

Pikes Peak Pint

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

CHANGE: 12 x 12 Study / Thursday / 6:00 PM / Open / Holy Family Church / 331 Main St. Rm. 3 Admin. Bldg. Security (use west doors)

CHANGE: Lincoln County Meeting / Thursday / 7:00 PM / Open / 415 4th Avenue, Hugo CO.

CHANGE: Apex Group / Friday / 6:00 PM / Open / * **Handicap Access** * / Discussion / Living Hope Church – 640 Manitou Blvd. (Spruce, Boulder Pl. area)

CHANGE: Friday Night 12 x 12 / Friday 7:30 PM / Open / 12 x 12 Discussion / Beth-El Mennonite Church / 4625 Ranch Drive.

CHANGE: Serenity Sisters / Saturday 9:00-10:15 AM / Women's Open Discussion / 420 N. Nevada Ave. Westey Memorial Room in Basement, First United Methodist Church / Childcare available in Room 133

DELETE: Double Trouble in Recovery / Monday / 8:00 PM / Haven House (handicap access) / 111 Walnut Street

DELETE: H.O.W. Group / Monday / 8:00 PM / Open / Discussion / St. Andrews Church (rear door in basement) Canyon St. & Manitou Ave. (next to town clock in Manitou)

DELETE: Basket Talk Q & A / Tuesday / 7:30 PM / ComCor / 3615 Roberts Blvd.

DELETE: Woman's AA Meeting @ ComCor / Tuesday / 7:30 PM / 3615 Roberts Blvd. Upstairs Rm. 202

DELETE: End of the Road Group @ ComCor / Friday / 7:00 PM / 3615 Roberts Blvd.



A Note from the Editor

Write to The Pint at pint@coloradospringsaa.org

- ✓ Intergroup Board Presents a TRADITIONS WORKSHOP, see p. 10 for details
- ✓ AA Around Town featuring AA in Treatment Facilities p. 6
- ✓ Milestones in Sobriety p. 5

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

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:

OPEN - 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:

Danielle W. – Chair
Greg W. - *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
OPEN - *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 know how very much we appreciate your personal contributions!



Heartfelt thanks!

In the month of July we received
1 Birthday contribution and
2 Grateful Giver contributions!!!

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS – THANK YOU!!

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	July '09
Above The Bar Group	\$100.00	
Apex	\$508.48	\$124.94
Back to Basics	\$325.00	\$150.00
Basket Talk Q and A	\$0.00	
Beacon Light	\$150.00	
Big Book Action	\$375.24	\$160.32
Big Book Study UPH	\$0.00	
Black Forest	\$365.22	\$365.22
Breath of Life	\$90.00	\$57.00
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	
Down By The Creek	\$0.00	
Downtown Group	\$457.19	\$200.82
Drylander's Group	\$0.00	
Easy Breathing Group	\$0.00	
Easy Does It	\$75.00	\$25.00
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	\$0.00	
Friday Women's Group	\$364.00	
Gals of Woodland Park	\$75.50	
Gift of the Heart	\$0.00	
Good Ole Boys	\$250.00	
H.O.W.	\$0.00	
Half Pint Group	\$138.00	
Happy Hour	\$150.00	
Hilltop AA Meeting	\$0.00	
High Noon	\$78.50	
Hugo Group	\$242.00	
Into Action	\$0.00	
Keep it Simple	\$0.00	
Lake George Group	\$158.63	\$88.69
Little Log Group	\$0.00	\$0.00

GROUP NAME	Yr. to date	July '09
Living Free	\$0.00	
M.A.G.	\$400.00	\$200.00
Motherlode	\$0.00	
New Beginners	\$242.69	\$98.56
New Women's	\$318.70	
Northwesters	\$70.00	
Outright Mental Defectives	\$0.00	
Pass It On	\$25.00	
Pathfinders	\$0.00	
Penrose Discussion	\$0.00	
Plug in the Jug	\$106.00	
Pre-Dawn Meeting	\$343.06	\$73.52
Progress Not Perfection	\$135.30	\$26.50
Recovery in Action	\$300.00	\$150.00
Rule #62	\$0.00	
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$0.00	
Security Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Serenity Riders	\$384.00	\$136.16
Serenity Sisters	\$100.00	
Silver Key Seniors	\$50.00	
Sisters Not Saints	\$0.00	
Solutions at Noon	\$323.56	\$171.16
Steel Magnolias	\$195.00	\$95.00
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	\$100.00	\$65.00
Thursday Mens	\$150.00	
Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$0.00	
Ute Pass Breakfast	\$48.00	\$48.00
Veterans for AA	\$100.00	\$50.00
Walk the Talk	\$1,140.00	\$240.00
Walking on Water	\$350.00	\$100.00
We Are Not Saints	\$281.34	
Wed. Afternoon Ladies	\$0.00	
Wed. Westside Womens	\$0.00	
Westside Eye Opener	\$575.60	\$258.08
Womens Step Study-WP	\$0.00	
Woodland Park Beginners	\$60.00	
Woodland Park Book Study	\$0.00	
Young People	\$316.00	\$316.00
Totals:	\$10,728.45	\$2,883.97

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

MILESTONES in SOBRIETY

September 2009

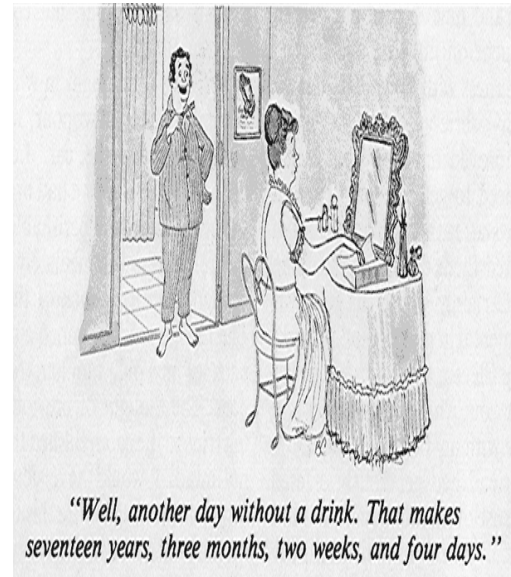
Join us in celebrating member milestones!

Apex		New Woman Group		Walk the Talk	
John S.	16 yrs	Ruth H.	24 yrs	Sandy B.	30 yrs
Beth S.	9 yrs	Valerie J.	13 yrs	Barbara O.	30 yrs
Kevin M.	8 yrs	Kathy S.	9 yrs	Beth G.	22 yrs
Judith C.	6 yrs	Sally L.	4 yrs	Julie J.	21 yrs
Fred L.	5 yrs	Lee B.	2 yrs	Sandy P.	21 yrs
Tony G.	1 yr	Kathy K.	1 yr	Jody H.	20 yrs
Darinda	1 yr			Anne S.	13 yrs
Big Book Action		Serenity Riders		Phil A.	10 yrs
Art B.	24 yrs	Dan M.	22 yrs	Gerry	8 yrs
Heather K.	2 yrs	Greg S.	21 yrs	Chuck	5 yrs
Damer B.	1 yr	Chris T.	17 yrs	Annie M.	5 yrs
Dorinda P.	1 yr	Amy S.	4 yrs	Faith F.	5 yrs
Tom R.	1 yr	Amanda S.	2 yrs	Aron D.	2 yrs
Happy Hour		Steel Magnolia's		Stacey T.	2 yrs
Beth G.	22 yrs	Kay H.	31 yrs	Debbie S.	2 yrs
Ken J.	13 yrs	Betty G.	5 yrs	John K.	2 yrs
Taking Steps		Tanda B.	1 yr	Margot B.	1 yr
Kat K.	2 yrs				
Susie P.	1 yr				
Randy S.	1 yr				
Ron C.	1 yr				

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY TO YOU ...HAPPY DESTINY

On Monday August 3, 2009 the Happy Destiny Group celebrated the group's 1st birthday. The happy occasion was marked by a Potluck followed by a Speaker's Meeting, featuring Mac M. Mark K. kicked off the meeting by giving a brief history of the group, followed by readings of How it Works and the 12 Traditions, by members who attended the first meeting. The meeting was very well attended by approximately 65 folks who were eager to hear what Mac had to share. He told the only story he knows, his own. Mac spoke candidly about how his journey to AA and his many years of sobriety in the fellowship of AA has been marked by what he referred to as 'defining moments'. He spoke about the progressive nature of the disease, and the hopelessness of what he called a 'family disease'. He spoke of 'aggressively non-aggressively' carrying the message of AA, and how the fellowship of AA was his big book for a long time. He concluded by saying that what he found in AA was people who cared and shared, and demonstrated for him unconditional love.

Thanks for sharing Mac!



AA~AROUND TOWN

Close to 50 area members attended the District 7 quarterly workshop, sponsored by the Treatment committee, to learn all about how AA works in treatment facilities. Prior to the workshop, attendees were treated to a delicious spread of Italian Cuisine. Topics covered ranged from how AA benefits the client while still in treatment, to the Personal and Professional experience of an AA member, Traditions and Current Events affecting the area AA community.

Rob S. spoke about how AA benefits the clients while still in the treatment facility. His personal experience was that while attending outpatient treatment, most of the attention was focused on 'the problem' and there was little to no attention focused on 'the solution.' It wasn't until coming into the fellowship of AA, that he learned that there was a solution and found hope in the experience of others. He began to get exposed to sponsorship, and being of service and good old fashioned 12-step work, when his home group the Apex group, would sign up to take meetings into the old detox facility. It was there that he began to do more intensive work with other alcoholics, through the temporary contact program offered by our area Service Office, and began taking new guys coming out of treatment to meetings, and even when they didn't stay sober, he did! He quickly learned to carry the message of AA, not the alcoholic.

Chuck was on hand to give his Professional and Personal experience with AA in treatment facilities. His professional experience allowed him to outline the various types/modalities of treatment facilities, residential treatment, intensive outpatient and sober living or transitional living facilities. He stated that with a single method of treatment, most clients experience a 16-18% chance of staying sober 1 year or more. A combination of 2 modalities of treatment, for example residential treatment followed by sober living, resulted in a 24% chance of staying sober 1 year or more. Chuck went on to say that that the client's chances of success increase dramatically when adding a third modality of treatment, such as the application of a 12 step program. Chuck concluded his talk by saying, "We have to share our strength and hope with the newcomers in treatment, because they have lost most, if not all of their own."

Susan L. covered how AA historically evolved around treatment facilities, and how many of the principals behind the Traditions resulted, from trial and error of AA's experiences with treatment facilities in the early days.

Finally, Area 10 Treatment Chairperson, Greg C., was on hand to discuss current events, affecting the Colorado Springs AA community. A show of hands indicated that a majority of members in attendance had personal experience with treatment facilities. The closing of the Lighthouse Detox facility back in January has effectively left Colorado Springs without a detox. The good news is that effective immediately, there is currently a temporary detox set up and the Treatment Committee has been successful in getting meetings up and running there, 6 nights per week, they are located at 210 S. Tejon Street, and they begin letting people in at 7:45 PM, meetings start at 8 PM. Please support these meetings, until the new detox opens in the fall 2009.

Submitted by Rachel N.

Step 9

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others

Steps to Serenity

I drank for fifteen years, and for the last of those years, there was no question about whether or not I would drink.

Today, the AA program and the grace of God have restored my choice. There's no possibility of my staying sober on my own will or strength. I can't do it alone. I have stayed sober with the help I find in the AA Fellowship.

During my first year of sobriety, I attended six or seven meetings a week and took two Fourth Steps and two Fifth Steps. I found my sponsor while I was still in a rehabilitation hospital, and he kept me busy with Twelfth Step work.

I began going to Step meetings in my second year of sobriety. During that year, I wrote several Fourth Steps and shared them with a number of other AA members. They usually shared their Fifth Steps with me at the same time.

I got into making direct amends, as Step Nine tells us to do. After making these amends, I experienced a marked improvement in my ability to meditate. Something changed after I had tried to thoroughly work Steps One through Nine. I was able to sit quietly and turn my thoughts to God, and I began to meditate for about fifteen minutes in the morning--noise and family conditions permitting! I would begin by saying the Third Step prayer found in the Big Book on page 63, the Seventh Step prayer described on page 76, the Serenity Prayer, and the Eleventh Step prayer. I then repeated a phrase such as "Thy will be done," or perhaps the word "love." I would keep bringing my mind back to this, and if the period was going well, might continue longer than fifteen minutes.

This kind of continuing work with the Steps, including regular meditation, has given me increased periods of serenity, more emotional balance, and greater acceptance of myself. My tendency toward depression and fear has lessened, and my life is more stable. It's as if God's will is a river, and by working the Steps, I find myself going naturally with the current rather than trying to swim upstream or cross-stream.

During my sober life in AA, I've occasionally wondered about drinking. Last spring, I was in Houston on business, and I ordered a ginger ale at dinner. By mistake, I was served a highball, and drank a mouthful before realizing what it was. I set the glass down, but the terror that had accompanied my last drunk came back. It had been two years since I'd had a drink, but here in that Houston restaurant, the fright washed over me once more.

During my last drunk, twenty-four months before, my mind was shattered with numbing terror and I was physically unable to get out of bed for a full day and a half, except to crawl to the bathroom. I was sleeping in a back bedroom by myself. My wife and children were living a separate life, as if I didn't exist.

During that last drunk, I became acutely conscious of my powerlessness over alcohol. Sick, alone, frightened, I heard a voice say over and over, "You can't stop drinking. You're hopeless. You're weak and you're hopeless and you can't stop drinking."

Well, I did stop, with the wonderful help of our program. But then, two years later, those same fears overwhelmed me when I took a drink by accident in that Houston restaurant. I didn't drink any more that evening, and I haven't since, thank God.

However, the experience was valuable, because it renewed my awareness of precisely what the stakes are in Alcoholics Anonymous: life or death. It reminded me of the words on page 85 in the Big Book: "We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition."

S. M.
Joliet, Illinois

Promise 9

Self-seeking will slip away

The Bondage of Self

When I came into AA some years ago, I was told: This is a selfish program. In order to stay sober, it was suggested, it would be a good idea for me to keep the focus on myself and my own recovery. Down the road, as I got better physically and emotionally, I could become involved in service and Twelfth Step work. This was an exhilarating and freeing bit of advice, because all my life my caring and concentration had been for others--a codependent you would call me today.

From that time on, I became, for all intents and purposes, and with your permission, an obsessively self-centered, self-serving, self-focused sober alcoholic. Some might describe me as "an extreme example of self-will run riot."

Oh, I did a bit of service here and there when asked, because I was told to never say no to AA, but it was drudgery cleaning those ashtrays and setting up chairs. Besides, I preferred to let others do the work so there was more time for me to tell you my "911 problems" before and after meetings.

This inflated sense of self persisted for about five years, I was locked inside a potential heaven turned to hell, and couldn't figure out why. It's been said that ninety percent of our psychological life is spent in unawareness. I was up to one hundred percent.

One dreary day at a meeting, I was wailing to someone about how lousy I was feeling, and he told me what had helped him in achieving serenity--my elusive goal. He went on to explain that he had learned to put himself aside, to rise above his own problems so that others could survive and rediscover life. The simple act of reaching out to another drunk, he said, made him naturally high.

In desperation, I grabbed on to his sage advice and my life was never the same again. To realize that part of my recovery from a "seemingly hopeless state of mind and body" is being helpful to others started me on an upward spiral of spiritual growth. To drop out of human involvement as I had done, from an over-concern for maintaining my own sobriety, was not the answer.

My change of heart began simply. I began asking questions of others before and after meetings, and they responded. Through this process I became more tolerant of others' shortcomings and opinions. I tried to take a sincere interest in others and listen to them as they had been listening to me and, slowly, self-seeking began to slip away. The Third Step prayer in the Big Book says, "Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will." Buddha said, "Make of yourself a light." The writer Ann Herbert says, "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." I say, "Dear Higher Power, for today let it all begin with me."

Vivian J.
Portland, Oregon

Concept 9

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 be necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.



Concept Graphic from Southbay AA .org website

Tradition 9

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

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program--even if no one makes me do so--with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I try to exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully--and profit thereby--when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

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

A Good Ole Fashioned Traditions Workshop



INTERGROUP AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE INFO AVAILABLE

PRESENTED BY YOUR INTERGROUP BOARD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1401 S. 8TH STREET, DOWNSTAIRS

(JUST SOUTH OF THE SERVICE OFFICE)

*EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE
12 - TRADITIONS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK*

WORKSHOP FROM 10:00 A. M. – 1:00 P. M.

POTLUCK TO FOLLOW AT 1:00 P. M.

A MONTH AT A GLANCE

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	Board Meeting 6:30 PM Service Office				Colorado State Convention Omni Interlocken Resort Broomfield CO * BEGINS *	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Colorado State Convention Omni Interlocken Resort Broomfield CO * ENDS *		Intergroup Mtg. 7:00 PM Bethany Lutheran Church 1401 8 th Street, CS (downstairs) Next door to S.O.				Treatment Committee 4:00 PM Pikes Perk 14 S. Tejon St. District 7 CPC 7 E. Bijou 9:00 AM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Combined District Meeting 7:30 PM Red Cloud				Intergroup Board Presents 12 Traditions a Workshop Bethany Lutheran Church 10 AM – 1 PM Corrections Committee 9:00 AM Sacred Heart Room 6
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Submit Milestones to the Pint		Step UP! Be of Service (see next page)	Public Information Needs Chair & Vice Chair Person			
27	28	29	30			

AA Thought for the Day

Great things I've heard at meetings: Make a friend of time. . . Acceptance isn't necessarily approval. . . God, help me to want what I already have. . . Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. . . Don't get resentful of a resentful person. . . Don't badmouth meetings. . . Every problem has a lifespan that only God knows. . . Men are not converted by criticism. . . Cooperate with God. . . Let today's troubles be sufficient to today. . . It's hard to keep an open mind with an open mouth. . . Feed your faith and starve your doubt. . . Quit thinking about fun and games in the future. . . Live one day at a time and get to work. . . Self-esteem is a matter of discipline. . . The best way to get even is to forget. . . You don't help anyone by trying to impress them; you impress someone when you try to help them. . . Complaining is not an action step. . . Good things happen to alcoholics who don't drink. . . Lord, help me to be the man my dog thinks I am. . . Gratitude is the aristocrat of virtues.

Red" M.

Indianapolis, Indiana

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
The Pint	1:00 pm 3 rd Saturday, Rocky Mountain Alano Club
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 – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Night Watch – Vice Chairperson

~ Participate Don't Isolate ~

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**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 AM – 1 PM

1st and 3rd Wednesday from 3 PM – 5 PM

If interested contact Robin @ serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org



The Last Word

God Winked at Me

I sat in the autumn desert of New Mexico, appreciating the dawn while eating my breakfast, the first to arise of the group that had camped out. Below me was the Rio Grande valley. Beyond were the silhouettes of the mountains to the east. The color was breathtaking, the surroundings exquisite.

From the north came the sound of a long Santa Fe freight train moving through the river valley. The throaty rumble of the train took me back almost forty years. My father was a railroad man. He got sober in Alcoholics Anonymous in the spring of 1956, celebrated his first anniversary, then died suddenly in May 1957 when I was fifteen years old.

As the train passed, I thought about him and his year of sobriety. I thought about my own struggle and subsequent sobriety in AA, and how lucky I've been to have so much more time than he had. The last remnants of resentment toward him fell away. There was only left a feeling of gratitude to be his son. As the train receded into the New Mexico morning, I raised my right arm in salute to the railroad man who was my father and who showed me the way to this life.

I lowered my arm and a second later a tiny spark flashed across the splendor of the sunrise--a shooting star, a very small one. It was as though God had winked at me. I would have missed it, if I hadn't been looking directly at the eastern sky. It's easy to imagine that I'm the only person in the world who saw it.

The incredible beauty of the morning and the coincidence of the shooting star following my salute overwhelmed me. No doubt the skeptic would write it off as happenstance. But in my heart I'm convinced. This is another unexpected spiritual experience that I'll never forget. I've always characterized my spiritual awakening in AA as one of the "educational variety." Yet occasionally, these more intense awarenesses of God occur in my life.

I came into AA an agnostic, angry at the world, unable to understand or experience this God that AAs all seemed so familiar with. One evening a long-timer sent me home to reread chapter four. As he talked to me I could see the tears in his eyes; he cared about me, he really did. So I took his suggestion. As I read, a few words jumped out at me: "We found that God does not make too hard terms with those who seek Him." This small beginning has, over the years, slowly blossomed for me into a personal experience with a mysterious but real Spirit of the Universe. I can no longer deny to myself that this God whom I found in AA is working in my life today, this day, right now.

Tim T.
Albuquerque, New Mexico