

The Pikes Peak Pint is a monthly AA-oriented newsletter proudly serving Colorado Springs and its surrounding communities.

# Pikes Peak Pint

## April 2012



### AREA MEETING CHANGES, DELETIONS, ADDITIONS

- **KNUCKLEHEADS (OPEN, HANDICAP ACCESS)** that meets Sundays at 9:30 a.m. at 1769 S. 8th Street, Bldg. P, Clean Slate Meeting Place **CHANGED ITS NAME to KNUCKLEHEADS - IT'S A TRUMAN THING!**
- **WE ARE NOT SAINTS** (closed, handicap access) that meets Fridays at noon **CHANGED ITS MEETING FORMAT** to 1st & 3rd Friday - Speaker, 2nd & 3rd Friday - Step, Front Range Alliance Church, 5210 Centennial Blvd(north of Garden of the Gods Road).
- **SPRINGS RANCH GROUP** (open, handicap access), is a **NEW BIG BOOK STUDY** that meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at 4985 N. Carefree Circle, Springs Ranch Church, corner of Peterson Rd. and N. Carefree.
- **NEW THURSDAY NIGHT MEETING** at 6 p.m. (Open, Big Book study)) at First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave. Room #135, (enter through doors off Boulder St., head upstairs, on left).
- **NEW RED CLOUD WOMEN'S MEETING** (open) meets Sundays at 4 p.m. at 10400 Ute Pass Ave. Green Mountain Falls CO.(across from pond), Red Cloud Serenity Club.
- **PENROSE STEP STUDY**(open,handicap access) is a **NEW MEETING** that gathers Mondays at 6 p.m. at Penrose Hospital, ground floor, main lobby conference room A. 2222 N. Nevada Ave.
- **STAGES GROUP** (closed) is a **NEW MEETING** that gathers Saturdays at 5 p.m. at Hearth Stone Inn B&B, Parking in rear.514 N. Cascade @ St. Vrain



*The Grapevine online, [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org), started a new feature asking readers to suggest the caption for cartoons. What Caption would you suggest?*

## Peeling the Onion *Bottoms are beginnings*

*By Adrienne A.  
Big Book Action Group*

**I** never struggled with the idea that I was an alcoholic. My dad is an alcoholic, my grandpa, my grandma, my cousin and a whole slew of extended family members who have earned a chair, yet failed to claim one. I was at my first AA meeting at the age of 17.

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### LOCAL SERVICE OFFICE

Hours: T-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
SAT 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Location: 1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
719-573-5020  
E-mail: [serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org)  
Web site: [www.coloradospringsaa.org](http://www.coloradospringsaa.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**Longtimers Dinner**  
**Saturday, April 21**  
**5:00 pm**  
**Chapel Hills Church**  
**2025 Parliament Drive**

## DISTRICT COMMITTEES

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CORRECTIONS  
Renee J.. - Chair  
Stephen P. - Vice Chair  
corrections@coloradospringsaa.org

PUBLIC INFORMATION  
Beth G. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
pi@coloradospringsaa.org

CPC  
(COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY)  
Larry S. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
cpc@coloradospringsaa.org

TREATMENT  
Mike H. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
treatment@coloradospringsaa.org

## LOCAL SERVICE COMMITTEES

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PROGRAM  
Betty A. and Jan I.. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

PINT  
Adrienne A. - Chair  
Rod Q. - Vice Chair  
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

VOLUNTEER  
Adrienne C. - Chair  
David U. - Vice Chair  
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

NIGHTWATCH  
John B. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

WEB SITE  
Dana E.. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org

ARCHIVES  
OPEN. - Chair  
OPEN - Vice Chair  
archives@coloradospringsaa.org

## CONTRIBUTION ADDRESSES\*

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AREA SERVICE OFFICE  
Make check or money order payable to:  
Area Service Office  
Include Group Name and Number on check.

Send to:  
Colorado Springs Area Service Office (CSASO)  
1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE  
Make check or money order payable to: General Fund  
Include Group Name and Number on check.

Send to:  
General Service Office (GSO)  
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

AREA 10  
Make check or money order payable to: Area 10  
Include Group Name, Number, and District #7 on check.

Send to:  
Area 10 Treasurer  
12081 West Alameda Parkway #418  
Lakewood, CO 80228

DISTRICT  
Make check or money order payable to: District #7  
Include Group Name, Number, and District # on check.

Send to:  
District 7  
P.O. Box 26252  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936-6252

PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS  
Make check or money order payable to:  
Area 10 Corrections Committee  
Include Group Name and Number on check.

Send to:  
Pink Can Contribution  
P.O. Box 1949  
Carbondale, CO 81623

*\*Cash accepted in person only, please do not mail.*

Please e-mail sobriety anniversaries,  
announcements, letters to the editor, and e-mail  
subscription requests to the Pikes Peak Pint before the  
20th of each month!  
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

*Your Area Service Office and Intergroup would like you to know how very much we appreciate your personal contributions!*

**Thank You!**

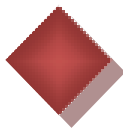


In the month of February  
we received

**5 Grateful Giver contributions,  
1 Birthday contributions &  
1 Personal contribution!**

# Nightwatch Volunteer Meeting!

Your participation and input is needed at this important meeting of Volunteers to determine the course for Nightwatch in the Colorado Springs Area. Our traditions remind us that, "Each group's primary purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic". Volunteering for Nightwatch is service work at its best. Come and find out how you too can carry the message of AA recovery.



**Date:** Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
**Time:** 7:00PM  
**Location:** @ The Peer, corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 24, 308-I South 8<sup>th</sup> Street

For more information, please contact your Area Service Office or John B @ 719-233-6064 or Gina S. @ 719-502-1154



You're invited to celebrate  
**The Area Service Office's 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

Thursday, April 19, 2012  
1353 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 209  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Munchies and Drinks  
10% Discount on Literature this day only!



**"The Joy of Living"  
Annual Longtimers Dinner  
Saturday April 21st 2012  
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

 **Chapel Hills Church**  
2025 Parliament Drive  
Colorado Springs CO 80920

1-25 East North Academy  
Exit on Junction at  
Chapel Hills Mall

**Dinner Buffet**  
2 Entrees, Salads, Vegetables, Rolls and Dessert

**Speaker Meeting**

**Sobriety Count-Down**

**\* \$10.00 per person**

For more information contact  
Jan 686-1244 or Betty 633-2534

\* Complimentary Dinner for Longtimers (18 Years or more)  
If you have eighteen years or more sobriety and have not registered  
please call the Service Office @ 573-5030

**GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS - THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

<b>GROUP NAME (2011-2012)</b>	<b>Yr. to date</b>	<b>February</b>
Apex	\$439.05	
Back to Basics	\$496.32	\$112.18
Big Book Action	\$315.08	
Big Book Study UPH	\$693.51	\$250.00
Black Forest	\$362.59	\$107.68
Broadmoor	\$50.00	
Brown Baggers	\$150.00	
Central	\$10.00	
Clean Air Group	\$97.00	
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$424.20	\$133.20
Down By The Creek	\$45.00	
Downtown Group	\$719.48	
Drylander's Group	\$111.11	
Easy Does It	\$225.00	
Ellicott Group	\$235.00	
1515 Meditation Group	\$89.42	
Foxhall Group	\$252.67	\$41.79
Friday Night Live	\$300.00	
Friday Women's Group	\$673.11	
Garage Meeting	\$260.00	
Good Ole Boys	\$450.00	
Half Pint Group	\$117.00	
Happy Destiny	\$516.80	
Happy, Joyous & Free	\$160.00	\$60.00
Happy Heathens	\$190.00	\$190.00
Happy Hour	\$207.75	
High Noon	\$277.00	\$41.00
H.O.W.	\$147.47	
Into Action	\$555.60	\$105.60
Keystone to Recovery	\$200.00	
Lake George Group	\$173.25	\$83.25
Living Free	\$360.05	
Living Sober	\$125.00	
Living Sober South	\$236.79	\$26.17
M.A.G.	\$685.90	
Natural High	\$125.00	
New Beginners	\$494.76	\$98.13
New Woman	\$914.36	
Noon Meetings @ Clean Slate	\$137.01	

Northwesters	\$660.00	
Not A Glum Lot	\$150.00	
Oasis Group	\$285.70	
Off The Wall	\$189.90	\$28.07
Old North End Study Group	\$359.25	
Penrose Discussion	\$14.54	
Plug in the Jug	\$200.00	
Pre-Dawn Meeting	\$514.00	
Progress Not Perfection	\$522.68	\$40.50
Recovery in Action	\$271.88	\$74.61
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$826.64	\$165.00
Security Eye Opener	\$73.49	
Serenity Hour	\$325.00	\$25.00
Serenity Riders	\$666.36	\$112.58
Serenity Sisters	\$571.30	
Silver Key Seniors	\$95.00	
Solutions at Noon	\$446.06	\$53.44
Steel Magnolias	\$290.10	\$47.78
Sunday Morning Speaker	\$1,056.00	\$156.00
Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate)	\$190.00	
Sunlight of the Spirit - Women's 12x12 (Monument)	\$251.35	
Taking Steps	\$679.50	
Then and Now	\$238.00	
Thursday Mens	\$1,050.00	
Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$100.00	
12@12 Group	\$32.67	
Veterans for AA	\$200.00	
Walk the Talk	\$3,007.00	\$240.00
Walking on Water	\$300.00	
We Are Not Saints	\$1,112.14	
Wed. Westside Womens	\$251.91	
Westside Eye Opener	\$401.37	
Woodland Park Beginners	\$120.00	
Woodland Park Book Study	\$190.00	
Young People	\$1,450.82	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$29,114.94</b>	<b>\$2,191.98</b>

## *Step 4: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*

# 4

*Tradition 4:* Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

*Concept 4:* At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

## **Safe in the Storm**

### *How the Fourth Tradition helps us find our way*

At the heart of Tradition Four is the risky business of autonomy—“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.” But this freedom—without guidance from the spiritual trinity of anonymity, responsibility and humility—can easily become a fool’s liberty, as I’ve found out over the course of my 64 years. Like an ancient alchemist, I can turn autonomy into self-demise. AA has learned to turn it into gold.

The perilous word, autonomy, is defined in my dictionary as the freedom to choose one’s own destiny as well as the route to get there, which, in my case as an alcoholic, includes roads that take a real toll. Can anyone imagine a haphazard collection of ego-driven alcoholic personalities banding together, then being granted the autonomy to choose its own fate? No way could anything enduring come out of this absurd scenario. Yet AA has given each and every one of its groups and mem-

bers the inalienable right to be unerringly wrong, which has many times resulted in the liberty to be foolish, the sovereignty to self-destruct, and the self-determination to learn from mistakes. Not surprisingly, many AA groups have pulled off some disastrous feats of free will, yet through amazing grace, have survived the ride. From my very first day in AA, my sponsor, who knew my autonomous streak, used it well.

He gave me the self-rule

to make decisions, such as to drink or not, when to go to meetings, my timeline working through the Steps, and whether or not to call him. As it turned out, this rugged individualism allowed me to be wrong, to make some enlightening blunders, and to learn some life-saving lessons that went straight to the heart, all the good old AA way—trial and error. I’ve learned some valuable spiritual lessons by following instructions, but I

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No, admitting that I was an alcoholic was never my problem.

My problem has always been, and continues in recovery to be, that I am “victim of the delusion that (she) can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if (she) only manages well.” (pg. 61)

This pervasive idea kept me in and out of the rooms of alcoholics anonymous for 14 years, and – at times – keeps me suffering in the rooms of alcoholics anonymous.

And the spiritual irony is, of course, the more I try to manage my life, the more unmanageable it becomes.

At 27 months sober, I find myself at a new kind of bottom. I have an incredible pay check, and I am broke. I have beautiful people in my life, and I feel completely alone. I have shelter, food, transportation, and it’s not enough. I have done everything “by the book” except let go of this one, little, tiny dangerous idea: “I got this.”

If only I get this, then I will be ok.

If only this happens, all will be right in the world.

Once I get there, I will be here.

This idea (and others) has lead me to create new wreckage in my life – wreckage I can no longer blame on alcohol. And I have found myself at the “jumping off” place. (pg. 152)

Oh, how dark it is before the dawn.

There are three choices for me now: die (a very real choice for as long as I can remember), drink, or back to the basics. I am choosing the latter because of you. Because I have seen these 12 steps transform your life, and I believe they can transform mine.

So, I guess, all that’s left to do is let go and get to work.

Thanks for the strength you give me every day.

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## Help Wanted

The Teller County Jail is in need of male volunteers to take meetings to the jail. The meetings are on every Tuesday night from 7 to 8 p.m. Currently, we only have one full-time and two part-time male volunteers. As a result, there are Tuesday’s during the months where there are no volunteers available and the inmates do not get a meeting. There are often 4-8 inmates who attend meetings. The requirements are as follows:

No recent felonies/misdemeanors

No active warrants

“Off paper” for one year

Prefer one year of sobriety

An application and background check is required

New volunteers will “shadow” a current volunteer until they are comfortable with taking meetings to the jail themselves

If you are interested, contact Garry J. at 719-687-4558 or duke526@centurylink.net

### Last month’s winning caption from global fellowship



*“I’m lying here because I slipped on the First Step.”*

**—Loren B., Bozeman, Mont.**

## STEP UP INTO SERVICE!

### CPC/PI COMMITTEES WANT YOU!



Both committees are very busy and always have opportunities for service! Please go to either of their monthly meetings to get involved!

Cooperation with the Professional Community meets the first Saturday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at 7 E. Bijou. Public Information meets the 1st Saturday - 2 p.m. - Penrose Main, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., Volunteer Coordinator Conference Room

The following Service Positions are currently OPEN and NEED to be filled! Please contact the Service Office or come to the next Intergroup Meeting Tuesday November 9th to learn how you can become involved!

Co - DCM (District Committee Member)  
Public Information Committee - Vice Chairperson

NIGHTWATCH has OPEN POSITIONS!!!

Contact John B. at [nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org)

The TREATMENT COMMITTEE NEEDS volunteers!

Contact Michael at [treatment@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:treatment@coloradospringsaa.org)

To submit your group's sober birthdays to The Pint, please e-mail a list of names and the amount of years each person has to: [PINT@COLORADO-SPRINGSAA.ORG](mailto:PINT@COLORADO-SPRINGSAA.ORG).

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<b>Ellicott Group</b>	
Diane	3 years
<b>Walk The Talk</b>	
Craig C	23 years
Jim R.	1 year
Lori M.	1 year
Debbie T	1 year
Terry C.	7 years
Frank W.	6 years
Kieth	1 year
Allison	1 year
Brian M.	2 years
Liz	1 year
Karen B.	6 years
Loren	21 years
Dave B.	5 years
Fred B.	24 years
<b>Central Group</b>	
Dave B.	6 years

<b>Friday Womens</b>	
Sharon A.	7 years
Jan Z.	12 years
Jan H.	16 years
Heidi G.	11 years
Iris S.	3 years
Toni L.	17 years
Robin B.	3 years
<b>Tuesday New Woman</b>	
Jeanni G.	20 years
Linda C.	2 years
<b>Happy Hour</b>	
Natalie R	2 years
Nate B	1 year
Rachel N	8 years
Robin M	26 years
Veronica	4 years



## AA AT A GLANCE ~ APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 PI (Penrose) 2 p.m.
8	9	10 Intergroup Meeting 7pm First United Methodist	11	12	13	14 Treatment 1 pm Penrose CPC(Downtown) 2 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20 Submit Milestones & Letters to the Editor to The Pint	21 Corrections 9 a.m. Sacred Heart
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Saturday Night Turning Point Group  
@ Red Cloud Speakers**

April 7th - Jeannie A  
 April 14th – Dayna K.  
 April 21st – John & Charlotte B. (AA/AI-Anon Combined)  
 April 28th – Birthday Night

### Monthly Committee Meetings

#### The Board

1353 S. 8th St. - Suite 209  
 1st Monday - 6:30 p.m. - Service Office

#### Corrections

2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave. - Room 6  
 3rd Saturday - 9 a.m - Sacred Heart

#### CPC

7 East Bijou St. - Room 205  
 2nd Saturday - 2 p.m. - Downtown Group

### District 7

3rd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. - First United Methodist Church,  
 420 N. Nevada - Room 135 (access Boulder St.)

#### Intergroup

2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m. - First United Methodist Church,  
 420 N. Nevada - Room 135 (access Boulder St.)

#### Public Information

1st Saturday - 2 p.m. - Penrose Main, 2222 N. Nevada  
 Ave., Volunteer Coordinator Conference Room

#### Treatment

2nd Saturday - 12 to 1 p.m. - Penrose Main, 2222 N.  
 Nevada

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have gleaned most of my spiritual education through home schooling, which means learning from the consequences of mistakes and misdirected instincts, especially when they harmed others.

There is a story in the “Twelve and Twelve,” found in the chapter on the Fourth Tradition, that tells about one of the most valuable blunders a group of drunks pulled off early on in AA’s struggle to survive in spite of itself. This group’s visionaries created a triad of mercy: an AA group, an AA hospital and an AA educational institution, all in one building, financed not with our own contributions, but their contributions. In this instance, stargazing turned into dodging falling stars. The group ran aground on the shore of autonomy and sank their unsinkable star-crossed-mission to save the world. But those who survived the ride did something remarkable. They laughed at themselves and learned a valuable lesson: Autonomy stays afloat by listening to suggestions and keeping it simple, stupid. AA had given them three storm warnings:

- 1) Avoid taking actions that would jeopardize the welfare of AA as a whole.
- 2) Do not become affiliated with any outside enterprises. And
- 3) Stick tight to your primary purpose.

The irony of it all is that they never really ended up compromising AA at all.

This over-exuberant fellowship instead actually granted AA a great learning experience by confirming the hard-won wisdom of the Fourth Tradition as well as hitching it to the Twelfth: ever reminding us to never place autonomy before anonymity.

Traditions seem to arise from blunders and triumphs turned into precious metals by humility. AA’s education, like mine, has been acquired as much or more by making mistakes than by intuition. But AA discovered that there

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was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. This was a hard lesson to learn for a perfectionist like me. The right to be wrong can be an unintentional but essential form of AA service work, not necessarily suggested, but gratefully accepted. I’m sure I’m not the only alcoholic who has passed on the principles of the AA Traditions to others by not heeding their suggestions. Service work comes in many modes and manners. Humility, in the context of trial and error, could be defined as applying the hard lessons learned to the spiritual practice of not

doing it all over again. And the acme of humility, says the “Twelve and Twelve,” is standing in the middle of the shipwreck of my good intentions while laughing at myself. To pull off this spiritual feat of hilarity, I must be a lifetime member of a fellowship. My wreckage is a very sticky place.

It seems that autonomy without anonymity is a perfect storm, capable of sinking any ship no matter how long it has stayed afloat. The salty crew of AA has survived many storms (by the grace of a Navigator greater than themselves) and now has absolute faith in the process of trial and error. My perfectionism always prevented me from learning valuable lessons from my many mistakes by turning healthy self-examination into condemnation. One of the great gifts AA has given me is the OK to use my past and present mistakes as opportunities to enhance my spiritual growth and avoid injuring others as well as myself. Without autonomy this hidden treasure would still be locked up in the prison of perfectionism.

What other way is there to put out to sea for an alcoholic like me? As long as we all laugh and learn from our mutual mistakes, AA will be safe in the storm, learning to tack and plot a course by heeding other’s shipwrecks by day and the guiding Traditions, those stars burning bright, when night falls.

—Ed C., Bowling Green, Ky.  
*Reprinted from the April Grapevine*