



# TOP SHELF

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.  
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April 2023

## 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 Monday of the month, 6pm at the CSO all General Service Representatives: GSR's, should attend these meetings.
- **Hit and Run** is invading Canon City on April 23rd at the brown baggers group, potluck at 5 pm, meeting at 6:30. at the red barn.

## Treasurer's Report

Feb 1st Balance	\$1577.56
Revenue	\$ 691.50
Expenses	\$1487.29
Mar 1st Balance	\$ 781.77
Revenue	\$851.21
Expenses	\$1599.97
Apr 1st Balance	\$ 33.01
Misc Fund	\$1000.00
Prudent Reserve	\$2500.00

## \$\$\$The CSO needs your help\$\$\$

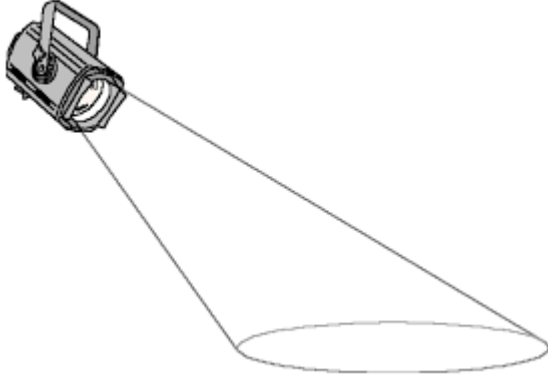
Back in the shadowy past when I started in AA, when the 7th tradition basket was passed, it was often loaded with coins. Sometimes when we were flush we put in a dollar. The sandwiches at the sub shop in the front of the Great Escape were sometimes a 99 cent special, the drinks were a quarter. A new Trans Am was just under ten grand and a Ford Fiesta was just over 4 thousand dollars. Today the newest Dodge Charger is has an MSRP of over 130 thousand dollars and dealer markups on the "Beast" have it selling over 250 thousand dollars. The least expensive American made car is the dodge Challenger base model at just over 30 thousand dollars. SUVs and pickups run in the 80 to 120 thousand dollar range.

This month after expenses the total operating funds available at the CSO were 33.01. The prudent reserve is still in place (so far).

So what do we do about it? We are about solving problems and not just complaining about it. If your group has not dispersed some money to the various parts of AA that keep us operating, remember to do so soon. Aside from your groups contributions you can support the central office personally. If you heard about an AA publication in a meeting why not buy it locally instead of online? The office is open from 10 am to 4 pm weekdays or if you know someone that volunteers, they might bring you the book with an invoice to pay for it if you ask real nice. If AA has given you back the ability to make a living, how bout you reflect that in the basket. If I can afford a five dollar Starbucks fancy latte I can put a sawbuck (5\$ bill) in the basket. It has been a tradition that I make a donation on my sobriety anniversary of the amount in dollars that I have in years. As a group, choosing to voluntarily increase the rent to the church might be better spent instead on making A.A.'s primary purpose work. There have been A.A. pundits that have recently expressed a belief that the only true A.A. service happens one on one over the kitchen table with a newcomer. If that is the case, why have meetings at all? How many thousands of us would have died drunk if there were no meetings. Let us remember that sobriety is a gift. We cannot "teach" the A.A. program any more than we can direct or demand belief in a single idea of God. We lead by example by using the tools of the steps to make a positive shift in our own lives. It is the testament that we present in a meeting that provides the example for the newcomer. The gift of sobriety comes to us each in our own way. Historically the people that have made a difference in their own lives carried the message. This takes money. We give what we can when we can. A bottle of beer in today's world generally starts at five bucks. I can afford to put the cost of a drink in the basket in a meeting. The group conscience decides how that money gets spent after expenses. The Central Service Office provides the first point of contact for many alcoholics. The information on the various meeting apps come from the lists compiled by that CSO or Intergroup in that area. The websites, including ours, are established and maintained by the CSO or intergroup in that area. Even in our great information age, the information to spread the message comes from the people and the money of the local AA organization.

Yours in service, Matt W. [mattsready@live.com](mailto:mattsready@live.com)

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

On the other side of this sheet I brought the issues facing the CSO to your collective attention. In the last newsletter the discussion was on the function of the various entities that serve the groups and individual members of AA. It also pointed out that it was election time for people to join the steering committee of The CSO. All the positions have been filled and the assignments have essentially stayed the same. There is always a lack of participation from the groups in the area. Group representatives are always welcome and the best way for the CSO to find out what we can do to serve you.

We need to get back to the business of carrying the message of hope to the Corrections Community. All of the jails and prisons in the area need volunteers to conduct AA meetings in prisons.

**corrections@coloradoaa.org** This is the website to make contact with the corrections committee to find out the process for becoming a volunteer. Over my time in AA I have volunteered at the federal penitentiary's minimum security camp, the Pueblo County jail, facilities within the Canon Correctional Complex and at The Jefferson County Detention center on Colfax for work release prisoners. These have been some of the most rewarding service positions I have ever held. There is also information at this website regarding the pink can donations and how that turns into literature for inmates.

### **You are all passing a pink can at your meetings with the seventh tradition basket, right?**

The Pueblo County Jail is also in desperate need of someone to take a meeting to the prisoners. The Contact person there is a Sgt. Cardona at 719-583-4911. They need volunteers for both the men's and women's detention facilities.

Please, please know I would never ask anyone in AA to do something I haven't done myself. I believe if you ask any long timer how they stayed sober so long they would say they continually acted out in love and service to carry the message of hope. Other than you don't drink and don't die, long term sobriety for me has meant having a sense of purpose and value to my community. No matter where I've lived, no matter what ridiculous hoops these people have insisted I jump through, carrying the message has been the bright spot of my life. This is REAL twelfth step work. The vast majority of offenders in the system were either intoxicated or working on getting intoxicated when they offended. The recidivism rate goes down by half for those that adopt a program of living in jail. It goes down to less than twenty percent for those that get to a meeting within 24 hours of release. Carrying the message to prisons is literally saving lives.

## 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, see the article above.

### DISCLAIMER

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