



# Pikes Peak Pint

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

June 2009

## 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 (above Zeezo's) PLEASE ENTER AND EXIT THROUGH REAR OF BUILDING!**

NEW: Wednesday Night @ The Inn / Wednesday 6:30 PM / Open / 1116 S. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO in the Community Room

NEW: Saturday Night Live @ PARC / Saturday 7:30 PM / Open – Speaker's Meeting / 5250 Pikes Peak Hwy, Cascade CO.

NEW: Women's 12 Step Study / Monday 6:00 PM / Closed / Family of Christ Lutheran Church / 675 Baptist Road, (across from King Soopers)

CHANGE: Breath of Life Group / Thurs 7:30 PM / Closed / Big Book & 12 x 12 Study / Faith Covenant Church 4965 Barnes Road CS CO

CHANGE: We Are Not Saints / Tuesday 12:00 PM / Closed / 12 x 12 Study / Front Range Alliance Church, 5210 Centennial Blvd. North of GOG Rd.

CHANGE: We Are Not Saints / Thursday 12:00 PM / Closed / Big Book Study / Front Range Alliance Church, 5210 Centennial Blvd. North of GOG Rd.



## Letters to the Editor

Write to The Pint at [pint@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:pint@coloradospringsaa.org)

*This month: A note from your new Pint Chair*

Greetings,

It is my pleasure and an honor, to introduce myself as your new Pikes Peak Pint Chairperson. My name is Rachel N. and I recently celebrated my fifth AA anniversary. I am looking for a Vice Chairperson, contributing writers, reporters and a graphic artist, so if you are interested please do not hesitate to contact me! There is a lot going on in our fellowship, and I would encourage you to become involved. Please be sure to read a letter from our Intergroup Board Secretary on page 8, regarding the Board's new policy for Flyer approval and the publication of Intergroup minutes. You may want to clip page 10 and post it on your fridge, so you don't miss out on any of the upcoming local events. I am interested to hear about what kinds of thing you would like to see more of in the Pint. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rachel N.

Email sobriety anniversaries, announcements, letters to editor and email subscription requests to the Pikes Peak Pint:

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

Or deliver to the local AA Service Office.

### Local AA Service Office:

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

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

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

Heidi G. - Chair  
*Vice Chair Open*  
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:

Danielle W. – Chair  
Greg W. - Vice Chair  
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Pint:

Rachel - Chair  
*Vice Chair - Open*  
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Volunteer:

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

#### Nightwatch:

Thea S. – Chair  
Mary Katherine - Vice Chair  
nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

#### Web Site:

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

#### Archives:

Curt N. – Chair  
*Vice Chair Open*  
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  
1353 S. 8<sup>th</sup> 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 number on check.

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

### Districts:

Make checks payable to DCM by name (not Dist. #).  
Include Group name, number and District number on check.

Send to DCM or to Service Office.

	Rep	District	Email
Josh H.	7		<a href="mailto:dcm7@coloradospringsaa.org">dcm7@coloradospringsaa.org</a>
Alt. Nate G.			
Al T.	26		<a href="mailto:dcm26@coloradospringsaa.org">dcm26@coloradospringsaa.org</a>
Robert M.	27		<a href="mailto:dcm27@coloradospringsaa.org">dcm27@coloradospringsaa.org</a>
Shari A.	28		<a href="mailto:dcm28@coloradospringsaa.org">dcm28@coloradospringsaa.org</a>

### 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 know how very much we appreciate your personal contributions!



In the month of April we had  
1 Personal contribution and  
4 Grateful Giver contributions!

## Group Contributions – Thank you!!

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Apr. '09
Above The Bar Group	\$0.00	
Apex	\$0.00	
Back to Basics	\$75.00	\$75.00
Basket Talk Q and A	\$0.00	
Beacon Light	\$0.00	
Big Book Action	\$214.92	\$214.92
Big Book Study UPH	\$0.00	
Black Forest	\$0.00	
Breath of Life	\$33.00	\$33.00
Broadmoor	\$0.00	
Brown Baggers	\$0.00	
Celebrating Diversity	\$0.00	
Central	\$0.00	
Clean Air Group	\$0.00	
Cripple Creek Natural High	\$0.00	
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$200.00	\$200.00
Down By The Creek	\$0.00	
Downtown Group	\$0.00	
Drylander's Group	\$0.00	
Easy Breathing Group	\$0.00	
Easy Does It	\$25.00	
Ellicott Group	\$0.00	
End of the Road	\$0.00	
Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Far North Group	\$0.00	
Fountain of Sobriety	\$0.00	
Foxhall Group	\$0.00	
Freedom From Bondage	\$0.00	
Friday Night 12 x 12	\$0.00	
Friday Night Live	\$0.00	
Friday Women's Group	\$225.00	\$125.00
Gals of Woodland Park	\$75.50	
Gift of the Heart	\$0.00	
Good Ole Boys	\$0.00	
H.O.W.	\$0.00	
Half Pint Group	\$138.00	
Happy Hour	\$0.00	
Hilltop AA Meeting	\$0.00	
High Noon	\$22.00	
Hugo Group	\$0.00	
Into Action	\$0.00	
Keep it Simple	\$0.00	
Lake George Group	\$69.94	\$69.94
Little Log Group	\$0.00	

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	Apr. '09
Living Free	\$0.00	
M.A.G.	\$200.00	
Motherlode	\$0.00	
New Beginners	\$144.13	\$144.13
New Women's	\$124.70	\$124.70
Northwesters	\$0.00	
Outright Mental Defectives	\$0.00	
Pass It On	\$15.00	\$15.00
Pathfinders	\$0.00	
Penrose Discussion	\$0.00	
Plug in the Jug	\$0.00	
Pre-Dawn Meeting	\$65.22	\$65.22
Progress Not Perfection	\$48.80	\$48.80
Recovery in Action	\$150.00	\$150.00
Rule #62	\$0.00	
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$0.00	
Security Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Serenity Riders	\$247.84	
Serenity Sisters	\$0.00	
Silver Key Seniors	\$25.00	\$25.00
Sisters Not Saints	\$0.00	
Solutions at Noon	\$0.00	
Steel Magnolias	\$100.00	\$100.00
Sunday Morning Speaker	\$0.00	
Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate)	\$50.55	
Survivors Group	\$18.89	\$18.89
Taking Steps	\$0.00	
Then and Now	\$35.00	\$35.00
Thursday Men's	\$0.00	
Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$0.00	
Ute Pass Breakfast	\$0.00	
Veterans for AA	\$0.00	
Walk the Talk	\$600.00	\$300.00
Walking on Water	\$150.00	\$150.00
We Are Not Saints	\$281.34	\$281.34
Wed. Afternoon Ladies	\$0.00	
Wed. Westside Women's	\$0.00	
Westside Eye Opener	\$317.52	\$317.52
Women's Step Study-WP	\$0.00	
Woodland Park Beginners	\$0.00	
Woodland Park Book Study	\$0.00	
Young People	\$316.00	\$316.00
Totals:	\$3,968.35	\$2,809.46
Total	\$3,968.35	

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

### 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

An extra dollar in the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**

# MILESTONES in SOBRIETY

June 2009

Join us in celebrating member milestones!

## Big Book Action

Robin C.	11	yrs
Joel R.	10	yrs
Amie C.	2	yrs
Jason W.	2	yrs
Kevin H.	1	yrs

## Apex

Sasha L.	29	yrs
Sue H.	17	yrs
Leslie P.	15	yrs
Bill F.	15	yrs
Steve Z.	6	yrs
Brook	3	yrs

## Happy Hour

Amy J.	20	yrs
Steve R.	7	yrs
Kelly C.	7	yrs

## Friday Women's

Kathy A.	8	yrs
Tricia A.	13	yrs

## New Woman Group

Robyn S.	27	yrs
Connie A.	26	yrs
Shirley R.	26	yrs
Harriet O.	2	yrs

## Steel Magnolia's

Liz M.	4	yrs
Tricia A.	13	yrs

## Taking Steps

Amie C.	2	yrs
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## Serenity Riders

Sandy N.	14	yrs
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## Then and Now

Mel D.	29	yrs
Jim H.	22	yrs

## Walk the Talk

Mike N.	42	yrs
"Burner"	37	yrs
Moe	29	yrs
Bill W.	26	yrs
Phyllis D.	26	yrs
Don G.	25	yrs
Doug G.	22	yrs
Diana C.	20	yrs
Bob C.	19	yrs
Patty H.	15	yrs
Collen	13	yrs
Craig W.	12	yrs
Kathy A.	8	yrs
Steve R.	7	yrs
Drew T.	4	yrs
Meg M.	4	yrs
Gina W.	4	yrs
Kris K.	2	yrs



"... And in fifty-seven months and six days, I'll have five years!"

## THE FOLLOWING GROUPS COULD USE YOUR SUPPORT!

- **PASS IT ON MEETS 7 PM ON THURSDAYS @ THE PINE HOUSE 616 N. PINE STREET**
- **HOPE FOR BEGINNERS MEETS 5:30 PM ON FRIDAY @ 7 E. BIJOU ST.**

## **Hello ... The person you are trying to reach is not an AA member**

By Rachel N.

The Colorado Springs Local Nightwatch committee recently presented a forum to discuss proposed changes to how we currently handle calls from the still suffering alcoholic when the Service Office is closed. Currently, we employ a commercial answering service, at a cost of approximately \$200 each month. Several other Colorado cities utilize call forwarding services, to direct the office phones to local AA members. The callers are only referred to an AA member on Nightwatch, if the caller specifically asks to speak to someone in AA.

Jo N., Special Worker and Denver Area Central Committee Executive administrator presented a brief history on how the Denver Metro SO currently handles after hours calls. The Denver Metro S.O. currently serves an area of about 50 square miles, which holds 1109 meetings per week, and is open from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Originally all calls rang at the York Street clubhouse, until a number of the local groups began asking for more opportunities for 12-step work. In 1966 the Service Office was opened. According to Jo, "Talk to an alcoholic for 2 minutes and they'll change their mind, talk to them for 5 minutes and they'll change their whole life."

Upon opening the Service Office in 1966, the membership felt that it was SO important that each and every telephone call be answered, that they agreed to spend up to 20% of their annual operating budget on a commercial answering service, and continued using the service for the next 18 years. Due to increasing costs and the state of the economy, last July the decision was made to discontinue the use of an answering service. Denver Metro S.O. began having Groups, man the phones after hours, utilizing call-forwarding services they were already paying their local phone service provider for, but weren't utilizing.

Currently their fellowship staffs 80 shifts per month. Some of the local groups use their phone shifts, as fellowshiping opportunities, by holding a pot-luck at a member's home during their shift. The group members handle the calls that come in as a group. Since many members have cell phones, they can always call the person back and free up the main line. According to Jo, as a direct result of the groups handling the calls, the fellowship has seen an increase in 12-step work. When the answering service was handling the calls, they got maybe 10-12, 12-step calls each month. Since switching over to having the groups take the calls, they are currently seeing anywhere from 35 to 50 12-step calls each month.

All Nightwatch volunteers in Denver Metro attend an Orientation and receive a volunteer packet, containing all of the information needed to handle the calls. In addition, members answering the telephone are not the members actually doing the 12-step calls. The Nightwatch volunteers see their primary purpose as generating 12-step work for the rest of the groups in the fellowship. The idea is to get (2) AA members out to the caller, for a face-to-face visit, to win their entire confidence, instead of simply referring them to a meeting.

Jo Ann B., District 12 Nightwatch Chairperson from Fort Collins, says in the past 12 years they've never used a commercial answering service to handle after hours calls, they've always used Nightwatch volunteers.

Don M., former Area 10 delegate from Boulder Co. stated that what we're doing is essentially "asking a group of inherently unstable people, to provide a stable service." He recommended that in making a decision to go from a commercial answering service to Nightwatch volunteers that we "go slowly."

Chuck R., acting Intergroup Board Chairperson inquired, "Do we have a fellowship that is ready to take on this responsibility?" He went on to say, that we need to develop this program so that it works for our fellowship, and that this is self-support of Colorado Springs, by answering our own telephones. According to Chuck, "this is our opportunity to make sure the hand of AA is there, when someone reaches out for help."

If you have strong opinions one way or another, about how our fellowship is handling after hours calls, you may attend the Intergroup meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, or write to the Nightwatch Chairperson, Thea S. [nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org).

# Step 6

*Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*

## **Entirely Ready**

IN JANUARY of this year, through God's grace and the miracle of AA, I had achieved approximately fourteen months of continuous sobriety. I had just taken a Fifth Step.

After about a week of sharing with AA friends about my Fifth Step, I began to look at Step Six. I had no idea what to do for a while. It didn't take long for some ill effects to settle in. My arrogance and my inflated ego returned. I was very fearful and quite confused. Why had everything looked so wonderful such a short time earlier? Why was the future looking so bleak? Why couldn't I stay in the now? This went on for about two months. Needless to say, I was an emotional wreck and a spiritual scoffer.

One night, unable to sleep, I began to talk to God for the first time in weeks. I cannot recall all of what I said, but my words came out something like this: "I don't want to be this scared little boy anymore. I don't want to have so much foolish pride. I want to be more honest. I want to be more capable of loving myself and others." After about twenty minutes, I closed by telling God that I was scared, that I knew He loved me, and that I didn't know where to turn.

Unbelievable as it seems, it wasn't more than ten minutes later that serenity replaced the self-pity in my bones. Peace of mind pushed the fears right out of my mind. Then, I realized what had occurred. Unconsciously, I had just worked Steps Six and Seven.

I can see now, in looking back on this experience, that the three months of pain were absolutely necessary. Without that bit of hurt and confusion, I do not think I could possibly have been "entirely ready" for God to remove my character defects. At a time when I could not help myself and would not ask for assistance from another human being, God--as I understand Him--led me through what has probably been the most trying time of my life. I can think back to the promises in the Big Book now and say, "God really does do for me what I cannot do for myself."

The old defects occasionally crop up again; but now, I seem to have the sense to talk to my sponsors or other AA friends when I'm scared, lonely, and/or confused. Again, the Big Book promises on page 84, "We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us."

Well, this is just one of several miraculous experiences in my life since joining AA, all of which have had much influence in making me what I am today-a very grateful alcoholic.

J. M.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

September 1979



# Concept 6

*On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.*



Concept Graphic from Southbay AA .org website

# Tradition 6

*An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose..*

Excerpts from AA Grapevine Archives and 12 Steps / 12 Traditions / Checklists

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?



## **A Brief Note from your Board of Directors**

As per the Intergroup Charter, the Board is responsible for what is on the website.

The Board has implemented a new process whereby all flyers must be submitted to the Service Office one week prior to the Board Meeting for review and approval by the Board before being posted on the website and for circulation. Pending approval, flyers will be posted on the website by the end of the week (Saturday following the Board meeting). This new process will require better planning and preparation of events and flyers.

Flyers will no longer be published in the Pint; they will be available on the website (under "upcoming events"). Intergroup Meeting minutes will no longer be published in the Pint; they will be distributed at the Intergroup Meetings and available at the Service Office.

Thank you,

Karen W.  
Intergroup Secretary

### **Monthly Meetings**

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

### **District Monthly Meetings**

**Red Cloud Serenity Club**  
8020 W. Highway 24, Cascade

**Combined District Meeting**

**All districts (7, 26, 27 and 28)**  
7:30pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

# AA MONTH AT A GLANCE

June 2009

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>
	Board Meeting 6:30 PM Service Office					CPC Committee 9:00 AM 7 E. Bijou St
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
						Corrections Committee 9:00 AM Sacred Heart Room 6
		Intergroup Mtg. 7:00 PM Bethany Lutheran Church 1401 8 <sup>th</sup> Street, CS (downstairs) Next door to S.O.				INTERGROUP PROGRAMS COMMITTEE'S Founder's Day Celebration Monument Valley Park 2-5 PM
						Treatment Committee 4:00 PM Pikes Perk & Tejon St.
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
		Combined District Meeting 7:30 PM Red Cloud	Public Information 6:00 PM St. Francis Hospital 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor			
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# Promise 6

*We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.*

## **A Different Selfishness**

### ***The welfare of others began to mean more to him than his own problems***

WHAT A SURPRISING and upsetting thing it seemed when I first heard it said that AA is a selfish program. Its meaning took a while to sink in: that I was the only one who could get sober for me, and in that sense, my recovery would necessarily be selfish.

What I was seeing in those church basements where AAs met was very different from selfishness as I was used to it. I had known many selfish persons--greedy, grasping, demanding. The world revolved around them, so they thought. They were boring; they were dreary. It was to come as quite a shock when I would realize that the foregoing description fitted me to a T.

One of the "extravagant promises" to be found in Chapter Six of the Big Book says, "We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows." In my early years, my principal interest in my fellow AAs lay in the extent to which I could use them to my material advantage. Beyond the perimeter of my immediate goal of staying sober, I had little understanding of who all those people were, or what they were *really* doing at that endless succession of meetings, meetings, meetings! I was there, too, but only because I had no place else to go. They told me that if I stayed close to this strange new way of doing things, I would not have to get drunk again. I believed them. It was the only genuine trust I had going for me in those days.

There was no sudden fulfillment of the promise that I would lose interest in selfish things. It happened in the course of regular attendance at meetings. The day came when it was time to stop procrastinating on the Twelve Steps--time to stop playing games with part of Step One, part of Twelve, and next to nothing in between.

Self-inventory (Fourth Step) was the last thing I wanted to do. In doing it, I identified another aspect of selfishness. There were weeks and months in those early years when I stayed away from meetings. Besides being a perilous pursuit, against my own interests, it was a selfish act. I deprived others of the benefit of my experience, such as it was, while I deprived myself of their fellowship and sobriety.

Perhaps the single most important action that helped to take the emphasis off myself was getting involved in institutions work. I went as speaker, visitor, or meeting chairman to detoxification centers, halfway houses, and correctional facilities. Without my being aware of it, the welfare of others began to mean more to me than my own problems.

It was at an institutions meeting that I learned the first of many useful lessons in the art of taking myself less seriously. I was giving a talk that I thought was as profound as they come (I later realized that I had been sermonizing). In the middle of my talk, one of the residents piped up and told me that I looked as if a good drink would kill me. I was horrified at first, but his blunt reminder of my number one reason for being there brought me down to earth, and we all had a good laugh.

In a past issue of the Grapevine, a member wrote that if anonymity was the spiritual foundation of AA,

laughter was the emotional foundation. As I became more willing to laugh at myself, the old habit patterns and their stranglehold on me were definitely on the way out.

Sometimes, I try to imagine what it would have been like if, when I came to AA for help, I had been presented with the Oxford Movement's concept of "absolute unselfishness." Anything described as "absolute" made me back off. Yet when I was drinking, I was absolutely knowledgeable, right, and powerful, and of course, I was forever deciding that I would absolutely never have another drink.

There were no references to "the four absolutes" in local AA meetings when I arrived. Our own recovery program had already been hammered out, and I was a lucky benefactor of AA's first twenty-five years of experience. When I showed up at its open doors, it had only one question for me: "Do you want to stop drinking?" My first time around, my answer was no. When I came back the second time, ready at last, the doors were still open.

Did you ever feel more wanted in your life than when you approached those doors and AA said to you, "Come on in"? I can't think of anything more unselfish than that welcome, can you?

W. H.  
Manhattan, New York

May 1981

## AA Thought for the Day

### Life on Life's Terms

Unless I accept life completely on life's terms, I cannot be happy.

- *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 417.



## STEP UP INTO SERVICE

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

Board of Directors – Vice Chairperson

Archives Committee – Vice Chairperson

Pike's Peak Pint – Vice Chairperson

Website Committee – Vice Chairperson

Volunteer Coordinator – Chairperson AND Vice Chairperson

~ Participate Don't Isolate ~

# The Last Word

## Pikes Peak: A Room with a View

We meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings on the fifth floor of St. Francis Hospital in downtown Colorado Springs. It's the Sunday Morning Speaker's Meeting.

As in other groups, you will find the regulars, the core members of the group you can count on seeing every Sunday. And, of course, you will also find the newcomer, the man in his first thirty days of sobriety, or the woman attending our meeting for the first time. The new faces mixing with the familiar keep the meeting fresh, a welcome change in the voices and stories that reflect our experience, strength, and hope.

However, there is one thing at this meeting that people do not see in many other groups: a view. Perched on the top floor of the hospital, the meeting room has two walls of floor-to-ceiling windows, looking out to the north over Colorado Springs and, in a picture-postcard panorama, west to the mountains. Looming behind the speaker each Sunday morning is Pikes Peak and the other mountains of the Rampart Range.

To get a full sense of the view, you definitely have to "keep comin' back." The view changes throughout the year. In the summer, the dark green of the pines on the foothills, the blue sky framing the mountains, and the simple skyline of Colorado Springs all provide a beautiful backdrop for our speaker. The summit of Pikes Peak is a radiant pink due to the granite that rises above the timberline.

But if you continue to attend the meeting, summer soon turns into fall. Slowly, the leaves on the trees around the city change to yellow and gold, while the groves of aspen trees along the foothills turn to gold among the green pines.

Then winter arrives. Sometimes its arrival is sudden, with a snowfall heralding the new season. Sometimes the change is gradual: temperatures drop; the skies over Pikes Peak turn grey; the snow just seems to evolve, until the summit is covered and the speaker sits before a winter scene.

Not too long after that, the weather starts to warm. The snow begins to fade from the summit, and the trees around town begin to bud.

As we progress through the year and through our sobriety, the view confirms one thing: change is inevitable. Early in sobriety, I heard someone say, "If you don't grow, you go"; our room with a view reminds me that to grow is to change. Change happens--sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly--all around us and to us. Change can be, and usually is, difficult, challenging, frightening, and exciting all at the same time, and it doesn't matter if the change is planned or sprung on us. But change is also natural, and the Sunday morning meeting gives us a clear view of that, too.

When those newcomers come in and stick around for a while, we get to watch them change as well. A life of despair changes to a life of faith and hope. And, although we don't talk about it as much, it is a pleasure to watch changes and growth in some of the old-timers. Their changes may not be as obvious as those that happen in early sobriety, but they happen. They are subtle, like the change from summer to fall.

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