



March-April 2013  
Virginia S. – Editor

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **CSO Monthly Business Meeting** 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at the CSO. All groups are encouraged to send a representative.
- **District 8 GSR Meeting** 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm, generally at the Alano Club, 320 Clark St., Pueblo.
- **“Spring into Spring... Meeting and Dance at the Alano Club March 23 ...watch for flyers or call 543-6347**
- **Area 10 Spring Assembly** March 22 to 24 in Colorado Springs. Go to [www.Coloradoaa.org/](http://www.Coloradoaa.org/) Assembly for more info.
- **Area 10 Corrections Conference** April 26th to 28th at Ramada Plaza, Northglenn.
- **2013 4th of July Picnic** At Bessemer Park 10am to 3pm . Food and drinks provided. Come for fellowship. Watch for further details and flyers.
- **2013 State Convention** August 30th-September 1st, Denver Marriott Tech Center...flyers available at the CSO.
- **Founder's Day Picnic**, tentative date, June 8th.

# NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE OF SOUTHERN COLORADO

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Office hours Monday-Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Closed some holidays. Call to verify.

## NEW CSO OFFICERS

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chairperson.....Jim R.             | Vice Chairperson.....Don H.       |
| Treasurer.....Brad W.              | Secretary.....Anita I.            |
| Office Manager.....Kevin W.        | Activities Chairperson....Dave M. |
| Newsletter Editor .....Virginia S. | Member at Large.....Dave S.       |
| Member at Large.....Vacant         |                                   |

## AA SERVICE WORK

Since man started consuming alcohol, there have always been those whose relation to alcohol was different than his fellows. These individuals baffled their friends and family for their inability to control or moderate their drinking. In all that time, there have been two organizations that have helped a large number of alcoholics stay sober. The first was the Washingtonians, who in the mid-nineteenth century grew to nearly 600,000 members before it failed. Then, there was the organization that grew out of the meeting of a failed stock broker and a drunkard doctor in 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). These two societies shared one thing in common; they believed that one alcoholic could help another where no one else could.

In the Big Book, Bill Wilson's solution to almost every problem includes intensive work with another alcoholic. Thus, our third legacy of service was born. In his writings, Bill talks about the concept that any activity which helps bring two alcoholics together for recovery is service work. Anything from making coffee at a home group to serving on the General Service Board as a Trustee to answering a twelfth step call in the middle of the night is service work. We can only keep what we find in AA by giving it away. Another benefit is that when I started giving back to AA, I started to feel like I belonged in AA.

A strange correlation to that fact is that the same principles apply to the AA group. In the long form of the fifth tradition, Bill states that "Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Notice that Bill refers to a group as a spiritual entity; this implies that, just like the alcoholic, the group needs service to thrive. He also says that each group should carry ITS message, not THE message. Each group has its own experience, strength, and hope and needs to carry this message to others.

I have seen many different types of groups and I have seen numerous groups in AA come and go. As a friend of mine once said that, "AA members vote with their feet". When a group stops meeting the needs of its members, they go somewhere else. I have also noticed that the groups that attract me most are the active groups; their message seems to carry more depth and weight. Furthermore, these groups seem to practice the traditions in their affairs.

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## Highlights of Monthly CSO Board Meetings

Feb 2013...Discussed the \$260 outlay for New Year's Dinner. Discussed meetings on meeting list need to be reviewed; consensus was we cannot police meetings. Kevin suggested we retain an accountant to review our books for our own protection. Suggested we printed group contributions in newsletter. Longtimers was a huge success.

Mar 2013...Outgoing Chairperson, Dennis McB thanked the Committee and they thanked him for his service. Kevin said groups are wiping us out of books and we would appreciate advance notice. Comcast is becoming available to our building and will guarantee us a \$96.90 monthly for three years for phone and internet, but we will have to change web address and website. Motion made to move to Comcast; seconded and passed. Grapevine prices went up to cover shipping costs. Grapevine Magazine was renewed. Discussed 501.C3. Dennis to research before next meeting. Discussed getting duties for Newsletter Editor into Charter and term limitation for Activities Chair to 2 terms. These items need to be voted on next meeting. Election of new officers on front page.

Treasurer's Report	
Feb 1st balance	\$2221.75
Income	\$1240.26
Expenses	\$1643.68
Mar 1st Balance	\$1798.33
Income	\$1562.83
Expenses	\$1518.55
Apr 1st Balance	\$1842.61
Misc Fund	\$1000.00
Prudent Reserve	\$2500.00

### CSO News

Once again, we heard great speakers and enjoyed fantastic food at the 2013 Longtimers' Reunion. I wish to thank Terry M., Celeste H., Dick K. and our six randomly chosen speakers for sharing their experience, strength and hope. Over 110 people attended and brought nearly 2000 years of sobriety with them. If you were unable to attend, don't miss next year's reunion in January.

The annual CSO elections were held last Wednesday. Thank you to those doing service work by putting their time in the CSO. If you wish to do AA service work, there is still an opening for Member-at-Large.

The financial future of CSO was discussed at the business meeting. It was noted that the increase of daily operating expenses and a decrease in contributions has incurred a steady decline in our operating funds. While the sales of books and coins provide a very small income for the office, it is the group contributions that allow the CSO to provide AA related services to the AA community. Your support is needed and appreciated.

My term as CSO Chairperson has come to an end. My thanks to those members on the steering committee that helped to make every business meeting interesting and productive. I believe the CSO is in good hands and will continue to provide and expand services for the AA community. Dennis M.

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So, what can my group do? The best start for any group is to connect with AA. They can elect a GSR and send them to the district and area. They can send a representative to their Central Service Office or intergroup. There are many activities that occur outside the group that the group can get involved in. There are workshops; committees that help carry the message, and seasonal activities and events. Also, my group can financially help support AA on the local, state and national level. The list of opportunities can go on *ad infinitum*.

#### DISCLAIMER

*This Newsletter is a publication of the CSO of Southern Colorado. It is about, by, and for the members of A.A. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. Publication of an article does not imply endorsement by either A.A. or CSO, except where indicated.*