



January 2026

# 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



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

## Notable Dates

- Jan. 7 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Dr.
- Jan. 10 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Branch Public Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. Bret Kelly Conference Room B and on Zoom.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM YOUR CSO

**1. Annual CSO Steering Committee elections will be held at the March 4, 2026 CSO business meeting. Open positions are: Steering Committee Chair, Vice Chair, Office Manager, Secretary/Treasurer, Technology Chair, Newsletter Editor, Activities Chair, and Bridging the Gap Chair. Also, Districts 3, 6, & 8 are welcome to send a Liaison to the Steering Committee either in person or via Zoom.**

**2. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) is raising the price of all books by \$3.00 each, effective February 1, 2026. This excludes the 75th Anniversary 1st edition reprint which will remain the same. If you or your group would like to get books before the price increase, come by the office M - F from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (we do not have a volunteer for the afternoon shift on Tuesdays). If you want a larger order of books (10 or more of a title), please see me soon so I can order them with my next order. This way we can keep the prices of literature at current levels until we start buying the higher priced books.**

### Perspective from the Southwest Regional Forum (SWRF)

Cliff C – 2024-2025 District 8 Co-DCM

I attended the AA 2025 Southwest Regional Forum (SWRF); this year it was held in Albuquerque, NM, November 14-16, 2025. Regional Forums take place every other year. There are 8 AA Regions covering the US and Canada and the Southwest Region comprises the following Areas: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas. One of the very first things I learned was that our region is represented on the General Service Board by the Southwest Regional Class B (alcoholic) Trustee, Teresa J. During the Friday night session, she summed up the intent of the Forum: "This weekend is not about decisions, it is for discussion, learning and perhaps, some disagreeing!"

Regional Forums are hosted by the General Service Board (GSB) and are open to all AA members or anyone interested in AA.

### At this Regional Forum I was able to:

-Learn about GSO and the GSB, AAWS and the Grapevine/ La Viña, AA International and their operations/finances

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# TOP SHELF, CONTINUED



- Meet the GSO General Manager, A.A. Board Trustees, GSO, AAWS and Grapevine/La Viña Directors and Staff – they make formal presentations but are also available for individual discussions
- Attend workshops and breakout sessions and learn more about General Service through the experience of others

-Engage with other AAers “one on one” and make new acquaintances and friends

-Innovate and try new ways to include more AAers and improve the Regional Forum experience

Along with Teresa J, AA General Service organizations were broadly represented at this year’s Forum: in attendance were Scott H, Chair of the GSB and Bob W, General Manager of the GSO, Clint M, Non Trustee Director at AAWS, as well as Delegates from all Areas in the Southwest Region including Colorado’s own Martha M. We also had the leaders from from Grapevine/La Viña (Teddy B Director and Chris C Publisher) and a new Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee, Veronica Ramirez. My understanding is that this engagement is typical of a regional forum; so, it was a wonderful opportunity to directly hear what’s going in AA and have Forum attendees communicate issues, concerns and challenges. And of course, we had AAers representing every part of the Region—there were a total of 481 in-person attendees of which 284 were ‘first timers’.

Innovations. In order to make the Forum more inclusive for both attendees and those who could not travel, this Forum featured a few “firsts”. All of its main sessions were made available online (“audio only”)—125 AAers attended remotely and were able to listen in and second, a real time text and audio translation app was piloted—the Canadian Trustee gave his AA International presentation in French and attendees were able to read a real time translation or hear a text to speech audio version. It gave me a much greater appreciation for the experience of non English speaking AAers attending AA events and the value of translation.

**Highlights from the weekend (note Saturday was a long day-the schedule ran from 8am to about 9:30pm):**

## **Friday Evening:**

-We opened with the Delegate Sharing Session where they shared individual perspectives on Delegate service and participating in the General Service Conference: topics featured “Trusting our Trusted Servants”, “What are the Essential and Vital Services in AA”, “Restoration and Discovering Grace, Unity and Fellowship”, “Reflecting on Tradition 9 (Martha M)” and “Humility in Action”

-Also on Friday, there was a panel discussion about the GSB—we received a nice level set that they are “volunteers whose mission is to serve the fellowship of AA” with a mix of non alcoholics (Class A) and alcoholics

(Class B) Trustees, so the strengths and experience of both can be brought to bear on the operational and strategic challenges facing AA; a lively Q&A followed with panel responding candidly to concerns about Board transparency, recent turnover of Board members and AA’s financial situation

## **Saturday:**

-We had presentations from AAWS and Grapevine/La Vina about current state of operations and challenges for both—common themes were maintaining current processes that add value to the fellowship while determining how to integrate digital platforms to enhance carrying the message (AA website, Grapevine/La Vina app & Instagram accounts, podcasts) and addressing funding shortfalls



# TOP SHELF, CONTINUED



Your paragraph text

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON UPCOMING AA EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTRAL OFFICE AND PROVIDE US WITH A FLYER (IF AVAILABLE) AND WE WILL HELP GET THE WORD OUT. FOR FLYERS, PLEASE REMOVE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION AS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO POST ANYTHING WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE TO PROTECT PERSONAL ANONYMITY.

-Robert L, Trustee-at-Large/Canada gave the AA International Presentation on "AA Around the World" a photo journal of visits to the CSOs of countries large and small around the world and how they all resonated with passion

to carry the message to those still suffering many with very minimal facilities and resources but boundless enthusiasm

-The first round of workshops took place in the afternoon and I attended "Accessing the Fellowship Group Conscience at Scale" how to take our skills learned in our Group consciences (work issues up front, flexibility and open mindedness and respecting all voices) and scale those skills to all levels of the Service Structure—be well informed and tie back to AA's principles

-The second round of workshops took place in the early evening; I attended the "DCM and How They Can Do More for their District"...I came away with a list of 16 tips (which I'm glad to say I was already doing a significant number of them!) which I will be placing on the District 8 share drive for reference for future DCMs

-The keynote address was given by new Class A Trustee Veronica Ramirez...a career and distinguished professional in Corrections, she shared a moving account of how she was introduced to AA and how it became her passion that ultimately led to her volunteering to serve on the GSB

Sunday:

-The closing keynote address featured Don M from Area 10 who has served in almost every General Service role: District and Area Committees and Officers, Delegate, Trustee and Director: he shared that over his 25 plus years of service that "throwing power at powerless/fear" doesn't work; leaders must 'cheerfully compromise and cheerfully take criticism"; what matters constantly reference the Warranties as a foundation, don't do it alone (work with colleagues and the AA community) and move from what is wanted to what is needed when considering ideas -The final session was novel and inspiring: hearing from "first timers" at the Forum—there were many variations of experience but essentially all came away with a greater appreciation and greater energy and greater enthusiasm for General Service

Save the date: The next Southwest Regional Forum will be host by Area (Western Missouri Area 39) at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, Kansas City-International Airport, MO October 1-3, 2027

<https://wamo-aa.org/swrf2027/>



# D8 NEWS



January 2026

## Happy New Year from the District 8 Committee!

As 2025 comes to a close, the District 8 Committee will be undergoing the service rotation for officers for 2026-2027 (thank you Wayne, Mike, Tim and Cliff!) to continue service in the spirit of Tradition 5--carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers—and we welcome you to join us in service and fellowship!

Our new slate of Trusted Servants are:

Mike G Co-DCM  
Rick B Alt-DCM  
Nick S Treasurer  
Becky C Secretary

Filled D8 Committee Roles

Rachel S. PI  
Norm G. Grapevine/La Viña  
Stephanie B. Hit&Run

The Co-DCM that was elected to fill the remainder 1 year term for the open Co-DCM, Carlton C, has had to stand down since due a significant increase in work commitments. This will be addressed in Committee in the new year.

We are seeking those with interest and experience to chair or help out with the following Standing Committees: Corrections, Treatment, Cooperation with Professional Communities, Archives and Translation)

Please contact Co-DCM at [codcm.aa.d8.a10@gmail.com](mailto:codcm.aa.d8.a10@gmail.com) for further information.





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# FINANCIAL

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**The CSO would like to thank the groups that  
contributed to us during 2025!**

**Individuals, Pueblo West 007 Group, Bent County  
Unity Group, Canon City Brown Baggers, Creede  
8680 Group, Crestone Group, Daily Reprieve,  
District 8, First Things First Walsenburg, Greenhorn  
Valley Group, Hugnuts Group La Veta, Joyful  
Journey Group, The Keystone Group, La Junta  
Noon, The Meditation Meeting, No Matter What, The  
Open Door Group Westcliffe, The Primary Purpose  
Group, The Realm os the Spirit, The Recovery Room,  
Rocky Mountain Big Book Study, The Serenity  
Group, The Seekers of Sobriety Group, The Walsh  
Acceptance Group, The World of the Spirit Group**

**Your contributions allow us to fulfill or mission  
of carrying the AA messag to the alcoholic who  
still suffers!**