like to mention the Grapevine book, *The Language of the Heart*, for I think it's a most valuable book. If you want to know what Bill W. was all about, read that book!

Grapevine: Tell us about working in the Archives of the General Service Office.

Nell Wing: I wanted the Archives started, as did Bill. My father, who valued history, had a huge library at home, and after college I took a course in library science and liked it. I always thought that it was very important to preserve AA history, preserve how it started and how it grew - to remember the mistakes in order to avoid future ones. It certainly was important to Bill, but it was hard to get others to understand the need for setting up an Archives. In Europe, in the fifties, archives were thought to be very important, but were not generally so considered here in the United States. We're a "now" people; we don't always think about the future in terms of preserving the past.

In 1954, a fellow named Ed B. was hired to help Bill with his writing projects. Ed was a wonderful guy - a writer, a criminologist, and just newly sober - but he didn't think it was important to preserve all the material we had collected and researched. Our desks were opposite each other and I'd watch him going through pamphlets and letters, throwing many of them in the wastebasket. I'd say, "Hey, Ed, we can't throw all this away." I knew from experience that each of Bill's letters contained at least five different ideas! Ed had had a laryngectomy - so he'd write out a note, "No, that's not important any more." I didn't argue, but after he left work at four o'clock, I'd take everything out of the wastebasket and put it all safely away in storage boxes until I could sort it out. I'm especially grateful that Bill so strongly believed in preserving AA's experience. He knew



*(Continued from page 24)*

the importance of getting things done, and had a special gift for timing. I often think, suppose he hadn't possessed certain leadership abilities - where would AA be now? Maybe some little sect, who knows? I think it was destined. I think the Higher Power set this up, I really do.

The fantastic success of AA is like a big puzzle and there are pieces that you know fit in, but you just don't know where until you look back into the past.

Grapevine: How has being so close to the Fellowship affected you?

Nell Wing: Well, I always like to say I'm on the outside looking in. About a week after I first came to the office, I attended an open AA meeting at a meeting hall on Forty-First Street. I remember a gentleman sharing his story and I found myself weeping - while everyone else was laughing! Right from the start, I was spellbound by AA. One person helping another who had a similar problem - that is still a stunning idea to me.

Over the years, I've gained some spiritual gifts myself. Most nonalcoholics who are familiar with AA feel the same sense of growth.

Grapevine: Hanging around with a bunch of drunks for this long - it can only go up from here!

Nell Wing: I'll tell you something, I don't know people who have lived and learned and reacted to life like AA members. I've been taught - and I'm grateful. Every morning when I wake up, I express gratitude for what's happened to me.

© Grapevine, AA Grapevine Inc., 1994; Reprinted with permission

