



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.

December 2017

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 CSO

AA GRAPEVINE

During June of 1944 six members of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York City got together and published a newsletter they sent to the 300 known groups and to the known overseas military members of AA. From this small beginning came the *AA Grapevine*. With an online subscription you can read these early editions and the entire archive of Grapevine articles.

The *AA Grapevine* (yes that is its official name) is totally self-supporting and receives no money from the 7th tradition basket (unless a group subscribes to it). Its sister publication, the Spanish language *La Vina*, is considered a service to the Spanish speaking community and operates at a loss.

Bill Wilson used the Grapevine to communicate with the fellowship and wrote more than 150 Articles for the magazine. He also used the Grapevine to introduce the 12 Traditions to the fellowship in 1946. There are some great articles he wrote about the traditions in the Grapevine.

The AA Preamble was written by a Grapevine editor and originally published in the Grapevine in 1947.

In 1986 the General Service Conference recognized the Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

To receive the magazine, there are a few options for subscriptions. You can just subscribe to the printed edition which you will receive once a month. There is also the option to subscribe to the online version which gives you an online copy of the magazine plus additional stories each month. The online subscription also gives you access to the Grapevine archives. Finally, you can get a combined subscription that gives you both. For more information, contact the office or go to www.AAgrapevine.org.

The *AA Grapevine* also publishes books. They are collections of Grapevine articles gathered by topic and are great to read or as gifts to your friends in AA. The most popular edition is "Language of the Heart", which contains all the articles that Bill wrote for the Grapevine. There are currently 20 books published by the Grapevine with some available as ebooks. To see our selection or look through the catalog, stop by the office.

If you are interested in any of the Grapevine material (they also sell other items like the Slogans you see at many meeting places and recordings of articles), we can order them for you at the office.

Treasurer's Report

October 1st Balance	\$1708.36
Revenue	\$2059.71
Expenses	\$1109.73
Nov 1st Balance	\$2889.67
Revenue	\$ 954.32
Expenses	\$2306.90
Dec 1st Balance	\$1939.69
Misc Fund	\$1000.00
Prudent Reserve	\$2500.00

If your group or the AA community have a special occasion or event that you would like in the newsletter, or a flyer that you would like distributed with the newsletter, please contact the CSO with the information. If your group is not getting the newsletter, contact the CSO to be placed on our distribution list.

THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY BACK TO AA

Five years ago I went thru the CDU recovery program. I did not think I was an Alcoholic at the time but my family was concerned so I decided to give it a try.

I got along great I did the work was never sick so again I thought maybe I'm not an Alcoholic. I decided to go to AA and get a sponsor as per my counselor's suggestions. Still I did not think I had a problem with Alcohol.

After a few meetings I thought that I might be like everyone else so I started on the steps. I started to understand the program a bit better and really loved what it offered. I was so close to my 5th birthday and I thought at this point I could have a drink, only one, ha. I called my sponsor talked with my family in honesty, I was so upset and angry at myself and went into depression and stayed there for 2 weeks.

I became very ill with withdrawals (duh) but I did not know what had happened to me. At this point I had to make a decision ... keep drinking and NO AA, or STOP find AA AGAIN, so that's what I did.

My advice to my fellows in AA is simple, never listen to your alcoholic brain because it sits there waiting (cunning, baffling, and powerful) Go to AA and listen to what is said in the groups.

I'm one of the lucky ones as I found my way back to the program. The AA people helped me, loved me many, many times in these past few months and for that I'm so grateful and ALIVE.

My point is **I AM AN ALCOHOLIC!!**

Did You Know!!

You might be surprised to know that a few AA meeting in New York City have been experimenting with taking a credit cards at meetings (passing the Digital Basket). Don't be mistaken this is in no way intended to replace passing the basket but just an idea as people are not always carrying cash and it is common for people to buy coffee, snacks etc. with a credit card.

You might also be surprised to know that you can receive some AA Information in the form of E-books on line. There are 11 titles available on line as well as some online meetings. This information is available for Kindle, Nook & Apple. Just another way to reach out and communicate sobriety.

HELP NEEDED

BRIDGING THE GAP

The Bridging the gap program is designed to help those AA members coming out of treatment or correction centers integrate them into the local AA fellowship. AA members are more likely to stay sober if they get to a meeting soon after they get into the local area. Helping someone through Bridging the Gap. It is not making a 12th step call, you are just taking the member to a few meetings and introducing them to people so they can get comfortable in their new community. Your CSO is trying to create a strong Bridging the Gap program in cooperation with District 8. If you are interested in helping as a Bridging the Gap Volunteer, please call us at (719) 546-1173.

12TH STEP LIST

We need people to volunteer to be placed on our 12th Step List. If you are interested, please contact us at (719) 546-1173.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To help take meetings into local correctional facilities. If interested, contact the office.

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 the CSO, except where indicated.