

TOP SHELF



February 2026

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

- Feb 4 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Dr. and on Zoom.
- Feb 14 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom.
- Mar 4 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Dr. and on Zoom.

CSO ELECTIONS WILL HELD

- Mar 14 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom.
- Mar 20 - 22 Area 10 Spring Assembly, at Fort Collins Hilton.

The Heart of Pueblo

by Laura J

I remember the fear and anxiety I felt about going to an AA meeting the first time after truly hitting my bottom. The fear of drinking was intense and so was the fear of showing up. I had been to AA meetings in the past but this time it was different. This time I knew I needed to stop drinking and didn't know how. I stopped at a Starbucks before to pick up a 'Calm' tea hoping that would help calm my nerves. I arrived at the meeting early and found a couch right away, only to be shocked by a young man greeting me and asking me if I wanted to help set up chairs. My shaking body felt safer melding into the couch but I complied. Thinking back, I realized the beauty of the moment to start building connection and be a part of.

Those first few months of my recovery were tough and the people I met offered greetings, encouragement, invited me to make coffee (which helped me be consistent), gave me a big book and offered their time to me. Most importantly, they allowed me to be in an emotional space when I de-thawed, even though I wanted to die and hated everyone. I resented having to come to AA in the first place and wasn't afraid to say so through many tears. They smiled, clapped, hugged me and cheered me on saying, "Keep coming back and don't drink between meetings, call me and see you next time!" Eventually I started to feel like I was 'a part of' in the rooms and started to experience the miracle of doing the 12 steps.

26 years later, I have moved quite a bit and lived in 12 different cities. All of them had AA and in most places I was able to find treasured friends. Depending on what I am going through in my own sobriety and life, some places have been harder to feel a part of than others. Some places had different ways of doing things and could feel a bit exclusive to outsiders or newcomers from different areas. The last five years have been especially difficult with isolation leaving me to feel like AA was not a first home but a second one.

continued



February 2026

TOP SHELF, CONTINUED



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.

When I moved to Pueblo for work, I had some health issues and it took me to a minute to start going to meetings consistently. When I did, I landed at Primary Purpose and tried to put on a brave face again, to make an effort to introduce myself and start sharing. This time, I was greeted with warmth, kindness, invitations to attend further meetings, connect and be a part of fellowship. The icy block of isolation fell off my heart and I re-remembered again what I felt in my first few months of sobriety - to be greeted with warmth and kindness, regardless of the state I was in. Although this time I wasn't angry to be there or suicidal.

This experience has brought back a sense of gratitude for AA and I realized that I had slid into a limited-participation AA coma without adequate participation and connection. With the reminder of this model for living, I can see that at some point, I got into the dingy alongside the boat and wasn't in the middle of it. I am finally waking up again.

The warmth of others, the invitations to connect and fellowship outside of meetings has helped my heart start feeling connected and happy again in the rooms of AA. It's not just about doing the inner personal work, connection is an important component for a well-rounded recovery. It is a part of the steps! The reminders of our primary purpose, to help all alcoholics (new and old) achieve sobriety has reawakened because of the modeling of other members around me.

I am grateful for the members of Pueblo who strive with everything they have to carry the message, even to old-timer + area-newcomers like me. This makes me want to contribute again and has re-awakened my sense of purpose and willingness to keep trying to build connections and support others with the steps, even if it feels scary to do at times. I am still, most definitely, human. That is the power of the heart and the heart of Pueblo is alive and well.

Thank you Pueblo members, for helping me to feel a part of again and for your service. May we all have another blessed day sober and continue to remind ourselves of our primary purpose, which is the key to freedom and happiness.





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CSO NEWS

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OCSOBERFEST IS IN THE WORKS

After a long hiatus since Covid, the Oksober Fest is coming back! Mark your calendars for October 3rd. Watch this space as more will be revealed!

CSO

Our CSO is in need of help! There are a number of positions currently vacant, along with some positions that need to be rotated. We'll be holding elections in March, please consider giving some of your time to help. For those not familiar, the CSO is a vital part of AA, as the CSO helps each group carry the message by stocking our literature, maintaining our meeting lists for our districts, and is a communication line between local groups in our 3 districts and the GSO in New York.

Our CSO is looking for an office volunteer for the TUES 1 - 4 PM shift as well as an assistant office manager. Please reach out to the CSO for more information on these.

Among the positions open, we currently don't have an Activities Chair. If this isn't filled, our July 4th picnic may not happen.

Lastly, the CSO is hoping to put together a mobile book library to bring books to the further districts it serves. This would involve a day of loading books into your car and visiting some further away meetings. Perhaps make a day of it and grab a couple of local AAers to do a mini Hit and Run! Please reach out to Kevin to coordinate.





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FINANCIAL

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



JANUARY 2026 CSO FINANCIAL SUMMARY

November 1, 2025, Balance	\$ 1,983.02
Revenue	\$ 634.53
Expenses	\$(1,550.49)
November 30, 2025, Balance	\$ 1,067.06
Revenue	\$ 684.93
Expenses	\$(1,332.22)
Operating Funds 1/1/2026	\$ 419.77
Prudent Reserve	\$ 2,500.00
Miscellaneous Fund	\$ 1,000.00

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 must relocate).

1. Last year's revenue to this date was \$14,395.41, this year it is \$10,759.02. We have taken in approximately \$3500.00 less this year than last. Our expenses so far this year are \$12,809.62 and last year they were \$12,847.60. This year's expenses are about the same as last year. Right now, we are operating \$2050.60 in the red.
2. The minimum cost to keep the office open is about \$700.00 a month. That varies based on the cost of the answering service. On top of this we have other expenses such as insurance, cost of hosting our websites, cost of software, Office supplies, and the cost of sponsoring activities.
3. Our literature sales are self-supporting. We buy literature to replace what we sell.
4. We provide a detailed accounting year to date at the CSO monthly business meeting. If you would like to review the details, send a representative to the meeting or come by the office when I am here.
5. Important notice, AAWS has informed us that on February 1, 2026, the cost of all books will go up \$3.00 (this does not include the 75th Anniversary 1st edition replica edition). To keep the price as low as possible, we will not increase our prices until we must order more books under the new prices. The prices will increase on the Big Book, the 12&i2 and the Daily Reflections first with the others going up as we have to restock.
6. I will be making a literature order before the end of the month. If there are any books your group needs, please contact me before then. For groups who buy large quantities of books, let me know.

Yours in Love and Service,
Kevin