



May 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

- May 6 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Dr. and on Zoom.
- May 9 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom.
- Jun 3 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Dr. and on Zoom.
- Jun 13 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom.
- Jul 1 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Dr. and on Zoom.
- Jul 4 CSO 4th of July Picnic, Pueblo City Park, Pavilion next to Zoo.
- Jul 11 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom.
- Jul 24-26 Area 10 Assembly, Sky Ute Casino Resort, 14324 CO 172, Ignacio, CO 81137
- Aug 3 District 8 Grapevine Workshop.
- Aug 5 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A
- Aug 8 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom.
- Aug 21-23 Colorado State Convention, Antlers Hotel, 4 S. Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs CO, 80903
- Oct 3 OcSoberfest at PCC

Beginning Again

Working the steps again after time away from the rooms has been both humbling and transformative, revealing growth, uncovering pain, and renewing my hope for the freedom still ahead. I didn't expect it to feel like starting over, but in many ways it has—offering fresh insights not only through the book, but within myself as well. Before sharing those realizations, I want to briefly explain what led me away and then back to the rooms.

I entered AA shortly after my 21st birthday and was shaped by the people in those rooms as I grew into a more confident, self-advocating version of myself while finishing my degree and trying to define my next chapter. As I became more vocal in meetings and sought change, I developed resentments and eventually stopped attending, partly from that frustration and partly from the exhaustion of school, convincing myself I could step away, take a break, and live life on life's terms. Initially, that space felt manageable, but over the next three years I drifted further from meetings, step work, and prioritizing my recovery, even as I occasionally returned for short periods. Though things seemed fine on the surface, a close friend in the program continued to warn me about the risks of disengaging, and while I believed him, I didn't fully act on it. Gradually, without recognizing it at first, I became increasingly restless, irritable, and discontent.

In February 2025, a hospital stay and a long recovery became the turning point that led me back to AA, where I felt my Higher Power calling me to rebuild that relationship despite my fear and hesitation. My mind was filled with doubts about returning—whether I'd be accepted, whether I still belonged, and whether I had anything left to offer—while at the same time, dangerous thoughts about drinking began creeping in, reminding me exactly why I needed to come back. When I finally returned, alongside a couple of friends doing the same, I felt both fear and comfort, choosing at first to sit quietly, overwhelmed by guilt and a sense of unworthiness. Over time, I realized I needed guidance again and began seeking a sponsor, listening closely and praying for direction until I found the courage to ask one woman who felt right. In a moment that felt guided, I ended up sitting next to her, asked her to sponsor me, and she said yes, setting me on a new path where working the steps again—this time with over a decade of sobriety—felt like starting fresh, bringing new lessons and a deeper understanding of my recovery.

cntd.

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



May 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.

Working through the steps in this way has brought a level of clarity and depth I hadn't experienced before. By writing out my recovery story in Step One, I was able to clearly see the progression of my alcoholism, recognizing where choice gave way to powerlessness and how unmanageable my life had become, along with the real consequences and missed opportunities that followed. In Steps Two and Three, reflecting on my spiritual story revealed how my understanding of a Higher Power has evolved from fear-based beliefs into something more personal, expansive, and ultimately beyond words, allowing me to feel ready to truly surrender. Now, in Step Four,

I am uncovering patterns that have shaped my life across time—how early survival mechanisms, beliefs, and behaviors continue to impact my self-worth, relationships, and sense of security. Although the process is emotional and at times painful, it is also deeply illuminating, offering new insights even beyond years of prior step work and therapy. This experience has shown me the importance of slowing down, staying accountable, and fully engaging with each step, trusting that by facing these truths, I am moving toward greater freedom, peace, and connection with my Higher Power.

By Stephanie S





May 2026

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



A BRIEF HISTORY OF FINANCES IN A.A.

Alcoholics Anonymous has always lived on a shoestring budget. From the very beginning, groups had to find a place to hold A.A. meetings when they outgrew Bill's and Bob's houses. Once meetings were established the groups decided to have coffee and other things available. These things all cost money that had to come from members.

In the early years, through some of the connections of A.A. members, Bill was introduced to John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Rockefeller refused to give him a large sum of money but provided \$5000 to cover the basic needs of Bill and Dr. Bob. In 1940 he hosted a dinner that raised money to provide \$3000 to support the founders so they could work for A.A. full time.

The Alcoholic Foundation was formed in 1938 to guide the growth of A.A. and oversee the production of the Big Book. It consisted of 7 people, 4 non-alcoholics and 3 alcoholics. It is now the General Service Board of A.A. The first "office" where most of the Big Book was written was in Newark, NJ. To finance the Big Book, Works Publishing, Inc. was created. They sold 200 \$25 shares, with many shares sold to A.A. members.

Because there were so many calls and letters from areas that had no A.A., we needed a point of contact; Bill created an office for the purpose of uniting the fellowship and reaching out to new areas. It moved from New Jersey to New York City. As time went by, more was asked of the A.A. office in New York. All the services requested cost money to provide. This required money and A.A. had adopted the tradition of self-support.

In local areas as A.A. grew, the needs of the group(s) grew. There had to be a way for people looking for help to contact us. We had to coordinate activities between groups to best serve the still suffering alcoholic. In October 1939, the first Central Office (in Cleveland) opened to address these issues. After this, Central Offices and Intergroups were opened around the country. These offices had to rent space, get a phone line and pay phone bills. There were also the associated costs to keep the offices running. Once again, these funds had to come from A.A. members.

In its early years, the Alcoholic Foundation made all the decisions and paid the bills (with funds from A.A. members and the sales of A.A. literature) for A.A. During this time, Bill and Dr. Bob were the connection between the fellowship and the Foundation. With Dr. Bob's failing health and subsequent Death in 1950 it was decided that Alcoholics Anonymous would be turned over to the fellowship.

The first meeting of Delegates from areas throughout the US and Canada was held in 1951. It was a success and Bill officially turned the fellowship over to the membership at the 1955 International Convention in St. Louis.

Financially, new expenses were created to facilitate communication between the fellowship and the General Service Board (formerly the Alcoholic Foundation). Areas and Districts were created so groups could provide their group conscience to the General Service Board at the annual General Service Conference. (cont)



May 2026

FINANCIAL CONTINUED



Throughout its history, the fellowship has reached out to the still suffering alcoholic in many ways. Providing these services is something else that costs money. At its basic level, A.A. is one alcoholic talking to another about recovery. To facilitate this meeting costs money; whether it is the price of a Big Book (remember they need to be written, published, printed, distributed and stored), the cost of a phone service, and so much more.

Do you realize that A.A. twelfth stepped an entire country (the USSR)?

So, where does that leave us?

During the early days of the fellowship, it was custom to throw pocket change in the basket and people were told that if they needed help, they could take what they needed. Based on old Grapevine articles and other records the common contribution was \$1.00 in 1963. Today, most people are still putting "a buck in the basket". That 1963 dollar is worth about \$11.00 today.

Yours in Love and Service,
Kevin

**I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand
of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.**