



# EL FAROLITO

Official Newsletter of New Mexico Area 46 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

## "The Groups are Where the Action Is"

### Delegate Report

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Area 46 State Convention in Hobbs, hosted by District 10! Yolanda F of San Antonio, TX, is our newly elected Southwest Regional Trustee. She'll be sharing her story in Spanish on Saturday, June 6 at 3:00 pm. Headsets for translation into English will be available. Our Bilingual Committee always does such a great job. I'm excited to hear her story and to welcome her to New Mexico!

Also at the Convention, I'll be giving my report on the 2015 General Service Conference at 4:15 pm on Saturday. The Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations, and other information are posted on our area website at <http://www.newmexicoaa.org>. I'll talk about what decisions the conference made - and why - and what I saw and heard and felt while I was there. I also hope to include some excerpts from a few excellent presentations I saw - one on AA World Services and what our contributions go to support, the "Around the Picnic Table" presentation on our overall finances, and one on our World Service Meeting, held in Warsaw, Poland.

Communication is a two-way street. I want to know your opinions on what we need to do to reach all those alcoholics out there who desperately want a better way of life. Visiting the Districts is my favorite part of the job, because that's where I get to hear from the Fellowship. While it is fascinating to learn about and participate in what goes on at the pointy end of the triangle, the groups - the base of our upside-down triangle - are where the action really is. The pointy end can't function effectively without the voice of the groups to guide it. You can contact me at [area46delegate@nm-aa.org](mailto:area46delegate@nm-aa.org) to arrange a Delegate's report for your district. Let me know what you'd like and I'll be there! See you soon.

In joyful service, Jen N

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### Delegado Informe

Tengo muchas ganas de que todo lo ve en la Convención del Área 46 Estado en Hobbs, organizada por el Distrito 10! Yolanda F, de San Antonio, TX, es nuestro recién elegido Fiduciario Regional del Suroeste. Ella compartirá su historia en español el sábado 6 de junio, a las 15:00. Auriculares para la traducción en Inglés estarán disponibles. Nuestro Comité Bilingüe siempre hace un gran trabajo. Estoy emocionado de escuchar su historia y darle la bienvenida a Nuevo México!

También en la Convención, estaré dando mi informe sobre la Conferencia de Servicios Generales 2015 a las 4:15 pm del sábado. Las acciones de asesoramiento, Consideraciones adicionales, y otra información se publican en nuestro sitio web en el área <http://www.newmexicoaa.org>. Voy a hablar de lo que las decisiones de la conferencia hizo y por qué, y lo que vi y oí y sentí mientras yo estaba allí. Espero también incluir algunos extractos de un par de excelentes presentaciones que vi allí uno en AA World Services y lo que nuestros aportes van a apoyar, el "Alrededor de la Mesa de picnic" presentación sobre nuestras finanzas globales, y uno en nuestra Reunión de Servicio Mundial, celebrada en Varsovia, Polonia.

(Continued on page 3)

## Area Trusted Servants and District DCMs Contact List

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

(Continued from page 1)

### *Delegate Report...*

La comunicación es una calle de dos vías. Quiero saber sus opiniones sobre lo que tenemos que hacer para llegar a todos los alcohólicos por ahí que quieren desesperadamente una mejor forma de vida. Visitar los barrios es mi parte favorita del trabajo, porque ahí es donde llego a saber de la beca. Si bien es fascinante para conocer y participar en lo que sucede en el extremo puntiagudo del triángulo, los grupos-la base de nuestra revés triángulo son donde la acción es en realidad. Y el extremo puntiagudo no puede funcionar eficazmente sin la voz de los grupos para guiarla. Puedes contactar conmigo en [area46delegate@nm-aa.org](mailto:area46delegate@nm-aa.org) para arreglar el informe de un delegado para su distrito. Déjame saber lo que te gustaría y voy a estar allí! Hasta pronto.

En servicio gozoso,  
Jen N

## *Chair*

It is an unfortunate but yet true fact that many people today do not help others without anticipating something tangible in return. Alcoholics Anonymous is one of a few notable exceptions noted by the example of the work carried out by alcoholics living a life of service. Service extends as our gratitude grows for the life that we only dreamed of when we were drinking.

Finding the balance between commitment to family and friends with service in AA becomes an opportunity for spiritual growth. The second year of this rotation demonstrates the growth in each of us which in turn adds to the growth of Area 46.

It is an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with Trusted Servants who are willing to grow. Thank you.

See you at the Area State Convention in Hobbs.

Teresa F, Area Chair

## **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@newmexicoaa.org](mailto:elfarolito@newmexicoaa.org)

*Send group contributions*

*for El Farolito to:*

***El Farolito  
PO Box 35876  
Albuquerque, NM 87176***

*Send group contributions*

*for the Area to:*

***Area Treasurer  
PO Box 35785  
Albuquerque, NM 87176***

# ***Area Trusted Servants Reports***

## ***Registrar***

It's hard to believe that by the time you're reading this that we will be half way through 2015 and that in 3 months we will be having an election assembly and I will start the transition to a new trusted servant.

This last month has been uneventful. After entering all the changes from the March Assembly and getting the Directory published it brings me to a place of rest and reflection. How has this position contributed to my sobriety, what is the spiritual significance of this service position, what have I learned, what can I do to insure a smooth transition? I am looking at all of those. I have been asked to present at a District 18 workshop on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month and as I prepare for that I am sure that I will have a lot to share on these subjects in next month's report.

Here are a couple of ways that I was able to be useful in the last month: Our Area alternate chair needed a phone number for someone up in District 15. He had a first name and knew that he was on the committee for the 2016 Convention. I remembered talking to this young man at the December Assembly as they had just started a young people's meeting and we had a discussion about the name of the group and how to get it registered. I was able to provide Francisco with the information he needed very quickly. While not technically in the "job description" there was a problem with the flier for this year's convention dropping off the area website. Talked to the guys down in District 10, they emailed me the flier and we very quickly got it distributed to all the Trusted Servants and DCMs throughout the state.

Enough words for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various events going on in June.

Rosie F, Area 46 Registrar

## ***Treasurer***

45 groups contributed to Area 46 in April – this was a great improvement over previous months. We are no longer operating below reserves. Total contributions this year are still less than they were for the same period last year, but the situation is improving.

Expenses in April included \$300 in Delegate travel expenses to the General Service Conference, \$371 in 12<sup>th</sup> step workshops and a \$17 committee expense for the March Assembly. (See financials on page 5)

The agency that handled our liability insurance for many years decided to stop handling these types of policies. Consequently, I have been shopping for a new insurance agency and a new liability policy.

The budget process is beginning. Groups are encouraged to participate! Please contact Kurt K. with your ideas, concerns or questions. A draft budget will be presented (and discussed) at the September Assembly. The proposed budget will be voted on at the December Assembly. I am also glad to answer questions.

In grateful service, Teresa J.

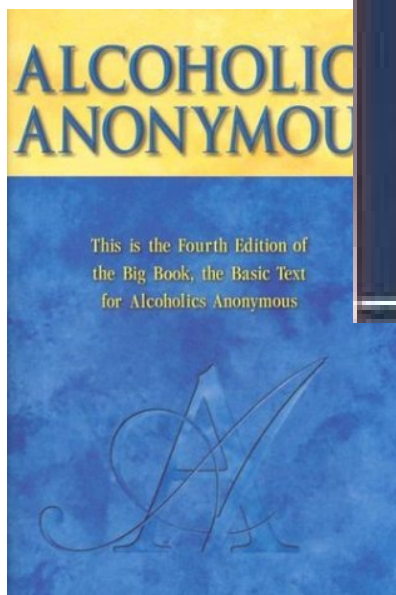
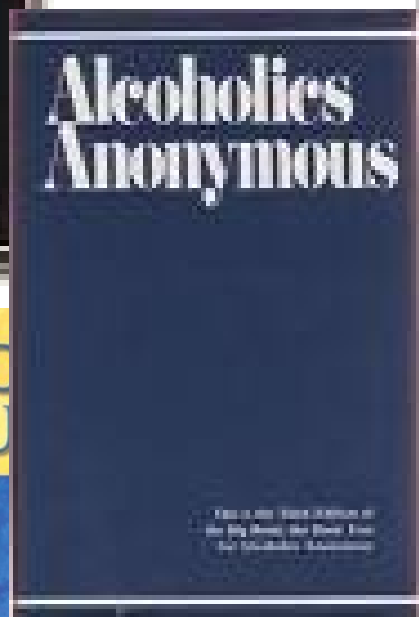
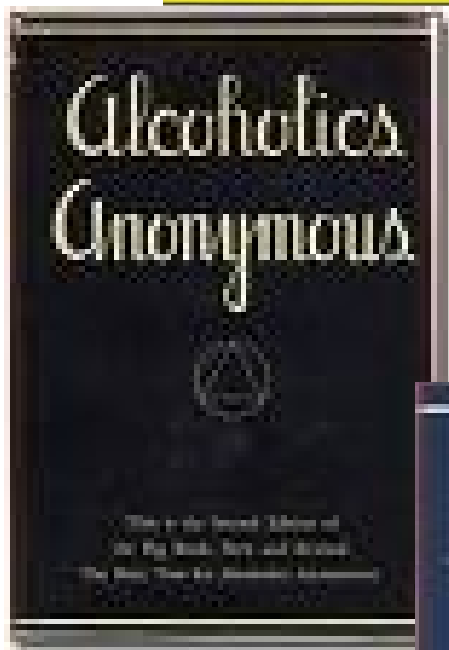
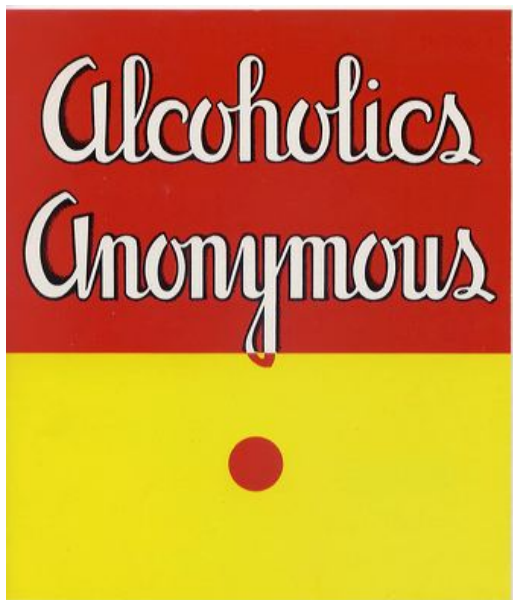
## **Upcoming Area Events**

Area 46 Convention Hobbs June 5 - 7

Area Assembly September 12, 13 Belen

Area Assembly December 5,6 District 8; Farmington





## 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.NEWMEXICOAA.ORG](http://WWW.NEWMEXICOAA.ORG)

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

DISTRICT 2 WEBSITE:  
[WWW.SANTAFAAA.ORG](http://WWW.SANTAFAAA.ORG)

# ***Service Committee Reports***

## ***Archives Committee***

I hope to see all of you at the State Convention in Hobbs, June 5-7. The Archives Committee will have our archives display set up at the convention. Please plan to stop by. We will have our slideshow and a version of an AA Jeopardy game for you to try your hand at some AA trivia. The Archives Committee has developed several editions of an AA jeopardy game. They are in electronic form (Powerpoint), and are ready to go. Do you have an event coming up? Would you like to plan an evening event of fun and trivia?

Did you Know?

Tularosa, NM – 1949

In early 1949 Art T in Tularosa was having some trouble with his drinking. He was looking through some old magazines and ran across an issue of the Saturday Evening Post of March 1, 1941 which contained the Jack Alexander article about Alcoholics Anonymous.

After reading the article, Art T wrote to Akron for some literature. By the time he received the literature he had contacted another man in Tularosa who was also having some trouble with his drinking. The two of them contacted one of their drinking friends named Jess T. The three of them started holding a meeting in Tularosa once a week in the Fall of 1949.

If you have an opportunity, please visit the Area 46 website/Archives page and read through some of the interesting New Mexico history.

Thank you to the districts that have contributed to the Travel Fund for our Area Archivist to be able to travel to Akron for the National AA Archives workshop. In addition to the partial funding approved by Area 46, we have received additional contributions of \$250 to support our Archivists Travel.

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

## ***Public Information Committee***

I am going to submit a short and simple report this month. Since I would be repeating info from Brian (CPC)

This last month we had two wonderful events outlined in the CPC report. I attended the PI event hosted by Myra T (thanks to you) and Chris S (thank you) attended the event in Silver City. We have an event for the PI/CPC committees for work with the medical community on May 23rd at Monte Vista Church in Albuquerque, from 9AM to noon. Come participate as you are able. We will be discussing the way AA and medical community can work together. As always, we love to hear from you on how we can better carry the AA message to the general public. We can be reached at my email – [pi@nm-aa.org](mailto:pi@nm-aa.org).

In service of AA

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Tom C.

# *YPAA Committee*

**"As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity." (12 & 12 pg. 187)**

Greetings!

Since my last report, I participated in the district 13 PI/CPC workshops on April 18th in Albuquerque. We also welcomed our newest Ypaa chair in District 5 from Alamogordo.

We are bridging the gap of communication between the Area, Districts, and the Groups they serve and this growth is creating lots of service opportunities across the state. As a committee we are discussing how to best communicate with our districts that cannot always make it to Albuquerque.

We last met on April 28th in Albuquerque. Some of the district chairs are currently working on a young people's kit to be used as a resource for districts and GSR's. It will include information about the services the YPAA committee can assist with, relevant literature from GSO, and ways to get involved and keep in touch with our committee. Once complete it can be a useful tool to distribute to the districts and GSR's as a means of bridging the gap throughout the state.

We are also planning a fun YPAA "field day" for July 25th in Albuquerque.

I'm so thrilled to be a part of such an involved and "service eager" committee. We meet every couple of weeks in Albuquerque to coordinate service projects. As always, thank you for this opportunity to serve. If you would like to get involved or if I can extend the hand of AA to your District, please let me know.

In love and service, Ally T - [Ypaa@newmexicoaa.org](mailto:Ypaa@newmexicoaa.org)

## *Treatment Committee*

Greetings from Taos! Coordinating different AA members to speak or lead a meeting in a treatment facility is an effective way to carrying the message to clients in treatment centers. For those in recovery who have been in treatment, understand how AA meetings in treatment bridged the gap to long-term recovery. Inquire at your local District meeting and/or with your Treatment Committee Chair on how you can get involved ("We can't keep it, until we give it away"). Based on some research I conducted there has been 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 due to reduced insurance coverage. Based on these changes, it's important that we are there to carry the message and to answer any questions regarding the AA program of recovery. Also you can refer to AA literature for help. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

In the Spirit of Service, Lawrence M.

## *CPC Committee*

Lots happening in the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee, starting with the Area 46 CPC/PI Workshop, focusing on Health Care Professionals, in Albuquerque on Saturday, May 23, from 9:00 to 12:00.

Next, it's the Nursing Diversion Program Conference in Albuquerque on Friday, June 26. After that, it's the Area 46 CPC Chair volunteering to work the CPC desk at the AA International Convention in Atlanta on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Next is the District 12, I Am Responsible Workshop in Albuquerque, on August 29<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 4:00PM.

Finally, the Area 46 Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee will be participating in the Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs Conference (CoLAP) from October 20 – 22, in Albuquerque. Anyone interested in participating in the Committees activities, please contact the Chair.

Brian V.

# Service Committee Reports

## *Bridging the Gap Committee*

Greetings Area 46,

First off I would like to thank District 16 for hosting the Workshop held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

There was a good sized crowd and lots of good food. It has been a lot of fun being able to meet members of the host districts. This is one of the true blessings of AA, there are a lot of cities in New Mexico where I can hit a meeting when I am traveling and sure enough, there will be somebody I know already. This really emphasizes the fact that wherever we go, we are made to feel welcome at a different meeting.

I have heard of several upcoming workshops, in addition to the ones mentioned last month in Las Vegas, and one by District 3, I have learned that District 12 is planning a workshop in August. It is so thrilling to see the interest picking up and a great way for everybody to learn about the way the different committees work in Area 46.

There have been expenses totaling \$163.75 this year to date. In Love & Service, Dave F.

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**Thursday Noon Women's Group...**Phyllis B 4-13-1981 34 years

**Cosmopolitan:** Rich J 28 years  
Kris 17 years - Lora 5 years  
Frank 2 years

**Serenity Group- Alamogordo...**April Birthdays  
Vick 17 Years - Susie 17 Years  
Bob M 6 Years - Tommy P 4 Years - Donnetta 2 Years  
Anita 1 Year - Casey F 1 Year  
Heidi 1 Year

**Isleta Group:** Jessica 30 days  
Cecilia 9 years - Carol M. 20 years - Al F. 28 years - Bryan G. 30 years - Steve H. 32 years

**Arid group Ruidoso:** Jimmy had 1 yr. on 4/18 and Bud had 2 yrs. on 4/9

### ***El Farolito* is holding "Mailing Parties" to tape, label and stamp each issue.**

Thanks to the following Districts for hosting Mailing Parties:

District 11 - April issue    District 18 - May issue  
District 3 - June Issue

I have 16 issues remaining in my rotation and Area 46 has 19 Districts...seems to me we can have every District host. So help me explore my adopted state by having your District host. It will take about 1-2 hours depending on the number of members who attend.

Here are the dates...bring up at your next District meeting and let me know what date you want:

ISSUE	DATE	DISTRICT
Jul-15	06/27/15	2?
Aug-15	07/25/15	12
Sep-15	08/29/15	10
Oct-15	09/26/15	
Nov-15	10/31/15	14
Dec-15	11/28/15	
Jan-16	12/26/15	
Feb-16	01/30/16	
Mar-16	02/27/16	
Apr-16	03/26/16	
May-16	04/30/16	



# *Literature Committee*

Sober Salutations;

“Time keeps on slipping, slipping....into the future.” *Steve Miller*

Hard to believe its already time to pack the bags and books and head east to Hobbs for the Area 46 State Convention. I purchased \$500.84 worth of books and pamphlets so I will have a good supply of both English and Spanish books. I was asked by the Spanish speaking AA's at the last Area Assembly in Albuquerque, why I did not have Spanish literature....and I could not give them a good answer. My answer today is because no one asked before!!

Looking forward to an exciting Convention and meeting some new friends and reconnecting with some old ones.

My old balance was \$515.61, and with the recent purchase, the new balance is \$14.77.

TYFLMBOS, John T.

## ***District News***

### ***District 17***

#### **Greetings on Behalf of District 17:**

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday monthly at 1:00 PM... 12 of the 14 Representatives' share on their Service.

Tuesday on the 21 of April, 2015 the Community Clinical Treatment Program Center at 401 Roma NW (fourth floor) in Albuquerque, had a panel of the A.A./Matrix Panel discussion, coordinated with our Treatment share person Jorje I. There were 8 Members of Alcoholic Anonymous that assisted and 5 of the Members of Treatment Center. 2 of the 5 had questions after we shared our experience of the guidelines that they proposed to us. The questions from the 5 were “Sponsorship”. This A.A./Matrix Group is going to meet every three months.

In the March, 2015 Area 46 Assembly in Albuquerque, the Bilingual Committee brought need to encourage District 19 in its Service goals. The discussion was made to have a workshop to: 1) The Home Group, where it all starts 2) The importance of having a Group Representative (G.S.R). in the Home Group. 3) The Importance to attend the Area Assemblies proceeded by the General Service Structure.

District 17 addressed this need in the monthly G.S.R. meeting in April 2015, and was decided to have a Workshop in Roswell, NM. There were 38 assistants with 21 members from Albuquerque including Service Members at Area, District 17 (5) Group Representatives (G.S.R.'s) Convention Committee, and Oficina Intergrupul Hispana. 5 Groups of the 8 from District 19 with (3) General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s) and other members from District 19. They were informed of the Service Structure and the different Services of the Structure. Many left very enthusiastic to Unity and put in action the Service of our program. Thanks to all the Members of District 17 for your support and unity that was felt.

There are Group Anniversaries that have kept its doors open for our Primary Purpose:

- 1) Grupo Hispano 26 years, May 16, 2015
- 2) Grupo Amistad, Los Lunas, 8 years, June 6, 2015

*(Continued on page 10)*

# District Reports

(Continued from page 9)

...**District 17 Cont.**

- 3) Grupo El Perdón 7 years, July 18, 2015
- 4) Grupo Tres Legados 1 year April 15, 2015.

A warm hug! to our Fellow Members of the Groups celebrating their Group Anniversaries.

We thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

With Affection and Love for Service...Ana G. Farolito Representative

## **Saludos de parte de Distrito 17:**

El Distrito 17 se reúne el 2 sábado mensual.

12 de los 14 Representantes de Grupos comparten en esta reunión de Servicio.

Martes el 21 de abril, 2015 asistimos a un Panel en el Centro Comunitario de Tratamiento en 401 Roma NW (cuarto piso) en Albuquerque, coordinada por Jorge I, Coordinador de tratamiento. La asistencia fue de 8 miembros de Alcohólicos Anónimos y cinco del Centro de Tratamiento. 2 de los 5 tuvieron preguntas después que compartimos nuestras experiencias, sobre las guías que nos propusieron. Las preguntas de los 5 fueron del "Apadrinamiento". Este Panel se va llevar a cabo cada 3 meses.

En la Asamblea de Marzo, 2015 de Área 46 en Albuquerque en el Comité Bilingüe salió la necesidad de apoyar el Distrito 19 en sus metas de Servicio. Se llegó en acuerdo hacer en Taller, 1) El Grupo Base donde comienza todo, 2) La importancia de tener un Representante en el Grupo Base, 3) La importancia de asistir la Asambleas de Área siguiendo la Estructura de Servicio Generales. Se decidió en la junta de los Representantes de los Grupos R.S.G.'s. en Abril de tener un Taller en Roswell, NM Sábado, 25 de abril 2015. Nos reunimos 38 personas. 21 personas de Albuquerque, incluyendo Miembros a nivel Área, Distrito 17, (5) Representantes de Servicios Generales (R.S.G.'s), Comité de Convenciones y Oficina Intergrupala Hispana.

5 Grupos de los 8 del Distrito 19 asistieron con (3) Representantes de Servicios Generales (R.S.G.'s). Se les informó de la Estructura del Servicio y los diferentes Servicios de la Estructura. Muchos se fueron con entusiasmo, un sentido de unidad y de poner en acción al Servicio de nuestro programa. Gracias a los Miembros del Distrito 17 por su apoyo y Unidad que se sintió.

## ***District 16***

Grant County Central Office (GCCO) will be closing their doors on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. The office did not have enough volunteers to staff the office to support the AA community. Remaining funds will be used to support the hotline and phone directory listing for as long as possible. The office will be selling remaining literature at half price. To make arrangements to purchase literature and office hours contact Paula, Heidi or Merri. The hotline has been a vital link to people wanting sobriety. It has been an important link to meetings and other information pertaining to AA and recovery. The office will be striving to make this service easier for volunteers. They still need people to volunteer for the hotline and to be contacts in assisting people wanting recovery and information pertaining to recovery. Thank you to all who have generously donated their time and donations. Your efforts were well spent in the spirit of carrying the AA message.

The Bayard group has relocated their meeting to the Bayard Community Center at 200 Hurley Ave. Please pass this information on. Call Paula for information.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

### **...District 16 Cont**

The Bayard group will be celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Little Walnut Picnic area at the Gomez Pavilion; same location as previous celebrations. Come out and enjoy the festivities.

District 16 held a workshop on April 25<sup>th</sup> on CPC/PI and BTG. We would like to thank Eloy (Area 46 Correction Chairperson); Carrie (Area 46 Alternate Treatment Chairperson) Dave and Nicole (Area 46 BTG Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson); and Kay and Chris (District 4 CPC/PI) for volunteering their time to teach us about these service positions. Also, thank you Sherry D. for all the work you put into making this happen. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

Anyone interested in announcing events and news in our District please contact me.

Grateful to serve, Jan W.

## ***District 3***

Greetings to everyone, from District 3. We recently had our district meeting, and “thank you” to Eloy for filling in for me at this meeting, so that I could get this report out.

The September Assembly planning meetings are still going well and more and more is being accomplished at each one. Thank you, to all our District 3 members who have been volunteering, we have a lot of dedicated people who are working to make this a success. There will be a new SW Regional Trustee at the September Assembly and the Rio Amigos Group in Belen has volunteered to host a speaker meeting on Friday so that we may get to hear her story. Her name is Yoli and we will have more information on the location and time of the meeting as soon as possible.

This year District 3 is planning a different location and date for our annual picnic. Instead of September, we have planned a picnic at “Water Canyon” campgrounds in the Magdalena Canyon area, July 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. This is a planned picnic/campout (for those who are interested) with campfire meetings planned. All are welcome to come join us. Bring the family and friends for a fellowship weekend. More information and a flyer will be coming soon!

District 3 will be helping with El Farolito labeling/folding/etc...on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Please contact Martha at 804-2852 for the location. This is a great opportunity for service and should take around an hour and a half. Thank you, to those who have volunteered already.

The Isleta Group will be celebrating their 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September and will have more information on the events, in the coming months.

As a reminder to our District 3 members, the June district meeting will be hosted by the Isleta Group on June 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Isleta Club. Thank you all our dedicated Committee Chairs and GSR's who continue to stay active in service work also.

In service and gratitude, Carmen O. – District 3 Farolito Rep

## ***From our Readers***

From There is a Solution Group: “Great job! I like the printed edition.”

From Dennis J: “Thank you for sending El Farolito to the Pecos community of AA. It is appreciated by all to be connected to the greater whole of AA through this newsletter. “

# District News

## District 14

Taos Mountain Fiesta is Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Look for upcoming website updates for more info.

All the District schedules printed on white paper have current meeting information and have been distributed widely.

“There is a Solution” group will be sponsoring a picnic at Fred Baca Park on June 13<sup>th</sup> and all are invited. Family and relatives are welcome. A flyer will be made to share. CPC is collaborating with Taos County DWI Program about identifying the meetings that have distinct stamps. This way court ordered individuals can get their log sheets stamped instead of signed in order to protect anonymity. Detox has requested a meeting at noon on Fridays. Meetings are currently on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

District 14 and District 15 are projecting a picnic for July in Pilar. The picnic might be an overnight. More information to follow. There is a subscription contest going on. The state with the most subscriptions will have its own section in the Grapevine. Please pass on to all of the groups.

Literature chair can take orders to the book bank. Karen will give some literature to corrections. She will give updated report at next district meeting. Daniel T. is the new District 14 Archives Chair. Thanks for your service.

The new *El Farolito* editor would like to have mailing parties in different Districts. We would like to invite him to District 14. Ellen will follow up. (*Editors note: The schedule is on page 8, pick a date and I will be there!*)

Thanks for letting me be of service. Kate O.

## District 8

Sober Greetings,

The first and most important news I have to report is that we HAVE a venue for the December 2015 Area Assembly. It will held at St. Mary's Parish Hall, at 20th Street and Farmington Ave., Farmington. This is where we had the last Assembly in September 2011. We looked, prayed, searched and prayed some more to find a venue with no success. Then the miracle happened....St. Mary's told us that the building was already being used that weekend.....we asked them several times with no avail.....then our District treasurer, Greg J. went and talked to the Senior Deacon and VOILA!!.....they only had to move ONE event to give us permission to use the facility. Thank God and Greg!

The next Area Assembly meeting will be Saturday, June 20th at 9am at the Well, Farmington. We have several positions filled, but still need more warm bodies. Other happenings in District 8 are as follows: \* The Daybreak Group Annual "Friends of Bill W. Family Campout will be July 17-19 above Silverton, CO. Contact Rick or Andrea at 505-564-8117 for information. The Annual District 8 Picnic will be Sunday, August 9th at 11am at Kiwanis Park, 30th street in Farmington. Charlotte A. and the Aztec Group are hosting the picnic, but anyone can help out. \*The Annual District 8 Christmas Banquet will be on Saturday, December 19th at 6pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Sherri D. from Silver City will be the speaker. Contact Debbi M. for Raffle tickets, raffle items or meal tickets.

Other District news is Ron H. has taken over the PI/CPC for Guy S. We still need an Alternate DCM and a Treatment Facility Rep. Our next District 8 meeting will be Thursday, June 11th at 7pm at 865 N. Dustin, Farmington. Enter the South Annex, the East door. See you there.

TYFLMBOS, John T.

# District 11

Welcome to District 11. We are a very active district and strongly supportive of service and recovery. We have a number of service opportunities available. Please contact us or join us at the next District meeting if you would like to participate.

We are enjoying life and carrying the message...District 11 is now looking forward to our next service project...tentatively titled, "How To Become An Oldtimer." We have reserved the Shepard of the Valley Church on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Speakers are being lined up. Anyone interested in participating may contact the DCM through the area website.

The first planning meeting for the upcoming fall Traditions Conference was held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the Nativity Church at 9502 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW. This is a great opportunity for service work, as well as education on The Traditions. Please contact Miguel V if you are interested in helping out.

Alaina announced that YPAA has set up another event...The "YPAA Games" on July 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be outdoor team games, lunch provided, and YPAA Speakers. It promises to be a great event. More information will be coming next month. NMCYPAA is also putting on a conference titled "On the Wagon for Keeps" on August 14-16 at the ENMU Roswell Campus. For more information, please visit [www.nmcypaa.com](http://www.nmcypaa.com)

Elizabeth reports that Central Office is still in need of volunteers to answer the phones, especially in the evening shifts (6:00pm – 10:00pm). Six months of sobriety is required. Articles for *Pass It On* are also needed from our membership. Don't be shy...send in anything you have to share, and Elizabeth will edit.

We have set the date for the annual District 11 Jemez Falls Picnic...it will be August 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark that on your calendars, as this is an incredibly fun and fulfilling annual event. A planning committee has been formed, and more details will be coming.

We are saddened to announce that Mary S has had to step down as District 11 Treasurer. She has accepted a job out of state, where we are sure she will continue to be an active AA service member. Thank you so much, Mary...you will be missed!

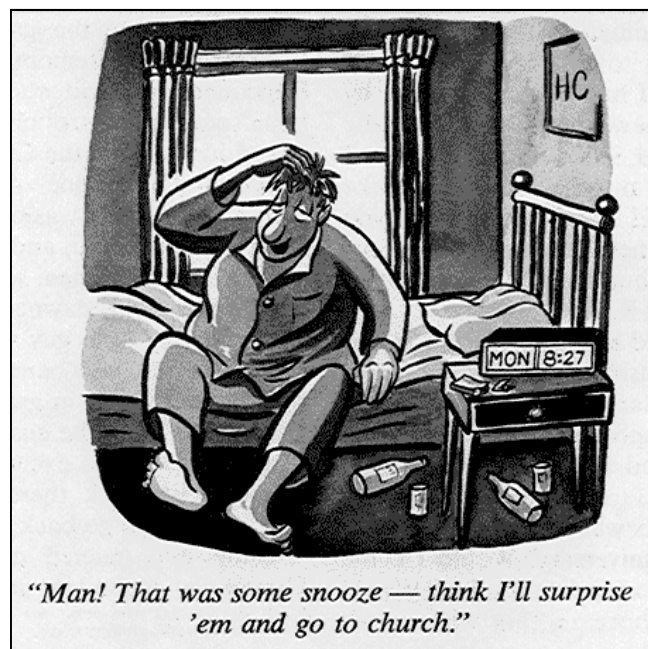
District 11 has several open service positions, and could use your help in carrying the message. Service is a vital component to staying sober, and helping others. I am grateful for that opportunity.

Yours in service, Kevin C.

## Envelopes Returned in May

Roadrunners Group	Santa Fe
Young Peoples/Santa Fe A.A. Gp	Santa Fe
Women's Group	Albuquerque
Fellowship Group	Albuquerque
Blackouts Group	Albuquerque
Serenity Group	Albuquerque
Seco Group	Tierra Amarilla
Los Alamos Group	Los Alamos
Home Group AA	Gallup

Please contact the Registrar with the current info.



Reprinted with permission, AA Grapevine, June 1973



# News from around the state

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



Volunteers are needed to carry the AA message into the New Mexico State Correctional facilities. Women are especially needed to carry the message into the NM Women's Correctional facility in Grants, NM.

Volunteer training for men and women will be:

Saturday, June 13, 2015

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Legacy Church...7201 Central Ave NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87121

## NMCYPAA

### 2015

ROSWELL NM

AUGUST 14-16

ENMU-ROSWELL CAMPUS

**"ON THE WAGON FOR  
KEEPS"**

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of NMCYPAA is to build and strengthen unity among YPAA groups in the state of NM. We recognize that not all AA members will find our conference necessary to their recovery from alcoholism; we seek only to provide it to those who find it desirable. Each year NMCYPAA will provide an environment for a celebration of sobriety for all those who wish to participate, as well as an opportunity to meet and share experience, strength, and hope with AA members from across the state of NM.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

District 11  
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditions Conference**  
October 2015

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Volunteers needed! Opportunity for  
Service Work**

**Volunteers are needed from all districts.  
Bring a Sponsee, or your Sponsor!**

*Thursday Meetings at 6:00pm*

*May 21<sup>st</sup>*

*June 18<sup>th</sup>*

*July 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*August 20<sup>th</sup>*

*September 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>*

*October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>*

Committee Meetings at:

***Nativity Church (East Entrance)  
9502 4<sup>th</sup> St NW (At Alameda)  
Albuquerque, NM, 87114***

## INTERGROUP SPEAKER MEETING

Hosted by District 12

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 5-9PM

**WHERE:** **Heights Club**, 8520 Marble Ave NE, ABQ

**WHAT:** **5-6 PM Taco Bar**

Beef or Chicken with beans, rice, and fixins'

**6-7:30 PM Speakers**

Scooter and Chelsie M.

**7:30-9 PM Raffle**

Proceeds go to central office

All raffle items may be dropped off at central office

**Raffle donations needed**

For questions call:

Pam A. 710-5944

Alice M. 362-4032

**Food donations appreciated**

Sodas, chips & dips, desserts

For questions call:

Alice M. 362-4032



# El Farolito Committee

## Contributions since the last issue:

We send a thank you post card with each contribution that also acts as a receipt. We believe that the amount of the contribution is not as important as the fact a contribution is being made. A \$5 contribution for one group can be as much of a sacrifice as a \$50 contribution from another. We are deeply humbled and grateful for your support.

4/18/15	Ft Bayard Group	Santa Clara		5/4/15	Sober at Sunrise	Las Cruces	
4/18/15	Los Mesilleros	Mesilla		5/9/15	Foothills Group	Albuquerque	
4/18/15	Lunch Bunch	Roswell		5/9/15	Trinity Site Group	Tularosa	
4/23/15	SOP Group	Carlsbad		5/12/15	Early Birds	Las Vegas	
4/23/15	Brown Baggers	Albuquerque		5/12/15	Primary Purpose Grp	Las Vegas	
4/23/15	Sober at Sunrise	Las Cruces		5/12/15	We Aren't Saints	Artesia	
4/23/15	Dawn Patrol	Albuquerque		5/13/15	Jemez Springs	Jemez Springs	
4/27/15	Dawn Patrol	Albuquerque		5/18/15	Big Book Study	Ranchos de Taos	
4/30/15	Live and Let Live	Santa Fe		5/18/15	Talpa Linger Longer	Ranchos de Taos	
5/2/15	Ruidoso Arid Group	Ruidoso		5/22/15	Dawn Patrol	Albuquerque	
5/4/15	Share the Legacy	Albuquerque		5/22/15	There is a Solution	Taos	

## From the Editor

I have been overwhelmed by the number of members who have reached out to me to express thanks for taking over the Elf and restarting publishing. I am not doing this for gratitude or thanks but it sure is appreciated. It has given me an insight to how important *El Farolito* is to the Area and it is a responsibility I am very serious about.

You may have noticed we have gone to black and white, saving \$92 per issue including tax. \$1,100 is a significant savings in my book and I have received no complaints so far. I also am buying labels etc. in quantity to save money. If you like the color....then check out the web version.

The May web version was the first full color expanded edition at 20 pages. We included a great *Grapevine* article about a beginner's guide to the Concepts. If you did not see it please read it. As of this writing I don't know how large the June edition will be...it could be 20...24...who knows how many pages. Visit our committee page on June 1 and see what surprises await.

We are limited to 16 pages in the print edition but can print more in the web edition...events, conferences, articles, etc are all welcome.

Finally, I have contact info and a mailing address for ELF Reps for the following Districts: 3, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17. I need info for the other Districts so please email me and I will add you the the email and print mailing lists.

Finally, we finished assembling the mailing today (5/30) with District 3 hosting. Great fun, fellowship and we knocked it off in an hour. Thanks Martha and all who were there!

See everyone in Hobbs!

Jay M

# More news from around the state and AA

AA VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO "CARRY THE MESSAGE"

AT THE METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER

MEN AND WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO FACILITATE

AA MEETINGS AT THE BERNALILLO COUNTY JAIL.

MEETINGS ARE ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY  
AND SUNDAY

6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

ORIENTATION FOR CLEARANCE WILL BE THE FIRST THURSDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH FROM 8:00 - 11:00 A.M. AT MDC

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CORRECTIONS CHAIR AT:

[AREA46CORRECTIONS@NEWMEXICOAA.ORG](mailto:AREA46CORRECTIONS@NEWMEXICOAA.ORG)

## CENTRAL OFFICE PICNIC



**Central Office Picnic celebrates 40 Years!**

Commemorative Picnic - Central Office will provide burgers, dogs and fixins, drinks, and MUSIC. AND, historians and meeting! Whew!

**Saturday, June 6**  
**11:00 am - 5:00 pm-ish**

**Alvarado Park**  
**2000 Alvarado Drive NE, Albuquerque**

2015  
International  
Convention  
Alcoholics  
Anonymous





**80TH ANNIVERSARY**



*Alcoholics Anonymous*

# ***FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC***

*Sponsored by District 2*

**BBQ POTLUCK PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2015**

**NOON-6:30PM**

**ELDORADO COMMUNITY CTR  
1 HACIENDA LOOP (in Eldorado)**

**FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, GAMES  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**BURGERS AND HOT DOGS PROVIDED BY DISTRICT 2**

***BRING YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH OR DESSERT***

**AA SPEAKER MEETING AT 5:15PM**

# A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY

By Bill W.

*AA Grapevine*, July 1953, Reprinted with permission

AA's are always asking: "Where did the Twelve Steps come from?" In the last analysis, perhaps nobody knows. Yet some of the events which led to their formulation are as clear to me as though they took place yesterday.

So far as people were concerned, the main channels of inspiration for our Steps were three in number -- the Oxford Groups, Dr. William D. Silkworth of Townes Hospital and the famed psychologist, William James, called by some the father of modern psychology. The story of how these streams of influence were brought together and how they led to the writing of our Twelve Steps is exciting and in spots downright incredible.

Many of us will remember the Oxford Groups as a modern evangelical movement which flourished in the 1920's and early 30's, led by a one-time Lutheran minister, Dr. Frank Buchman. The Oxford Groups of that day threw heavy emphasis on personal work, one member with another. AA's Twelfth Step had its origin in that vital practice. The moral backbone of the "O.G." was absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. They also practiced a type of confession, which they called "sharing"; the making of amends for harms done they called "restitution." They believed deeply in their "quiet time," a meditation practiced by groups and individuals alike, in which the guidance of God was sought for every detail of living, great or small.

These basic ideas were not new; they could have been found elsewhere. But the saving thing for us first alcoholics who contacted the Oxford Groupers was that they laid great stress on these particular principles. And fortunate for us was the fact that the Groupers took special pains not to interfere with one's personal religious views. Their society, like ours later on, saw the need to be strictly non-denominational.

In the late summer of 1934, my well-loved alcoholic friend and schoolmate "Ebby" had fallen in with these good folks and had promptly sobered up. Being an alcoholic, and rather on the obstinate side, he hadn't been able to "buy" all the Oxford Group ideas and attitudes. Nevertheless, he was moved by their deep sincerity and felt mighty grateful for the fact that their ministrations had, for the time being, lifted his obsession to drink.

When he arrived in New York in the late fall of 1934, Ebby thought at once of me. On a bleak November day he rang up. Soon he was looking at me across our kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York. As I remember that conversation, he constantly used phrases like these: "I found I couldn't run my own life;" "I had to get honest with myself and somebody else;" "I had to make restitution for the damage I had done;" "I had to pray to God for guidance and strength, even though I wasn't sure there was any God;" "And after I'd tried hard to do these things I found that my craving for alcohol left." Then over and over Ebby would say something like this: "Bill, it isn't a bit like being on the water wagon. You don't fight the desire to drink -- you get released from it. I never had such a feeling before."

Such was the sum of what Ebby had extracted from his Oxford Group friends and had transmitted to me that day. While these simple ideas were not new, they certainly hit me like tons of brick. Today we understand just why that was...one alcoholic was talking to another as no one else can.

Two or three weeks later, December 11th to be exact, I staggered into the Charles B. Townes Hospital, that famous drying-out emporium on Central Park West, New York City. I'd been there before, so I knew and already loved the doctor in charge -- Dr. Silkworth. It was he who was soon to contribute a very great idea without which AA could never have succeeded. For years he had been proclaiming alcoholism an illness, an obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body. By now I knew this meant me. I also understood what a fatal combination these twin ogres could be. Of course, I'd once hoped to be among the small percentage of victims who now and then escape their vengeance. But this outside hope was now gone. I was about to hit bottom. That verdict of science -- the obsession that condemned me to drink and the allergy that condemned me to die -- was about to do the trick. That's where the medical science, personified by this benign little doctor, began to fit it

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in. Held in the hands of one alcoholic talking to the next, this double-edged truth was a sledgehammer which could shatter the tough alcoholic's ego at depth and lay him wide open to the grace of God.

In my case it was of course Dr. Silkworth who swung the sledge while my friend Ebby carried to me the spiritual principles and the grace which brought on my sudden spiritual awakening at the hospital three days later. I immediately knew that I was a free man. And with this astonishing experience came a feeling of wonderful certainty that great numbers of alcoholics might one day enjoy the priceless gift which had been bestowed upon me.

### Third Influence

At this point a third stream of influence entered my life through the pages of William James' book, "Varieties of Religious Experience." Somebody had brought it to my hospital room. Following my sudden experience, Dr. Silkworth had taken great pains to convince me that I was not hallucinated. But William James did even more. Not only, he said, could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual, their variety could be almost infinite. But the biggest payoff of that noted book was this: *in most of the cases described, those who had been transformed were hopeless people. In some controlling area of their lives they had met absolute defeat.* Well, that was me all right. In complete defeat, with no hope or faith whatever, I had made an appeal to a higher Power. I had taken Step One of today's AA program -- "admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable." I'd also take Step Three -- "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to God as we understood him." Thus was I set free. It was just as simple, yet just as mysterious, as that.

These realizations were so exciting that I instantly joined up with the Oxford Groups. But to their consternation I insisted on devoting myself exclusively to drunks. This was disturbing to the O.G.'s on two counts. Firstly, they wanted to help save the whole world. Secondly, their luck with drunks had been poor. Just as I joined they had been working over a batch of alcoholics who had proved disappointing indeed. One of them, it was rumored, had flippantly cast his shoe through a valuable stained glass window of an Episcopal church across the alley from O.G. headquarters. Neither did they take kindly to my repeated declaration that it shouldn't take long to sober up all the drunks in the world. They rightly declared that my conceit was still immense.

### Something Missing

After some six months of violent exertion with scores of alcoholics which I found at a nearby mission and Townes Hospital, it began to look like the Groupers were right. I hadn't sobered up anybody. In Brooklyn we always had a houseful of drinkers living with us, sometimes as many as five. My valiant wife, Lois, once arrived home from work to find three of them fairly tight. They were whaling each other with two-by-fours. Though events like these slowed me down somewhat, the persistent conviction that a way to sobriety could be found never seemed to leave me. There was, though, one bright spot. My sponsor, Ebby, still clung precariously to his new-found sobriety.

What was the reason for all these fiascoes? If Ebby and I could achieve sobriety, why couldn't all the rest find it too? Some of those we'd worked on certainly wanted to get well. We speculated day and night why nothing much had happened to them. Maybe they couldn't stand the spiritual pace of the Oxford Group's four absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love. In fact some of the alcoholics declared that this was the trouble. The aggressive pressure upon them to get good overnight would make them fly high as geese for a few weeks and then flop dismally. They complained, too, about another form of coercion -- something the Oxford Groupers called "guidance for others." A "team" composed of non-alcoholic Groupers would sit down with an alcoholic and after a "quiet time" would come up with precise instructions as to how the alcoholic should run his own life. As grateful as we were to our O.G. friends, this was sometimes tough to take. It obviously had something to do with the wholesale skidding that went on.

But this wasn't the entire reason for failure. After months I saw the trouble was mainly in me. I had become very aggressive, very cocksure. I talked a lot about my sudden spiritual experience, as though it was something very special. I had been playing the double role of teacher and preacher. In my exhortations I'd forgotten all about the medical side of our malady, and that need for deflation at depth so emphasized by William James had been neglected. We weren't using that medical sledgehammer that Dr. Silkworth had so providentially given us.

Finally, one day, Dr. Silkworth took me back down to my right size. Said he, "Bill, why don't you quit talking so much about

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(Continued from page 19)

that bright light experience of yours, it sounds too crazy. Though I'm convince that nothing but better morals will make alcoholics really well, I do think you have got the cart before the horse. The point is that alcoholics won't buy all this moral exhortation until they convince themselves that they must. If I were you I'd go after them on the medical basis first. While it is never done any good for me to tell them how fatal their malady is, it might be a very different story if you, a formerly hopeless alcoholic, gave them the bad news. Bemuse of this identification you naturally have with alcoholics, you might be able to penetrate where I can't. Give them the medical business first, and give it to them hard. This might soften them up so they will accept the principles that will really get them well."

### Then Came Akron

Shortly after this history-making conversation, I found myself in Akron, Ohio, on a business venture which promptly collapsed. Alone in the town, I was scared to death of getting drunk. I was no longer a teacher or a preacher, I was an alcoholic who knew that he needed another alcoholic as much as that one could possibly need me. Driven by that urge, I was soon face to face with Dr. Bob. It was at once evident that Dr. Bob knew more of the spiritual things than I did. He also had been in touch with the Oxford Groupers at Akron. But somehow he simply couldn't get sober. Following Dr. Silkworth's advice, I used the medical sledgehammer. I told him what alcoholism was and just how fatal it could be. Apparently this did something to Dr. Bob. On June 10, 1935, he sobered up, never to drink again. When, in 1939, Dr. Bob's story first appeared in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, he put one paragraph of it in italics. Speaking of me, he said: "*Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience.*"

### The Missing Link

Dr. Silkworth had indeed supplied us the missing link without which the chain of principles now forged into our Twelve Steps could never have been complete. Then and there, the spark that was to become Alcoholics Anonymous had been struck.

During the next three years after Dr. Bob's recovery our growing groups at Akron, New York and Cleveland evolved the so-called word-of-mouth program of our pioneering time. As we commenced to form a society separate from the Oxford Group, we began to state our principles something like this:

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol
2. We got honest with ourselves
3. We got honest with another person, in confidence
4. We made amends for harms done others
5. We worked with other alcoholics without demand for prestige or money
6. We prayed to God to help us to do these things as best we could

Though these principles were advocated according to the whim or liking of each of us, and though in Akron and Cleveland they still stuck by the O.G. absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, this was the gist of our message to incoming alcoholics up to 1939, when our present Twelve Steps were put to paper.

I well remember the evening on which the Twelve Steps was written. I was lying in bed quite dejected and suffering from one of my imaginary ulcer attacks. Four chapters of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, had been roughed out and read in meetings at Akron and New York. We quickly found that everybody wanted to be an author. The hassles as to what should go into our new book were terrific. For example, some wanted a purely psychological book which would draw in alcoholics without scaring them. We could tell them about the "God business" afterwards. A few, led by our wonderful southern friend, Fitz M., wanted a fairly religious book infused with some of the dogma we had picked up from the churches and missions which had tried to help us. The louder the arguments, the more I felt in the middle. It appeared that I wasn't going to be the author at all. I was only going to be an umpire who would decide the contents of the book. This didn't mean, though, that there wasn't terrific enthusiasm for the undertaking. Every one of us was wildly excited at the possibility of getting our message before all those countless alcoholics who still didn't know.

(Continued on page 21)

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Having arrived at Chapter Five, it seemed high time to state what our program really was. I remember running over in my mind the word-of-mouth phrases then in current use. Jotting these down, they added up to the six named above. Then came the idea that our program ought to be more accurately and clearly stated. Distant readers would have to have a precise set of principles. Knowing the alcoholic's ability to rationalize, something airtight would have to be written. We couldn't let the reader wiggle out anywhere. Besides, a more complete statement would help in the chapters to come where we would need to show exactly how the recovery program ought to be worked.

### 12 Steps in 30 Minutes

At length I began to write on a cheap yellow tablet. I split the word-of-mouth program up into smaller pieces, meanwhile enlarging its scope considerably. Uninspired as I felt, I was surprised that in a short time, perhaps half an hour, I had set down certain principles which, on being counted, turned out to be twelve in number. And for some unaccountable reason, I had moved the idea of God into the Second Step, right up front. Besides, I had named God very liberally throughout the other steps. In one of the steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees.

When this document was shown to our New York meeting the protests were many and loud. Our agnostic friends didn't go at all for the idea of kneeling. Others said we were talking altogether too much about God. And anyhow, why should there be twelve steps when we had done fine on six? Let's keep it simple, they said.

This sort of heated discussion went on for days and nights. But out of it all there came a ten-strike for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our agnostic contingent, speared by Hank P. and Jim B., finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as "a Higher Power" or "God as we understand Him!" Those expressions, as we so well know today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic. They have enabled thousands of us to make a beginning where none could have been made had we left the steps just as I originally wrote them. Happily for us there were no other changes in the original draft and the number of steps stood at twelve. Little did we then guess that our Twelve Steps would soon be widely approved by clergymen of all denominations and even by our latter-day friends, the psychiatrists.

This little fragment of history ought to convince the most skeptical that nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous.

It just grew...by the grace of God.

