

Pikes Peak Pint



November 2009

The Pikes Peak Pint is a monthly AA-oriented newsletter that serves Colorado Springs and the surrounding communities.

Area Meeting Additions, Deletions, and Changes (all meetings are non-smoking)

To include new meetings, changes or cancellations, deliver or email them to our service office.

All Meetings at DOWNTOWN GROUP, 7 E. Bijou, Room 25 PLEASE ENTER AND EXIT THROUGH REAR OF BUILDING!

NEW: H.O.W. Group / Monday / 7:00 PM / Open / Discussion / Manitou Springs Town Hall, 606 Manitou Ave., enter through the Police Station

NEW: Keystone to Recovery / Tuesday / 7:30 PM / Closed / Big Book Study / 3685 New Center Point / Friendship of Assembly of God Church, SE corner of N. Carefree & Center Point, 1st Stoplight EAST of Powers.

CHANGE: Central Group Living Sober Meeting / Friday / 5:30 PM / Open – Handicap Access / Discussion of 'Living Sober' book, 2011 E. La Salle (located in Park Plaza bldg. at De Paul and La Salle)

CHANGE: Pathfinders Group / Monday / 7:30 PM / Big Book Study / 1123 Elkton Dr.

DELETE: Primary Purpose / Saturday / 8:00 PM / Open / 1769 8th St. Colorado Springs

Notes from the Editor



Write to The Pint at pint@coloradospringsaa.org

- ✓ Milestones in Sobriety p. 5
- ✓ AA Around Town featuring CPC Committee Workshop Recap p. 6
- ✓ Gratitude Month Events p. 9
- ✓ AA @ A Glance Calendar p. 10

Love IT? Hate IT?

Have something to SAY about IT?

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

pint@coloradospringsaa.org

We'd love to hear from you!

Local AA Service Office:

1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Phone: 719-573-5020

Email: serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

Website: www.coloradospringsaa.org

INTERGROUP INFORMATION AND CONTRIBUTION ADDRESSES

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Standing Committees

Corrections:

Bart B. - Chair
Renee - *Vice Chair*
corrections@coloradospringsaa.org

Public Information:

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

CPC:

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

Treatment:

Casey C. - Chair
Lisa S. – *Vice Chair*
treatment@coloradospringsaa.org

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Local Service Committees

(Call the Service Office for committee chair phone numbers)

Program:

Amanda. – Chair
Megan – *Vice Chair*
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

Pint:

Rachel N. - Chair
Kim R. - *Vice Chair*
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

Volunteer:

OPEN – Chair
OPEN - *Vice Chair*
volunteer@coloradospringsaa.org

Nightwatch:

Mary Katherine. – Chair
Dana - *Vice Chair*
nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Web Site:

Courtney B. – Chair
Josh - *Vice Chair*
webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org

Archives:

Curt N. – Chair
OPEN - *Vice Chair*
archives@coloradospringsaa.org

WHERE to SEND CONTRIBUTIONS:

Area Service Office:

Make checks payable to Area Service Office
(Cash OK, but do not mail). Include group name on check.

Send to:
Colorado Springs Area Service Office CSASO
1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

GSO:

Make checks payable to General Fund.
Include Group name and number on check.

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

Area 10:

Make checks payable to Area 10.
Include group name, number, and District #7 on check.

Send to:
Area 10 Treasurer
12081 W. Alameda Pkwy. #418
Lakewood, CO 80228

Districts:

Make checks payable to **DISTRICT 7**
Include Group name, number and District number on check.

Send to Service Office.

Colorado Springs Area Service Office CSASO
1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Pink Can Contributions:

Make check or Money orders to
Area 10 Corrections Committee.
Include Group Name and Number.

Send to:

Pink Can Contributions
P.O. Box 1307
Englewood, CO 80150

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



In the month of September
we received
2 Grateful Giver contributions
And 1 Personal contribution!!!

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS – THANK YOU!!

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Sep '09
Above The Bar Group	\$100.00	
Apex	\$556.11	\$47.63
Back to Basics	\$381.50	\$56.50
Basket Talk Q and A	\$0.00	
Beacon Light	\$250.00	\$100.00
Big Book Action	\$375.24	
Big Book Study UPH	\$150.00	
Black Forest	\$365.22	
Breath of Life	\$90.00	
Broadmoor	\$0.00	
Brown Baggers	\$0.00	
Celebrating Diversity	\$0.00	
Central	\$0.00	
Clean Air Group	\$60.90	
Cripple Creek Natural High	\$0.00	
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$320.00	\$120.00
Down By The Creek	\$0.00	
Downtown Group	\$762.21	\$305.02
Drylander's Group	\$0.00	
Easy Breathing Group	\$0.00	
Easy Does It	\$75.00	
Ellicott Group	\$0.00	
End of the Road	\$0.00	
Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Far North Group	\$20.00	
Fountain of Sobriety	\$20.00	
Foxhall Group	\$0.00	
Freedom From Bondage	\$0.00	
Friday Night 12 x 12	\$42.00	
Friday Night Live	\$50.00	\$50.00
Friday Women's Group	\$389.00	\$25.00
Gals of Woodland Park	\$75.50	
Gift of the Heart	\$0.00	
Good Ole Boys	\$250.00	
H.O.W.	\$140.00	\$140.00
Half Pint Group	\$138.00	
Happy Hour	\$379.80	\$229.80
Hilltop AA Meeting	\$0.00	
High Noon	\$106.00	\$27.50
Hugo Group	\$242.00	
Into Action	\$45.00	
Keep it Simple	\$90.00	\$90.00
Lake George Group	\$158.63	
Little Log Group	\$0.00	

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Sep '09
Living Free	\$0.00	
Living Sober	\$225.00	
M.A.G.	\$400.00	
Motherlode	\$0.00	
New Beginners	\$242.69	
New Women's	\$318.70	
Northwesters	\$70.00	
Outright Mental Defectives	\$0.00	
Pass It On	\$40.00	
Pathfinders	\$0.00	
Penrose Discussion	\$0.00	
Plug in the Jug	\$106.00	
Pre-Dawn Meeting	\$403.95	\$60.89
Progress Not Perfection	\$190.30	\$55.00
Recovery in Action	\$300.00	
Rule #62	\$0.00	
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$120.00	
Security Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Serenity Riders	\$384.00	
Serenity Sisters	\$100.00	
Silver Key Seniors	\$75.00	\$25.00
Sisters Not Saints	\$0.00	
Solutions at Noon	\$323.56	
Steel Magnolias	\$195.00	
Sunday Morning Speaker	\$360.00	
Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate)	\$50.55	
Survivors Group	\$18.89	
Taking Steps	\$0.00	
Then and Now	\$220.00	\$120.00
Thursday Mens	\$0.00	
Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$100.00	
Ute Pass Breakfast	\$48.00	
Veterans for AA	\$100.00	
Walk the Talk	\$1,620.00	\$240.00
Walking on Water	\$450.00	\$100.00
We Are Not Saints	\$496.34	
Wed. Afternoon Ladies	\$0.00	
Wed. Westside Womens	\$300.00	\$300.00
Westside Eye Opener	\$575.60	
Womens Step Study-WP	\$25.00	\$25.00
Woodland Park Beginners	\$60.00	
Woodland Park Book Study	\$0.00	
Young People	\$316.00	
Totals:	\$13,866.69	\$2,117.34

Thank you for your contributions. Support your group and support our service office!

7th Tradition

An extra dollar in the 7th Tradition basket just for your home group will help us meet our 2009-10 budget goals for Intergroup and the Area Service Office.

Intergroup Financial Reports

Financial reports are given to the Intergroup representatives at each monthly Intergroup meeting.

They are available upon request at the Area Service Office.

AA-ANNIVERSARIES

Big Book Action

Dick N.	11 yrs.
Tim H.	6 yrs.
Jeri R.	6 yrs.
Karen M.	5 yrs.
Afton H.	2 yrs.
Durrell L.	2 yrs.

Friday Women's Group

Phyllis C.	39 yrs.
Nancy B.	19 yrs.
Kathy H.	1 yr.

Happy Hour

Paula W.	4 yrs.
Deanna	2 yrs.

Taking Steps

Tim H.	6 yrs.
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Serenity Riders

Heidi S.	26 yrs.
Bart B.	4 yrs.
Candy D.	1 yr.
Dan J.	1 yr.

Steel Magnolia's

Nancy R.	29 yrs.
Heidi S.	26 yrs.
Susan R.	10 yrs.
Lee	6 yrs.
Karen M.	5 yrs.
Anne	3 yrs.
Deanna S.	2 yrs.
Gina W.	2 yrs.
Cheryl D.	1 yr.
Nora M.	1 yr.

Tuesday New Women

Mariellyn M.	37 yrs.
Puddi K.	26 yrs.
Katrina	3 yrs.
Lee B.	2 yrs.
Catherine G.	2 yrs.

Walk the Talk

Sharon	27 yrs.
Karen N.	25 yrs.
Chuck	24 yrs.
Gretchen	23 yrs.
Denise D.	22 yrs.
Janet S.	21 yrs.
Jim S.	20 yrs.
Mark S.	19 yrs.
Debbie C.	17 yrs.
Judy R.	16 yrs.
Eric P.	10 yrs.
Toni P.	10 yrs.
Bob S.	7 yrs.
Joseph U.	6 yrs.
San Diego Curt	5 yrs.
Joyne	4 yrs.
Alberto	3 yrs.
Ron C.	3 yrs.
Rick	2 yrs.



"All we ask is that you try it for ninety days."

AA~AROUND TOWN

Cooperation with Professional Communities (CPC) Workshop Re-Cap

The CPC Workshop took place at the downtown group space on Saturday Oct. 24 at 1:30pm. It was a pretty good turn-out with about 35 people. There was a pot-luck with a pretty good spread of food. We got down to business at around 2pm. The panel consisted of 5 people; Joey, Larry, Andrew, Nalene, and Joyce. Also the PI chair, Jack, rounded us off. The PI committee and CPC committee work very closely together so that the CPC committee speaks and works with the teachers, Parole Officer's, and Officers of the military. The PI committee works with the students, inmates, and soldiers.

Larry started us off by going over exactly what CPC or other volunteers should be talking to the professional communities about, regarding AA. Some of the questions we would need to answer are.... "What is AA?" "Where did AA start?" "How can you find AA?" When answering these questions and speaking to these people, the main and basic thing we need to remember is to stick to the traditions. We need to detach from our personal beliefs and opinions and just let them know who we are and what we do and don't do. He also brought up the fact that there are around 82 groups registered in this area and 2 people showed up for the last committee meeting.

Joey went over some of the numerical facts from the American Medical Association (AMA). In 2008 it was reported that an estimated 17,500,000 people drink alcoholically in the US. There are 295 million people in the US, so around 17% of our population. However, there are only 1.2 million members in AA in the US. So, 7% of people that drink alcoholically are in AA. That leaves 93% (16,300,000 people) that have either other resources or none at all.

Andrew, along with the committee, has been working with the Manitou Springs High School to help the faculty and staff members reach out to their students. The committee was able to go in and share their experience, strength, and hope with the staff and answer questions. From this, the committee has set up several 12-step calls for the students and has been able to show them that we're the solution, not the sentence. The committee has also recently gotten a call from the faculty regarding getting this out to other high schools. They want to cooperate and help us branch out which means that we need more volunteers on the AA side to participate and help get this up and running.

The CPC committee has recently been going to Ft. Carson to work with soldiers and speak to them about AA. Melissa, someone from one of the groups on Ft. Carson, shared a personal story about a newcomer coming into the meeting shortly after the CPC/Ft. Carson workshop. He came into the meeting and said that after hearing the committee talk he began wondering why he drank the way he did. He also tried going to the bar and drinking one drink in an hour and that very quickly turned into 15 drinks. The newcomer and his friend both left with a big book and these people might not come back to the meeting but the seed was planted. This is proof that what the CPC committee is doing is working in some way.

The rest of the workshop was spent going over the questions in the "How AA Members Cooperate with Professionals" Pamphlet. There were some questions read aloud and different participants in the workshop answered with their own personal accounts or answers. Some other pamphlets available that are very informative when getting involved with the CPC or PI committees or volunteering to speak to other outside entities are "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings", "A.A. at a glance", and "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous". Also available that is a very great pamphlet is "A.A. in the Armed Services". All of these pamphlets might be available at your home group and if not, can be found at the Service Office.

This was a very informative workshop and a lot of fun. I recommend stopping by one of the CPC committee meetings which are the 1st Saturday of every month at 9am at the Downtown Group (the November meeting is the 2nd Saturday). If you're interested in getting involved with any other committee their meeting times and locations are located on the front of the meeting schedule and online.

Contributed by: Kim R. – PINT Vice-Chair

Step 11

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

A Glimpse Of Light Hope shines in the pit of despair

I just made my first Twelfth Step call. A year ago, I gave my number to a guy named Mike. He called me and said he had slipped again. He had been drinking that morning, he said.

I asked him if he wanted to go for coffee and talk. He couldn't go outside, he said, because he looked like a celebrity mug shot. Could I bring coffee to him? I asked. Would he mind if my sponsor and I dropped by his house?

When we arrived, Mike was waiting for us outside. He was a little shaky and still a little drunk. But he lit up when he saw us--I mean, really lit up. I had only met him a few times, but he said my name like he had known me all his life.

"Alex!" He rushed toward us with an excited smile on his face. "Alex! Oh my God, Alex, look at you! Alex, you look so good!" He hugged me, held on to me, and kept saying how good I looked, over and over again.

We went into his kitchen with the coffee. My sponsor did most of the talking. Ralph loves to talk and I was glad, because I had no idea what to say.

As my sponsor talked, Mike kept turning to look at me. I couldn't place his look. It was weird and, in another context, might have been creepy. Ralph kept talking. Mike kept staring.

Finally, Mike said something about how kind I was. He talked about how I kept calling him over the months. When he hugged me again, an emotional dam seemed to break inside of him. He crumbled in my arms and cried. It wasn't just his eyes that cried; it was his whole body. I held him.

We stayed for a couple of hours. Finally, I had to go--I was late for an appointment. Ralph decided to stay with Mike.

Although Ralph is blind, and Mike didn't have a car, I knew they would get to a meeting, and Ralph would get home just fine. I had no idea how, and neither did Ralph, but they would. That seems to be how the program works for us.

As I drove to my appointment, I thought about the look on Mike's face. Finally, realization dawned on me.

Hope.

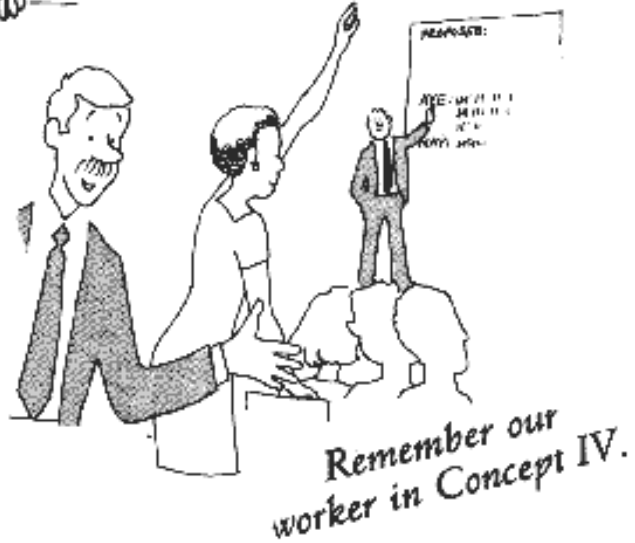
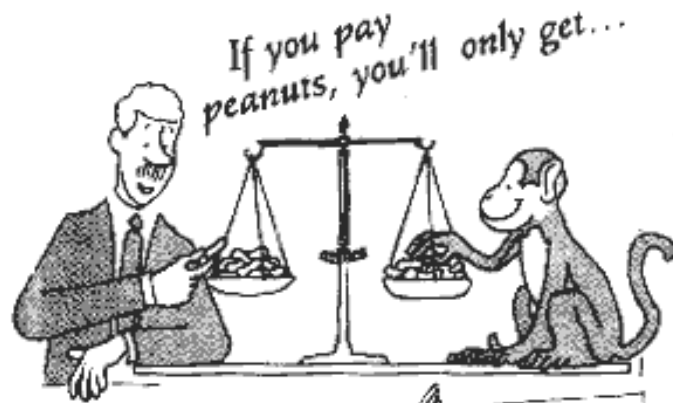
Something about my showing up with Ralph gave Mike hope. From the pit of despair, he looked up and caught a quick peek at a better tomorrow.

My own glimpse of an incredibly powerful and good spiritual force struck me with awe. Because that morning, less than an hour before Mike called, I did something I hadn't done in a while. I dropped to my knees and asked a God I didn't understand for knowledge of his will for me, and the strength to carry that out.

Alex S.
Ottawa, Ontario

Concept 11

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.



Tradition 11

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

From the 12 Traditions Checklist

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around –even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself or herself?

November is GRATITUDE Month

Every November the members of Alcoholics Anonymous are invited to acknowledge their gratitude, to the Fellowship that has sustained their lives as alcoholics in recovery. One way of giving back to our local area Service Office for all that they do to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, is that individuals and groups alike are encouraged to contribute directly, through the Gratitude Box. The boxes were handed out at the October 2009 Intergroup meeting and all proceeds will directly support our local service office. During this difficult economic time, group and individual contributions have suffered. Cut backs have had to be made.

Over the next few months our Service Office will incur additional expenses, as our Fellowship prepares for events which will provide a sober haven for our members to celebrate the holidays, especially New Year's. Every little bit counts. If you count your sobriety among the things that you are most grateful for this holiday season, this vital contribution is one very important way you can give back to this Fellowship and all that it has meant to your life. This gesture of gratitude speaks to our spiritual responsibility to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers, as well as to the principal of participation inherent in the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Gratitude Month Dessert & Social

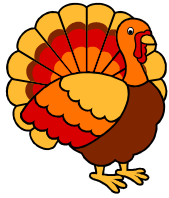
SPONSORED BY THE INTERGROUP PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Intergroup Programs Committee is currently putting together a *Gratitude Month Dessert and Social*, which will be held on Saturday November 21, 2009 at the First United Methodist Church in the Parlor room, located on the corner of Boulder and Nevada. Dessert & Social at 6 PM with a meeting at 7:45 PM. Look for more to be revealed, a wonderful time of fun and fellowship will be had by all!

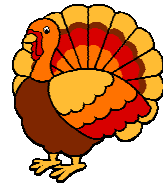
Another way you can help to show your gratitude is to **SHOW UP** and to **GET INVOLVED**.


VOLUNTEERS and **GROUPS** are NEEDED to support the Alcolthon, committees are forming now, call Amanda @ 659-9208 or email programs@coloradospringsaa.org. This is an INCREDIBLE way to sponsor newcomers into service AND AN AWESOME way to PROMOTE GROUP UNITY!

AAAt A Glance



November 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Board Meeting 6:30 PM Service Office				Area 10 Assembly Longmont CO	Area 10 Assembly Longmont CO
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Area 10 Assembly Longmont CO.		Intergroup Mtg. 7:00 PM Bethany Lutheran Church 1401 8 th Street, CS (downstairs) Next door to S.O.				Cooperation W/Professional Community Committee 7 E. Bijou 9:00 AM ----- Treatment Committee 4:00 PM Pikes Perk 14 S. Tejon St.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Combined District Meeting 7:30 PM Red Cloud			Submit Milestones to the Pint	Corrections Committee 9:00 AM Sacred Heart Room 6 ----- Programs Committee Dessert & Social @ 6 PM First United Methodist Boulder & Nevada
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Happy Thanksgiving 		
29	30					
	Step UP! Be of Service (see next page)					

AA Thought for the Day

Thanksgiving Is Gratitude in Action

WE not only feel grateful, we say so with the joy of prisoners set free. We thank God for His light whereby we now see; and for the gift of His grace by which we breathe and live in a wondrous new world.

The pilgrim creators of Thanksgiving day never found a more promising land than ours. They gave thanks for their better chance of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We, too, give thanks for those blessings and for many more. We give thanks for all the pains and trials of our mysterious malady, alcoholism. For out of these sufferings have come our incredible gifts of faith and freedom, together with such an opportunity for serving God and man as few societies have ever known.

We are at peace with ourselves and all about us. Our land of freedom is today the whole world where we are citizens of nearly every race and clime. At last we belong, and we are not alone anymore.

So we say to each other, "Happy Thanksgiving." Few can guess how greatly we AAs treasure those words.

Bill W.

Monthly Meetings

The Board	6:30 pm 1st Monday, Svc. Office
Corrections	9:00 am 3 rd Saturday, Sacred Heart, Rm 6, 2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
CPC	9:00 am, 1 st Saturday - 7 E. Bijou Street
Treatment	4:00 pm 2 nd Saturday, Pikes Perk, Tejon St, Downtown
Public Info.	6:00pm 3 rd Wednesday, St. Francis Hospital, 5 th Floor
Intergroup	7:00 pm 2nd Tuesday, Bethany Lutheran Church 1401 S. 8 th St. CS CO (downstairs) Located next door to the Service Office

District Monthly Meetings

Red Cloud Serenity Club
8020 W. Highway 24, Cascade
District 7
7:30pm, 3rd Tuesday



STEP UP INTO SERVICE

The Following Service Positions are currently **OPEN & NEED** to be filled

Board of Directors – Registrar

Board of Directors – Vice Treasurer

Archives Committee – Vice Chairperson

Volunteer Coordinator– Chairperson AND Vice Chairperson

Public Information –Vice Chairperson

Night Watch has slots OPEN that need to be FILLED

If interested contact Mary Katherine @

Nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Volunteer Hours at the Service Office OPEN that need to be FILLED

2nd & 4th Tuesday 3 PM – 5 PM and Thursday 11 AM -1 PM

If interested contact Robin @ serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

~ Participate Don't Isolate ~

NIGHTWATCH NEEDS YOU!



Have the hand of AA be there when the still suffering alcoholic reaches out!

We need volunteers for shifts and we are updating our current database. If you are a Night Watch volunteer, wish to become one or have any questions, please contact us.

nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Marykatherine 761-1018

Dana 491-0587

The Last Word

A Thanksgiving Blessing

This past Thanksgiving Day I was alone. I was divorced, single, and it was my ex's turn to enjoy the kids for the day. I had many invitations to spend the day with friends and family, but I decided to treat myself to a "Spring Day." Here in Missouri there are many springs and most of them are in the Current River Country. So, Thursday morning I loaded up, and with my trusty companion--my dog, Deacon--headed south toward our first spring. It was a delightful day; sunny and not cold, but not warm either. (It's been a warmer than usual fall here in Missouri.) We spent the day traveling further south from spring to spring: first Meramec and then Montauk, Welch, Round Spring, and finally we turned back north after Blue Spring.

My home group is in Leslie, Missouri, and meets at 8:00 P.M. I knew that at 3:30 in the afternoon I would have to head back north no matter where I was, if I wanted to make the meeting. Once I hit the Interstate after dark, I realized I was hungry, so I started looking for a place to eat. I ended up stopping at a big truck stop and it was crowded. If you can help it, a truck stop is not the place to spend Thanksgiving dinner--or maybe it is.

I looked around for a place to sit, but every table or booth was either occupied or had a pile of unappealing dirty dishes. I picked out a booth with dishes and sat down, hoping to catch the waitress's eye. Well, that took a fair amount of time as there was hardly anyone working. Finally, she came over and we talked as she picked up the dishes and left me a wet cloth to wipe off the table. It seems that most of the regular workers had the day off to spend with their families, and the remaining staff was swamped with customers. Anyway, I finished cleaning off the table and got up to head over to the buffet. I walked about ten feet and thought about going back to the booth and leaving my hat as a sign that it was occupied, but I didn't.

After I had fixed my plate and started back to my booth, I noticed I was following an older man and he was headed right toward my booth. Well, you know about Step Ten "and when we were wrong promptly admitted it." I believe the opposite is also true--that when we are right, we don't have to promptly say so. With that thought in mind, I asked this older gentleman if he was dining alone (he was) and if he would mind if I joined him (he didn't). As I thanked him, introduced myself, and sat down, I noticed the folks at the two nearest tables smiling at what had just happened. At first sight, they saw the older man with coat and tie joined by a younger man with long hair and a beard (obviously different) plus they had seen me clean and organize the table.

Before we settled in to eat, he (whose name I now knew was Bud) asked if he could bless the meal. I couldn't have been more pleased to say yes as I bowed my head. We had a delightful meal talking about life and spiritual matters.

When we paid our bills, he gave me his card and said if I was ever in Harrison, Arkansas, to look him up. I got in my truck and headed north toward my home group. As I was driving, I couldn't help but think about the gifts I've received as a result of trying to practice these principles in all of my affairs. I could have pointed out to the gentleman that it was my booth: I had cleaned it, and I was going to eat there--alone. Instead the AA magic worked on me (without my realizing it at the time) and allowed me to receive the gift of humanity and friendship from a stranger. As a result of getting and staying sober, I have received many blessings; some I know and some I don't.

Bill F.

Washington, Missouri

RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

On December 10, 2009 the 8:00 PM *Thursday Night Men's Group*, which meets at *Our Savior Lutheran Church*, 1128 E. Boulder Street is opening up their normally "closed" meeting for an "OPEN" meeting with a Potluck, to ring in the upcoming Holiday Season!
Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend!