

## **Area 82 Nova Scotia Service Weekend Report June 4-6, 2010**

First of all I would like to thank the Central Service Committee for allowing me to represent you at this Service Weekend. I believe it is a valuable asset for the CSRs to get a report of what is happening in the Area. Some groups do not have GSRs and this provides a helpful service for those groups to stay connected in the Area.

The Service weekend is held at the Agricultural College in Truro NS. The Area business starts on Friday evening with the Archivist meeting, followed by the DCM & Area Officers meeting. This meeting is open to anyone who wishes to observe however only the voting members have a voice and vote. There is also a GSR workshop that happens the same time as this meeting for all the GSRs in attendance.

### **Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>**

I went to the Archivist meeting followed by the DCM & Area Officer meeting. This meeting started at 7:00 pm Friday evening. The Archivist committee consists of the Archivist (Warren C), alternate archivist (Ed DCM District 10) and the 9 other DCMs from our NS Area committee. The meeting started with Ed reading the minutes from the last meeting. The DCMs had been asked to discuss at their districts whether or not the districts wanted to continue with having archives in NS. In the past the archives have been mishandled by previous archivists. There are a lot of the materials missing that had been donated over the years. Warren felt he needed the consensus of the districts to go forward with efforts to re-establish the archives as he would need the support of the fellowship in the next few years to accomplish this task. There was 1 district which had expressed that they wanted the archives to close and any material donated by their district to be given back to them. This changed at the Archivist meeting and the DCM of that district said that his district is now in favour of continuing with restoring and preserving the archives.

Warren and another member of the Archivist committee went to NB to visit the Archivist for Area 81 and see what he was doing with digitizing the archives there. They were very interested in finding out the cost and method used by Area 81. They were shown what the process is and what equipment is used in the process. Warren put it to the floor of the Archives meeting to the DCMs that the committee is interested in purchasing equipment along the same technical lines to start the digitizing of our NS archives. The cost of purchasing this equipment is approximately \$1,800.00. It was decided by the DCMs that the committee should go ahead and purchase the equipment needed and start this procedure. The archivist hopes to ask each district to provide \$250.00 towards the cost of the equipment and supplies for start-up. This is just a suggestion as we know that not every district will be able to afford this cost where other districts may be able to afford to give more towards this endeavour. The committee will set up a bank account with any 2 of 3 signing authorities needed to sign the cheques. The signers will be the archivist, alternate archivist and the area chairperson. The equipment will belong to the NS Archives Committee and will be turned over when the Archivist term is over to the new Archivist committee.

The DCM meeting started and they discussed the Prudent Reserve. Last year when the treasurer deposited the budgeted amount in the Prudent Reserve account the bank took out \$1.00 as a bank charge. This brought our prudent reserve from the \$8,000.00 budgeted to \$7,999.00. This time the treasurer will deposit \$2,001.00 so that the \$1.00 bank fee will not bring the prudent reserve amount down. We will be keeping the prudent reserve at \$9,999.00. This will keep us under the \$10,000.00 balance that would incur interest. The full treasurer report is included at the end of this report.

There was much discussion on the agenda items. These are the areas that the GSRs discuss on the floor on Saturday afternoon as new business items. There were changes made and new items added for discussion. (More to follow in Saturdays report). The DCMs went over the roll call for each district that will take place on Saturday afternoon. The meeting ended at around 10:30 pm Friday night.

### Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>

The morning started around 9:00 am with the head table introductions and DCM reports. The head table consists of the 10 DCMs from NS and the 5 Area 82 officers. The DCMs give a report from each district letting the GSRs know what is going on their district in the way of groups, meetings and the various committees in each district.

The treasurer gave his report for the GSRs and answered any questions that they had. There was a recommendation that his report be accepted and passed unanimously.

The minutes from the last Service Weekend were read and adopted with a change made from the roll call number for district 1 being reported as 1/10 changed to 10/24. The business arising from the last minutes was addressed and the secretary stated she was going to present the new mandate at the workshop on Sunday.

The alternate delegates report is included at the end of this report. There was a recommendation that his report be accepted and passed unanimously. After this report we broke for lunch.

After lunch we started with roll call. This is the breakdown per district:

District 1- 10 out of 24 groups present  
District 2- 6 out of 16 voting groups present  
District 3- 9 out of 19 voting groups present  
District 4- 4 out of 6 voting groups present  
District 5- 1 out of 9 voting groups present  
District 6- 5 out of 9 voting groups present  
District 7- 11 out of 16 voting groups present  
District 8- 4 out of 13 voting groups present  
District 9- 9 out of 23 voting groups present  
District 10- 6 out of 8 voting groups present

65 groups out of 143 total NS groups represented. 80 total votes adding the 10 DCMs and 5 Area officers.

New Business started with agenda items:

Because the first agenda item was NS Archives, the archivist waited until now to give his report. He gave the information presented at the archivist committee meeting the previous evening to the GSRs and answered any questions from them. There was a recommendation that his report be accepted and passed unanimously.

Agenda item 2 Prudent Reserve- the treasurer discussed the prudent reserve account and that it is an interest bearing account. He explained what that meant and discussion followed on the report he gave the DCMs Friday night. It was voted and passed that he would put the \$2,001.00 in the bank to bring our prudent reserve account to the \$9,999.00 balance.

Agenda item 3 Area 82 Assembly- Information was given and a flyer passed around with the details for the 2010 Assembly to be held in Halifax, NS October 8-10. We were told that there is an online option this year for registration. The web address for this is <http://area82assemblyroundup.wordpress.com>. We were given the rotation for the next 10 years at the Assembly last year. It is as follows: 2011 Corner Brook, 2012 St. John's, 2013 Districts 3-4 NS, 2014 Sydney, 2015 Corner Brook, 2016 Halifax, 2017 St. John's, 2018 Corner Brook, 2019 St. John's. An appeal may be made at the 2010 Assembly concerning this rotation. A GSR brought up the idea of video conferencing to allow more group participation in the Assemblies. There was much discussion concerning this idea.

Agenda item 4 Young People- Murdo and Marilyn has been researching the idea of a Maritime International Conference of Young People in A.A. They have a planning committee meeting on Sunday at 1:00 pm following the Service weekend.

Agenda item 5 Agenda Items for the Service weekend and Assembly- the Area Chairperson let the GSRs know that any agenda items that the groups wanted placed on the agenda for discussion must be given to the DCMs 4 months prior to the event. The DCMs must have these agenda items handed in by written or email to the Area Chair no later than 3 months prior to the event.

Agenda item 6 Introduction to AA Service contributions online- This was launched on June 11<sup>th</sup>. There are 2 sections: personal and group sections. For a group to use this feature follow these steps: go to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) click set up profile, enter your group number (this will ensure that the contribution is credited to your group).

Agenda item 7 Provincial Round Up- there are no bids as of yet to host the Provincial Round Up for 2011. The DCMs need to go back to the districts and ask if they would be willing to host next year.

Agenda item 8 Anonymity and Social Networking Sites- the report is enclosed at the end of this report. There was much discussion about Facebook and other sites. The GSD has received many emails from delegates about this issue. One of the questions posed was if you put your group meeting information in the newspaper is this the same as putting it on Facebook?

Agenda item 9 Grapevine- the GSD passed out a survey (included at the end of this report) for the GSRs to complete and hand back in. They took 5 minutes, filled it out and handed them back in to the GSD. This survey was inspired by the 2010 Grapevine Conference Committee.

Agenda item 10 Résumés for Trustee at Large- the GSD has to contact all of the past delegates who are eligible to let their names stand for the Trustee at Large position to see if any are interested. Any résumés are to be handed in to him to pass along to the General Conference board before December 31 for consideration. The Trustee at Large is voted on at the General Conference in April in NY.

Agenda item 11 Flag Ceremony for the AA 75<sup>th</sup> World Convention in San Antonio- anyone interested in watching the flag ceremony can do so by logging on to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and following the links. It will be available for viewing all day Saturday and Sunday from your home computer. No special password required for this viewing.

At 3:30 we did the “Ask It Basket”. This gives anyone the chance to ask a question without needing to be identified. The first question was concerning the Lord’s Prayer. Someone wondered should we be using the Lord’s Prayer at the close of our meetings. The chair answered this question. He stated that at the groups we always include” if you wish” at the end of the statement so that anyone who does not want to say this does not feel they have to participate. Some groups do the Responsibility Statement to make this more inclusive for all groups and religious affiliations. The second question was “If you have someone drunk in a meeting, would you put them out of the meeting or call police?” AA would never involve the police unless there was a safety concern for the others at the meeting or the individual themselves. You would handle each case individually and then proceed always keeping in mind that anonymity is spiritual foundation of all our traditions ever reminding to keep principles before personalities.

At 4:00 pm Don F. put on a workshop “The AA Group- Where It All Begins”. Don started the workshop with a quote from page 89 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Big Book. He continued by stating that concept 1 says that the final voice of the fellowship rests with the AA groups. How each group conducts their affairs creates a ripple effect throughout the whole body and other groups in AA. He read from the preface “Heartbeat of AA”. The pamphlet “Where it all begins” is a valuable tool to help the newcomer. We are to provide information to the groups and not “tell” them what to do. Group conscience meetings are an important tool to help the groups function in a healthy and spiritual way. The minority voice is important to hear. Early group inventories included the “10 questions”.

Don had the GSRs break up into groups and passed out a sheet with questions for the groups to answer (included at the end of this report). The groups came back and discussed the answers they came up with. Some of the general answers were: the essence of H.O.W., everybody has the right to be wrong, taking inventory- practice tolerance and know the middle ground, there is no unity in criticism, support what I understand and understand what I do not know. Last but not least the groups seemed to all agree on the statement Progress not Perfection!

There was another workshop on Saturday evening put on by one of our past delegates Sonny S. the topic for this workshop was "Importance of Service (Traditions and Concepts)". He spoke on concept 9 and excerpts from the Grapevine about how our leaders are not driven by mandate. It is important to apply the traditions and the concepts in the groups and in service to keep AA running in unity. Sonny opened the floor up to the GSRs to discuss what they felt about this topic. There were many good ideas and discussion about the use of the concepts in service and the GSRs got to hear how other districts and groups are applying this in their areas.

#### Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>

We started at 9:00 am with the workshop "Answers to the Mandate for Service Meetings" put on by Marilyn R. She stated that some people find the word Mandate harsh. She believes that you can call this many things such as Statement of Purpose or whatever works for the group. It's mainly just about carrying the message. Recovery comes first using the principles of Honesty, Open-mindedness and Willingness; we have to work for it and strive to achieve our common goals. Unity is any 2 people sharing the message; Service is when we learn to work with the groups. Nothing works unilaterally: Marilyn used many examples out of the Big Book and using the Traditions to show these points. The Mandate Statement and action plan are attached at the end of this report. It will be put on the agenda for the Assembly for discussion and vote to make this our AA Mandate for Service.

The Area 82 Treasurer gave us a final count for the amount taken in at this service weekend. There were a total of 101 registered for \$2,020.00. There was \$1,932.09 given to the Area in Group Contributions.

We had an AA meeting from 10:30- 11:30 speaker was Blaise and after the meeting we ended the Service weekend.

After lunch the meeting was held for the Maritime International Conference of Young People in AA. Murdo chaired the meeting and started by going over the information he had to date. He will be going to the Assembly in October for Area 82 and asking for some funding to help with set up for a MICYPAA convention to be held in the spring 2011 in Truro. They have tentatively booked the Holiday Inn as a location. Murdo felt that a committee needed to be formed to start the next planning stages. The people in attendance discussed what was needed for certain positions and then Murdo asked anyone interested please let their names stand. Alex L. is the Chairperson, Jessica B. is the Co-Chairperson, Amelia C. is the Treasurer and Adam A. is the Secretary. They have decided to have another meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm after the mid-summer round up in Truro. If anyone has suggestions for speakers or would like to be involved then please attend that meeting and bring your ideas then.

Once again I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to participate in this weekend. I hope this report gives the CSRs a sense of the activities and ideas that happen at a service weekend. My wish is that through this report any group without a GSR may still feel that they are included in the information flow of AA as a whole, and maybe this report will make groups aware of how important a GSR is to the service structure in our district, area and the AA community worldwide.

Yours in Service,

Trudy D.