WESTERN SLOPE NOTES

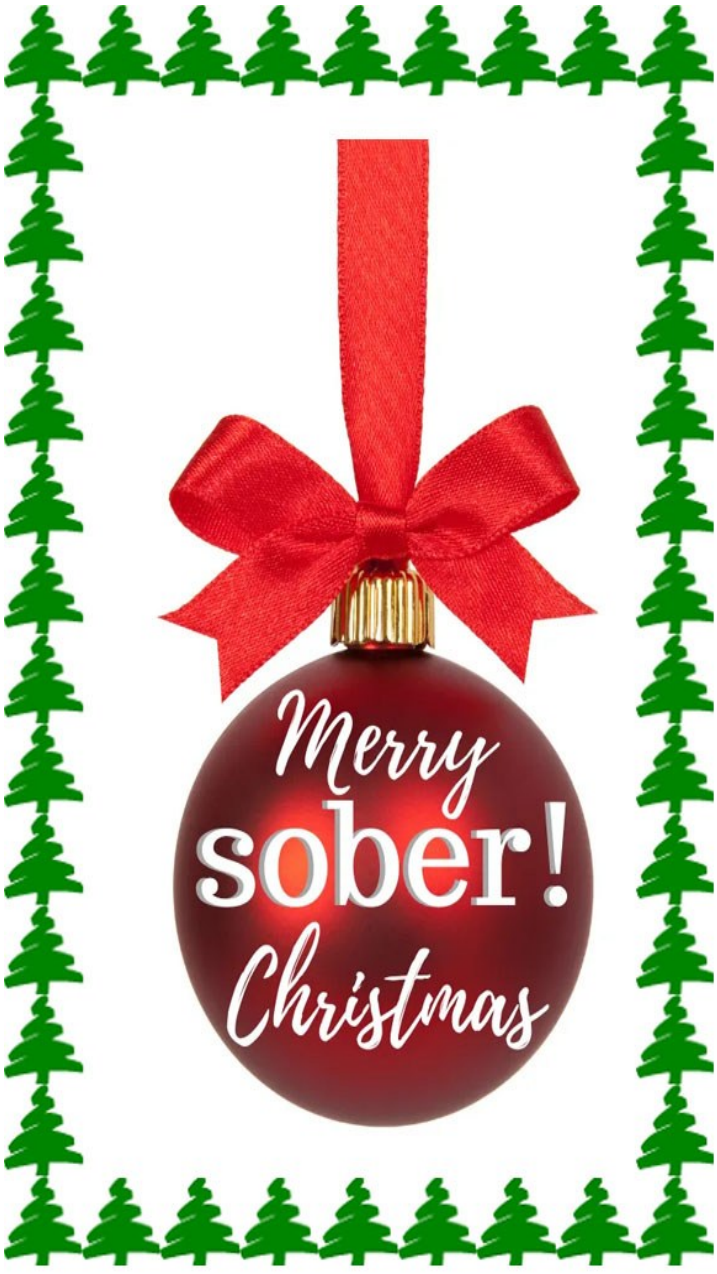
November-December 2026

TIPS

for an Alcohol Free Thanksgiving:

- Commit to being alcohol free
- Plan ahead
- Play it forward- what will happen after that first drink, the second/third/fourth, what will happen during the middle of the night and the next day.
- Have something to do at the party (games, movies, etc)
- Go to an online meeting- Smart Recovery, Dharma, anything
- Treat yourself to a fancy non-alcohol drink
- If the cravings are really strong tell yourself in 24 hours, you can have a drink
- Make sure to eat and eat early (sugar, candy, real food- don't let yourself get hungry)
- Have a buddy at your event
- Go in bathroom and text a friend
- Leave early







Central Office of Western Colorado

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1531 Grand Jct., CO 81502

Physical Address:

740 Gunnison, Grand Jct., CO 81501



Western Slope Notes Nov-Dec 2026

Executive Committee

Chair-Gene F Vice Chair -Cindy D Secretary-TJ Treasurer-Liz H.

Central Office Manager-Teresa M Asst. Manager- Bonnie B

Central Office of Western Colorado

Chair's Recap: Accomplishments, Challenges & Looking Ahead

As my two-year term as Chair of the Central Office of Western Colorado comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the significant accomplishments achieved during the past two years, recognize the contributions of those who helped make them possible, and identify some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the next Chair and Central Office.

It has been a rewarding experience, and I am proud of the progress we have made together. While there is still work to be done, I believe we have taken important steps toward strengthening our organization, improving services to the Fellowship, and establishing a stronger foundation for the future.

Accomplishments Over the Past Two Years

1. Revision of Central Office Bylaws and Policies & Procedures

One of the most significant accomplishments was serving as Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for revising the Central Office Bylaws and Policies & Procedures. This effort grew out of the Spiritual Inventory conducted approximately two and a half years ago and addressed several areas where greater clarity, accountability, and organizational structure were needed.

Some of the important improvements included:

- **Executive Committee structure and responsibilities:** Clearly defining the composition and responsibilities of the Executive Committee. As a nonprofit corporation, Central Office must meet certain governance requirements, including maintaining a Board of Directors elected by Intergroup Representatives who are themselves elected by their respective A.A. Groups.

- **Budget development and approval:** Establishing a more clearly defined budget process that encourages greater participation by A.A. Groups and provides for their involvement in reviewing and approving the Central Office budget.

- **Officer responsibilities:** Better defining the duties and responsibilities of Central Office Officers to improve accountability and ensure continuity in leadership.

Privacy Policy: Establishing a formal Privacy Policy so A.A. members understand how their personal information is collected, used, and safeguarded.
These revisions represent an important step toward improving our governance and ensuring that Central Office operates with greater transparency and accountability.

2. Creation of the Central Office Online Store

We successfully launched an online store, which has generated approximately **$10,500 in online orders and resulted in the sale of more than 3,200 books, pamphlets and coins**.

Beyond the revenue generated, our online store has made A.A. literature, pamphlets, and other items more accessible to members throughout Western Colorado. It has also contributed to increased literature sales over the past two years.

This is an example of how adapting to changing needs and technology can improve the services we provide to the Fellowship while supporting Central Office operations.

3. Increased Participation by A.A. Groups

We have seen increased participation by A.A. Groups throughout Western Colorado in Central Office activities and business affairs. This is encouraging and demonstrates the value of maintaining communication and involvement across our service area.

However, participation by Western Colorado Districts and Members at Large representatives remains an area where additional attention is needed. Continued efforts to strengthen these relationships will be important to ensuring that all parts of our Fellowship have a voice in Central Office decisions.

4. New Initiatives to Increase Contributions

Intergroup devoted considerable time and effort to developing new ways to encourage financial support for Central Office. With group contributions continuing to be an important source of operating revenue, it is essential that we communicate the many ways individual A.A. members can participate in supporting our local service office.

Some of the initiatives developed or promoted include:

- **Faithful Fivers:** Encouraging members to make recurring monthly contributions to Central Office.
- **Planned Giving:** Encouraging members to remember Central Office in their wills, trusts, or estate plans.
- **A.A. Birthday Contributions:** Inviting members to contribute $1 or more for every year of sobriety on their A.A. anniversary, or whatever amount they wish to give.
- **Memorial Contributions:** Providing an opportunity to honor a beloved sponsor or deceased A.A. member through a contribution made in their memory.
- **Qualified Charitable Distributions:** Encouraging eligible members to consider supporting Central Office through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

Purchasing Literature Locally: Reminding members that purchasing A.A. books, pamphlets, and sobriety coins directly through Central Office helps support our operating expenses.
These efforts have helped expand awareness of the different ways members can support Central Office and reinforce the importance of our Seventh Tradition.

5. Improved District Outreach Through Technology

We transitioned our traditional traveling, in-person *On the Road* events to video conference presentations during individual District business meetings.

During 2026, we were able to connect with representatives from all Western Colorado Districts with the exception of District 5. This approach has provided a more efficient way to maintain communication, share Central Office updates, answer questions, and encourage participation without the time and expense associated with traveling throughout Western Colorado.

While in-person connections remain valuable, this approach gives us another effective tool for staying connected with our Districts and Groups.

6. Responding to the Literature Needs of Our Fellowship

Another important issue addressed during my term was navigating the decision by Western Colorado A.A. Groups to make Drop the Rock and other requested Hazelden literature available through Central Office.

This required discussion and consideration of the requests being made by our members and groups. Ultimately, we worked through the issue and responded to the expressed needs of our Fellowship.

It reinforced the importance of listening to our groups, respecting group conscience, and ensuring that Central Office remains responsive to the needs of the members it serves.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Next Two Years

While we have made meaningful progress, there are several important challenges that the incoming Chair, Executive Committee, and Intergroup will need to address.

1. Financial Sustainability

Without question, the financial health of Central Office will be one of the most important issues facing the next Chair.

In 2025, Central Office generated approximately $105,000 in revenue but finished the year with an operating loss of approximately $2,200.

The financial picture for 2026 is more concerning. Year-to-date revenue, including group contributions, literature sales, ColorDaze proceeds, and other fundraising activities, is approximately $73,500, while expenses have resulted in an operating loss of approximately $13,000. This shortfall has been partially offset by a $6,000 transfer from our Prudent Reserve.

Perhaps most concerning is that group contributions continue to decline.

We cannot rely indefinitely on our Prudent Reserve or fundraising events to make up for declining contributions and operating shortfalls. We need to continue educating our groups and individual members about the importance of supporting Central Office through the Seventh Tradition.

The new contribution initiatives provide a foundation, but they will need continued promotion and participation to make a meaningful difference.

Financial sustainability must remain a priority if we want Central Office to continue providing the services our Fellowship depends upon.

2. Hiring a New Central Office Manager

Another significant challenge will be the recruitment and hiring of a new Central Office Manager as Teresa M. plans for retirement.

This will be an important transition, particularly given the knowledge, experience, and dedication Teresa has brought to Central Office.

We also need to recognize the challenges associated with attracting and retaining qualified staff. Currently, the position offers a wage of $25 per hour for 30 hours per week, with little to no health benefits.

The incoming leadership will need to evaluate the position, compensation, benefits, responsibilities, and expectations to ensure we can attract a qualified replacement while remaining financially responsible.

This transition also provides an opportunity to review the position and ensure that Central Office has the staffing structure necessary to meet the needs of our Fellowship going forward.

3. Increasing Participation by A.A. Groups and Districts

Although group participation has improved, we still have work to do.

Central Office depends on the involvement and participation of A.A. Groups through their elected Intergroup Representatives. We also need stronger participation from Districts through their District Member at Large Representatives.

These representatives are essential to maintaining communication between Central Office and the groups and districts they serve. They also help ensure that decisions reflect the collective conscience of our Fellowship.

The challenge for the next two years will be to encourage groups to elect representatives, fill vacant positions, and actively participate in Central Office meetings and business affairs.

Central Office cannot effectively serve Western Colorado if only a portion of our groups and districts are represented. Greater participation means better communication, stronger unity, and shared responsibility for the future of our organization.

4. Making ColorDaze a Sustainable Fundraising Event

ColorDaze has become an important fundraising opportunity for Central Office. However, the event is held approximately one month after the Area 10 Convention in Grand Junction, which creates scheduling and participation challenges.

We need to continue evaluating how to make ColorDaze successful, both financially and as an opportunity to bring members together.

I intend to remain involved by participating on next year's ColorDaze Committee. I would like to help build on what we have accomplished and work toward making it an even more successful event in raising funds for Central Office.

A Personal Thank You

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the people who have supported me and contributed so much of their time and energy during my two years as Chair.

A special thank you to our Central Office staff, Teresa M., Bonnie B., and Deb R. Their dedication, knowledge, and willingness to help have been invaluable. The work they do every day is essential to keeping Central Office operating and serving our Fellowship.

I also want to thank our Executive Committee officers:

- Cindy D. – Vice Chair
- Liz H. – Treasurer
- TJ I -Secretary

Thank you for your commitment, guidance, cooperation, and support throughout my term.

And finally, thank you to all of our Intergroup Representatives and Members at Large who have given their time and energy to serve Central Office. Your willingness to participate, share ideas, ask difficult questions, and help make decisions is what keeps our organization moving forward.

Looking Ahead

As I conclude my term, I believe Central Office is in a better position organizationally than it was two years ago. We have improved our governing documents, strengthened our policies and procedures, expanded access to literature through our online store, developed new approaches to contributions, and worked to improve communication with our Districts and Groups.

At the same time, we must be realistic about the financial challenges ahead, the upcoming transition in office management, and the need for greater participation throughout Western Colorado.

Central Office belongs to the A.A. Groups and the members it serves. Its strength does not rest with any one Chair, officer, committee, or staff member. It depends on all of us working together, participating in the process, and accepting responsibility for carrying the message.

My hope is that the next two years will build upon the foundation we have established, address the challenges before us, and continue moving Central Office toward a financially sustainable and more broadly supported future.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Chair. It has been an honor and a privilege.

In service,

Gene F.

Chair, Central Office of Western Colorado

Western Slope Notes Nov-Dec 2026

Central Office Profit and Loss

Year to Date 2026 vs 2025

	Jan - Oct 26	Jan - Oct 25	$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
ColorDaze Sales	6,550.00	20,411.37	-13,861.37	-67.91%
Founders' Day	318.00	0.00	318.00	100.0%
Group Contributions	36,199.87	35,322.93	876.94	2.48%
Individual Contributions	4,914.27	5,673.82	-759.55	-13.39%
Intergroup Functions	317.00	0.00	317.00	100.0%
Reimbursed Expenses	-1,635.38	1,069.90	-2,705.28	-252.85%
Sales	25,105.34	21,877.38	3,227.96	14.76%
Total Income	71,769.10	84,355.40	-12,586.30	-14.92%
Cost of Goods Sold	18,781.22	15,864.81	2,916.41	18.38%
Gross Profit	52,987.88	68,490.59	-15,502.71	-22.64%
Expense				
Cash Over/Short	0.00	1.87	-1.87	-100.0%
Colordaze Event Expense	1,750.00	10,873.04	-9,123.04	-83.91%
Computer Support	2,442.05	3,860.55	-1,418.50	-36.74%
Contract Labor	52.50	0.00	52.50	100.0%
Credit Card Fees	2,566.57	1,893.35	673.22	35.56%
Dues & Subscriptions	755.00	50.00	705.00	1,410.0%
Employee Travel	699.62	1,248.65	-549.03	-43.97%
Food/Beverage	27.41	0.00	27.41	100.0%
Founder's Day Event Expense	471.00	546.07	-75.07	-13.75%
Insurance	1,822.59	2,109.00	-286.41	-13.58%
Intergroup Refreshments	0.00	30.69	-30.69	-100.0%
Internet Connection	1,000.00	999.98	0.02	0.0%
Licenses & Permits	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.0%
Office Supplies	2,019.39	2,537.82	-518.43	-20.43%
Payroll Tax Expense	3,213.29	3,202.16	11.13	0.35%
Postage	2,172.68	2,411.55	-238.87	-9.91%
Printing / Copying	85.25	295.62	-210.37	-71.16%
Professional Fees	600.00	220.00	380.00	172.73%
Registration	44.22	0.00	44.22	100.0%
Rent / Lease	2,984.20	5,207.62	-2,223.42	-42.7%
Salaries	41,989.90	41,854.00	135.90	0.33%
Sales Tax Adjustment	454.77	361.44	93.33	25.82%
Telephone Expense	987.28	977.36	9.92	1.02%
Training Expense	0.00	150.00	-150.00	-100.0%
Web-Site Expense	485.00	485.00	0.00	0.0%
Write Offs	0.00	67.14	-67.14	-100.0%
Total Expense	66,647.72	79,407.91	-12,760.19	-16.07%
Net Ordinary Income	-13,659.84	-10,917.32	-2,742.52	-25.12%
Other Income/Expense	717.06	978.80	-261.74	-26.74%
Net Income	**-12,942.78**	**-9,938.52**	**-3,004.26**	**-30.23%**

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Financial News

Group Contributions

Aug 25 to Oct 31, 2026

	TOTAL
Acceptance is the Answer	75.00
As Bill Sees It-Fruita	149.14
Beaver Creek Group	262.50
Brown Baggers-Glenwood Springs	750.00
Came To Believe	279.30
Cortez Fellowship Group	25.00
Crested Butte (CBAA)	400.00
Design for Living-Edwards	80.00
District 01	250.00
District 17	500.00
Dolores Fellowship Group	75.00
Fellowship of the Spirit	15.00
Fruita Women's Meeting	100.00
Granby	50.00
Grand Mesa Group	75.00
Hole in the Donut	130.00
Insanely Early Birds	778.14
Lunch Bunch-GJ	251.27
Next Step Serenity	300.00
Odd Balls	75.00
On Awakening	445.56
Original Early Birds	210.00
Pagosa Group	100.00
PIP Group	368.00
Promises	506.05
Rifle Jump Start Group	100.00
Salida Friday Noon	41.00
Salida Noon Zoom	80.64
Saturday Morning Women's Meeting	400.00
SIOGA	39.00
Sisters In Sobriety	750.00
Sisters in Spirit	277.00
Sober Goddess	300.00
Sober in Aspen	500.00
Steamboat Seagulls	500.00
Stepping Out	400.00
Telluride Group	1,221.00
The Book Club	338.50
The Breakfast Club	500.00
The Wild Bunch (Veterans)	50.00
There is a Solution/PS	42.00
WTF-Welcome to Fruita	458.00
	12,247.10

Individual Contributions

Aug 25 to Oct 31, 2026

	Aug 25 - Oct 31, 26
Individual Contributions	2,010.81

We are absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity and support we have received over the last couple of months! Prior to August we had been averaging $3000 a month in contributions. In just over two months the Fellowship has contributed over $14,000! Thank you to all those that have stepped up to keep Central Office's doors open!!!



We try to send out Thank You notes to acknowledge your contributions and to provide you with a receipt for your records. If you haven't received a Thank You it is probably because we don't have a good address for your group. When possible, please provide a mailing address so we can Thank You!

Western Slope Notes Nov-Dec 2026

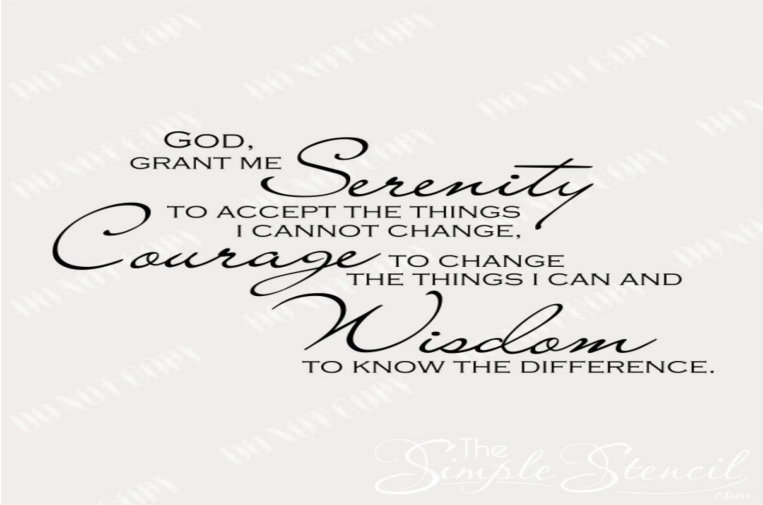
November Sobriety Celebration

Brian	K	Wranglers	11	1	**28**
Harvel	A	Early Birds I	11	1	**28**
Pam	P	Steamboat Seagulls	11	1	**37**
Christine	H		11	3	**30**
Danelle	A		11	4	**13**
Debi	L	Craig #1	11	4	**42**
Jonathan	S	Up To Ouray in AA	11	4	**43**
Anna	D	Into Action	11	6	**12**
Troy	S	Original Clifton	11	6	**30**
Michel	T	Bayfield (Scout)	11	7	**18**
Curtis	S	Attraction	11	7	**30**
Cathy	G		11	7	**37**
Rosalie	B	Craig #1	11	7	**43**
Jerry	C	Insanely Early Birds	11	8	**33**
Ron	F	Promises	11	10	**17**
Charlie	S	Meeting @ VA	11	10	**24**
Gerry	P	Open Parachute	11	10	**27**
Bert	S	Austin Group	11	10	**28**
Donna	B	S.I.O.G.A.	11	11	**33**
Timothy	M	Steamboat Seagulls	11	11	**34**
Laura	H	Attraction	11	12	**26**
Yvonne	R	Go For It	11	12	**44**
Sue	B		11	14	**20**
Gene	F		11	15	**21**
Dave	B	Robbers Roost	11	17	**28**
Denis	L	Odd Balls	11	17	**34**
Mitch	U	Steamboat Seagulls	11	17	**36**
Judy	K	Monday Nite Women	11	17	**39**
Paul	F	Steamboat Seagulls	11	17	**41**
Marci	C		11	18	**6**
Marcia	B	Lunch Bunch	11	20	**6**
Jonathan	C	Robbers' Roost	11	21	**22**
Gabby	G	Hotchkiss	11	21	**43**
Lonnie	W	Grand Jct.	11	22	**33**
Susan	L	What's the Point?	11	23	**31**
Paul	R		11	24	**43**
Mark	R		11	24	**50**
David	S	Lunch Bunch	11	25	**24**
K. Eric	A	Lunch Bunch	11	28	**22**
Charlotte		Monday Night Women	11	28	**29**



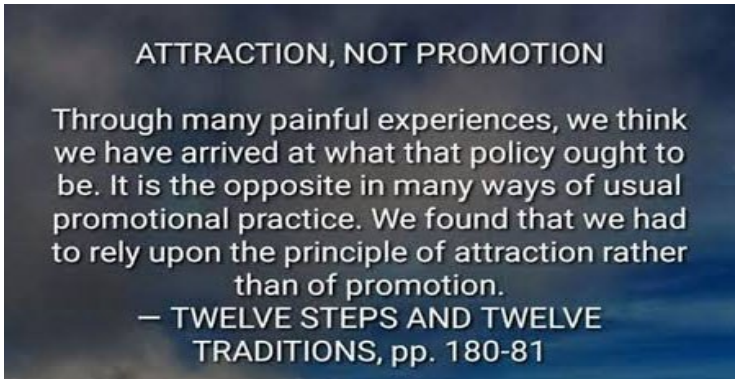
Step 11

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.



Tradition 11

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.



We make every effort to ensure that birthday information is correct, but we are human! If you see mistakes or know of someone that has left the program, please let us know!!! Email us at : centraloffice@aa-westerncolorado.com or give us a call at 970-245-9649.

Thank you!

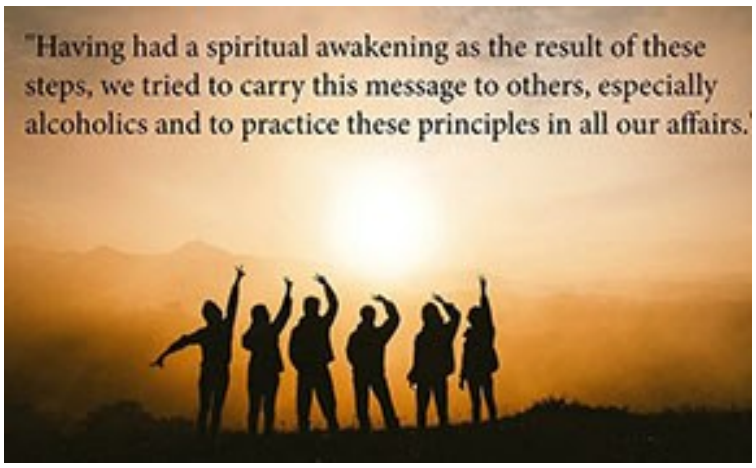
Western Slope Notes Nov-Dec 2026

December Sobriety Celebration

Steve	B		12	0	**22**
Jim	B	Lunch Bunch	12	1	**23**
Marilyn	J	H.O.W.	12	1	**32**
Mary	E	Womens Outreach	12	1	**38**
Michelle	B	Just For Today	12	2	**19**
Peter	N		12	3	**9**
Teresa	M	Central Office	12	3	**23**
Donna	R		12	4	**13**
Rachel	Z		12	4	**21**
Gayle	G	Lunch Bunch	12	4	**24**
Susan	T	Steamboat Seagulls	12	4	**34**
Matt	D	Solutions	12	6	**20**
Lorinda	D	Craig #1	12	8	**20**
Robert	W		12	10	**21**
Bobby	C	Wranglers	12	10	**28**
Duane	B	Craig	12	11	**47**
Diane	E	Serenity Seekers	12	12	**22**
Joe	M	Early Birds	12	12	**29**
Charlie	J	Open Parachute	12	12	**36**
Kirk	G	Lunch Bunch (alumni)	12	12	**37**
John	R	Early Birds I	12	13	**27**
Deb	R	Central Office	12	15	**21**
Pete	G	Early Birds I	12	15	**39**
Carol	L		12	15	**51**
Erin	K	Lunch Bunch	12	16	**37**
Amy	S		12	17	**10**
Randy	H	Steamboat Seagulls	12	18	**32**
Bobbie	C	Insanely Early Birds	12	18	**33**
Rick	M	Brown Baggers	12	18	**40**
Kate	H	P-Burg Pilgrims	12	19	**24**
Dick	T		12	19	**46**
Bruno	G	Oddballs	12	20	**6**
Kelly	B	P.I.P. Tuesday Men's	12	20	**21**
Susan	B	Aspen	12	20	**41**
Duane	W	Oregon	12	21	**25**
Randy	W	Aspen	12	21	**26**
Mark	M	Aspen	12	22	**31**
Rick	M	Craig #1	12	23	**21**
Roger	R	What's the Point?	12	23	**39**
Stephanie	M	Women's Outreach	12	23	**44**
Jim	B	Promises	12	25	**44**
Judy	B	Promises	12	25	**44**
Tom	A	Meeting @ VA	12	26	**37**
Missy	P		12	28	**42**
Susan	C		12	29	**22**

Step 12

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



Tradition 12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Who am I to judge anyone? When I first entered the Fellowship I found that I liked everyone. After all, A.A. was going to help me to a better way of life without alcohol. The reality was that I couldn't possibly like everyone, nor they me. As I've grown in the Fellowship, I've learned to love everyone just from listening to what they had to say. That person over there, or the one right here, may be the one God has chosen to give me the message I need for today. I must always remember to place principles above personalities.



Western Slope Notes Nov-Dec 2026

News from Central Office

Hi Wonderful Hotline Volunteers!

We appreciate your Service in helping the still suffering Alcoholic and the Fellowship!

It has recently come to our attention with communication updates, the multiple spam calls and new technology that some of the calls that come in to the Hotline are stopped from being received due to being identified as Spam.

After speaking to our Bespoke Hotline telephone provider if Central Office is not in your contact list, your phone will identify the caller as Spam!! Please make sure that Central Office is in your contact list (970-245-9649) as that is where all call are coming from. Also many phones have spam block feature on it so please make sure it is not on during your Hotline shift. This is Essential for our Hotline to be working at it's optimum level.

Much Thanks, Teresa M

We Have an Online Store !!!!

Please support Central Office by purchasing your literature & medallions **online:**

aa-westerncolorado.com/Shop

Or in person 740 Gunnison Ave #104 (West door) Grand Junction, CO

Stop In and See The New Products Now Available!



$5.00 While They Last!!!

No Longer Available on AAWS website. Get a reprint of the first edition before they are gone!

Western Slope Notes Nov-Dec 2026



Ted T from Basalt is looking for volunteers to take meetings into

Rifle Corrections.

If you are willing and able, please contact Ted T at (970)274-0358.

Are you willing to do 12 Step Calls in your Area???

We need members of AA willing to do 12 Step calls in your local area. We especially need AA members in the following towns:

Bayfield - Beaver Creek - Breckinridge - Crawford - Fairplay - Ignacio - Hayden - Nucla - Norwood - Oak Creek - Ridgway - Silverton

Also, we are always in need of individuals that speak Spanish and are willing to return calls for our Hispanic community.

Please contact Central Office if you are willing to have your name added to the list!

Intergroup Reps wanted!!!!!

Western Colorado has over 200 individual groups and roughly 10% are represented at the monthly Intergroup meeting. EVERY group is entitled to send a representative and have a vote in how Central Office is run. If you have questions, suggestions or complaints, please step up to be an Intergroup Representative. Contact Central Office for more information.

970-245-9649

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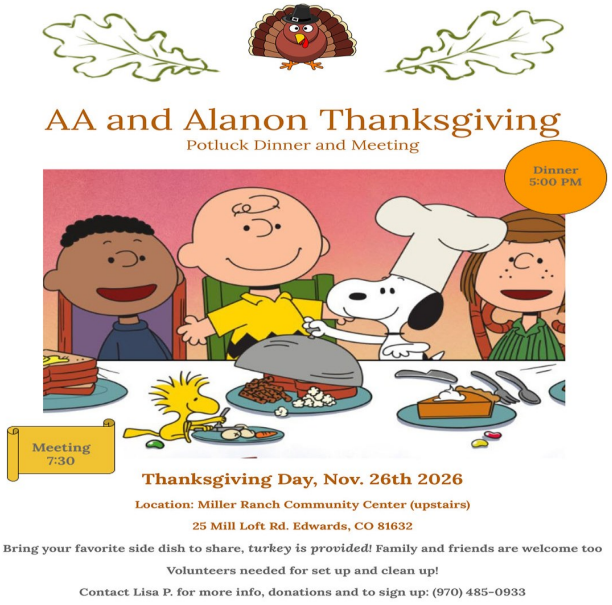
What's Happening



If you have events in your district that would you like to show in the newsletter or be posted to our website, please send a jpg or gif image to:

centraloffice@aa-westerncolorado.com





Check Your Local Club to Find Out What Other Holiday Activities they are hosting.

You Are Only Alone if You Want to Be!!!