



# THE PIKES PEAK PINT

April 2020

A newsletter for the Pikes Peak Region of Alcoholics Anonymous

## **7th Tradition Help Needed**

The Colorado Springs Area Service Office (CSASO) has a minimum monthly operating budget of \$4,600. The COVID-19 virus restrictions have brought group contributions to \$0 since enacted.

Every little bit helps. Consider if 1,000 AA members contribute \$10 each = \$10,000  
or two months of operations.

Remember the CSASO is an integral part of our Primary Purpose. We need your help please!

Contributions can be easily made on the homepage of our CSASO website: [www.coloradospringsaa.org](http://www.coloradospringsaa.org)  
or mailed to the office at 1353 S 8th Street Suite 209, Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Thank you.

## **The Other Side of Grief**

Hi, my name is Kurt and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is May 24, 1994 and I am what they call a gutter variety drunk. I spent my final two years drinking, homeless, hopeless and helpless. I had family in the program who did their best to help, but I could never put more than 30 days together. About 1992, my mother's sponsor at the time, told her if she did one more thing for me, she would have to find a new sponsor. That was when tough love with army boots started and I know today that it saved my life. Many years later I would have to use that tough love on my own son. Today in my family we can claim 152 years continuous sobriety between 7 family members and we do not mix program, it's healthier.

On May 24, 1994 my journey began at a place called Cider House in Norwalk, California. Yep, you guessed it, the place where they filmed One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, coincidence or fate? In those days it was a 'social model detox, no meds, shake and shout detox! I made my final surrender that night saying out loud, "Dear God if this is all life has to offer, take me now! But if you have something better I am willing to do anything to learn how to live ....sober!" I came to the net morning struck sober! It CAN happen, it happened to me.

While at Cider House, I got counseling and meetings. I took to the program like a fish that had been out of the water for too long. I was home at last! I did not need to have all the answers. I learned how to listen and actually hear. I took directions. I took action. I trusted God, cleaned house and worked with others and all the while my life improved.

Fast forward two and a half years and 12 plus real steps, boy meets girl on AA campus. One year later, we get married, blend our families together, and move to Colorado. All the while trusting God, working with others, going to meetings, working and going to school. One year after moving here my mom passed away leaving a huge hole in our family. With the help of the program, we all made it to the other side of grief. Today I live as if she is still with me every day, it helps. Oh, and that tough love she used on me ... I had to use on my own son. Today he has 10 years and is happy, joyous and free. Tough love saved him also!

Here are just some of the things I have been fortunate to learn while in the program. The first three steps are: I can't, God can, I need to let Him. The "Oldtimers" told me there were only two things I HAD to accept: 1. There is a God and I am not it. 2. I will be a drunk until the day I die. The three things I do that enable me to keep my seat are trust in God, clean house and work with others. Today I have a life beyond my wildest dreams thanks to God and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Kurt

# Train Tracks to Recovery

I'm Laurie, and I'm an alcoholic. I had my last drink on October 15, 1986. It has been quite a journey.

The first fourteen years were in the Chicago area. I went through graduate school, a divorce, a move, and a marriage—all sober. I had sponsors and friends. I worked through an inventory and made amends. Yet life was still crazy. I was also doing the religious thing, spending a lot of time studying about God.

In 2000, my husband and I moved to Colorado. I had never worked full-time in sobriety until now. Right after the move while my husband was still back in Illinois selling the house, my dearest friend who had twelve-stepped me, died suddenly, I felt so alone and abandoned. My first action was to get involved in a church. This was a good thing, but I never got plugged into AA meetings.

After six years, I was floundering. I hadn't had a drink but I also wasn't working a spiritual program. I got caught up in some unhealthy friendships and the emotional roller coaster I was on lasted another eight years. I was still doing the religious thing and hanging on by a thread.

During the next four years, I tried another type of recovery program. I got some healing from the relationships, but my spiritual condition had stalled. Recovery is like walking on the train tracks. Even if I'm headed in the right direction, if I just sit there I will get run over.

And I almost did. I had recently reconnected with a friend in Illinois and told her if I was to go drinking, I'd pick her up first. Last December, I asked her what the weather was like because I was driving out. She knew I wasn't joking and called back to check on me. Her frequent comment was "I'm just telling you what you told me all those years ago."

This conversation prompted a search for some AA meetings. I returned to the fellowship over winter break. Since then, I have gotten another sponsor who has walked me through the steps again, starting with one. I have had reading assignments and questions to ponder. All this work came right from the Big Book.

Something miraculous has happened. My sponsor has guided me through steps four and five. God has used her to break through some tough attitudes, showing me most of my anger comes from fear. I have been living in fear all these years.

I'm still finishing up some amends. I'm also applying the daily inventory at night and prayer in the morning. On days I forget, it doesn't take long to realize something isn't right.

The last couple weeks I have been in bad traffic a couple times and not gotten mad. This is a miracle. Absolutely amazing. I've even had a couple coworkers tell me they were concerned about me last fall but now I seem so happy.

It is only through this program and the grace of my higher power that any of this is possible. Thirty two years without a drink, but I'm finally free.

Laurie



"Recovery is like walking on the train tracks. Even if I'm headed in the right directions, if I just sit there I will get run over." Laurie

## April Celebrations

### Serenity Riders

John S. 44 yrs  
Buzz B. 36 yrs  
Bill J. 25 yrs  
Dan D. 17 yrs  
Dave B. 14 yrs  
Toni G. 14 yrs  
Jenn R. 13 yrs  
Bob S. 12 yrs  
Dave B. 10 yrs  
Lonnie P. 2 yrs

### The New Beginners

Cameron M. 14 yrs  
Jason L. 4 yrs  
Donna W. 2 yrs

### We Are Not Saints

Jan Z. 20 yrs  
Peg R. 17 yrs  
Rob S. 17 yrs  
Jan S. 10 yrs  
Allison H. 9 yrs  
Sean M. 3 yrs  
Betsy 2 yrs



Please email your group's celebrations to [pint@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:pint@coloradospringsaa.org)

## Announcements

### New Meetings

Step Study (Closed)  
Mondays at Noon  
Florissant Grange 2009  
CTY Rd 31  
Florissant CO

### COVID-19

With the recent health pandemic of COVID-19 and the social distancing requirements, many AA meetings are suspended for the time being. Log onto your website [www.coloradospringsaa.org](http://www.coloradospringsaa.org) for up to date information.

### Vacancies

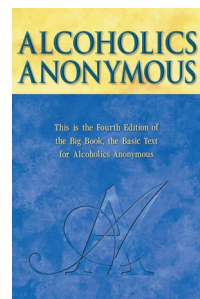
1) There are two vacancies on the Intergroup Board after our elections last month. Both Vice Treasurer and Secretary positions are available. Qualifications for these positions are listed in the Intergroup Charter and can be found on your website [www.coloradospringsaa.org](http://www.coloradospringsaa.org)

Those wishing to stand for either position need to email the Area Service Office.

2) The Pint is looking for a new Editor beginning June 1st. Please email [pint@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:pint@coloradospringsaa.org) or look at the Charter for Qualifications.



This month's  
"Pint Piece"  
for your  
personal reflection...



**"Lack of power, that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live and it had to be a power greater than ourselves."**

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous,  
Page 45, Chapter 4, "We Agnostics"

# STEP 4

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”



## TRADITION 4

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

## TRADITION 4 CHECKLIST

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

## CONCEPT 4

“Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”



## LOCAL SERVICE OFFICE

Open: Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed: Saturday - Monday

1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209

Colorado Springs, CO 80905

719.573.5020

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

Web: [www.coloradospringsaa.org](http://www.coloradospringsaa.org)

## JOIN A COMMITTEE MEETING!

### BRIDGING THE GAP

7:00 pm, 4th Tuesday of the month, Area Service Office  
1353 South 8th Street, Suite 209, Colorado Springs

### PIKES PEAK PINT

7:00 pm, 3rd Thursday of the month, contact Whitney at 414-828-7434 as location changes each month

### CORRECTIONS

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

### PI (PUBLIC INFORMATION)

9:00 am; 2nd Saturday of each month  
Area Service Office  
1353 S. 8th St Suite 209

### CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Meets the 4th Saturday of the month from 1:00-2:30  
Penrose Main Hospital—2222 N. Nevada Ave.  
We meet in the Volunteers Conference Room.  
You can also call in on our conference line at:  
(515) 604-9925, access pin: 311273#

### PROGRAMS

6 pm Wednesdays  
Chadbourne Community Church  
402 Conejos St. 80903

### 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

Please include your group name  
and group number on the check

### ~ AREA SERVICE OFFICE ~

Payable to: Colorado Springs  
Area Service Office  
1353 South 8<sup>th</sup> 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

## How much did *YOU* spend on a drink?

*Please help others.....*

Consider putting \$2 in a jar/cup/basket  
each time you log onto a Zoom Meeting.  
Then consider splitting the money  
accumulated and give 1/2 to your group  
when they begin meeting again, and 1/2 to  
your Service Office.

Contribute at  
[coloradospringsaa.org](http://coloradospringsaa.org)

