October 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

- Oct 7 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A Club Manor Drive, Pueblo
- Oct 10 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. and on Zoom
- Nov 4 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035 A
- Nov 6-8 Area 10 Winter Assembly at the Double Tree by Hilton - Greenwood Village, CO
- Nov 14 District 8 Meeting, 10:00 am at Rawlings Library 100 E Abriendo Ave. ***our Area 10 delegate will be in attendance to give General Service Conference Report***
- Dec 2 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035A Club Manor Dr
- Dec 12 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at the Pueblo Public Library, Rawlings Branch, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, 81004. It will be in the Bret Kelly A Conference Room. It will also be on Zoom.
- Jan 6, 2027 CSO Steering Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm at CSO, 4035A Club Manor Dr
- Jan 9, 2027 District 8 Meeting, 10:30 am at the Pueblo Public Library, Rawlings Branch, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, 81004. It will be in the Bret Kelly A Conference Room. It will also be on Zoom.

Going to Any Length

There are several times where Bill talks about being willing to go to any length for victory over alcohol in the Big Book. It is used in different contexts, but the basic message is that we must be ready to go out of our way for sobriety. When I started working on the program, my sponsor asked me if I was willing to go to any length, and any time I made an excuse for not doing what I was supposed to, he reminded me of my promise!

Starting with the beginning, Bill got sober during December 1934, while Dr. Bob did not get sober until June 1935. Bill spent 6 months working with drunks, trying to find someone who would stay sober. I know that if it were me, I would probably have given up.

Between 1935 and 1939 there were 2 groups, one in New York and another in Akron. During this period, people would come into the fellowship (not yet called Alcoholics Anonymous) through outreach, word of mouth, or connections with the Oxford Group. During this period, a third group formed in Cleveland. The estimated membership of the fellowship was 100.

1939 was a busy year. The Big Book came out in April, the group in Cleveland started in May, and an article about A.A. came out in the Cleveland Plain Dealer during the fall. The Plain Dealer article brought a large influx of alcoholics into the Cleveland group. It is estimated that A.A. grew by 400 in 1939.

At this point, A.A. started to spread from city to city. Here is a cool story. Copies of the manuscript were sent out to professionals around the country for review and comment. A guy named Pat C. received one of these copies from his mother. After reading it he had himself hospitalized for detox and 6 weeks after his release he wrote a letter to the Alcoholic Foundation saying he had recovered!
Back to the topic.

Now imagine you are an alcoholic (either sober or not) living in a small community. How would you get or stay sober?

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TOP SHELF continued

First, the alcoholic or someone they knew would have to be aware there was a solution. At this point someone would have to write a letter to the office in New York. New York would always provide a personal response and information to that person. They would also inform the person of AA resources close to them (if you were in Pueblo, the closest resource would probably be in Denver). The office would then try to find an AA member close to the person and ask them if they could help. Often that member would drive to meet the prospect.

Next, imagine an alcoholic who has been sober a couple of months and must move to Pueblo. Hopefully they would have a list of contacts they could reach out to (remember, in most places, meetings were few and far between). The alcoholic might also have to reach out to churches, hospitals, or the legal system to find prospects (Remember Bill in 1934). Their only reliable contact with alcoholics would be correspondence with New York (The AA Grapevine was first published during June 1944 to communicate with small communities and servicemembers overseas during the war).

So, how far are you willing to go for your sobriety or to help someone with theirs? Today, there is a plethora of resources for alcoholics. Society accepts alcoholism as a disease and provides resources and support for AA. There are many ways to stay in contact with other alcoholics, but there are some who are still alone.

It is ironic, there are several people who I have told not to volunteer for another service position because they are trying to do too much and will burn themselves out and get resentments. Most service positions only require a few hours a month, yet they remain empty. I cannot tell how many hours I spent during my drinking days imbibing or finding ways to drink. What are a few hours to help someone else?

I do not know how many times I have heard people in meetings say, “AA is a selfish program”. To that, I emphatically say, “**WRONG**”! The Big Book says, “Selfishness-self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles.” (Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, page 62, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.).

A few final things:
“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.” (Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, page 59, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.).

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. (Written for the 1965 International Convention and reaffirmed by the General Service Conference in 1971).

Yours in Love and Service.
Kevin

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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

October 1, 2026, FINANCIAL SUMMARY

August 1, 2026, Balance	$2423.66
Revenue	$1809.70
Expenses	($954.68)
August 31, 2026, Balance	$3278.68
Revenue	$1046.18
Expenses	($1804.94)
Operating Funds 10/1/2026	$2519.92
Prudent Reserve	$2500.00
Miscellaneous Fund	$1000.00

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 emergency purchases (for example, the office must relocate or office equipment fails).

Thank you to all individuals and groups who, through their service and financial support help us keep the Central Office running