

Chronicles from T.H.E. Coalition **an e-newsletter**

"A community's history is a story. Its residents are the characters, what they do is the plot, the theme, the action. There is no way that participation in a community can be contrived. You can't buy your way in. You can only live it." Gurney Norman

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition. We hope you will enjoy the information and story content about T.H.E. Coalition and we invite your feedback and participation with our efforts. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or impressions about this newsletter, our mission and work!

JOHN FIELDER KEYNOTES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

*J*ohn Fielder, noted photographer and author, joined T.H.E. Coalition's annual fundraiser on October 26TH. Our keynote speaker, John presented thoughts from his latest book, "*Seeing Colorado's Forests for the Trees*", and later visited with guests and signed copies of his works. John's commitment to the preservation of the natural wonders of our beautiful state clearly goes beyond his inspiring photos and books. In support of the work of T.H.E. Coalition, John donated a significant portion of his sales during this event, and our guests were happily purchasing examples of his work to give as Christmas gifts (see www.johnfielder.com to learn more about his latest books, fine art, prints, and photography workshops).



An estimated 175 guests joined in the festivities of hors d'oeuvres, live uilleann pipe music from Eric Olson, and participated in a silent auction.

T.H.E. COALITION MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

Not only was the annual fundraiser hosted at the beautiful new Woodland Park Library, the Library has set aside designated space for our new office. In keeping with the Library's intent of serving the community, T.H.E. Coalition (representing some 20+ organizations across Teller County) is grateful for the donated office space.



Our new office is located on the ground floor, adjacent to the kitchen. Ultimately, the office will house a resource center with materials relevant and available to Coalition members and area nonprofits. We will have the space furnished and fully operational shortly, so please make plans to drop by and visit.

MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

In his singular text *"Pathways to Nonprofit Excellence,"* Paul Light keenly observed that high-performance organizations actively collaborate with other organizations. This theme is echoed by numerous influential thinkers, suggesting that working together with other groups has multiple benefits and payoffs. In this vein, the original founders of T.H.E. Coalition shrewdly envisioned an organization composed of various entities working in cooperation for the betterment of our community.



Not only through its diversified membership base, T.H.E. Coalition strives to model the power of collaboration in different contexts. The annual fundraiser proved to be a stellar example. The event was an effort involving four distinct groups: 1) For **T.H.E. Coalition**, we received funding through donations and purchases by our guests; 2) **the new library** opened its doors for the event to allow visitors a "preview" of its gorgeous facility; 3) **John Fielder** benefited by sharing and promoting his latest works; and, not the least important, 4) **Woodland Park High School EPYCS (El Pomar Youth In Community Service) group**, pictured left, raised money for their philanthropic goals. Some thirty teens served as food preparers, hosts, and wait-staff for the occasion. The event allowed the youth to experience and understand the concepts and importance of philanthropy. With matching funds from El Pomar, these youth will be tasked with dispersing approximately \$8,000 to area nonprofits (see www.elpomar.org for more info).

GRANT AWARDED FROM COLORADO STATE HISTORICAL FUND

The Colorado SHF selected T.H.E. Coalition as recipient of a grant amounting to \$12,880 to develop an assessment and master plan for the historic Midland Depot at Divide (MDAD).

Significantly, next year marks the 100th anniversary of the original Depot. Working jointly with a team from Pinnacle DesignWorks, a community committee composed of interested groups has been formed to develop the plan for what most recently was the old "Whistle Stop Saloon."

Thanks to a generous gift from Pete Kuyper, matching funds were secured to meet the requirements of SHF grant. This phase of the project is estimated to take until next fall, when announcements and unveiling of the master plan will be presented. If you have any interest in this project, please contact us for details or involvement.



THINKING ABOUT YEAR-END GIFTING?

T.H.E. Coalition is a 501-c-3 organization, and your donation is fully tax deductible. If you are contemplating year-end gifts, please keep us in mind. Read further about our mission and what we doing for Teller County. Send your contribution to: T.H.E. Coalition, P.O. Box 368, Woodland Park, Co 80866. Your support will be graciously appreciated!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Three new organizations joined T.H.E. Coalition this year – **Teller County Trails Committee, Four Mile Farmers Club/Gold Belt Byway, and the Western Folk Foundation.** Welcome - we are delighted to have your affiliation. Other member organizations include:

Catamount Institute
Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company
City of Cripple Creek, Parks & Rec. Dept.
Coalition of the Upper South Platte
Divide Chamber of Commerce
Divide Park Board
Gold Camp Trails Coalition
Gold Camp Victorian Society
Palmer Foundation
Pikes Peak Community Club

Pikes Peak Historical Society
Rural Land Preservation Group
Sturman Industries
Teller County Parks Division
Teller-Park Soil Conservation District
Two Mile High Club
Ute Pass Historical Society
Ute Pass Trails Committee
Victor Heritage Society

If you would like to hear more about joining T.H.E. Coalition, or about the benefits of membership, please call Luke Cammack at 719.575.0976.

ABOUT THE LOGO

The logo for T.H.E. Coalition is an original artwork that focuses on the purpose of the organization. Our mission is to *“facilitate preservation of the historic, cultural, environmental, recreational and scenic resources in and around Teller County, and to broaden public understanding regarding the significance of those resources.”*



Mark Your Calendar

Second Tuesday of the Month: The **TC Nonprofit Roundtable** meets at 12 noon, in the Woodland Park Council Chambers. The TC Nonprofit Roundtable is a monthly gathering focused on topics leading to organizational effectiveness. The meetings are open and free to staff, Board members, donors, volunteers, and anyone interested in the various subjects. The sessions tend to be dialogic in nature, and are premised on a principle that attendees possess a wealth of knowledge and experience that can contribute to group learning. If you would like to be on the email invitation list, get me your email address (send to: LCammack3@cs.com).

October 6-8, 2004: Rural Philanthropy Days will take place in Canon City, with face-to-face meetings with foundation representatives from the state of Colorado. This meeting is geared for nonprofits from five counties, including Teller.

END NOTES/THOUGHTS FROM LUKE

Peter Senge, in his now-classic *“The Fifth Discipline,”* exhorts organizations and individuals to regularly seek self-improvement through continuous learning. With that in mind, here are a few sources for your consideration:

A good book: *“The Answer to How Is Yes”* by Peter Block (2002, Berrett-Koehler)

This text moves away from old school, control-oriented bureaucracy towards a leadership style supporting the concept that an organization is a social architecture, a living system with meaning and purpose beyond engineering and economic mindsets.

A good website: www.managementhelp.org, by Carter McNamera. This is an outstanding resource with a plethora of information and topics relevant to the nonprofit sector.