

CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
St. Mark's Church
5522 Russell Street, Halifax

- **Welcome and Open:** Prior to the formal opening of our meeting, Foster invited the minister of St. Mark's Church to say a few words. He gave us some background on the church's history, on-going works and up-coming historical festivities for the church. Meeting opened by Foster L. at 7:00 p.m. with a few moments of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. All were welcomed to the December CSC meeting at our new location.
- **Call for Items to be added to the agenda:** No items to add to agenda.
- **Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Rick.
- **Roll Call:**
 - Executive:*** Foster L. – Chair, Paul B. - Co-chair, Arlene P. – Secretary, and Andrew P. – Treasurer.
 - Committees:*** Jacqueline K. – Mid-Winter Round-up Chair, Bill P. – Bluenose Bulletin Editor, and Leah C. - Phone Chair.
 - CSRs:*** Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Deb W. - Downtown Dartmouth, Ron H. – Colby Village BBS, Brad A. - Fresh Start, Garry M. – Second Chance, Reed H. - The Only Requirement, Clare L. - Welcome, Mary T. - West End Step, Sarah S. - Living in the Solution, Bruce M. - St. Margaret's Bay, Hamish M. - Live for Today, Pamela M. - Acceptance, Rick H. – Highland Park, Allan M. – Sunrise, and Christine M. - Serenity Sisters.
 - Alternate CSRs:*** Barry L. - Back to Basics
 - Double Duty:*** Evan McF. – Literature Chair / Four Seasons CSR, and Trudy D. - Representative for Cole Harbour Group / District 2 DCM.
 - Others:*** Nancy R. - Porters Lake Representative, John MacF. - District 1 Alt. DCM, Tim M. - Area 82 Alt. GS Delegate, Donnie B. - observer, Tom R. - observer, Doug P. - observer, Sarah S. - observer, and Rob A. - observer.
- **7th Tradition:** \$46.05 collected, taken by Andrew P.
- **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** Error – in the Webmaster's report – it read “*District 1 will keep track of their own Treasurer/Secretary accounts.*” It should have read “*District 1 will keep track of all of their accounts.*” Accepted as amended– Bill.
Comment – Thanks to the secretary's efforts for the wording and background information on the new business item for The Only Requirement Group's Inclusion to the meeting list and newsletter. It was quite helpful.
- **Reports:**
 - Executive:***
 - Secretary:*** Good evening, everyone. It was three weeks before the minutes were completed and posted on the website this time. I appreciate everyone' s patience with my being able to get them done. If you have any questions pertaining to the minutes, I would appreciate it if you would contact me as I am hearing that other officers seem to be fielding those emails/phone calls instead of me. As it is my position and responsibility, I can give whatever information you may need pertaining to the minutes, as I well know that you can't get notes on everything that goes on during the meeting.

As to the feedback I asked for, I received none. So I guess I will keep editing as needed. A reminder, please do not send me your reports in PDF as I do not own an editing program. And I will have to re-type what you have sent to me to get it into the minutes.

Thanks again for sending in your reports earlier as I really only had Monday evening to work on the rough draft, as I worked both days this time round. I did send out confirmation emails to all who sent in their reports early.

Yours in service, Arlene P., Secretary

No questions.

Treasurer: November's numbers: Opening Balance \$4246.45, Credits \$3642.20, Debits \$1524.37, Closing Balance \$6364.28, Outstanding Cheques \$0.00, Operating Balance \$6364.28, and Prudent Reserve \$3166.77. Total available funds \$9531.06.

Yours in Service, Andrew P., Treasurer

Comment – The refund for the Group Insurance will show in January 2016's statement.

Co-chair: Dear all members of the Central Service Committee, during the month of November, I have met several times with Foster to discuss many items. Most recently was the key to our new facility (St Marks Church). This past month, I also helped with the Help Email and assisted Carol-Ann in several requests. My Criminal Record check is in the works and should have it in the next few days.

Yours in service, Paul B., Co-chair, Central Service.

No questions.

Chair: Good evening, this is our last meeting of 2015 and I find it difficult to believe the year has gone so quickly. It has been a successful year of carrying the message and all our committees has been very active. We have seen changes to the website that make it more user-friendly, improvements to the Bluenose Bulletin, lots of entertainment options and a steady commitment to our hospital visits. Literature sales are strong and their outreach to the groups is tremendous. Our Help Email is responsive, informative and understanding of people's needs and the phones continue to be the first point of contact for many. Our Mid-Winter Roundup builds on year-after-year success and is a highlight of our dreary winters. Thanks to the Executive for all your time and effort in supporting Central Service this past year. As mentioned last month, I urge all of you to continue looking for ways to improve our level of service to others as we welcome in 2016.

I was unable to attend the District 2 meeting in November as I was in Yarmouth for the annual Lighthouse Round-up; a report was sent to the DCM and read into the minutes. You will all be pleased to know my criminal records check came back clean and Paul and I attended a meeting at St. Mark's church on November 19th to meet the pastor, do a walk-about of the premises and pick-up the key and security code. A copy of the record checks and our group insurance policy has been provided to them. Additionally, Paul and I met on two occasions to discuss committee matters.

Our insurance premium has been paid. The refund cheques from Royal were lost in the mail and had to be canceled. I have sent them letters of indemnity and new cheques have been issued. The total refund of the original \$1000 premium is \$940.00.

I again thank all of you for this past year and hope each of you enjoy the Christmas holidays. I hope to see you at the Christmas Eve social and don't forget the New Year's Eve dance.

Yours in service, Foster L., Chair, Central Service Committee

No questions.

Executive Reports recommended for approval by Pamela.

Committees:

Mid-Winter Round Up: (Jacqueline was present, but said there was no report as they hadn't had their meeting yet, but they are still looking for volunteers for some positions on the committee.)

Webmaster/Website/Email: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) We had 3,400 views of the web site in November. The tool that measures activity has changed from Google Analytics to Jetpack so I suspect the high number this month is due to this new tool (what it counts, how it measures).

I cleaned up our subscriber list, removing a few bad email addresses. We have 497 subscribed members getting the monthly email.

In November, I received two requests from the Volunteer page. I forwarded the messages to the chair of the appropriate committee(s) and hopefully those people volunteering have already been contacted and invited into service. I also received one request submitted from the Meeting List page, but it was really a help request, so I forwarded that to our Help Email Coordinator.

The new Group Insurance Policy Fact Sheet has been posted to the web. The link is available in the right-hand menu.

Once again, we had a brief outage of our various calendars on the web site due to up-dating the calendar plug-in, but the issue was resolved fairly quickly and once again, I'd like to thank Pedro for his continued help when these issues arise.

I have not yet received any photos from my announcement in the newsletter which I also posted on the web, but it's only been one month, so it may take a while for people to notice and actually take action. We should keep the announcement in the newsletter for Jan/Feb perhaps...Bill P can you please ensure it stays in there?

I have let the Chair know that I'm not available for the next couple of Central Service meetings due to a short-term AA sponsoring commitment. I will be reading the minutes to keep informed and submitting my report as usual. As always, any feedback/ideas that you have are most welcome; you can reach me via email at webmaster.aahalifax@gmail.com or call me at 902.476.7690.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

Help Email Coordinator: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) Good day fellow members, this is Carol-Anne with an overview about help emails during the month of

November, 2015. There were 9 Help Emails that included requests or comments about their drinking or the drinking of a loved one. There were various responses to the emails sent in.

As mentioned, many of the requests ranged from friends and family seeking help for a loved one to others seeking help on "how they join AA." Other emailers wanted to know about meetings, locations, and what membership entails. A big shout out to Central Service Co-Chair, Paul, who helped with emails during the last week of October and the first week of November, while I was away. Thank you. I feel that all emails were handled with support, compassion, and understanding. I still sometimes confer with Foster on responses and/or he provides important feedback on the emails.

All in all, it was a productive month for help emails. Thank you all for allowing me to be of service.

Warm Regards, Carol-Anne D., Help Email Coordinator

Hospital Visitation: (Absent and no report was sent in.)

Telephone: Good evening everyone, everything is going great with the phones. We continue to have members step up to volunteer. I would like to ask all of the CSR's to remind their group members who take the phone to make sure when they charge the phone that they remember to put the charger back in the binder, as we seem to be losing a lot of chargers.

I have been contacted by Jamie Q., the Public Information Chair in regards to the AA television ads which are about to be shown on Eastlink. He told me that the commercials will be played in all three Maritime provinces as well as Newfoundland. The ads will have our local website and AA line number. This means that the volume of calls to the phones may increase significantly. We will have to gather all of the telephone numbers for all of the Districts in those provinces so we can give those numbers to people calling from other provinces. There may be an increase in the phone bill due to long distance as a result as well.

As always I ask that you all still continue to announce at your groups the importance and need for volunteers to answer the phones as well as getting members names on the 12 Step list.

Thank you, Leah C., Phone Committee Chair

Questions – Why has the cell phone bill increased? Is it due to Long Distance charges? She will look into it, but when a message is left, people do need to return the call and that may include long distance charges.

Comment - Tim M., the Area 82 Alternate GS Delegate, will help supply the Area 82 information that Leah is looking to acquire for the phone binder.

Newsletter:

1. As of November 30, 2015, the final version of the newsletter is now posted. A last minute change for the West End announcement was advised, which provided the opportunity to add a late announcement and correct a duplication. The duplication allowed the changes without problems with re-formatting and change of fonts.
2. There was a major revision of the newsletter this past year to make it purely an events calendar. This continues to be well received. The goal remains to try to keep the Bulletin to three pages. There is a monthly challenge to condense some of the more elaborate announcements into this format.
3. Groups have been supportive in meeting the 25th of the month deadline.

4. I wish thank Trudy D. for her efforts at acting as proof reader. It is more than helpful to have someone savvy as to the ways of A.A. to trust the announcements as submitted which she has passed on to the editor.
5. The position of editor of the Bluenose Bulletin is a different type of service position compared to other positions, in that the editor is answerable to everybody and they are passionate about their announcements and any errors.
6. Following a year of experience, I think I now know what I am doing.

It's been a privilege and it has certainly deepened my understanding of the A.A. organization. I have a couple of interested candidates to take over which I will be mentoring over the next year into the mysterious processes of being Bluenose Bulletin Editor.

Best Regards in Service, Bill P., Bluenose Bulletin Chair

Question – Is there anyway that the link to the Newsletter from the monthly letter sent out by the Web Administrator can be fixed? A member is having difficulty with using the link – it will not open the document – receives only a blank page. Bill will contact Heather about that.

Entertainment: We are sad to say, but we will be canceling the crib tournament till further notice. If we hear from the members that we want to start it up again, or even had it at a different venue, we will. I would like to thank all the members that had come out for fellowship and good clean fun.

We are getting very excited about our New Year's Eve potluck and dance, tickets are going fast, please see me or others around the rooms for tickets. Only \$5 for food, laughs, and dancing, can't beat it.

If anyone has any ideas for some winter fun, example, skating, sleigh rides, or snowball fights, please call me at 902-476-3057. We are looking into having an AA Talent show in March or April, if this is something that sounds like fun, again, please call or text 902-476-3057.

Thank you, yours in service, Samaira

Comments – Samaira said that the phone number listed for the Entertainment committee needs to be changed to (902)476-3057. And that there are only 40 tickets left for the New Year's Eve Party at 3 Dundas Street in Dartmouth. (**Update** – as of Dec. 13 – only 8 left. Please contact Samaira if you want a ticket. Fire code regulations will be enforced so no one will be allowed to just “show up at the back door” if tickets are sold out.)

Literature: Good evening everyone, it's been a busy month for Literature. I met with my Co-chair on Friday, November 20th to discuss the Literature Showcase. The Showcase on Sunday, November 22nd went very well. We got a nice turnout, and we took in a total of \$805.25 in orders. There were quite a few orders outside the Literature Showcase this month. I put in one order from GSO for \$717.35, and an order from Grapevine for \$606.08.

I met with Andrew yesterday. We went to the bank and I transferred \$750 back into the Central Service account. That clears up the funds I owed back to Central Service from Literature earlier in the year. After doing that, the balance in the Literature account as of today is \$939.25. This left plenty of money to put in another order with GSO, which I'll do tomorrow. There are no cheques or any cash to be deposited at this time. The balance of the account plus remaining inventory value of \$5741.05 gives us a total value of \$6680.30. There are a few groups that have not paid for their order yet, so there will be more funds coming in shortly. However I don't report money that I will be getting, only what we have.

To anyone who is wondering, the 2016 Grapevine calendars and pocket planners are in. We have 20 of each at the moment, but if/when they sell, I can order more. The Grapevine has a promotion on right now where we can get free shipping until the end of the year. This makes it easy to get more pocket planners/calendars or other Grapevine literature quickly during this time. The calendars are \$12.00 and the pocket planners are \$7.00.

Also, we now have copies of the new Grapevine book "Forming True Partnerships" (How AA members use the program to improve relationships. We have 5 at the present time, but I can order more if they sell quickly over the next month. It is the book of the month for December. I figured it would be a good fit since it's a new book. People may want to buy it for themselves, or even for a Christmas gift.

As I said it has been a busy month, and I am thinking December will be busy as well. I wish you all the best over the Christmas holiday.

Yours in Service, Evan McF., Literature Chair

Question – Has the Literature Showcase decreased the inventory? Yes, it has – there is approximately \$5700 in literature at the moment.

Comment – Evan – if there are any groups here tonight that ordered literature at the Showcase, he has those orders with him. Please see him after the meeting.

District 1: (John MacF., Alternate DCM District 1 reads Fred's report.) Well, it is getting close to Christmas and another year is coming to a close. It has been a great year at District 1. All of the committees have been doing some of the best work that the districts has seen in years. I have been to many of the groups, yet there are more to get to, but I don't think I will get to them this year.

My work has been made easy because of the co-operation of the Executive Members of the District along with the Committees and their Chairs who have taken the time to do their work in AA. November came and went so fast and I did not get out to very many meetings because of personal reasons.

I was glad that I got to the CPC workshop and saw such a wonderful presentation. The CPC committee is developing a wonderful program in our Districts. We could take a lesson from them and I will give their committee thanks for their hard work.

Sometimes when we are new, we want to get right in there and do some of this work, but first we need some time under our belt before we jump in. This is hard for the newcomer to understand – first we take care of ourselves, then we can do service work. I am not sure why I put this in here, but I did.

This month we will get going after we have taken the inventory at the district, which should go well. Yes, it did go well and those who attended said they really enjoyed having this inventory. We covered a lot of ground because of our Area 82 Alternate Delegate, Tim M., who came up with a District Inventory of 14 Questions. Thank you, Tim, for doing such a great job for us at District One.

Fred D., District 1 DCM

District 2: Trudy was present to represent her home group, so she was not prepared with a report for District 2. Cathy was absent and no report was sent in. Trudy did add that in District 2, there was a desperate need for a secretary at the executive level and if anyone knew someone capable of the taking on the position, please contact her.

No questions.

Area 82: The Area 82 General Service Delegate, Tim M., mentioned a few things. (Secretary's note: No report was sent. My apologies for my sketchy notes on this.) Things to be decided next year would be a pre-conference assembly which will take place at the Service Weekend, that there was discussion of doing an Area Inventory. It had been 10 years since one had been carried out. It would be done on a voting year. And he sent best wishes to all for the holidays.

Other: no report tonight

Committee Reports were recommended for approval by Allan.

Old Business:

a) **Elections:**

- a) **Hospital Visitation Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- b) **Newsletter Co-chair** – Rob nominated, he answered the tables' questions (he has a background in graphic design) and was voted in unanimously. Welcome to the committee, Rob!
- c) **Telephones Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- d) **Entertainment Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.

b) **Group Insurance Reserve Fund – Decision item to explore further** After some clarification, the motion put to the floor was “Should we consider the concept of a pool for the deductible and strike up a committee to research the pros and cons”. After some discussion, the vote was held. For – 11, Against 9, and Abstaining – 3. The Minority Voice was called to present additional information and after, one vote was changed from For – 10, Abstaining – 4, Against unchanged at 9. Our Co-chair, Paul, will take care of it as the Insurance Policy is part of his mandate.

c) **The Only Requirement Group resolution – Decision item** The motion on the floor was the reconsideration of the original decision that was made last fall. And that original decision was that “*The Only Requirement Group should not be listed on the local meeting list and that their announcements should not be placed in the Bluenose Bulletin*”. The Chair set out the ground rules prior to discussion, as he would not be speaking to this topic and he would not be taken part in the vote. Only if there was a tie, would he be voting. After much discussion, a vote was called. For – 15, Against – 8, and Abstaining – 3. When Minority Voice was called, there was no additional information added. No votes were changed. The vote stands, The Only Requirement Group will be added to the meeting list and their announcements will be allowed in the Bulletin. The Chair asked if the group would allow the wording of Agnostic Group in parenthesis beside their name in the meeting list as a descriptor and the CSR of that group agreed.

New Business:

- a) **Budget 2016 – The Draft copy of the 2016 Budget was passed out and presented by the** Treasurer and the Chair and the CSRs were asked to bring this back to their groups for discussion. Also the committees were asked to check their numbers and make sure they will have the amount needed to take care of their committees. The budget will voted on during the January 5, 2016 meeting. A few questions were asked as to why there were no amounts in the Outreach and Grapevine categories. The Grapevine subscription for Institutions was stopped last year, but if groups wanted it re-instated, please bring that to the January meeting. The Out-reach category was there from last year, a committee was formed, the monies were budgeted for, agreed upon by the CS and in the end, it was decided it would be best used by assisting the Districts (1 and 2) and it was divided up between the two.

Announcements: (that didn't make it into the Bluenose Bulletin)

Fresh Start will be having their Candlelight meeting on Wednesday, December 23 @ 8:30 pm at the community center on 45 Connolly Road in Sackville.

Back to Basics will be holding their usual meeting on Christmas Day and January 1.

There will be no meeting for the Harbour's Group on December 6 as the hall they meet in is unavailable.

Four Season's meeting on the 24th of December will be an open meeting.

Taken from AA Website -

Highland Park's Thursday night meeting is cancelled on December 24th and December 31st as the building is closed by 5 pm both days. We apologize for the inconvenience and short notice.

Due to a church function, the West End Step group **will not** be holding a meeting on December 24th.

Next CSC Meeting is January 5, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.