

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

# Pikes Peak Pint

## November

## 2010



### AREA MEETING ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND CHANGES

- NEW meeting! **CAME TO BELIEVE** Big Book Study - Saturdays from 7to 8:15pm at 2120 E. La Salle St. Lower level, west door, 1/2 block E of Central Group. Open meeting, handicap-access & child-care.
- NEW meeting! **NO FIRST DRINK** open discussion meeting on Tuesdays at 5:30pm at Wilson United Methodist Church at 6460 Flying W. Ranch Rd.
- NEW Meeting! **DOWNTOWN BIG BOOK STUDY** open discussion on Thursdays at 7pm at 7 E. Bijou, Room 205. Please enter and exit through rear of building.
- The **INTERGROUP MEETING** will now take place at the First United Methodist church at 420 N. Nevada in room 135 on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Enter on Boulder Street.
- The **DISTRICT 7 COMMITTEE MEETING** will now take place at the First United Methodist church at 420 N. Nevada in room 135 on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Enter on Boulder Street.
- The **LIVING SOBER GROUP** that meets on Thursdays from 10-11:15am and the **SUNDAY MORNING SPEAKERS GROUP** that meets on Sundays at 9:30am will be moving from St. Francis Hospital to The Cancer Center at Penrose Hospital - Main beginning in December. 2222 N. Nevada in Conference Room A, enter through main doors on south side of hospital.
- The **HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE** group that meets Fridays at 7:30pm at the church at 4625 Ranch Drive, east of Austin Bluffs and Academy would like to specify that they are a Big Book study group.
- The Spanish speaking meeting **GRUPO LIBERACION** that met on M, W, and Th at 7:30 pm and Sun at 11 am at 2565 Airport Rd. has been cancelled.
- The **PHOENIX GROUP** that met at noon on Fridays at 219 E. Bijou in the First Presbyterian church has been cancelled.

#### Love IT? Hate IT?

#### Have something to SAY about IT?

Please email sobriety anniversaries, announcements, letters to the editor, and email subscription requests to the Pikes Peak Pint before the 20th of each month!

**[pint@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:pint@coloradospringsaa.org)**

*Somebody write to me PLEASE!!!*

#### LOCAL SERVICE OFFICE

T-F 9am-5pm, SAT 9am-12pm  
1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

**719-573-5020**

Email: [serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org)

Website: [www.coloradospringsaa.org](http://www.coloradospringsaa.org)

## INTERGROUP INFORMATION

(Contact the Service Office for Chair phone numbers.)

### DISTRICT COMMITTEES

#### Corrections

Greg N. - Chair  
Renee - Vice Chair  
corrections@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Public Information

Jack - Chair  
**OPEN** - Vice Chair  
pi@coloradospringsaa.org

#### CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Joey - Chair  
Larry S. - Vice Chair  
cpc@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Treatment

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

### LOCAL SERVICE COMMITTEES

#### Program

Tomas M. - Chair  
Megan H. - Vice Chair  
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Pint

Amiee F. - Chair  
Adrienne A. - Vice Chair  
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Volunteer

Cissy - Chair  
Adrienne - Vice Chair  
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Nightwatch

Dana - Chair  
Jessica S. - Vice Chair  
nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Web Site

Bert B. - Chair  
Dana E. - Vice Chair  
webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Archives

Frank - Chair  
**OPEN** - Vice Chair  
archives@coloradospringsaa.org

## CONTRIBUTION ADDRESSES

(Cash accepted in person only, please do not mail.)

### 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:

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

### 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 Contributions  
PO Box 1307  
Englewood, CO 80150

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



**Thank you!**

In the month of September  
we received  
5 Grateful Giver contributions  
1 Personal contribution  
and 2 Birthday contributions!!!

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

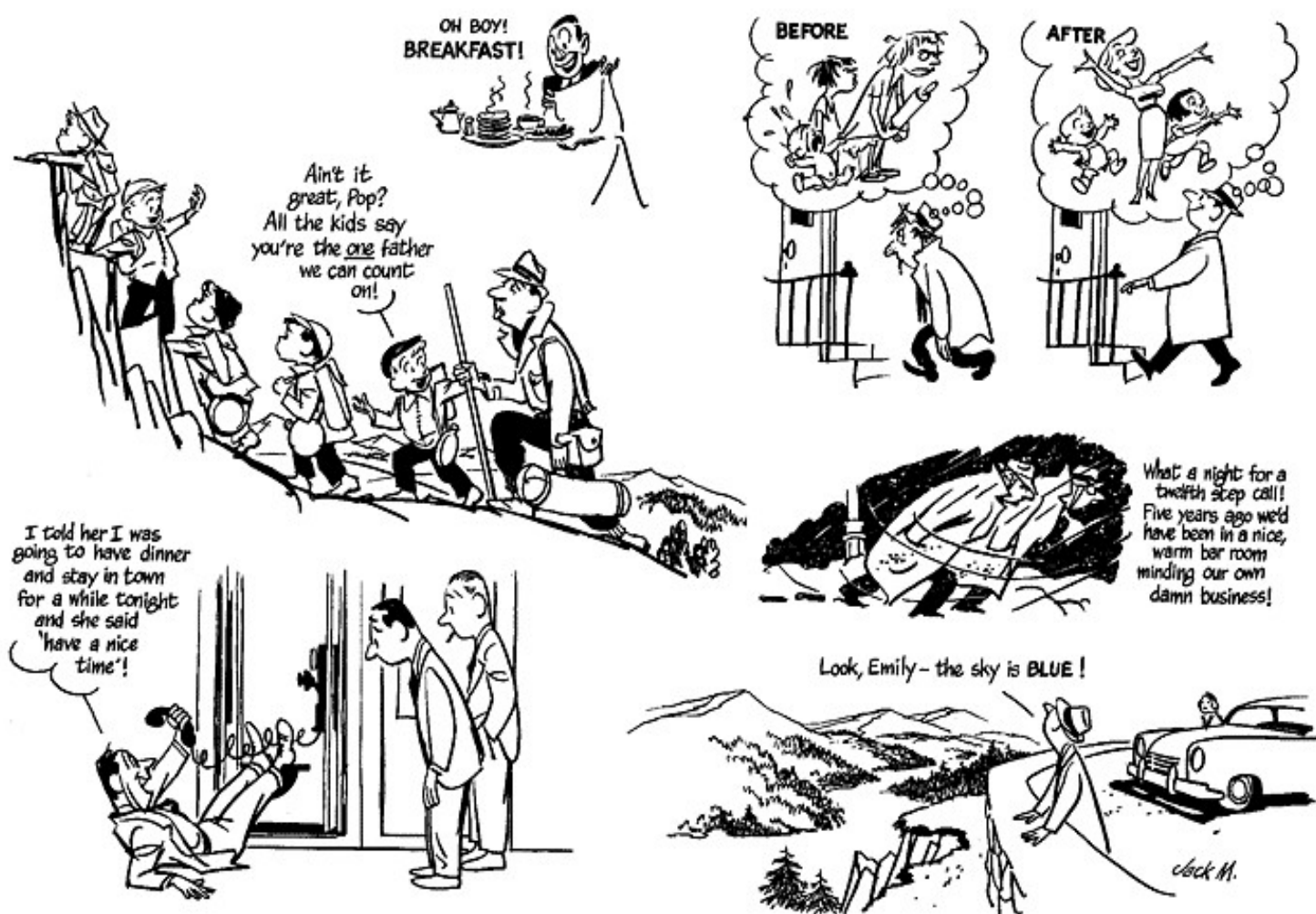
NAME OF MEETING	AUG 2010	YR TO DATE	NAME OF MEETING	AUG 2010	YR TO DATE
ABOVE THE BAR		\$0.00	LIVING FREE		\$0.00
APEX		\$157.00	LIVING SOBER		\$0.00
BACK TO BASICS	\$160.00	\$438.82	M.A.G.		\$500.00
BEACON LIGHT		\$150.00	MOTHERLODE		\$0.00
BIG BOOK ACTION	\$268.41	\$423.91	NATURAL HIGH		\$0.00
BIG BOOK STUDY UPH		\$250.00	NEW BEGINNERS	\$242.38	\$469.64
BLACK FOREST		\$254.73	NEW WOMEN'S		\$301.24
BREATH OF LIFE	\$50.00	\$78.00	NORTHWESTERS		\$122.50
BROADMOOR		\$0.00	NOT A GLUM LOT		\$0.00
BROWN BAGGERS		\$100.00	THE OASIS GROUP		\$30.00
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY		\$0.00	OFF THE WALL		\$209.00
CENTRAL		\$5.00	OUTRIGHT MENTAL DEFECTIVES		\$0.00
CLEAN AIR		\$245.00	PASS IT ON		\$0.00
CRIPPLE CREEK NATURAL HIGH		\$0.00	PATHFINDERS		\$0.00
DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY		\$128.40	PENROSE DISCUSSION		\$0.00
DOWN BY THE CREEK		\$0.00	PLUG IN THE JUG		\$170.00
THE DOWNTOWN GROUP		\$561.15	THE PRE-DAWN MEETING		\$0.00
DRYLANDER'S GROUP		\$47.10	PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION		\$172.33
EASY BREATHING		\$64.50	RECOVERY IN ACTION		\$150.00
EASY DOES IT		\$250.00	RULE #62		\$0.00
THE ELLICOTT GROUP		\$50.00	SAT EARLY MORNING MEETING		\$0.00
END OF THE ROAD		\$0.00	SECURITY EYE OPENER		\$0.00
EYE OPENER		\$0.00	SERENITY RIDERS		\$271.48
1ST 164 PAGES		\$72.95	SERENITY SISTERS		\$0.00
4TH DIMENSION		\$0.00	SILVER KEY SENIORS		\$50.00
THE FAR NORTH GROUP		\$0.00	SOLUTIONS AT 5:30	\$70.00	\$114.00
FOUNTAIN OF SOBRIETY		\$0.00	SOLUTIONS AT NOON	\$40.57	\$335.47
FOXHALL GROUP		\$158.68	STEEL MAGNOLIAS		\$159.50
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE		\$0.00	STEPPING STONES	\$27.80	\$27.80
FRIDAY NIGHT 12X12		\$60.00	SUNDAY MORNING SPEAKER		\$0.00
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE	\$100.00	\$100.00	SUN NIGHT BIG BOOK CLEAN SLATE	\$55.00	\$95.00
FRIDAY WOMEN'S GROUP	\$164.00	\$613.00	THE SURVIVORS GROUP		\$0.00
GALS OF WOODLAND PARK		\$0.00	TAKING STEPS	\$150.00	\$400.00
GIFT OF THE HEART		\$0.00	THEN AND NOW		\$150.00
GOOD OLE BOYS		\$0.00	THURSDAY MENS		\$350.00
H.O.W.		\$0.00	THURSDAY NOON AT WP		\$95.00
THE HALF PINT GROUP		\$87.00	UTE PASS BREAKFAST		\$0.00
HAPPY DESTINY		\$325.23	VETERANS FOR AA	\$100.00	\$100.00
HAPPY HOUR		\$330.00	WALK THE TALK	\$240.00	\$1,200.00
THE HILLTOP AA MEETING		\$0.00	WALKING ON WATER		\$300.00
HIGH NOON	\$17.00	\$98.50	WE ARE NOT SAINTS		\$297.20
THE HUGO GROUP		\$0.00	WED WESTSIDE WOMENS		\$0.00
INTO ACTION		\$0.00	WESTSIDE EYE OPENER		\$401.05
KEEP IT SIMPLE		\$0.00	WOMENS STEP STUDY AT WP		\$90.00
KEYSTONE TO RECOVERY		\$100.00	WOODLAND PARK BEGINNERS		\$60.00
THE LAKE GEORGE GROUP	\$55.00	\$55.00	WOODLAND PARK BOOK STUDY		\$200.50
LAST CHANCE		\$0.00	YOUNG PEOPLE		\$0.00
THE LITTLE LOG GROUP		\$0.00	TOTALS	\$1,740.16	\$12,025.68

**\*YEAR TO DATE TOTALS REFLECT OUR FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 2010 AND WILL END IN APRIL 2011.**

Our 7TH TRADITION states that we are fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Contributions from within the fellowship keep not only each of the individual groups going but also our local Service Office. Financial reports are given to group representatives at each monthly Intergroup meeting and can also be obtained upon request from the Service Office.

# Anniversaries of Sobriety ~ November 2010

<b>BIG BOOK ACTION</b>	<b>DOWNTOWN GROUP</b>	Scott N. ----- 5 years!	<b>TAKING STEPS</b>
Charles B. ----- 23 years!	Bart B. ----- 5 years!	<b>ELLCOTT GROUP</b>	Charles B. ----- 23 years!
Dick N. ----- 21 years!	Curtis F. ----- 21 years!	Ray ----- 30 years!	Tim H. ----- 14 years!
Durrell L. ----- 20 years!	Danny R. ----- 4 years!	<b>FRIDAY WOMEN'S</b>	<b>TUESDAY NEW WOMAN</b>
Fatima W. ----- 1 year!	Denise D. ----- 22 years!	Phyllis C. ----- 40 years!	Nancy R. ----- 30 years!
Gabe W. ----- 21 years!	Jesus H. ----- 8 years!	Nancy B. ----- 20 years!	Puddi K. ----- 27 years!
Jeri R. ----- 19 years!	Lou C. ----- 2 years!	Gretchen ----- 34 years!	Robin S. ----- 1 year!
Karen M. ----- 11 years!	Nora ----- 2 years!	Kathy H. ----- 2 years!	<b>WE ARE NOT SAINTS</b>
Tim H. ----- 14 years!	Rick B. ----- 2 years!	<b>STEEL MAGNOLIAS</b>	Adrienne ----- 1 year!
	Rod W. ----- 2 years!	Gina W. ----- 3 years!	Deanna S. ----- 3 years!



To submit your group's sober birthdays to The Pint, please email a list of names and the amount of years each person has to: [PINT@COLORADOSPRINGSAA.ORG](mailto:PINT@COLORADOSPRINGSAA.ORG). Please have birthdays and any other announcements or editorials your group would like to contribute submitted by the 20th of each month to ensure enough time for publishing. Thank you for all of your participation and CONGRATULATIONS to everyone celebrating a MILESTONE OF RECOVERY!

# AA AROUND TOWN

## GIVING BACK

I came to Alcoholics Anonymous when I was 54 years old because I wanted to take some heat off, not because I wanted to stop drinking. I had just received yet another drunken driving charge (DUI). I was married to a lovely woman for 24 years, I had completed a successful career in the military and I was having good success with a second career in the legal profession. However, the consequences from forty plus years of excessive drinking had come to a head. My wife threw me out of the house (as she promised she would if I received another DUI). I was miserable and angry. I was especially angry because this most recent episode of trouble was disrupting my comfortable routine of getting drunk every day.

This was my frame of mind when I attended my first AA meeting. I can still remember how shocked I was at the number of people who introduced themselves to the surly guy with whiskey on his breath with a handshake and a smile. That guy was me. Even more surprising to me was the respect people showed to each other. A number of people told me to “keep coming back.” I couldn’t take the honesty and respect. I had to get drunk. I repeated that pattern for the next seven days: go to an AA meeting then go get drunk as fast as I could. Ironically, the level of honesty and respect I found in the fellowship that drove me to drink that first seven days was also what kept me coming back. The hook was set.

On the eighth day, I left the meeting and went to my friend’s rental house where I was staying - with the intention of getting drunk. Then something strange happened to me. Instead of getting drunk I poured out half a bottle of whiskey and I have not had a drink since. A Power greater than myself helped me pour that whiskey out and I didn’t even know it. I know it now; it just took a while for me to realize that Power helped me do something I could not do myself.

The first year of recovery was not easy but with the help of a kind sponsor, the 12 Steps and the fellowship of alcoholics anonymous I managed to stay sober. About this time I began to feel an urge as peculiar as the urge to pour out that half-bottle of whiskey on my first day sober. I was starting to feel compelled to give something back to AA. This feeling came from within. No one even suggested I should do this. Once again, that Power was at work. The logical person to start with was my sponsor. I asked how I could repay him for all he had done for me. He said it was very simple, help others. It was so simple it took a while to grasp the concept. How could I help others? I had it! I could put a lot of money in the seventh tradition basket passed around at meetings! Upon further thought and counsel, I realized that action would be paying back my ego, not AA. I came up with several more self-serving, bad ideas before taking an action written in the Big Book: relax and take it easy. It wasn’t too long before that Power gave me an intuitive thought. The way for me to give back to AA was to be of service to my fellows. More rash ideas came to mind and then another passage in the Big Book came to me: pause when agitated or doubtful. The answer did not come to me in a single moment but slowly, over the years.

The answer of how to give back, like most good answers, was simple. It also involved no money whatsoever. Here are some suggestions which I use to satisfy the need to give back to AA by helping others. Show up early for meetings and help set up. I can't always get to a group early enough to make coffee but there is nothing to prevent me from getting off my butt during a meeting to serve coffee to others. Volunteer to be a greeter. This is an excellent method for getting to know group members and becoming part of the fellowship. Clean up after meetings. Give rides to meetings or AA events to those who don't have transportation. This worked well for me because I went for an extended period without a driver's license and accepted many rides. For me, this was directly giving back to the fellowship. When engaged in conversation with another alcoholic, listen intently and hear he or she out completely. Often, people just want to get something off their chest and a good ear is the best medicine for both of us. Make it a point to introduce yourself to people you do not know at meetings to make them feel welcome. My experience is both old timers and newcomers appreciate this simple act. This is my favorite, simple way of giving back: call another alcoholic on their AA birthday and acknowledge the milestone. Several friends called me and wished me happy birthday on my one-year anniversary. I never forgot how good that made me feel. I have not mentioned sponsorship. This is indeed an effective way to give back. My point here, is it does not take a huge commitment like being a sponsor, becoming a GSR or chairman of a corrections committee to give back what was so freely given. These simple acts of kindness are very effective and it is important to remember who the real beneficiary is: I have now been married to that lovely woman I mentioned in the beginning - for 31 years.

**Anonymous**



*“ . . . and he didn't drop the turkey or spill the gravy and everybody was happy! It was the best Thanksgiving we ever had!”*

# NIGHTWATCH *needs* YOU!!!

**COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH!**  
7PM at WALK THE TALK located at 5975 N. Academy Suite 210  
Current volunteers come to feedback. If you are interested in Night Watch,  
please come and learn how you can be of service! Snacks provided!



**“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.”**

We have a lot of **OPEN** positions available!!!!  
Please contact us to be a volunteer to carry the message of  
Alcoholics Anonymous and help the alcoholic that still suffers  
If you have any questions regarding Night Watch  
please contact us .



**Dana 719-491-0587**

**Jessica S. 719-641-2385**

[nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org)

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 w/ the Professional Community meets the first Saturday of every month at 1:30pm at 7 E. Bijou. Public Information meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6pm on the 5th floor of St. Francis Hospital.

## STEP UP INTO SERVICE!

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)**  
**Archives Committee - Vice Chairperson**  
**Corrections Committee - Vice Chairperson**  
**Public Information Committee - Vice Chairperson**

**NIGHTWATCH has OPEN POSITIONS!!!**  
Contact **Dana** at [nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org)

The **TREATMENT COMMITTEE** NEEDS volunteers!  
Contact **Michael** at [treatment@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:treatment@coloradospringsaa.org)

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGROUP CHARTER

The following change specifying chair terms will be voted on at the Intergroup meeting on December 14th. Groups are encouraged to discuss this amendment with their representatives so an appropriate group conscience can be reflected.

#### CURRENT WORDING:

##### Article XI

2. Chairpersons of Intergroup Service Committees shall be appointed by the Intergroup Chairperson and approved by a simple majority of the voting members present. Two years' continuous sobriety is recommended as a qualification. Committee chairpersons will be appointed for one year, and may serve a maximum of two terms in succession.

#### WITH NEW WORDING:

##### Article XI

2. Chairpersons of Intergroup Service Committees shall be appointed by the Intergroup Chairperson and approved by a simple majority of the voting members present. Two years' continuous sobriety is recommended as a qualification. Committee chairpersons will be appointed for **a one year term, beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> and ending April 30**, and may serve a maximum of two terms in succession.

**3. If a Chairperson serves 180 days (six months) or more in one office within a given fiscal year, she/he shall be considered to have served a term. Service of less than 180 days within a fiscal year shall not be counted as a term.**

(Note: #3 would be inserted and all of the following numbers in the article will be changed accordingly.)

# AA OUTSIDE of TOWN

I had the privilege to attend the South West Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SWAARSA) this past weekend in Denver. I have just expanded my service from beyond chairing meetings and making coffee to service beyond the group level. And I discovered I may have bitten off more than I can chew and thought SWAARSA could help me with my digestion.

Each hour starting at 9am and going until 9pm was a choice of workshops and topics from the familiar AA traditions and history to the not so familiar Linguistics and CPC. Having to decide between four different topics each hour was a challenge in itself. Would I find it more valuable to learn about being an Intergroup representative or Tradition 7? It wasn't until I was half way through the assembly that I discovered we would get transcriptions of ALL the topics. That made the stress of deciding what was most pertinent to my service life decline dramatically. I was then able to participate and hear about issues that I would have assumed were beyond my scope.

Beyond the educational capacity of what SWAARSA offered, was the experience itself. How ALL service starts with one alcoholic working with another. How Grapevine, Tradition 5, Concept 8, or whatever the subject may be is in place simply to keep us able to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic. That's it. And even though my AA experience is limited to only 2 years and my service resume is rather sparse; SWAARSA drove home the idea that even I have played an important role in Alcoholics Anonymous. It reminded me that the little I do in AA, has purpose today. It reminded me that the giving of oneself doesn't have to come with a title or excel spreadsheet but can be as hugely significant as saying "hi" to the terrified newcomer walking in the door. We may struggle with issues that can affect AA but we are not going away. Nothing can kill the AA spirit which is all based in one on one work with another alcoholic. That was by far the most important thing I learned at this SWAARSA event. And a thing I will remember to cherish.

## Anonymous

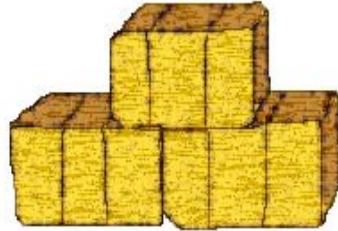


*"Certainly Bradford's worried. It isn't every day  
you start a tradition."*

# Hay Ride!

## Food!!

## Fun!!!



Security Eye Opener will supply main dishes!  
Bring your family and a side dish to share!  
Come have a great time in sobriety!!



**WHAT:** Hay rides, campfire, food , FUN!!

**WHEN:** Saturday November 13, 2010

**WHERE:** Penrose CO near Brush Hollow Reservoir

**TIME:** Starts at noon, food at 1pm, hayrides at 1:30 and 2!

**MEETING AT 3PM!!!**

For more information contact Bob M. @ 487-4810

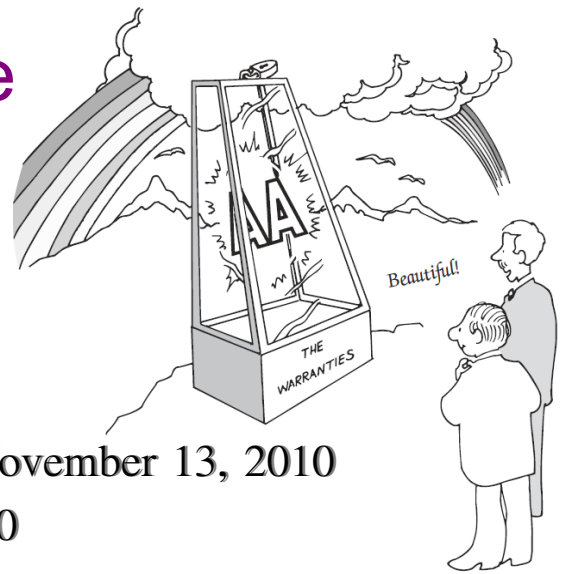
**DIRECTIONS:** Take 115 south 25-30 miles. Go right on 3rd Street at the sign for Brush Hollow Reservoir. Continue on CR 123 about 5.5 miles. Take a right on CR 132. Follow 132 for about 9.5 miles across a bridge and a cattle-guard. Gate will be on the left and well-marked. Go through gate, take first right, then another right. If you get lost call Kurt P. 719-310-1820.

# District 19 Presents:



## Traditions and Concepts 101

Featuring Area 10 Alternate  
Delegate  
"Gelong Tashi" Gonpo



**For More Information Contact:**

**Blaze M (303) 807-1132**

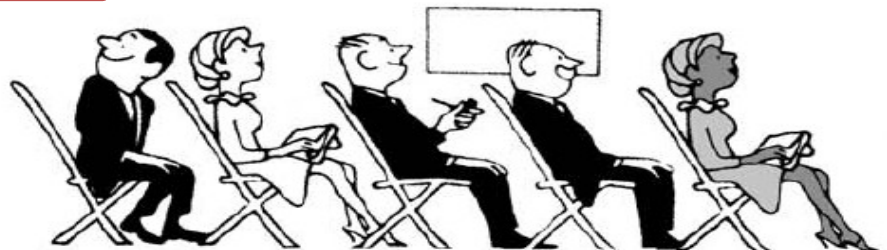
**Scott M (303) 257-2438**

**Saturday November 13, 2010**

**1:30 to 4:30**

**Belmar Library**

**555 S Allison Pkwy. Lakewood CO.**



# Step 11

**Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for the knowledge of his will and the power to carry it out.**

Here, again, is reaffirmation of the freedom to worship according to one's own understanding of the spiritual, and it is the saving grace in a Step that otherwise might make many balk in the Plan of Recovery. To pray and to meditate according to denominational and dogmatic definitions and restrictions would be extremely difficult for many, at least at the beginning of their efforts to rehabilitate themselves. For so long so many have been rejecting prayer and meditation and have had no consciousness of the spiritual in any respect. By the time anyone has come far enough along the road of alcoholism to want and need A.A., he usually has been out of touch with anything spiritual for a considerable time. For him suddenly to accept all that he has been rejecting would be nearly impossible.

Even where the individual has been "going to church" and perhaps even saying words in the name of prayer he usually has lost "conscious contact" with the Spiritual Power. He may still be "religious" yet not spiritual. He, too, has need of meditation and the improvement of his "conscious contact with God," *as he understands Him*, even if he returns to the church of his choice or, in fact, has never left it. The principle of freedom embodied in the 11th Step opens the door to any individual seeking spiritual help by whatever path and through whatever concepts he himself prefers. Fortunate, indeed, are those who have clung even to the mere framework of religion, and of a teaching with which they once agreed. Usually, though not always, theirs is a shorter journey back to the spiritual life.

But there are many who have saved no contact at all or who never had any in the beginning. For them in particular, the words "as we understood Him" are appealing. Here is no dictation of teachings or concepts which they do not understand; no required acceptance of things they disbelieve. Standing, then, on the privilege of exercising one's own understanding, we are invited to "improve our conscious contact with God" through prayer and meditation. Neither the prayer nor the meditation need be formal, or orthodox. The style or the stance are only the means, not the end, and how one reaches a "conscious contact with God" is not paramount, just so long as he does reach it. At least that is this writer's opinion.

Another way of expressing "conscious contact" might be "a working knowledge." It is an awareness or a feeling, and finally a conviction of the existence of the Higher Power and of It as a source of constant help. Once this conviction has been gained it is constant and the infinite help that it brings operates in the daily life. How to get that conviction is, of course, the cardinal question. But the answer is here in the 11th Step. Prayer and meditation yield the answer. True, sometimes, the conscious contact is slow in developing. Yet, experience has proven for hundreds of members of A.A. that persistence in this direction, when combined with an open mind, inevitably produces that which is sought. The peace and the strength that are the rewards are infinitely worth whatever persistence is required.

**The AA Grapevine**  
**September 1946**  
**Vol. 3 No. 4**

# Tradition 11

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?

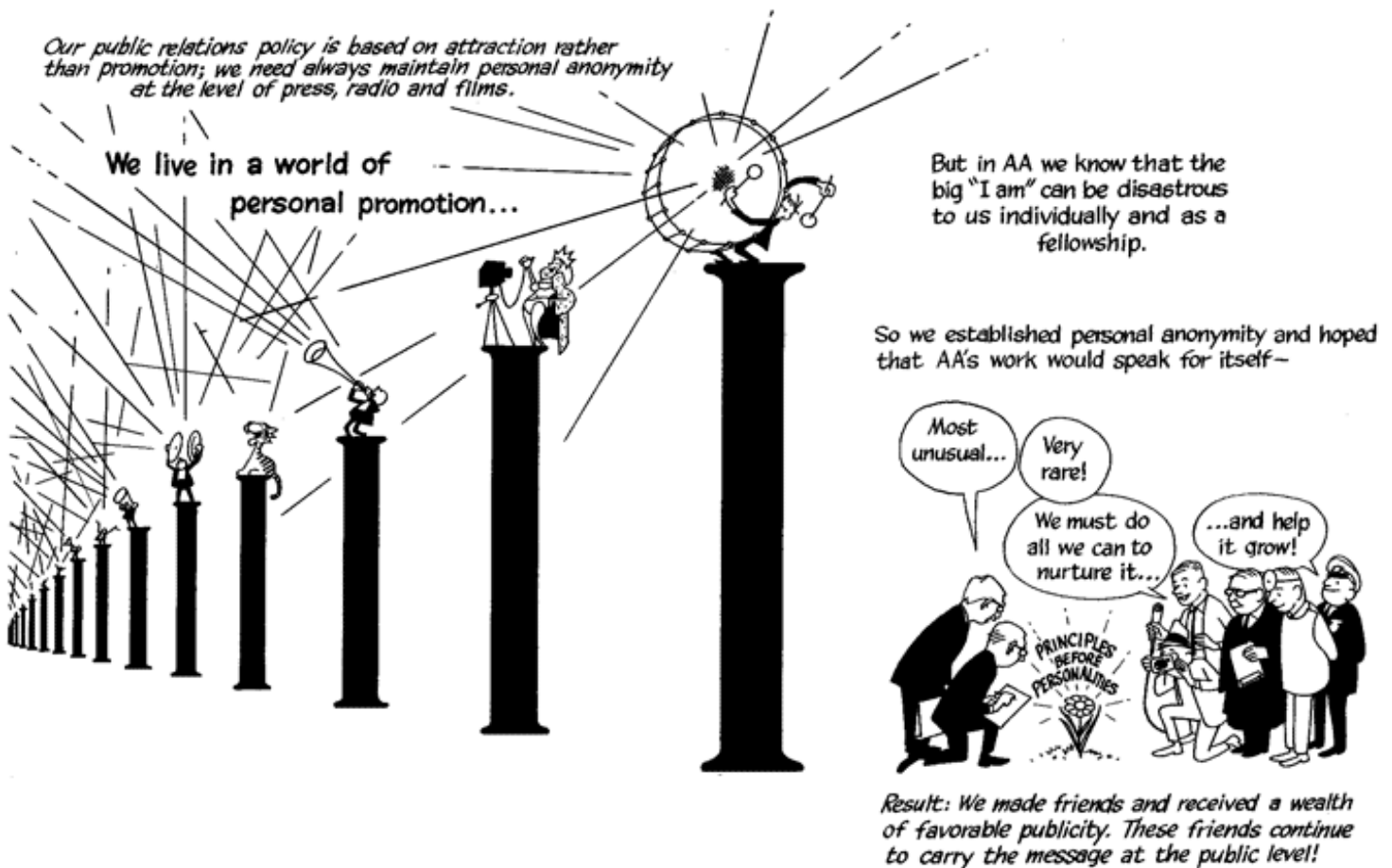
Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?

Am I careful about throwing AA names around - even within the Fellowship?

Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?

What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?

Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?



# Promise 11

**We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.**

THE line is busy. You hang up, wait, dial again. The line is still busy. Two or three more tries and the line is *still* busy. If you tear the phone from the wall and heave it out the window you'll feel better until the bills start arriving. If you strangle yourself with the cord, your relief from impatience and tension will be certain... But you try again. . . As your finger moves towards the dial a thought moves into your consciousness from the hiding place in your mind called "I Forgot" and you feel a little foolish about your impatience when you say, "Thy Will be done, not mine." Then you chuckle, audibly perhaps, as the tension slips away, and you wait relaxed for the world to sort itself out, until it is the *right* time for you to make your contact, instead of the time you have tried to *will* into being the right time. Then perhaps, if you stop to think about it, you will be awed at the thought of the years of impatience and anger which you have fought through just because everything and everybody in the world had not conformed to your presumptuous will to satisfy a moment's whim.

"Thy will be done, not mine" has become, to many of us, the most fabulously important faith in our day-to-day existence. Yet at times we forget, and other times fail to realize, that this surrender of our will to that of our Higher Power, is just as important in the little things as it is in the larger things, if we are to overcome the lifelong habit of arrogance which has so distorted our attitude towards living, and which created our tensions and hatreds of the world from which we tried so hard to escape.... At first it was very hard to accept, this placing of so much trust in the Higher Power. The asking: "please bring me something to eat," and "please find me the price of a flop," and "please find me a comfortable pair of shoes," and after the asking, the tearing around here and there, trying to *make* the answers come true. And as failure followed failure the tensions increased and haste became more and more imperative, until frazzled nerves and fatigue started the leaning towards the comforting bosom of "stinking thinking"; and the self-pity brought you whispering promises of surcease whose breath was propelled by booze; and then the remembering: "Thy will be done, not mine."

And the peace, the relaxing and the easy patience, waiting, knowing that now, and not until now, the asking would be answered without fail. Wonderful, still to come at the end of the waiting, the wonder and the humility and the new meaning and power of the word "love" which comes into being as the answers to the asking come so naturally and so perfectly timed. At first the mind and spirit could encompass only the material things, but it was a stage of stepping closer, half believing, half disbelieving, until the moment came when the abyss between belief and disbelief had been crossed and instead of asking for bread and shoes it is asking for "peace of mind," "contented sobriety," tolerance and kindness towards others. It becomes release from resentments through asking for blessings for those you felt had wronged you.

It is the trustfully asking for help both for yourself and for others but equally important it is the knowledge that your Higher Power will teach you to live your life and bring to living all that He wishes from you. And it is giving thanks for each and every moment of your day which you have lived right, through Him. Then too, it is looking back at the arrogant stranger of the "I am" and "I will," who believed all those years that surrender was weakness; it is laughter, good and easy and joyous, in the knowledge that in surrender only is there strength. It is there when the new knowledge almost succumbs to the old habits. For it is one line that is never busy if you want it and the answer is immediate and omnipotent.

**Larry C. - Montreal Quebec**

**AA Grapevine April 1954**

**Volume 10 Number 11**

# AA Thought for the Day

## Articles of Faith

Most of us hasten to assure the newcomer who may be troubled by the frequent mention of God at AA meetings that it is not a religious program. We explain it is a Fellowship that celebrates the very best in the human spirit and is therefore a *spiritual* program, roomy enough to embrace people of all faiths and even those who have no formal religious associations or convictions.

I came to this program a hard-nosed atheist. In the process of recovery I found my own concept of a Higher Power that serves me in many wonderful ways. Yet I find that some of the things that disturbed me early on in my sobriety in relation to AA and religion are still irksome.

These are attitudes that are basically religious in character. They are not to be found in any AA literature, yet are repeated in meeting after meeting as if they were, indeed, a basic part of our program. I offer two examples of what I am referring to: "God will never give you more than you can handle" and "You are exactly where God wants you to be."

Now I have no quarrel at all with members who derive solace from their belief in these often stated ideas. But I would find it exceedingly difficult to console a friend dying painfully of cancer by repeating them to him or her and suggesting that person accept the fact that "God will never give you more than you can handle." During World War II, were some six million Jews and three or four million Catholics, trade unionists, gypsies, and other "impure" people who were marched into Hitler's furnaces or otherwise slaughtered, "exactly where God wanted them to be"?

AA owes much to religion, having borrowed generously from some of its most beautiful precepts to formulate our program. Our Twelve Steps certainly demonstrate that. But simply because a precept has found wide acceptance in religious circles does not automatically qualify it for incorporation into our program.

I trust it is clear I am questioning no one's right to believe in his or her God as they understand him, her, or it. I firmly hold to the idea that whatever works for you, whatever strengthens your sobriety--go for it. What does make me uncomfortable is an ongoing setting forth of certain religious precepts as if they were AA doctrine and articles of AA faith when indeed there is nothing I can find in our literature to sustain such a presentation.

**Ben I.**  
**Studio City, CA**  
**The AA Grapevine**  
**April 1991 - Vol. 47 No. 11**

# AA At A Glance ~ November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	Intergroup Board Meeting 6:30pm Service Office					CPC Meeting 1:30pm Downtown Group
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
		Intergroup Meeting 7pm First United Methodist				Treatment Committee Meeting 4pm Pikes Perk
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
			Public Information Meeting 6pm-3rd floor St. Francis			Corrections Meeting 9am Sacred Heart
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
	Submit Milestones & Letters to the Editor to The Pint	District 7 Meeting 7:30pm First United Methodist				
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# Monthly Committee Meetings

The Board	1st Monday - 6:30pm - Service Office 1353 S. 8th St. - Suite 106
Corrections	3rd Saturday - 9:00am - Sacred Heart 2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave. - Room 6
CPC	1st Saturday - 1:30pm - Downtown Group 7 East Bijou St. - Room 205
District 7	3rd Tuesday - 7:30pm - First United Methodist Church 420 N. Nevada - Room 135 (access Boulder St.)
Intergroup	2nd Tuesday - 7pm - First United Methodist church 420 N. Nevada - Room 135 (access Boulder St.)
Public Information	3rd Wednesday - 6pm - St. Francis Hospital (5th floor)
Treatment	2nd Saturday - 4pm - Pikes Perk 14 S. Tejon St.



***“Just because the bars close on Election Day  
is no reason to favor dictatorship.”***

# *WE are not ALONE*

A MAN went into a church one day, walked down the aisle, knelt at the altar, looked up at the Cross, immediately rose and left. He did this every day for a week. The sexton noticed this and told the pastor. The pastor watched the man for several days; then his curiosity getting the best of him, he stopped the visitor and asked:

"I'm not trying to pry into your affairs, but you have been coming here every day for the past ten or twelve days, about the same time, walking down the aisle, kneeling at the altar, looking up at the Cross, immediately getting up and leaving. You are not there long enough to pray. We thought you might be stealing money that worshipers leave at the altar, but we know now that you are not doing that. If you don't mind, how about telling us what's taking place?"

"No sir, I don't mind," the fellow replied. "You see it's like this. I am an alcoholic. About a month ago I joined an organization known as AA. They have twelve suggested steps, and eleven of them are spiritual. Knowing very little about God and nothing at all about prayer, each day when I get off from work, I enter your church, walk down the aisle, kneel at the altar, look up at the Cross and say, 'Jesus, this is Jim'."

The fellow came in a few more days and then they began to miss him. Several weeks later, the pastor, on his rounds of the hospital went into the accident ward, and was talking to the boys when one said: "See that fellow over in the corner bed? He's been here a week now, and seems very despondent. Undoubtedly he hasn't a family, for no one has been here to see him. How about going over, and seeing if you can cheer him up?"

When the pastor approached the bed, who was there but Jim, with the most beautiful expression he had ever seen on a man's face. He was astounded, and said, "Jim, the boys asked me to come over and cheer you up, but your face is so radiant that it cheers me. And they say there has been no one here to see you."

"Oh yes," Jim said, "I had a visitor." The pastor looked perplexed. "But the boys insisted no one has been here." "But they were wrong," Jim said. "About an hour ago I had a visitor. He stood right at the foot of the bed." The pastor asked, "Did the visitor talk to you?" "Yes." "What did he say?" "He said, 'Jim, this is Jesus'."

**E.N. - El Dorado, Arkansas**  
**AA Grapevine October 1954**  
**Volume 11 Number 5**



**3.** *“In my senior year, World War II came along and one night I got drunk and joined the Army.”*