



Topics by the Month

- **FEBRUARY:** AA Singleness of Purpose
- **MARCH:** What's your bottom
- **APRIL:** Humility
- **MAY:** 12 Steps in all our affairs



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~THE PIKES PEAK PINT~

"Admitted"

I grew up in rural Ohio, the oldest child of 2 loving parents. My upbringing was everything one could ask for. Both my parents were teachers and provided a stable home to grow up in. I had many friends, and there were plenty of things to do in the country to keep a boy occupied and (mostly) out of harm's way. There was little drinking in my home. I probably had some friends who grew up in alcoholic homes, but I wasn't aware of any such difficulty. I think I took my 1st drink when I was 14 years old. A group of buddies was spending the night at a friend's house, where his parents had a party.

There was beer in a cooler left out after the party ended and we snuck some out and drank them. Nothing bad happened, and there was no "effect produced". A complete non-event.

The summer of my 15th year, I attended a church camp where the minister of our church gave a sermon where he explained the exact nature of hell. He didn't get all fire-and-brimstone; instead he said simply "Hell is conscious and unconscious separation from God." I had been going through a crisis of faith of sorts at the point. I had always been interested in girls, but as I moved into high school my interest increased. I was pretty

sure the Church was against my desires in the matter, hence the crisis. So when Reverend Hines gave his description, my immediate thought was "That doesn't sound so bad, I think I can take that." I spent the next 21-22 years, drunk and sober, proving myself wrong.

In that moment I made a decision. I was going to do what I wanted to do, when I wanted to do it. I found myself being less and less content as I went forward from this decision. I never thought of the event at the camp, or made the connection that a turning point had occurred. I was too busy with

Cont'd on Page 2

EDITOR'S NOTES

We all have two choices in this life—two paths. One is to live your truth and one is not to. Recovery from alcoholism starts when you awaken to the truth that you can't continue the way you have been and humbly ask for help from your fellows and from your higher power. To admit that you have a problem that you cannot help yourself with is to surrender. This surrender is ESSENTIAL as it is the "first step" towards living your truth.

This month, we feature stories by members who faced their powerlessness and were able to surrender and embrace the gift that is sobriety. In "Admitted" Mike did not experience that "entire psychic change" until he realized that all his thorough program work was only another way of trying to do it himself. He had to surrender 100% to God before anything in his life really changed. Andy in "My First Step" said for her it was also all about

s u r r e n d e r . I n "Powerlessness" Josh tells how it took every drop he could drink to render him willing. Brent in "God either is or He isn't" shares how he had to run out of ideas before he could really 'get' the First Step. And Jessie and Kaley describe their First Step experiences as having laid a foundation for sobriety, allowing them a new joyous and carefree attitude towards life, their fellows and their God.

Happy New Year

“Admitted” Cont’d from Page 1

things. I was on the wrestling team and I attributed my mood swings to the weight-loss.

Some time in February I was at a party and someone gave me a beer. Drink #2. This time there was a very great effect; a sense of ease and comfort, plus the phenomena of craving. The rocket was lit! I began to pursue drinking with the same passion that I had for sex. It was much more available, I recall that. From that night and every time after, my drinking had little to no control.

This experience leads me to believe I made myself an alcoholic. I think that decision at the church camp created a spiritual malady, one that we like to call alcoholism. Obviously it doesn’t happen like that for everyone, which is a good thing! Life would be pretty boring if stubborn self-centeredness turned everyone into an alcoholic. That just ended up being how it worked out for me.

I spent roughly the next 11 years descending into alcoholism. You know the drill. Started great. There were blackouts and instances of great intoxication, but that’s how it’s supposed to be, right? Frankly, I was having a great time. After high school I joined the Air Force and they sent me to Colorado. It was fantastic. The club where enlisted folks could drink was right across the parking lot from the barracks. Stumbling distance!

I began to get into trouble, with increasing consequences. Drunk-and-disorderly was a favorite. I was soon drinking daily, unless I was in trouble. They tried numerous times to help me, but eventually the Air Force grew tired of me. When I was sober, I was a very skilled worker. However I was a complete bust as a military member. They were kind enough to give me an honorable discharge but I wasn’t permitted to re-enlist. 1st job loss because of drinking.

I went to work right away for a government contractor that supported the systems I had worked with in the Air Force. It was a fantastic opportunity and I was very excited. Since I was good at the work but bad at military, I felt this would be a good fit. This job included a requirement for a security clearance. The powers-that-be were very concerned about all of the trouble I had gotten in to around drinking. Concerned enough that my clearance was eventually revoked and my boss had to let me go. For those keeping score, that’s a 2nd job loss due to my drinking.

In an effort to save that job, I volunteered for a treatment program. I remember postponing the start of my treatment until January, as I didn’t want to attempt the holidays sober. Part of that program required attending AA meetings. People had suggested that to me in the past but I had been dismissive. Truthfully, I didn’t know anything about it.

I jumped into AA and remained sober. Got a sponsor, read the book, started with the steps. Went to retreats and conferences and lots of meetings. My sponsor eventually moved and as I hadn’t experienced a psychic change things dropped off quickly. Looking back, the best things I received were:

A working definition of alcoholism. Prior to AA the best I could’ve told you was “someone who drank a lot.”

A test to use if I wasn’t sure.

After 2 years without a drink but lacking a psychic change, the great obsession was more powerful than ever; “Maybe you aren’t an alcoholic. Maybe you should try some controlled drinking.” I was miserable. On St Patrick’s Day in 1993 I started up again. Between then and mid November I tried vainly to control my drinking, and the failures became more alarming. I would come to, realize my lack of control and get filled with fear about being an alcoholic. Even worse I wasn’t getting any relief from my drinking. I was miserable and filled with fear, drunk or sober. Not that there was much sober.

After a spectacularly awful failure to control my drinking that involved a DUI arrest coupled with the ending of a relationship, I came to on Sunday and thought “Well, I’m either going to go to 7 Eleven and get a 12-pack of beer and start up again, or I’m going to go to AA.” For some reason, I went to AA. I haven’t had to drink since. So what happened? Truthfully, I can’t tell you. I still have no idea why that day I had had enough. What I do know is from that day on I have been able & willing to do things someone else’s way. Something I hadn’t been since my decision at the church camp.

- that our lives had become unmanageable

OK, so now what? I’m sober but really shaky. I’ve been here before and I was scared that I’d start up again. “Baffled” and “Terrified” are the 2 words that most accurately describe my mental-emotional state in those early days. I went to the beginner’s meeting on Tuesday night. I remember being in that meeting and when I was asked to share, I introduced myself as an alcoholic and said “I need help.” There were 2 guys across the table from me, and when I said that they acted like bird dogs that just picked up a scent. Immediately after the meeting was over they came around the table and invited me to another meeting.

This started my new life. I found a sponsor and started in on taking the steps. While it wasn’t comfortable, I was cautiously hopeful. My sponsor was adamant that I needed to find something different, since what I had done previously didn’t work. I became obsessed with the idea of a spiritual experience, especially the paragraph on page 27 attributed to Carl Jung. “Ideas, emotions, and attitudes which were once the guiding forces of the lives of these men are suddenly cast to one side, and a completely new set of conceptions and motives begin to dominate them.” A new thought or idea was cause for hope.

I started taking the steps with my sponsor. I spent most of my 1st year on step 1 - at least according to my sponsor. Looking back, I just made a start on 1. 2 & 3 came by. As I was working on my 4th step I met the woman who is my wife. Some time after my 5th step we got married. I continued to take the steps as my life was unfolding. We had 2 beautiful children and I got a good job. I was involved taking meetings into prisons and sponsorship. I was incredibly blessed.

But

Around year 9, I become acutely aware that I’m still suffering. Despite all of my blessings and hard work, I’m still often filled with fear, uncertainty, doubt. My daily inventory ledger is red and stubbornly staying red. From the outside my life appears to

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be just what you’d expect from someone who recovered, but inside my thinking and feelings, I’m still often restless, irritable, and discontent. I read the book and can understand that what I’m experiencing isn’t what the program offers. I begin to understand very clearly why people go back to drinking after a long period of sobriety.

Going back to the idea I was given early on - get rid of what doesn’t work - I began my journey to find a solution. I stopped using pages 86-87 to inventory myself. It wasn’t working; all I was coming up with was self-condemnation. I put the Big Book on the shelf. Reading it daily wasn’t bringing me closer to a solution. I began meditating more. I started embracing religious ideas from other faiths, broadening my practice. Most importantly, I began to approach my daily inventory practice with 2 ideas from our 4th step:

Getting rid of the things in ourselves which are blocking us.

Getting down to causes and conditions.

Near the end of that year, my new approach began to uncover interesting stuff. Meditation helped calm my mind enough to focus better than I had ever been able to before. My simplified approach to inventory began to reveal a fundamental pattern. I would start with something like fear in a particular situation. Asking myself “why are you afraid?” or “What is underneath that?” began to help me get at what was driving me. One of the things I discovered is asking myself the questions in the book had motivated me to answer in a way that was “correct” - something that would match the book, rather than being honest about and to myself. My inventories became intensely personal.

Soon I uncovered the foundation of my life: I believe I’m not good enough. More importantly, I also realized that I was never going to overcome that belief. I could sponsor all I want, take all the steps many times and perform many good works, and I would still be convinced I wasn’t good enough. Just as I had conceded I was powerless over alcohol all those years before, I had to make the same concession with this. By this time, I wasn’t even sure there was a God, but I felt like there was nothing left to do but say “I need help.”

Much like that beginner’s meeting years before I received great help, only this time it was a power greater than myself. I finally experienced that “entire psychic change” Dr. Silkworth advocated. Today I know I have recovered; that God has done for me what I couldn’t do for myself. As much as I wanted to, I couldn’t bring about the change on my own. I saw then that all of my work to be thorough and hardworking about taking the steps and working with others was (in my case) more an attempt to do the job myself rather than the result of a humble surrender. The steps went from something I took to something that happened to me, once I was able to surrender 100%.

“The steps went from something I took to something that happened to me, once I was able to surrender 100%.”

Since this time, my life has become a joy. I’ve been healed. For that I’m grateful. **Mike G.**

I know many people have had different experiences related to their First Step experience. I’ve often heard in the rooms of AA that working the First Step is how we got here. If this is the case, I have worked the First Step from the time I was 14 until I turned 22. These many years of failure did more than I like to give them credit for, but were not truly reflective of my First Step experience. For one thing, I am certain these years did leave me at a loss for ideas on how to control this horrible disease that had ruined my life for so long.

For me, the First Step is all about *surrender*. I met a lady named Evelyn in a treatment facility in Texas who was the first to teach me about “actions versus words.” One day, I ended up in an office claiming I would do anything for sobriety, but she quickly made me reflect upon this by looking at my actions. I realized then that my words and actions did not align at all. The Big Book spends a lot of time trying to cover every possible loophole to smash the delusion that we can someday be like normal people. I think the line that best describes the First Step is “*We had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics.*” This is the first step in recovery.

“For me, the First Step is all about surrender.”

In order to begin my first step of recovery, I had to have some sort of an understanding of what is the problem. When I truly understood in my heart how hopeless I was, it made it a lot easier to follow the action the book suggested. This emphasizes the hardest part about the first step, which is the journey of believing in our hearts how hopeless we are. Someone can tell me over and over again how hopeless I am, but until I concede this to my innermost self, I will not be driven into surrender.

Without acknowledging the solid foundation the First Step provides, I would have no desire to do what the program requires of me. Even today in my sobriety, I have to make sure that my actions align with my words and I continue to believe in a program that gives me a whole new perspective on life, where I continue to surrender to the hopeless disease of alcoholism. **Andy**

Dear Lord,

So far today, I’m - doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

“In and Out”

“Powerlessness”

I had been coming in and out of the rooms for about 2 years before I got serious about my own sobriety. I know now that every time in those two years when I thought I understood step 1, I wasn't grasping the true meaning. As I see it, Step 1 has 2 parts: 1) that we are powerless over alcohol and 2) that our lives had become unmanageable. Because the step ends with the mention of unmanageability, which I was clearly experiencing in my life, I accepted that the whole statement must be true for me. But because I had not considered the first part of the statement, "powerless over alcohol," I truly hadn't worked the step accurately.

At this point in my AA career, I've had 5 sponsors. Each sponsor's approach to the steps in general has been different. So I've worked step 1 a few different ways. I've done a timeline of when and how I had tried to control my drinking; I've written a life story and tried to see the unmanageability and powerlessness; One sponsor simply asked "Do you feel powerless, is your life unmanageable?"; I've watched the chalk talk DVD; and I've done step studies. I will never forget the moment Step 1 became a truth for me.

I had landed in the hospital for a few days, following another trip back out. I called the woman I was working with at the time and she came to sit with me for a while. Prior to this trip out I had actually managed to put a few weeks together, so I was pretty deep in my shame and guilt when she showed up. I was sober enough that my emotions were showing through. I started crying about how terrible everything had gotten, about how bad I felt, and how hopeless I felt. This woman said,

“It's not your fault Jessica”

“What do you mean?! I did this, I got wasted and now I don't have my daughter, my boyfriend, my parents...”

“Jessica, let me ask you something, Right now, right THIS second, would you choose to not have your daughter with you?” “No!”

“Would you choose to be in the hospital?” “No!”

“Would you choose to not have a relationship with your parents?” “NO!”

These questions were kind of dumb to me. She was basically asking me if I would approve of all these miserable circumstances in my life. She began to explain how I didn't choose those things, those things happened as a direct result of my disease. And how once I put something in my body, I'm basically handing the reigns of my life over to that something and I don't have a choice in the results. That reality hit me really hard. That explanation of the way my disease affects me really made me understand how powerless I am over alcohol.

Today, I have almost 1 year and, although I still have lots to learn about life and the program, I do know that I have worked a thorough 1st Step. And I know that because the steps that followed have truly brought me into a relationship with my creator, allowing me to be a peaceful force for good a majority of the time. I'm so thankful for the program today, and forever indebted to that woman who explained to me gently but effectively, how powerless I truly am. **Jessie F.**

I can recall joking with friends about my alcoholism. “I can drink anyone here under the table, no problem. It's not that I can handle my liquor, I just don't know how to stop!” I thought I was so clever. For a time I even believed that this had been my First Step, and I suppose it was a beginning. However, it wasn't until much later that I truly grasped Step One.

I have come to conceive of true powerlessness and unmanageability as that dark place I reached near the end of my drinking when I could consume every drop in the house, be totally out of control in my behaviors and still feel every terrible, uncomfortable feeling I had. Before I reached this point, there was no amount of “frothy emotional appeal,” nor any carefully worded argument that could have stopped me from drinking. “Just don't drink, no matter what.” was not an option for me because I have always been the opposite, I just drink *no matter what*. Cops and car crashes, frightened family members and disgusted friends could not convince me. In order to get Step One, I had to drink and it took every drop I drank to get me to Alcoholics Anonymous. **Josh**



“God either is or He isn't”

Looking back on my time in sobriety, there are many experiences that helped me understand the first step and the true meaning of it. Obviously drugs and alcohol were the great persuaders. Having every reason in the world to NOT drink I was unable to NOT drink. They (drugs and alcohol) beat me into a position where I became willing to accept what AA had to offer. However, for an alcoholic of my type, this was a painful process and a difficult decision.

Even though I had become a slave to alcoholism, accepting spiritual help or blotting out the consciousness of my situation were not easy alternatives for me to face. Time after time I attempted to use people, places, or things to solve my problem. Only when I was in enough pain and out of ideas did I realize that no human power could relieve me of this obsession. Once I reached this position of hopelessness I became willing to accept the program of action and spiritual principles of AA.

Around 18 months of sobriety I attended a Big Book study that opened my heart to the true meaning of powerlessness. I then had a spiritual experience around the First Step on a deeper level and it changed my sobriety. I truly understood the mental blank spot and the peculiar mental twist that our book talks about, and for that I am forever grateful.

Today I know the truth about alcoholism and the solution: That God either is or he isn't. **Brent**

“Gratefully Powerless”

What an honor that today, at this point in my sobriety, another woman would recognize me as a woman of integrity, honesty, willingness, faith and over all well being. I was asked to share my experience, strength and hope as it pertains to the First Step, and like the good alcoholic that I am, I immediately said “Oh yes, please! Service work is my life!” However, in the back of my head, I was spinning with questions of what I would say and how could I accurately describe my feelings on the only step of the twelve that you actually have to do 100% right?! Now, in retrospect, I see that this service work is exactly what I needed. I needed to remember where the newcomers are, where I was, and where I could be again if it weren't for the people in the program that gently push me into service work. So, here it goes...

The First Step of Alcoholics Anonymous clearly states that “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.” When I first saw this step I was convinced that alcohol wasn't a problem for me and that I had mysteriously ended up in a drug AND alcohol treatment facility. How could they mess up the difference between drugs and alcohol?! It was so clear that when I drank I was only belligerent 90% of the time and “slept it off” the other 10%. How could I possibly need help with that 90% of the time when really, if the drugs had been available, I wouldn't have been drunk in the first place? Gratefully, the woman I was working with at the time recognized my scapegoat of drugs and quickly pointed me in the direction of serenity and hope. At this point, I was 19 years old and knew everything...well except how to find a life worth living and how to keep a job...oh and how to stay in school and be an active family member and friend. (I could increase the list ad infinitum.) I was told that I worked my First Step “out there,” which I later learned meant out in the world of obliteration. When I finally realized that what I was being told - the list that I wrote where I felt like my life may need some direction (or at least an option of direction) - was a foundation upon which I was going to find a new happiness and a new peace, I made a decision to say it out loud. “Hi, my name is Kaley and I am an alcoholic.” I felt the burden of keeping my misery a secret lift, and instantly, as I looked around the room of Alcoholics Anonymous in which I was sitting, I was overwhelmed with anger, fear, and relief - all at the same time. I wasn't alone in my battle against myself and against the drugs and alcohol I was using to lubricate the grinding agony of my life. I was told, and came to believe, that

- I did find my powerlessness in the car parked in front of the dope man's house—that disgusting excitement that I felt when I realized I would again escape from the miserable excuse for a woman that I had become.

- ♦ I felt that powerlessness when I realized I failed to show up for my mother who raised me from nothing to an educated woman with the world served to her on a silver platter.
- I felt the powerlessness of my alcoholism as I begged any one of age to buy me a bottle and a pack of smokes. I again felt that powerlessness as I endured the consequences of the drugs and alcohol on my body.
- I most recognized the powerlessness I had allowed in my life when I was doubled over a toilet in a detox facility, sicker than I had ever been and I took a swing at my caregiver because the help he was trying to give me was not injected and not in a bottle.

I felt that I was deep within my black hole. How could I threaten someone's well being for a substance? How could I be so enslaved to a substance that I would disregard the fact that the substance was shutting my kidneys down? How could I be so blinded by a substance that I would leave my family and friends in ruins so that I would feel a momentary, fleeting relief from the situation I had created?

That woman told me that this was my powerlessness over alcohol. There in those moments I knew that I was not okay and in those simple words of “my name is Kaley and I am an alcoholic,” I knew that powerlessness was not forever. I was not forever consigned to being that dope fiend drunk or lost cause that I was guaranteed from drugs and alcohol. I was now guaranteed and promised a life of freedom, happiness and a fourth dimension of life.

Now, here I sit, filled with gratitude, as I reflect on what that first step did for me. It unveiled my blinded heart and soul to the beautiful relationships that I have with a God of my understanding, family and friends. The First Step, if worked 100% will lay the beginning layers of a foundation in sobriety that allows alcoholics around the world to feel joyous and carefree attitudes and relationships beyond their wildest dreams. It certainly did for me—23 years old without ever having a legal drink; married to the most honest, caring, and patient sober alcoholic; and trusted with people's lives in my hobbies and their finances in my career. I have become more than I thought possible and it all started with me telling another alcoholic that I was powerless over alcohol and I couldn't see an end in sight. I will end with one other thought for you, my fellow surviving comrades - the First Step is liberation. It will show you that you can be anyone, anything, and go anywhere you want in life. In my case, it got me into exactly where I want to be—right here with a bunch of wise, sober, drunks. **Kaley J.**

Concept 1: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.



TRADITION 1:

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A. A. unity.

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

Tradition 1:

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other member's inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of the fellowship?

Step 1

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.



GROUP FORUM PAGE

MEETING CHANGES, GROUP BIRTHDAYS & SPEAKERS

EYE OPENER

Open Discussion

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday at 7:00 a.m.

309 South Hancock

DELETE

IN BETWEEN MEETING

Open Big Book Discussion, handicap access

Tuesday, Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

1769 S. 8th Street, Bldg P.

Clean Slate Meeting Place

DELETE

EASY DOES IT GROUP

Open Discussion, handicap access

Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

3760 Astrozon Blvd

1 block west of Academy

DELETE

CENTRAL GROUP TUESDAY SPEAKERS 8:00 p.m.

January 6: Lana J. 19 yrs
January 13: Buck B. 9 yrs
January 20: Julene Z. 16 yrs.
January 27: Michelle M 2 yrs.

WALK THE TALK SATURDAY SPEAKERS 6:00 p.m.

January 3: Karen T.
January 10: Julia R.
January 17: Jim N.
January 24: Tina N.
January 31: Lauri R.

TUESDAY NEW WOMAN

Sharon W.	15 yrs.
Cathy P.	24 yrs.
Ellen K.	29 yrs.
Maile	9 yrs.
Shelley D.	6 yrs.
Mary Ann S.	6 yrs.
Kerry Ann	1 yr.



HAPPY DESTINY

Lauri R.	27 yrs.
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HAPPY HOUR

Angela C.	10 yrs.
Chris S.	9 yrs.
Delores N.	25 yrs.
Gary D.	5 yrs.
Heather H.	4 yrs.
Kathy F.	6 yrs.
Lauri R.	26 yrs.
Paul G.	24 yrs.
Phil W.	4 yrs.

FRIDAY WOMENS

Delores N.	26 yrs.
Pat H.	13 yrs.
Marti B.	30 yrs.
Lori B.	9 yrs.
Molly W.	9 yrs.
Anne M.	6 yrs.
Julia R.	5 yrs.
Leanne D.	7 yrs.
Beth L.	24 yrs.
Stacy W.	12 yrs.
Susan U.	6 yrs.
Judy B.	4 yrs.
Cindy B.	7 yrs.
Debi C.	6 yrs.

WALK THE TALK

Tina N.	35 yrs.
Jim N.	35 yrs.
Lauri R.	27 yrs.
Andy C.	26 yrs.
Marsha S.	24 yrs.
Eric W.	23 yrs.
Joe R.	10 yrs.
Maile	9 yrs.
Mike	8 yrs.
Buzz	8 yrs.
Vince F.	6 yrs.
Chris W.	6 yrs.
Carolyn D.	6 yrs.
Steve P.	4 yrs.
Kristi P.	3 yrs.
Steve	3 yrs.
Scott K.	3 yrs.
Stephanie	1 yr.
Derek F.	1 yr.
Rob L.	1 yr.

THANK YOU

In the month of November the
Service Office received
10 Grateful Giver contributions,
1 Personal contribution and
1 Birthday contribution!

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Joan L.	2 yrs.
Cathy C.	4 yrs.
Deb C.	10 yrs.

GROUP NAME (2014-2015)	Fiscal Yr. to date	November	GROUP NAME (2014-2015)	Fiscal Yr. to date	November
Above the Bar Group	\$150.00		Oasis Group	\$0.00	
Apex	\$130.17		Off The Wall	\$122.60	
Back to Basics	\$474.00		Old North End Study Group	\$32.75	
Beacon Light Group			Pre-Dawn Meeting	\$0.00	
Big Book Action	\$497.72		Primary Purpose		
Big Book Study UPH	\$550.00	\$250.00	Progress Not Perfection	\$287.29	\$33.50
Black Forest	\$555.53	\$455.53	Recovery in Action	\$359.33	
Broadmoor	\$0.00		Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$315.60	\$88.80
Brown Baggers	\$150.00		Saturday Morning Anonymous Group	\$104.67	
Central	\$0.00		Security Eye Opener	\$0.00	
Clean Air Group	\$41.00		Serenity Hour	\$350.00	\$50.00
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$160.00		Serenity Riders	\$264.56	\$113.40
Down By The Creek	\$0.00		Serenity Sisters	\$109.00	
Downtown Group	\$1,105.36		Solutions at Noon	\$202.15	
Drylander's Group	\$0.00		Sought Through Prayer & Meditation	\$188.55	\$20.00
Easy Does It	\$50.00		Steel Magnolias	\$80.00	
Ellicott Group	\$256.00		Stepping Stones	\$0.00	
Eye Opener	\$0.00		Sunday Morning Speaker	\$1,003.00	
First Forty	\$0.00		Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate)	\$0.00	
Foxhall Group	\$0.00		Sunlight of the Spirit - Women's 12x12 (Monument)	\$225.00	
Friday Night Live	\$967.50		Taking Steps	\$0.00	
Friday Women's Group	\$294.00	\$194.00	The Doctor's Opinion	\$300.00	\$300.00
Good Ole Boys	\$75.00		The Garage Meeting	\$106.00	
Happy Destiny	\$421.76	\$47.22	The Sober Jokers	\$200.00	
Happy Heathens	\$300.00		Then and Now	\$150.00	\$75.00
Happy Hour	\$217.96		Thursday Mens	\$1,750.00	\$550.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	\$270.00		Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$80.00	
High Noon	\$127.00	\$24.00	Treating The Illness	\$152.50	
H.O.W.	\$70.00		Turning Point	\$0.00	
Into Action	\$360.00		Ute Pass Breakfast Group	\$210.00	
Keystone to Recovery	\$0.00		Veterans for AA	\$0.00	
Lake George Group	\$0.00		Walk the Talk	\$3,400.00	\$850.00
Little Log Church Group	\$78.00	\$78.00	Walking on Water	\$200.00	
Living Free	\$246.50	\$107.50	We Are Not Saints	\$342.30	
Living Sober South	\$227.64	\$42.50	Wed. Westside Womens	\$0.00	
Meditation Group			Westside Eye Opener	\$75.00	\$25.00
M.A.G.	\$479.12		Women of Grace		
Natural High	\$0.00		Woodland Park Beginners	\$0.00	
New Beginners	\$492.50		Woodland Park Book Study	\$164.00	
New Woman	\$639.49	\$283.19	Woodland Park Women's Step Study		
Northwesters	\$505.00	\$145.00	Young People	\$613.15	\$190.71
			Totals:	\$21,488.70	\$3,923.35

ARCHIVES PRESENTS: AA in Colorado Springs

A Brief Look at Some of the Events Along the *TIMELINE*:

1945

DATELINE 1945 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Shares from a Sunday meeting of the Colorado Springs chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous

March 1945...

Chairman;

"We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol, and are unable to do anything about it without help. Each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair, and the simple purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show us what we can do to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves, regardless of what our individual conceptions of that Power may be. We have come to know that, as alcoholics we are suffering from a deadly disease for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the expression of an allergy, which distinguishes us from others. It has never been, by any treatment with which we are familiar, permanently eradicated. The only relief for us is in absolute abstinence-the second meaning of AA."

"An AA member is an alcoholic who, through application of, and adherence to, the AA program, has completely fore-sworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverages and narcotics in any form. The moment he drinks so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to recover from alcoholism. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it."

"We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely has anyone failed who has thoroughly followed AA's suggestions. Those who do not recover are those who do not give themselves completely to this simple program."

"As alcoholics, we may like this program or we may not; but the fact remains that it works, and it is our only chance of recovery. Faith has to work 24 hours a day, in and though us, or we perish, and we know it."

"There is a vast amount of fun about it all. Although some are shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity, there is a deadly earnestness underneath it all, a full realization of our position that we must put first things first, and that with all of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink, is to die."

"In conducting the meeting today, I want to remind you that whatever is said in this meeting from here on, either by me or by any other speaker, expresses our own individual opinions as of tonight. No one speaks for AA as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit."

Member;

"I hope I can finish my life without taking another drink. Although I have been dry for nearly four years, I still fear alcohol, because I know that if I take so much as a short beer, I shall be out on what may go down in history as the greatest bender of all time."

"During the last four years I have really lived, for I have been able to enjoy and appreciate life. I have learned really to know my family, and I know what's going on instead of being too befogged to know. I no longer awaken in the morning and wonder where I'd been the night before, and I no longer go out to look at my car to see if I'd run into somebody or something on the way home."

"Being free of alcohol is a wonderful feeling and I don't want to give it up. When I started on the program the thought of spending the rest of my life without a drink scared hell out of me, so I went at it on a day to day basis; for it's a pretty poor stick who can't stay sober for one day. And now it's the other way around. The thought that I might slip and take that first drink is what scares hell out of me, and my biggest job in life is to keep from it. If I can do that, I know that others things will be take care of."

Editor's Note: 70 years have passed since this meeting and while the world around it has certainly changed, AA steadfastly continues to hold out a helping hand for any alcoholic who wants to recover.

D ICTIONARY CORNER

Surrender – to give over or resign (oneself) to something

Unmanageable - beyond our ability to influence, direct, control, predict, or sustain ones life in a satisfactory, required, or desired fashion / not able to find ways to get along in a desired manner / not being able to influence, control, or predict the nature or behavior of ones actions or lifestyle

Powerless – defenseless / ineffective, lacking in strength, power or authority



NIGHTWATCH COMMITTEE MEETING



The Purpose of Nightwatch
TRADITION FIVE

Each Group Has But One Primary Purpose- To Carry Its Message To The Alcoholic Who Still Suffers

NIGHTWATCH COMMITTEE MEETING
The 1ST Tuesday Of Every Month At 7PM,
We Meet At Sacred Heart Parish
2021 West Pikes Peak Ave
Room 10 *upstairs*
(corner of 21st street and Pikes Peak)



Contact info:

Service Office 24hr Hotline (719)573-5020
www.coloradospringsaa.org
1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

www.nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS ARE: 1 YEAR OF CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY AND A 1 YEAR COMMITMENT OF SERVICE

• COMMITTEE INFORMATION •

Public Information:

Committee Meeting: 1st Saturday, 2:00 p.m., 1st floor Penrose Main Hospital, 2222 N. Nevada in Volunteer Coordinator Conference Room.

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Committee Meeting: 5:30 p.m., 2nd Sunday of the month at the Downtown Group, 210 N. Corona St.

District 7:

Committee Meeting: 7:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 420 N. Nevada, First United Methodist Church Room 135 (Boulder St. Access)

Treatment:

Committee Meeting: 12-1 pm, 2nd Saturday of the month, at Penrose Hospital Volunteer Conference Room, 2222 N. Nevada.

Nightwatch:

Night Owls Committee Meetings: 7:00 p.m., 1st Tuesday of the month at Sacred Heart Parish, 21st and Pikes Peak Room 10 - Following the New Beginners meeting.

Archives:

Archive Committee Meetings: 6:00 p.m., 1st Tuesday of the month at Service Office, 1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209

Special Needs:

Committee Meetings: 1:00 p.m., last Saturday of every even month at 309 S. Hancock Ave.

For more committee information including intergroup committees please go to coloradospringsaa.org

• CONTRIBUTION ADDRESSES •

~ AREA SERVICE OFFICE ~

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

(Include group name and number on check)

~ GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ~

P.O. Box 459 - Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

(Include group name and number on check)

~ AREA 10 ~

Area 10 Treasurer
12081 West Alameda Parkway #418
Lakewood, CO 80228

(Include group name, number and District 7 on check)

~ DISTRICT 7 ~

District 7
P.O. Box 26252
Colorado Springs, CO 80936
(Include group name, number and district 7 on check)

~ PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS ~

Pink Can Contributions
P.O. Box 40368
Denver, CO 80204
(Make checks payable to Area 10 Corrections Committee)
(Include group name and number on check)

• CASH ACCEPTED IN PERSON ONLY •

Local Service Office

Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
SAT.-SUN.: CLOSED

Location: 1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209, Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Contact the Service Office for Intergroup information
719-573-5020

E-mail: serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

Web site: www.coloradospringsaa.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Area 10 Colorado State Convention

“Sponsorship in Action”

September 4- 6, 2015

Please join us in Colorado Springs for a great time with speakers, meetings, workshops, a banquet, a dance, social times and other adventures in AA fellowship. It's time to book your hotel room, register for the event and get the car ready to go!

Visit [*the Area 10 Convention website](#) for more info.



2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

“Happy, Joyous, Free”

July 2 - 5, 2015 - Atlanta, Georgia

The 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2 - 5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 80th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Georgia Dome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the Georgia World Congress Center and local hotels.

Registration will be available at the [*2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous](#) website at aa.org starting September 3, 2014.

Start planning now! We look forward to seeing you there.

***All information can be found at the local AA website: www.coloradospringsaa.org**



Have you ever been to the Area Service Office?

If not—**WHY NOT??**

It's staffed by friendly knowledgeable people that will go out of their way to try to help or, do what they do best, sit around and talk!

It's packed with pamphlets and books 'n things to brighten any day.

~AND~

It has a very well done Archives display featuring our local AA history.

So, why not make it a point to stop by sometime to enjoy a cup of REAL AA coffee and take a look around. Indulge in some quality conversation while shopping AA approved literature for your group, a gift for a friend, a sponsee ~or~ get yourself something to grow on.

~ THE AREA SERVICE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 1353 S. 8TH STREET SUITE 209 ~

OFFICE HOURS ARE—MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM