



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 10AM - 4PM. CLOSED SOME HOLIDAYS.
CALL TO VERIFY



JUNE 2025

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NEWSLETTER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO
E-MAIL BELOW BY THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH**

DISTRICT 8 NEWS

CSO STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING JUNE 2ND AT 6PM AT
CSO

DIISTRICT 8 COMMITTEE
MONTHLY MEETING, JUNE 14TH
AT 10:30 AT CSO OR ZOOM

FOUNDER'S DAY, JUNE 7TH,
GREENHORN VALLEY
GROUP, RYE CO

2025 STATE CONVENTION,
AUGUST 29-31, EMBASSY
SUITES LOVELAND CO

JULY 4TH PICNIC, HOSTED
BY CSO, CITY PARK
PAVILLION

**SEE CSO WEBSITE FOR ALL EVENTS
AND DETAILS**

AA and the Traditions

By - Kevin W/Pueblo

I was in the US Navy for 14 years and it was said that Navy Regulations were written in blood. It took something bad happening to develop rules to prevent that from happening again. It is the same way in Alcoholics Anonymous, there were many problems and divisions in the early days of AA that hampered recovery.

The office in New York received many calls and letters concerning the problems AA members were having with their groups and the program. Bill looked at these problems and developed the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. A statement appears before the long form of the Traditions that reads, "Our A.A. experience has taught us that:" (Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 189, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.).

In Bill's writings, he uses the 1st Step/Tradition/Concept as a statement of the problem to be addressed. The following 11 statements are the solutions used to resolve these problems. In the case of the Traditions unity in AA is the issue that needs to be dealt with.

For AA to survive, we must work together toward a common goal. The remaining Traditions are the principles we should observe to ensure unity in the program. Bill wrote articles in the Grapevine discussing the proposed Traditions. The 12 Traditions were adopted in 1950 at the first International Convention in Cleveland. During this period, it was said that when Bill was asked to speak at a meeting they wanted to hear his drinking stories and not the Traditions.

The Traditions still are not normally discussed at AA meetings. I remember being at a meeting one time where the chairperson was reminded after starting the meeting that this was the day for the monthly tradition meeting. At this point a large portion of the attendees got up and left the meeting. This disdain for the Traditions is sad (my opinion).

NEWSLETTER.CSOPUEBLO@GMAIL.COM/WWW.PUEBLOAA.ORG

Most of the time when I hear the Traditions used, it is as a weapon to attack someone or something. Normally, when used, it is out of context. An example of this is the use of the 4th tradition. I often hear it used as an excuse for a group to do something that is out of the norm. The group will say “but each group is autonomous”, totally ignoring the second part, “except in matters affecting other groups, or AA as a whole” (Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 10, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.). In a recent situation where this came to play is when a government agency was sued because the individual was ordered to attend AA. Because AA was deemed to be a religion due to things like the bible being read at meetings, religious topics being discussed in meetings, etc. Because groups claimed to be autonomous, they affected other AA groups and AA as a whole.

I firmly believe that we should have actual Tradition studies where we can really learn the intent and meaning of the Traditions. I also think that groups should spend time reading the long form of the Traditions as there are some significant differences between the long form and the short form. Obviously I do not suggest the reading of the complete long form at every meeting, but dedicate some time to look at them.

A good resource that will help understanding the Traditions is the pamphlet, “A.A. Tradition-How it Developed” (P-17) which contains writings by Bill concerning the meaning of many of the concepts used in the Traditions. For more information, you can get a digital subscription to the Grapevine which gives you access to all copies of the Grapevine; you can also search online for videos of Bill talking about the traditions. If anyone is interested in more information or wants to form a real Tradition study, please feel free to contact me at the CSO (719-546-1173 or csopueblo@gmail.com).

Yours in Love and Service,
Kevin W.

CSO Office Manager





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Does your group have any questions about topics in A.A.? Do you need information about maintaining anonymity on the internet or how the relationship with Al-Anon works? There are guidelines produced by AAWS that are written to help with these topics and many others. If your group is interested, the CSO has copies of the guidelines free of charge.

The Central Office's service area includes District 3, 6, and 8 (basically the entire southeast corner of Colorado. We are very interested in improving our contact with our entire service area. We are looking for ways to reach out to individuals and groups that find it inconvenient to come to us. If you have any thoughts on this matter, please feel free to call us at 719-546-1173 or email us at csopueblo@gmail.com.

We always have need for volunteers who are willing to do 12th step calls, provide rides to meetings, or working with the Bridging the Gap committee. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to call us at 719-546-1173 or email us at csopueblo@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1, 2025 Balance	\$2881.58
Revenue	\$1439.21
Expenses	(\$1964.85)
January 31, 2025 Balance	\$2355.94
Revenue	\$2195.97
Expenses	(\$1556.41)
Operating Funds 2/1/2025	\$2995.50
Prudent Reserve	\$2500.00
Miscellaneous Fund	\$1000.00
Year to Date	Previous Year
Revenue \$18030.12	\$17576.32
Expenses \$16386.59	\$14889.54

Note: The Prudent Reserve and Miscellaneous Fund are established by The CSO Charter. The Prudent Reserve is held to support office operations for 3 months (not including literature purchases) and the Miscellaneous fund is available for emergent purchases (for example, the office has to relocate).

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FELLOWSHIP

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

ROBERT H 06/01/2016
VINCENT M -06/03/1981
JESS E 06/05/2022
BILL H - 06/10/2019
BRAD B 06/12/1991
CHERYL M - 06/23/1984
MATT W - 06/26/1983
SUZIE M 06/26/1997
CHAD H 06/30/1981



(If I have your sobriety date wrong, or if you would like your date to be listed, send me a quick e-mail at newsletter.csopueblo@gmail.com



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