



TOP SHELF

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE OF SOUTHERN COLORADO
 4035-A Club Manor Drive, Pueblo, CO 81008 (719) 546-1173 24/7
 Office hours Monday-Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Closed some holidays. Call to verify.
 csopueblo@gmail.com www.puebloaa.org

December 2019

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, 1:30 pm at the CSO. Pot luck lunch prior to meeting at 12:30

Official Notice:

The annual election of officers for the Southern Colorado Central Service Office will be held in March of 2020 at the monthly meeting, the first Wednesday of the month, March 4th, at the above address. Most positions will be open including Newsletter editor.

2020

Get ready for jokes quips and clever inuendo about vision. The upcoming year is here to clarify what we want to see for AA and our lives going forward. There is no better time to pick up your own copy of A New Pair of Glasses. The chapter of a *Vision for You* I'm sure will be a popular source for meeting topics in this year of clarity.

There has been talk again of changing the Big Book to reflect the changes in the look of AA membership, but I can't see that happening soon. Those of us that have some experience with long term sobriety need to remain active or it may become a case of the blind leading the blind through the program. Although, I know that there are members that have a jaded outlook we might need to help with their perceptions of what happy sobriety looks like.

There are also members whose vision is less than ideal but still are able to do an outstanding job of carrying the message, you know who you are and I am proud to know you, thank you for your service.

The CSO can special order braille copies of the Big Book. There are also copies at the 3-Point Club. We can and do carry the message to those that cannot see at all.

The funny thing about this 20/20 vision stuff is that the number reflects the normal range of vision. A big part of recovery is coming to understand that the life we were living is not the normal one. Our vision of reality is skewed by our overly sensitive emotional nature. Our perception of life has to change. It is vital that we take off the blinders of intoxication and see the broad horizon of life's possibilities. The average normal and responsible person sees the realities of life and takes responsibility for their own actions and their consequences. Recovery from addiction of any sort works best when the person begins to have this vision of the vicissitudes of life. Accompanied by humility and love of our community of friends, life becomes a new adventure.

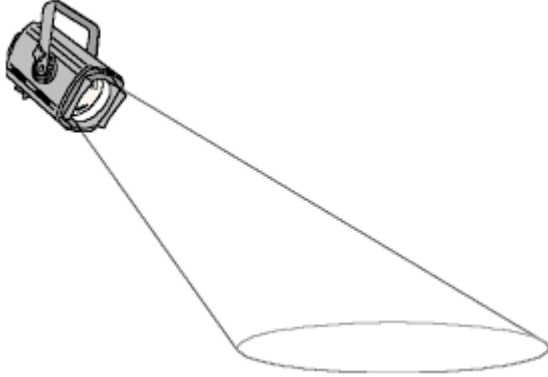
mattsready@live.com

Treasurer's Report

Oct 1st Balance	\$1851.53
Revenue	\$1295.18
Expenses	\$1080.01
Nov 1st Balance	\$2066.70
Revenue	\$1185.25
Expenses	\$2383.01
Dec 1st Balance	\$ 868.94
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.

IN THE SPOT LIGHT



How's that work any way?

Most people reading this will get their copy at a meeting of AA. Is that meeting in a church? At the 3-Point Club? Someone's home? Back when treatment took place in places called asylums, all meetings of the fellowship that would become AA happened in peoples homes. There were shelters in the unsavory neighborhoods of large cities run by religious groups like the Salvation Army that sometimes allowed recovering drunks to speak to their clientele. Then there were "clubs".

These days a new meeting usually starts because "They're doing it wrong". That person then goes to a church with a school building and arranges to rent a room one night a week to do it the way they want. Or they get some phone numbers from people at the meeting they're attending to come to their house one day a week and maybe rotate around to different houses.

In the beginning in some quarters, the tradition of non affiliation, Tradition Six, kept meetings out of churches because of the religious affiliation implied by the location. Today almost all meetings are held in churches.

This brings me to clubs. Recovery clubs are common in every major city in the U.S.A. that I know about. These are not Country Clubs, no golf course, no pool, no tennis courts. They are quite often the first place someone goes to a meeting outside of a treatment center. They are often thought of as being like a meeting in a church. The club is there just for recovery groups to have meetings or socialize. A church usually has a much larger organization behind it. A church has a congregation that makes tithes or donations from maybe hundreds of families. A club is dependent on membership and volunteers. At the 3 Point Club in Pueblo there are no paid employees and a very small group of supporters as members. Most churches have a paid priest, a paid secretary and a huge organization with very deep pockets behind it.

If you are in recovery the twelfth step is the real work of sobriety. We do not evangelize but we help those that ask for it. A club is an important part of the twelfth step. New people need a safe place to go. A club is a great place to meet with a newcomer to work steps in an anonymous setting without having to buy a five dollar cup of coffee. Nobody cares if there is a big book on the table in a club, you can cry in a club. Holidays, dances, kids parties even weddings and receptions take place in AA clubs.

Now I'm sure I'll get a lot of grief from some members for bringing up the concept of AA clubs in this newsletter. The traditions of AA don't make any more of an exception for a Central Service Office than a club. Both are generally non-profit organizations operated by a board of directors to serve a recovery community. Think about it next time you're putting money in the basket at you're favorite meeting, do you want to support a church or do you want to support a club that has it's only purpose to help the recovering Alcoholic.

GET YOUR OWN COPY How would you like to be kept informed of what is going on in Southern Colorado? How would you like that information to come to your inbox? Your Central Service office is building an email list so we can send out information as soon as we get it. It will also allow us to email the newsletter to you as soon as it's ready. If you are interested in receiving these emails, please send us an email to: csopueblo@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED

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.