



## 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.  
Change.**

**May 2016**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CSO Monthly Business Meeting** 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the CSO. All groups are encouraged to send a representative.
- **District 8 Meeting** 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm. At the Central Service Office.
- **XXIV Congreso de Colorado**  
-Hosted by Dist 26, May 27-29, Embassy Suites, 7525 E Hampton Ave, Denver
- **Southwest Additional Regional Forum-Hosted by Area 10**, June 3-5, Double Tree Hilton Denver-Stapleton North.
- **Founders Day Picnic**, June 11th, Florence Mountain Park
- **Fourth of July Picnic**, Bessemer Park
- **Area 10 Summer Assembly**, July 15-17, Leadville
- **Unity Day**, Sept 17, Wesley Methodist.
- **Ocsoberfest**, October 7-9

It's a scary concept for most alcoholics, but especially for those of us who may have a few control issues. I count myself among that group.

Maybe that's why life continues offering me opportunities for letting go, and letting God take the reins.

My current situation is one of the toughest I've faced, in sobriety or my drinking days. I'm unable to work because of health issues. My savings are nearly gone. So my husband and I are about to sell our home and downsize. But there are many puzzle pieces still missing.

Will I be approved for disability? We can't look for a rental or another place to buy until I know, and we've been waiting nearly two years for a hearing date. This wasn't how I thought my life would look as I'm nearing 60.

I haven't been tempted to drink, but I've done a lot of worrying and fretting when I should have been praying, instead.

All we can do is what's in front of us at the moment – the footwork for all the unknowable changes that we know are coming.

So I find myself, once again, using the program to remember that acceptance is the key to surviving all of my problems – and to being able to enjoy the small pleasures that are still in front of me if my eyes and heart are open to see them.

Letting go of expectations and outcomes is next on the list. And finally, I have to trust that God has a plan bigger and better than anything I can fathom.

Let go, and let God...

Anonymous

A message from CSO-Each AA Group serviced by the Pueblo CSO is encouraged to view the most current version of the Western United States A. A. Directory to ensure the names and contact numbers for your group are current. The version available at CSO is 2014-2015. It is important that your group keep the information accurate in case someone wishes to contact you for more information about your group. The CSO is open normally from 10AM to 4PM Monday through Friday and the directory is available for viewing during this time. Assistance is available to help submit corrections to the General Service Office (GSO), if necessary.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mar 1st balance	\$1240.85
Revenue	\$ 655.81
Expenses	\$ 967.01
Apr 1st Balance	\$ 929.65
Revenue	\$1894.90
Expenses	\$1692.42
May 1st Balance	\$1132.13
Misc Fund	\$1000.00
Prudent Reserve	\$2500.00

Notable Losses-

Al H. of Trinidad. Al passed away on March 14 and leaves behind Martina. Al had 26 years of sobriety.

Inez Z. of Pueblo, Inez passed away on May 10. Inez had 33 years of sobriety.

Note from the editor. I am still learning some of the protocol for the newsletter. The CSO steering committee had voted in the past not to memorialize members in the newsletter for fear of missing members. This was discussed again, and it was agreed that we would list them. Please forward any information on losses to CSO and we will make an effort to not miss anyone. I am trying to solicit local stories for our newsletter, so we encourage if you have a story to submit to the newsletter, please email them to CSO and we will try to get some of them in. Thank you for understanding this is a learning process.

Kenny J.

## Rumor has it:

**Walsenburg:** A couple of AA anniversaries of note: Gregg celebrated 30 years and Jerry celebrated 23 years of sobriety

**Trinidad:** On May 19th the Solutions Group will mark the one year anniversary of meeting at the new Alano Club, 120 West Kansas.

If you have anything that you would like to have listed in this area, please forward the information with contact information. We would love to hear from District 3 to include their news in this section also.

## Why We Do It-Service beyond the group ensures that AA will be here for the alcoholic not yet in the door

We were sitting in a workshop at our area assembly on a Sunday morning. It was my first experience at an assembly, and I was wondering, Why are we here? I was not feeling well. I was in pain, exhausted and feeling sorry for myself. The workshop was entitled "The Concepts: Why We Have Them and Why They Work." I was there only because of my DCM's suggestion. I had tried to read the Concepts once, but they were a distant third to the Steps and Traditions in the competition for this alcoholic's heart and attention. So I sipped my coffee and mentally grumbled. It was a miracle I was there at all, I thought. Twenty-four years earlier, at age 44, I had come into the rooms desperate and defeated. AA welcomed and hooked me, and I was on the path to a sober life.

I had found AA while living in a small, rural town. I made coffee, was the home group treasurer and tried to be of service on a local level. I had no idea that we lived in a "district" within an "area" of an overall AA structure. Our Seventh Tradition money went only for rent, coffee and literature. I had never heard of GSRs and DCMs until my wife, also in recovery, and I moved to Virginia many years later.

In the meantime, our youngest child, born into a sober home, had gone off to college and progressed rapidly into the disease he had inherited from both of us. He came home after his first semester defeated by the disease, and tried to get sober in local meetings, but relapsed and asked to go into a rehab. The recovery community of AA, and the Twelve-Step rehab program he entered, saved my child's life, just as AA had saved my life, the life of my wife and the lives of all of us in AA. But as I sat and grumbled in that workshop I was far away from any gratitude.

The workshop leader, Susan C., a former delegate, was reading from a speech given in 1954 at the opening of the General Service Conference and printed in The A.A. Service Manual:

"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth that has brought us back to life."

Those words, read aloud, were like a hand reaching in and yanking me out of my self-pity (and I have no doubt whose hand that was). I welled up with tears of gratitude, thinking of my wife and son, knowing that our son had been that "child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism." And I knew it in my heart.

Susan continued reading the eloquent words from that speech:

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade AA. ... We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services. ... We need it to ensure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all AA, and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unmasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

I sat there and thought that I must do everything I can to strengthen and maintain our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. I'm responsible to be of service to this divine gift, this radically democratic and loving program of AA. I'm responsible to do what I can to support Grapevine and GSO. I'm responsible to do what I can to ensure that AA is there for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren and generations to come who may be destined for alcoholism. I want them to be able to crawl, someday if they need to, into the arms of AA. —Reprinted with permission from the May 2016 Grapevine.

Concept 5: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Concept 6: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

## DISCLAIMER

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