

September 2021

THE PIKES PEAK PINT

A Newsletter for the Pikes Peak Region of Alcoholics Anonymous

Please remember the Area Service Office is open only
because of your continued financial support.

Our Primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

Contributions can be made on the homepage of our CSASO website: www.coloradospringsaa.org or mailed or dropped off at the Area Service Office located at 1353 S 8th Street Suite 209, Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Or feel free to call the office and we can take your contributions over the telephone and charge manually whatever amount you wish to your debit or credit card. This option is available Tuesday—Fridays 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Intergroup Committees

INTERGROUP MEETING **2ND TUESDAY**
5:30 PM DOWNTOWN MEETING ROOM 210 N. CORONA

TREATMENT COMMITTEE **2ND SUNDAY**
10:00 AM BLACK BEAR COFFEE SHOP 6550 S. ACADEMY BLVD.

DISTRICT 7 MEETING **3RD TUESDAY**
7:00 PM LEGACY WESLEYAN CHURCH 502 N. WALNUT STREET
ZOOM: MEETING ID 741 7625 8437 PASS 928 532

COOPERATING W/ PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY **3RD SATURDAY**
3:30 PM AREA SERVICE OFFICE 1353 S. 8TH STREET SUITE 209

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE **4TH SATURDAY**
10:00 AM AREA SERVICE OFFICE 1353 S. 8TH STREET SUITE 209

BRIDGING THE GAP PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM UNDER INTERGROUP COMMITTEES

NIGHTWATCH PLEASE CALL THE SERVICE OFFICE

Tradition Nine

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

“Neither is its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment.” 12x12 p. 173

How on earth are we supposed to make the other members of the group do what they should be doing? This just does not make any sense! Someone has to lead! Someone always leads the charge, leads the team, leads the company, leads the expedition; you get the point. We are wired to look for leaders to tell us what to do, or to become leaders directing others. This is one of the corner stones of modern society, with out a captain, the ship is surely doomed. Wether it is the ship on the ocean, the ship of state or of industry.

Not so, we say of AA. Here, the anyone can, and often does, say whatever come to their mind in a meeting. Breaking out all sorts of contradictory ideas about AA, sobriety, faith, God, love work or play. People who have a desire to stay sober can bring in any book and read from it, quote interesting or pithy tale, dress how they want, vote how they want etc, and no member can issue a directive to those folks and make it stick. If you have been around AA more than a couple of days, I am sure you have seen members do exactly that, either directly or covertly indicating that, “at this meeting, we only talk about the steps.”

The ninth tradition, tells us that none of this will work. No person in AA has supremacy over another, in any matter inside the fellowship. Our jobs as trusted servants is to **SERVE!** We must discover the will of the group, and seek to make it a reality. We are not the princes and princesses of AA we are the butlers, and maids, the cook and bottle washer. The real people who need our help are the alcoholics who are still suffering, that is why we put a couple dollars in the basket, why we keep the lights on, not so the people with long term sobriety have a place to hang out! I should stop now.....

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Something to talk about: **Would Gender Neutral Language really change the book?**

- P17 We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, know thousands of people just as hopeless as Bill. Nearly all have recovered. They have solved the drink problem.
- P18 If a person has cancer all are sorry for them and no one is angry or hurt.
- P18 It brings misunderstanding, fierce resentment, financial insecurity, disgusted friends and employers, warped lives of blameless children, sad spouses and parents – anyone can increase the list.
- P18 *But the ex-problem drinker who has found this solution, who is properly armed with facts about themself, can generally win the entire confidence of another alcoholic in a few hours.*
- P18 That the person who is making the approach has had the same difficulty, that they obviously know what they are talking about, that their whole deportment shouts at the new prospect that this is a person with a real answer, that they have no attitude of Holier Than Thou, nothing what ever except the sincere desire to be helpful.

Happy A.A. Birthday!

Walk The Talk

Jody H.	1989
Connie L.	2011
Dan R.	1991
Clark W.	1985
Bob O.	2011
Cindy S.	2013
Dawn D.	2003
Linda-Marie	1990
Ken T.	1987
Ray L.	2020
Margo	2020

New Woman's Group

Laurel B.	31 yrs
Leigh T.	16yrs
Karen C.	16yrs
Michelle	2 yrs
Deidre M.	2 yrs
Ellen	6 yrs
Julie H	1 yr
Cara A.	1 yr

Please send your groups birthdays to: pint@coloradospringsaa.org

READING ABOUT SOMETHING \neq DOING SOMETHING!

I received some frustrating and anger-inducing news today. It was something that stirred up emotions that have been used in the past as an excuse to drink, partially to feed the ever-present nihilistic part of my ego and partially to numb the easily hurt and oft-protected sensitive side. I have used emotions as my reason to drink after months of sobriety. Not today, though. Today I will remain sober. What changed?

On the surface, nothing. I received my six-month chip a few weeks ago, but it is not my first time. I've reached that milestone twice before, only to follow it up soon afterwards with a relapse. Each time I was reading the steps with a sponsor. I had multiple phone numbers of other alcoholics that I could reach out to if needed, not to mention supportive family and friends. There was an established and well-thought-out relapse prevention plan that included therapy, meetings, and a schedule of activities that were and still are part of my recovery. I had quite a few tools in my toolbox the last time I reached six months, and I did not go out and get brand new tools in the past half year. Same tools. Same Sarah. Well, same-same, but different.

You will notice that I said earlier that I was *reading* the steps with a sponsor. What I didn't say was that I was *working* the steps with a sponsor. The difference this time is that I spent the last six months earnestly learning to use the tools, sharpening those that were dull, and improving those that were slightly faulty. I have been *working* the steps with a sponsor and doing it honestly and willingly. I have been giving up my control to my higher power, made a list of defects of character and am willing to have them removed. I have been listening to the suggestions provided by other alcoholics and have stopped allowing myself to find excuses for why "that's not for me." While I do not believe what worked for one alcoholic will necessarily work for another alcoholic 100% of the time, I have come to believe that you can't say that something doesn't work unless you have honestly tried it. I now ask for the thoughts and guidance from other alcoholics whose lives and programs I admire. I reach out and give others the opportunity to be of service to me. I pay attention to the things that are happening or said around me and take note of when my higher power is giving me a nod or pushing me towards a certain action. I pull my toolbox out every day, multiple times a day, and practice using the instruments within.

When I received the news I mentioned at the beginning, my first impulse wasn't to reach for the bottle. On this day, my knee jerk reaction was to take a step back and inventory my emotions and thoughts. I picked up my phone and called a trusted friend, and then texted my sponsor to set up a time to talk later. I prayed for guidance and thought about I could do that was the next right thing.

I decided to focus my energy on finishing some writing about what the past six months have been like for me and started flipping through the stories at the back of the Big Book for inspiration. Not knowing what I was doing at that exact moment, sponsor sent me a page number to a story that has inspired her in the past (407 in edition four, if you are interested), which I promptly turned to. As I was reading it, it struck me that the biggest change that I am now *willing* to give the steps my all and to use the tools I have been given.

I scrapped what I previously wrote and decided to reflect on this moment, because my response today to frustration and anger is one example of many that highlight this change. I stopped letting my toolbox collect dust and instead became willing to put them to good use.

Sarah

Step Nine

The idea of making amends to the people I had harmed over the years didn't scare me - I was eager to set the record straight. I chose to tackle my list head on, reaching out to every person I could. My schedule was flooded with coffee date after coffee date for weeks on end. My first amends went better than I could have ever expected, but because of this I go just as favorably.

It shouldn't have surprised me when many meetings to come went less than ideal. Many people that I had harmed simply did not wish to hear me out, others rightfully demanded I never contact them again. I left some meetings feeling as though more harm was done than resolved. The amends violence, and hurtful words the amends that taught me the had stolen peace of mind and



for me, wasn't about the world revolving around theft, were sometimes very hard, but most were with those whom I time from.

The amends process, for me, wasn't about the world forgiving me or meeting me with grace - it wasn't even about me forgiving myself. It was a process of humility and responsibility - it was a great lesson on how to listen and speak with intention, and how to shut up if it wasn't my place to speak (that was a hard one). The core values from Step

Something to talk about: Would Gender Neutral Language really change the book?

p30 Most of us have been unwilling to admit they were real alcoholics. No person likes to think they are bodily and mentally different from their fellows. Therefore, it is not surprising that our drinking careers have been characterized by countless vain attempts to prove we could drink like other people. The idea that somehow, someday, they will control and enjoy their drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker.

p44 To one who feels they are an atheist or agnostic such an experience seems impossible, but to continue as they are means disaster, especially if they are an alcoholic of the hopeless variety.

P59 Without help it is too much for us. But there is One who has all power - that one is God. May you find One now!

Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked God's Protection and care with complete abandon.

DISTRICT 7 COMMITTEES ARE MEETING AGAIN!

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 ZOOM: MEETING ID 895 839 8739 PASS 040 352

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BRIDGING THE GAP NO MEETING YET

NIGHTWATCH NO MEETING YET

PUBLIC INFORMATION NO MEETING YET

Concept IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.



Due to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative. The G.S.R. is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole. Together the G.S.R.s are A.A.'s group conscience — and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area's candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. And as the G.S.R.s meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. "Who are the best qualified people?" should be the thought of all.

"No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

"A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help him with his job." Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere.

Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

LOCAL SERVICE OFFICE

Open: Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed: Saturday - Monday
1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209

Area news:

There is an opening at Service Office

Volunteer needed

Tuesday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Friday morning 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Nightwatch Needs Help! 1 Year sober.
call Area Service Office

GSO will no longer be printing a pie chart of suggested donations percentages as it can be found in the Self-Support, Where Money and Spirituality Mix Pamphlet.

WHERE TO SEND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please include your group name and group number on the check

~ AREA SERVICE OFFICE ~

Payable to: Colorado Springs
Area Service Office
1353 South 8th St., Suite 209
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

~ GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ~

Payable to: GSO
P.O. Box 459/Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

~ AREA 10 ~

Payable to: Area 10 Treasurer
12081 W. Alameda Parkway, #418
Lakewood, CO 80228

~ DISTRICT 7 ~

Payable to: District 7,
P.O. Box 26252,
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

~ PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS ~

Payable to: Area 10 Corrections Committee
P.O. Box 40368,
Denver, CO 80204

How much did YOU spend on a drink?

Please help others.....

Consider putting \$2 in a jar/cup/basket each time you log onto a Zoom Meeting. Then consider splitting the money accumulated and give 1/2 to your group when they begin meeting again, and 1/2 to your Service Office.

Contribute Here
coloradospringsaa.org