

Happy New Year!!!



THE PIKES PEAK PINT

January 2019

A newsletter for the Pikes Peak Region of Alcoholics Anonymous

AA Christmas at 401 W. Bijou '60s style

The old church at 401 W. Bijou had musty basement with a kitchen as well as a large meeting room. Upstairs was a very large meeting room complete with a podium and filled with outdoor, upholstered, floral redwood chairs, ashtrays every three feet and two very large plastic fake liquor bottles that held coins for various projects.

401 West Bijou was the home of the older Central Group.

On the walls upstairs were two huge boards with the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

The basement meeting room was used for Alanon and the open and closed AA meetings were held upstairs.

On the walls in the basement were lots of photographs of the Colorado Springs Musician Association bands.

Every Christmas the Central Group would hold a decorating party and get the rooms all decked out for Christmas. Large boxes of premade Christmas stockings were



purchased from the groups and filled with nuts and candies.

The party was for the kids but the adults enjoyed it just as much!

Recovering alcoholics are some of the most talented folks in the world. That group had singers, piano players and lots of children.

For many of these children it was their first Christmas with a sober parent.

There was a huge Christmas tree and the place was just full of donated Christmas decorations.

The night of the big party we kids were so excited. We could not figure out how Santa knew we were going to be there. (Parents secretly brought Santa's presents and placed them under the tree.) There also was a huge pot luck. The air was full of cigarette smoke so thick you could cut it with a knife.

But the sight was unbelievable.

Every walk of life, sober and grateful, graced those rooms.

The group would sing Christmas carols and at 7 P.M. The lights were turned off and tin jingle bells were rung on the steps outside the big church doors.

Everyone broke into "Dashing Through The Snow" and in came Santa with a huge bag.

What incredible memories to have.

The looks on the faces of chil-

See Christmas, page 3



Serenity Riders

Bo B. 1-17-05
 Jacqui I. 1-20-10
 JK McC. 1-7-07
 John B. 1-30-92

Steel Magnolias

Cathy C. 8 years

We Are Not Saints

Kevin G. 2 years
 (from December, with apologies...)

Arlene J. 10 years
 Carolyn D. 10 years
 Craig W. 9 years
 Drew I. 20 years
 Ryan M. 5 years
 Scott K. 7 years
 Ursula G. 5 years

New Woman

Sharon W. 19 years
 Cathy P. 28 years
 Kerry Ann 5 years
 Heather H. 5 years
 Beth H. 5 years
 Kathleen P. 6 years

Walk The Talk

Steve H.	1-2012	Luke S.	1-10-17
Tina N.	1-17-80	Jessi H.	1-2-18!!
Rob L.	1-26-14	Bob	1-23-18!!
Vince F.	1-1-09	Maile	1-9-06
Lauri R.	1-1-88	Steve P.	1-5-11
Mike K.	1-1-87	Kat D.	1-15-15
Mike C.	1-12-07	Kevin Mc.	1-16-18!!
Steph	1-19-14	Marsha	1-29-91
Andy C.	1-21-89	Michael O.	1-8-87
Buzz	1-23-07	Joe R.	1-23-05
Rachel S.	1-2-18!!		

Growing up in Colorado Springs AA

I recently read that women over age 50 is the largest growing group of people joining the AA program. I am one of them.

It took me a while to find my way to the program even though I grew up in the program and thought I knew better than to fall into the trap of uncontrolled drinking. My father had 63 years of sobriety in AA when he passed away.

I used to try and talk to him about my drinking, but I was not honest with him about how much I was drinking. It was the usual thing of sneaking drinks, getting drunk, and feeling remorseful, sick and depressed after drinking.

After a particular night of drinking at a local watering hole, I became angry and was just looking for a fight. That night I was so sick. I shook, I had cold sweats and was so ill. At home, while lying in my dark room feeling miserable, a still voice said to me, "Stop drinking."

I felt a sense of relief. I believe that voice was my Higher Power. I had a rough couple of days trying to stop. I craved sugar and lots of carbs for several days and felt very agitated. After a few days of being sober I began to have guilt that a person who grew up – and I mean *literally grew up* – in the program could be alcoholic.

I felt somehow like I had let my father down and my family. I called a woman in the program and we

met for coffee. I told her that I was so full of shame about this new sobriety and was wondering what other people in the program would think about my being in AA, especially folks who know our family through the program.

Her advice to me was straight out of the Big Book: "It does not matter what others think. If we have a desire to stop drinking, if drinking is interfering in our lives, then it is up to each of us to determine what is right for us." I did not have any DUIs, did not go to detox, nor did I spend time in jail. However, it is only by luck that I didn't have any of those. I had driven home from bars so many times inebriated it's a pure miracle I didn't end up in jail.

I have a little over three years of sobriety now and every day I wake up I am full of gratitude for the new way of dealing with life. This alcoholism is cunning and baffling as the Big Book says. It sneaks up on you and pulls the rug out from under you.

My shame is disappearing and I now realize that growing up in AA made it easier for me to grasp the joy of the program. One of my favorite quotes from the program is, "And the results were nil until we let go absolutely." This sums it up for me. Little did I know my Higher Power would put me right in the program.

— Valorie H.

A 12 Step Christmas party for kids

Christmas, from Page 1

dren who had known a lot of heartache in their lives were now experiencing sober fun with sober parents. AA is based on attraction rather than promotion, and this was walking the talk of sobriety, sharing with others.

This was one of those times when everyone knew a sober Christmas could be filled with joy

and peace of mind.

No closing down the bars, but instead seeing the joy on little children's faces.

I miss the old Central Group church, but it was getting old and run down and the group moved on.

Now every time I pass that church my heart leaps at the amazing healing that took place within those four walls.

Back at the '60s magic Christ-

mases held there, by the end of the night, we kids were asleep on the old red velvet couches in the basement, exhausted, overfed, and happy. In the kitchen dishes were being washed, ashtrays were being emptied and cleaned, and that is where the some of the best 12 Step work was done.

What a gift to have been part of that.

— Valorie H.

STEP 1:

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



CONCEPT 1:

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

- ◆ Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- ◆ Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- ◆ Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area? Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.?
- ◆ Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

TRADITION 1:

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

TRADITION 1 CHECKLIST:

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

Group Contributions 2018-2019

GROUP NAME (2018-2019)	Fiscal Yr. to date	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
A Common Solution	\$178.00							\$87.00		\$81.00
12 Steps From The Morgue	\$250.00			\$250.00						
Apex	\$327.29				\$170.91			\$83.28		\$73.10
Back to Basics	\$1,230.60	\$167.31		\$277.80	\$158.83	\$112.60	\$127.63	\$125.43	\$89.00	\$171.90
Beacon Light Group										
Big Book Action	\$300.00				\$300.00					
Big Book Study UPH	\$400.00		\$200.00					\$200.00		
Black Forest	\$842.00								\$842.00	
Broadmoor	\$200.00			\$100.00					\$100.00	
Brown Baggers										
Central										
Clean Air Group	\$238.47		\$238.47							
Don't Worry Be Happy	\$899.63	\$328.87	\$74.57		\$198.97		\$149.89	\$105.05		\$140.47
Down By The Creek										
Downtown Group	\$306.00			\$306.00						
Drylander's Group	\$15.00	\$15.00								
Early Saturday AM	\$127.00								\$127.00	
Easy Does It	\$853.38		\$555.00			\$284.98				\$22.42
Ellicott Group	\$427.00							\$350.00	\$77.00	
Foshall Group	\$550.00		\$200.00				\$150.00			\$200.00
Friday Night Live	\$100.00					\$50.00				\$50.00
Friday Women's Group	\$1,020.00		\$245.00			\$165.00			\$350.00	\$260.00
Good Ole Boys	\$307.00	\$100.00					\$100.00		\$107.00	
Grace PPG Book Study Group	\$233.29							\$218.05		\$15.24
Happy Destiny	\$326.22						\$179.02		\$147.20	
Happy Heathens										
Happy Hour	\$359.00	\$359.00								
Happy, Joyous & Free										
High Noon	\$175.00		\$87.50					\$87.50		
H.O.W.	\$54.00	\$30.00								\$34.00
Into Action	\$678.60		\$225.60				\$125.00		\$228.00	
Keystone to Recovery	\$125.00				\$125.00					
Lake George Group	\$239.00						\$239.00			
Limon AA										
Little Log Church Group	\$79.10				\$79.10					
Living Free	\$182.60		\$50.00		\$80.00		\$52.60			
Living Sober South	\$277.12	\$88.62		\$103.00		\$43.50			\$62.00	
M A G	\$885.00	\$484.00			\$285.50			\$205.50		
Meditation Group - Tues. 5:30	\$200.00								\$200.00	
Natural High										
New Beginners	\$315.49		\$83.88				\$140.82			\$80.89
New Woman	\$830.62	\$148.00			\$175.00			\$148.07	\$169.55	
Northwesters	\$355.74							\$355.74		
Off The Wall	\$51.08		\$30.97			\$20.11				
One Day at a Time	\$63.00							\$63.00		
Old North End Study Group	\$280.28				\$141.26					\$139.00
One Six Four Group	\$231.00			\$128.00					\$103.00	
Pre-Dawn Group	\$628.00		\$80.00	\$220.00			\$80.00	\$160.00		\$108.00
Primary Purpose										
Progress Not Perfection										
Recovery in Action	\$887.00			\$228.00					\$210.00	\$228.00
Recovery, Unity, Service Group	\$825.00								\$825.00	
Rule 62, Victor										
Saturday Early Morning Mtg.	\$394.00	\$145.00		\$118.00			\$131.00			
Saturday Morning Anonymous	\$115.00								\$115.00	
Security Eye Opener										
Serenity Hour	\$553.20	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$128.60	\$101.60
Serenity Riders	\$305.74		\$100.00	\$295.74						
Serenity Sisters	\$216.45	\$187.45				\$29.00				
Sober Sisters	\$142.38	\$69.63					\$25.78			\$46.98
Solutions at Noon										
Sought Through Prayer & Meditation	\$318.76	\$27.60		\$50.06		\$29.50	\$44.58		\$55.00	\$111.73
Steel Magnolias	\$222.11	\$81.83						\$140.18		
Stepping Stones										
Sunday Morning Speaker										
Sunlight of the Spirit	\$801.26			\$603.26					\$150.00	\$48.00
Taking Steps	\$59.00								\$59.00	
The Doctor's Opinion	\$400.00					\$400.00				
The Garage Meeting	\$15.00	\$15.00								
Then and Now										
Thursday Men's Group										
Thursday Noon--Woodland Park	\$75.52	\$75.52								
Traditions Only										
Treating The Illness										
Turning Point	\$52.00							\$12.00		\$40.00
Ute Pass Breakfast Group	\$190.00						\$190.00			
Veterans for AA	\$75.00			\$25.00					\$50.00	
Walk the Talk	\$4,720.82	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$850.00		\$425.00	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$1,320.82
Walking on Water	\$100.00		\$100.00							
We Are Not Saints	\$848.78	\$330.59			\$187.42			\$235.77		\$85.00
Westside Eye Opener										
Women of Grace										
Woodland Park Beginners										
Woodland Park Thursday Noon Group	\$115.92									\$115.92
Woodland Park Book Study	\$75.51				\$75.51					
WOV Group	\$125.00							\$125.00		
Woodland Park Women's Step Study	\$584.50		\$254.50					\$270.00		\$80.00
Young People	\$335.00									
Totals:	\$27,083.65	\$3,119.42	\$2,981.59	\$3,155.85	\$3,302.60	\$1,119.67	\$2,185.72	\$3,457.58	\$4,207.35	\$3,553.87



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting changes ...

New Woodland Park meeting

Sober Woodland Park peeps have created a new meeting. The Woodland Park Thursday Noon Group meets at 750 N. Highway 67, the corner of Highway 67 and Evergreen Heights. It meets, yes, on Thursdays and yes, at noon.

Off The Wall waits 30 minutes

The Off The Wall discussion meeting that had met Sundays at 7:30 p.m. at 709 S. Sierra Madre has a new time. Gather there at 8 p.m.

Lake George group closes

The Friday 7 p.m. meeting at the Lake George Community Center has been closed.

We're here too!

A new meeting has launched in the Falcon/Peyton area. It is called We Are Here and meets at the High Prairie Library. (That rhymes! Isn't that fun?!) The

... and old news too

library is at 7035 Old Meridian Road. Alcoholics gather on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the small study room. This is a temporary meeting place.

Woodland Park meeting closes

The Recovery, Unity and Service Group, a closed meeting held at the Senior Citizens Center, 312 N. Center St., has stopped meeting. This meeting was held Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Walkers the Talkers Speakers

The Walk the Talk group speakers for January are:

- ◆ Jan. 5, Chris W.
- ◆ Jan. 12, Steven
- ◆ Jan. 19, Todd G.
- ◆ Jan. 26, Andrea C.

Thank you for sharing your stories of experience, strength and hope on Saturday at 6 p.m. at 2334 Vickers in the north end of the Springs. You will NOT be disappointed!!

Editor's note

If you're getting The Pint by email, fantastic! Read on! (And WRITE your story for us — we always need help with stories!)

If you're logging on to coloradospringsaa.org to access the Pikes Peak area meeting in print, we're sorry.

Call it technical difficulties. We will have these problems worked out soon, and please be patient.

Thank you and have a great 2019!

LOCAL SERVICE OFFICE

Hours: Tuesday/Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SAT./SUN./MON.: CLOSED

Location: 1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209

Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Contact the Service Office

719.573.5020

E/mail: serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CORRECTIONS:

9 a.m., 3rd Saturday of the month Sacred Heart Parish
Room 10, southeast corner of 21st & Colorado Ave.

PI (PUBLIC INFORMATION):

1 p.m., 4th Saturday of the month
Sand Creek Library, 1821 S. Academy Blvd.
large study room This group meets with CPC.

CPC (PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY):

1 p.m., 4th Saturday of the month
Sand Creek Library, 1821 S. Academy Blvd.
large study room. This group meets with PI.

PROGRAMS:

6 p.m., 4th Thursday of the month, Colorado Springs
Area Service Office, 1353 S. 8th St., Suite 209

TREATMENT:

5:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday of the month
Penrose Hospital, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., board room

NIGHTWATCH:

7 p.m., 1st Tuesday of the month
Sacred Heart Parish, 21st and Pikes Peak Ave.
Room 10, following the New Beginners' meeting

DISTRICT 7:

7 p.m., 3rd Tuesday of the month
First United Methodist Church,
420 N. Nevada, Room 135 (Boulder Street access)

WHERE TO SEND CONTRIBUTIONS

For all, please include your group name and group number on the check

~ AREA SERVICE OFFICE ~

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

~ GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ~

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

~ AREA 10 ~

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

~ DISTRICT 7 ~

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

~ PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS ~

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

• CASH ACCEPTED IN PERSON ONLY •

How much did
YOU pay to drink?

Please help others

Consider throwing \$2 (or more) into the basket when it comes around. Also, once a year, donate \$1 for each year of sobriety to the General Service Office, the Area Service Office, or both. It costs money to spread the hope of a new life worth living through AA.

Please see coloradospringsaa.org

HELP WANTED:

Writers for The Pint needed **IMMEDIATELY**.

Any length, any subject that shows your experience, strength and hope.
Deadline is Jan. 15 for the February issue, Feb. 15 for the March issue

Questions? Call Mary at 970-901-8599