

CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
United Memorial Church
5350 Young Street, Halifax

- **Welcome and Open:** 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 November CSC meeting, our last meeting at this location.
- **Call for Items to be added to the agenda:** Items to add to Old Business – Christmas Eve Cocktail Party Update and to New Business – Only Requirement Group – Inclusion into the Meeting List and Newsletter and Group Insurance Deductible.
- **Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Jacqueline.
- **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: Pedro B. - Atlantic, Rick H. – Highland Park, Debbie W. - Downtown Dartmouth, Garry M. – Second Chance, Gerry L. - Serenity, Sarah S. - Living in the Solution, Clare L. - Welcome, Christine M. - Serenity Sisters, Mary T. - West End Step, Pamela M. - Acceptance, Allan M. – Sunrise, Ron H. – Colby Village BBS, Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Hamish M. - Live for Today, and Reed H. - The Only Requirement.
Alternate CSRs: Margaret S. - Acceptance
Double Duty: Evan McF. – Literature Chair / Four Seasons CSR.
Others: Cathy MacN. – District 2 Alt. DCM, Doug P. - observer, and Scott T. - observer.
- **7th Tradition:** \$ 40.10 collected, taken by Andrew P.
- **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** There were no errors or omissions. Recommended by approval – Kenny.
- **Reports:**

Executive:

Secretary: Good evening, everyone. Again, it was over two weeks to get the minutes completed to hand over to the Website for posting. I hesitate to say this, but due to issues completely out of my control, this has become the normal time line for getting this stuff ready. I apologize for any inconvenience this may be causing, especially for the groups who have business meetings early in the month. It bears repeating that it is important to take good notes at the meeting, so the delay in the minutes being posted won't affect you as much.

I asked for feedback last month from the Central Service populace as to the differences in your reports that you send in and what I am changing for the minutes. Other than a comment at the last meeting, I have received no feedback on the subject. I was thinking, just for shits and giggles, maybe for one set of minutes, I will just copy & paste exactly what is sent to me and publish that. That may ensure me of some feedback.

I will have to thank Heather for stepping forward and writing something up for the photo idea for the newsletter this month. With my continuing issues, it completely slipped my mind to write in time for the 25th deadline, thanks again for coming to my rescue.

(For those not in attendance of tonight's meeting - please send in your contact information, especially if you are your group's representative (CSR, Alt. CSR or contact person.)

Again, I worked today so it is greatly appreciated those members who sent in their reports before and on Monday. This allowed me to compile a rough draft to take to tonight's meeting. I did send out confirmation emails to all who sent in their reports early. But fewer and fewer people are sending their reports in early for me, so I cannot guarantee I will have it to read if you aren't present at the meeting. Please email secretary.aahalifax@gmail.com if there are any questions pertaining to the minutes.

Yours in service, Arlene P., Secretary

No questions. Recommended for Approval by Leah.

Treasurer: Good Evening, as you will see on this month's Activity Statement, there was nothing reported under the "Credits" section of the report. I had an exceptionally busy month and with my hours, combined with the restrictive hours of the bank we deal with, I was unable to make any deposits. My first day to do so was yesterday (November 2nd) and all deposits will be reflected in the report I give in December. I will report that I deposited \$832.40 yesterday, \$440.00 of that was for group insurance, \$42.20 was from the collected 7th Tradition of last month's meeting and finally, \$350 was a group contribution from the Sunday Night Serenity Group. Again, all of this will be reported and documented in my Activity Statement which I will present in December.

October's numbers: Opening Balance \$4625.28, Credits \$0.00, Debits \$378.83, Closing Balance \$4246.45, Outstanding Cheques \$224.38, Operating Balance \$4022.07, and Prudent Reserve \$3166.64. Total available funds \$7567.54.

Yours in Service, Andrew P., Treasurer

Questions – Bank total and Operating Balance – the amounts don't add up properly, as presented in the Monthly Activity Statement. Andrew figured out the proper amounts. (Above numbers for October show adjustment.)

- Who was the Criminal Background Fee for? This was for Foster – the new meeting location required this for giving him a key to the facility. This comes out of the Chair's budget. The Co-chair will also have this expense in next month's report as he too has to go through this procedure to satisfy the new location's requirements to be issued a key.

Comment – Foster added that he would like all committees chairs and executive members to supply the Treasurer with an amount of money that they would need for an operating budget for next year's up-coming budget. If they could bring those numbers to next month's meeting, that would be greatly appreciated.

Recommended for Approval by Ron.

Co-chair: In this past month, I had a meeting with Foster in which we discussed the new insurance policy, as well as a date in which we will be retrieving the keys from Saint Mark's Church. I will be scheduling an appointment this week to have my criminal record check completed. I attended the District 1 meeting on October 18, 2015 and there was an excellent turnout and a lot of issues were resolved. I have offered assistance to Carol-Anne with the help

emails, while she is away and will continue to assist when she returns. There were only one request for assistance.

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

No questions. Recommended for Approval by Evan.

Chair: Good evening, October has been somewhat quiet, likely as a by-product of having an active co-chair. Paul and I met to de-brief the October meeting, review the insurance file and the Help Email backup for Carol-Anne as she is on vacation.

I attended the District 2 meeting and I thank Paul for attending District 1. A letter of notice and thanks was sent to United Memorial Church. They replied saying they were pleased to support our committee and thanked us for being part of their community for so long. They wish us well and are pleased we are staying in the neighbourhood.

I have been to H.R.P.D. and started the process for a criminal record check needed to get the key for St. Mark's. I will be picking up the key in early November.

To date, I have heard nothing else from Royal Insurance as to the amount of our refund and the premium to Economical of \$1200 remains outstanding. We were given 30 days from October 11th to pay the bill so I have been holding off hoping the refund from Royal arrives before then.

As we approach the last meeting of 2015 and enter into the final year of our mandate, I would like to thank all committee chairs for the excellent service provided to date and ask you to do an assessment of your role with a view to how we may improve in 2016. I am available at any time to discuss this with you, should you wish to do so.

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

Question – As a matter of procedure, would it easier to have all the Executive Reports read and then ask for a person to recommend all of the reports at once? Rather than after each report, as it is done now for the Executive. After a short discussion, the table decided that was a good idea and it will be implemented at the next meeting.

Recommended for Approval by Rick.

Committees:

Mid-Winter Round Up: We meet on Sunday. The committees gave their reports. Treasurer reported the only transaction was the \$6.50 bank fee. The Registration committee had their first PayPal registration. Al-Anon is working on speakers and topics and will have for those for the December meeting. We filled the position of co-chair, which we are very pleased about. Tim M. has stepped into that position. Thanks Tim!! We lost one of the registration co-chairs, as he is no longer a member of AA at this time. That position is now available.

We are in need of an Entertainment Chair. To ensure that the duties are covered, I am contacting the DJ and Tim is contacting the choir to confirm. I asked Peter J. after the meeting if he would step into the position and he has agreed. He will come to table next month to be voted in and take over. Entertainment is now in good shape and everything covered.

The Program Chair was not at the meeting. This was the third consecutive meeting missed and they has been unresponsive. It was discussed and voted on at the meeting as to how the

program should be handled. As per the MWRU guidelines, if someone misses 3 meetings, they will no longer be on the committee. We are at the point that the program is at a critical stage. I am going to rough-draft the program based on the theme and topics discussed and voted on. I will forward to Pedro and Tim to format and bring to the table for approval for the next meeting. We must book speakers A.S.A.P. As we don't know if any speakers are already booked and confirmed, it was decided I would contact the speakers that were referred to me and see if they would be willing and able to come and in the meantime, I am trying to reach the Program Chair to find out about the speakers whom may already be booked. We have given it a two week deadline for the previous Program Chair to get back to me about speakers and if there still is no response, we must move forward on booking speakers. I have confirmed the native dancers.

Yours in service, Jacqueline K, Chair of 2016 Mid-Winter Round-up Committee

Question – Could the committee put on the pre-registration flyer the time that the Registration Desk opens on the opening day of the Round-up? This is the question that this CSR is asked the most each year by his group members and the information has not been readily available. Jacqueline will get that added to the flyer.

Recommended for Approval by Garry.

Webmaster/Website/Email: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) My apologies for having to miss this meeting and thanks to Arlene for presenting my report. We had 1,954 visits to the web site in October, and our subscriber list added 6 more users last month with a total of 504 subscribers receiving the monthly e-mail.

A reminder to all users of Central Service Gmail accounts. Please do not change the password! These passwords are recorded by the Web Master so that if someone new takes a position, the Gmail access can be handed over. Also the Web Master must have access to the Gmail account from time to time; e.g. to setup automatic forwarding during an absence like vacation. These are not personal accounts; they were set-up for use by different people over time as they serve on the Central Service committees, etc. If you have changed the password on your position's Gmail account, please tell me what the new password is so I can record it... but best practice is to never change the password. It is really important to keep track of this information, thanks to all for your cooperation.

Last thing about Gmail accounts. District 2 has agreed that the Central Service Web Master will keep track of the passwords to their Treasurer and Secretary Gmail accounts. District 1 will keep track of their own accounts. The rest of the district accounts (both DCMs, and the four committees) were already on the Web Master's list so will continue to be maintained by the Web Master.

From the last CS meeting, a great idea was put forward that AA members could send in photos from around HRM which may be able to be used as the banner at the top of the web site pages. In addition, it was suggested that perhaps displaying photos of meetings in our districts would be fun as well; like what they have in each Grapevine. I submitted an announcement to the newsletter to ask AA members for these two groups of photos.

As always, any feedback/ideas that you have are most welcome; you can reach me via email at webmaster.aahalifax@gmail.com.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

Recommended for Approval by Pedro.

Help Email Coordinator: (Absent, report sent in and read by Co-chair, Paul.) Good day, fellow AA members, this is an overview about help emails during the month of October 2015. In total, there were 5 emails; however that does not include responses by email or phone calls. The emails ranged from those who have never been to AA and looking for the courage to attend that first meeting. Suggestions were offered on how to make that first step of walking through the doors of AA, and the important of Anonymity in the rooms.

Central Service Co-Chair Paul B. graciously stepped in to answer emails from October 22 to present, as I am away. A special thanks to Paul for volunteering to back me up for two weeks. At this point, I have still been unable to find a permanent back-up or Co-Chair of sorts for Help Emails; however, I have been putting the word out about this vital position.

Hope this information proves helpful. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, or queries. Thank you for allowing me and Paul to be of service with the Help Emails during the month of October.

Kind Regards, Carol-Anne D., Help Email Coordinator, 902-407-5955 and Paul B., Central Service Co-Chair / Help Email Fill-in, cochair.aahalifax3@gmail.com

Recommended for Approval by Mary.

Hospital Visitation: (Absent and there is no report for this month as there has been no activity of this committee.)

Telephone: Good evening everyone, not alot to report, things are going well. We had two new groups take the phones last month, The Lost and Found Group and The Only Requirement Group. There was an issue with the Lost and Found Group getting the phones to the West End Group on the weekend of October 17, 2015, we will call it growing pains and going forward, it will not be a problem.

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

No questions. Recommended for Approval by Pamela.

Entertainment: (Absent and no report to read at meeting, report later sent.) I am so sorry about missing the meeting yesterday, it's not like me to totally forget like that. Was in the hospital that day and when I got home, just totally forgot about it, again so sorry.

We still have the Crib Tournament running on the last Saturday of the month at 45 Connolly Road.....come on down and meet some new members and have a snack. Anyways a great time. New Years Eve tickets are out and about for sale, if you have any problem getting yours, please call me at 902-476-3057. We are looking into have a Variety Show in March, please call if you have an ideas for that up-coming event.

Thank you, yours in service, Samaira

Literature: Good evening, there is not much to report from literature this month. We have our Literature Showcase coming up on the 22nd of this month, so we're beginning to promote that. It is in the newsletter and on the website as well. It'll be a good opportunity for people to come

see what we have and maybe get ideas for literature you'd like to have. Our bank account as of yesterday is at \$1113.61, and our inventory is at \$6728.70 for a total of \$7842.31. Nothing further to report at this time.

Great to be able to be of service, Evan McF., Literature Chair

Question – For the Literature Showcase, is the committee in need of coffee and tea for the event? District 2 is willing to supply if necessary. Yes please, that would be greatly appreciated.

Recommended for approval by Ron.

District 1: Well there is not a lot to talk about. Most things are running well at the District. We are having our District Inventory this month and know business will be done. The business meeting will be suspended for the Inventory which our Delegate, Tim M., will chair. I will be there and hope to see all the GSRs there for this important Inventory. All members are welcome at the District Inventory as guests. I am sure this will be helpful and a learning experience for all who attend. By the way, this is a first and I hope not the last. Just a note about being the DCM, it is hard to make up things when all is running well, so thanks to all the Committees Members and the rest of the Officers at the district for making my life easier when it come to running the district. That's all for now.

Yours, in love and service, Fred D., District 1 DCM

Recommended for Approval by Mary.

District 2: District 2 last met the third Sunday in October with 10 of the 18 groups attending. All is progressing well. We did receive a resignation from our Secretary, Rick H., and are asking all groups in District 2 to actively assist in our search for a new Secretary. If you can pass on the names of persons you feel may be able to fill this position, please contact Trudy D. or myself directly and we will be happy to follow-up with those individuals. Committees are functioning well and we (both districts) are having a workshop on the Cooperation with Professionals Committee next Sunday (8th of November) from 1:00-3:00 pm at Club 24. We encourage all members to attend. Please take this back to your groups as well. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours respectfully, Cathy MacN., District 2 Alternate DCM

No questions. Recommended for Approval by Allan.

Newsletter:

1. It is difficult to make a monthly report to Central Service Committee as the posting of the Bulletin is the report of the activities of this Committee.
2. As we move into the Christmas Season, there are more events to include in the Bulletin. It is expected that the December will include group candle light meetings and socials. This will likely require more room and an extra page.
3. The Bulletin was posted on the 29th of October.
4. The contact sheet was revised as the position of Secretary in District 2 has become vacant,

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

Questions – There seemed to be a problem with the link associated with the newsletter that goes out from the website monthly mailing. Bill will ask Heather about that.

- Please send November's report. Bill will see to that.

Comment – The address for the new location of the Central Service meeting in the bulletin is wrong, it should read 5522 Russell Street.

Recommended for Approval by Pamela.

Area 82: no report tonight

Other: no report tonight

Old Business:

a) **Elections:**

- a) **Hospital Visitation Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- b) **Newsletter Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- c) **Phones Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- d) **Entertainment Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.

b) **Meeting Location – Update** - The key for the new location will be picked up next week by the Chair and the Co-chair is submitting his Criminal Background check next week so he can also receive a key. Our current location has acknowledged receiving our letter of appreciation and they are glad that we were able to locate a meeting space in the neighbourhood. So please remember that we meet in December at the new location, 5522 Russell Street at St. Mark's Church.

c) **Contact List is Hard Copy Newsletter** – Basically, Bill is suggesting that we have a hard copy of the Contact List to give out to the CSRs and have a document separate from the Bulletin posted on the website for access as well. He will continue to print the contact list with the Bulletin to bring to the CS meetings as it has been requested by the table.

d) **Cocktail Party – Update** – There was an inquiry into the start-up funds for the event, as to whether or not the amount needed to be voted on at this meeting. The amount for the event start-up had already been previously agreed upon in the CS budget at the start of the year, so a cheque would be cut for the hosting group at the next CS meeting.

New Business:

a) **The Only Requirement Group – Inclusion into the Meeting List and Newsletter** – The CSR for The Only Requirement Group asked that their announcements for birthdays be included in the Bulletin and that their meeting time and place be listed in the meeting list. They have a membership of 10 to 12 and they would really like to get their birthdays listed so people would know when to attend. For background information, this topic has been brought forward to the Central Service twice before, once three years ago and last fall. On both occasions, it was voted that CS would not include their announcements or meeting time and location in either media due to the fact that they do not use the AA 12 Steps, but use the Agnostic version of the 12 Steps instead. Their CSR informed the table that they have moved locations since the original petitioning and as they are using the Club 24 location, 3 Dundas Street in Dartmouth, as their meeting place, the AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions are displayed prominently on the walls there. But during the meeting, they still read the Agnostic version of the 12 Steps. They are very active in the service structure

here in Districts 1 and 2 (phones & Detox) and have group representation at both the District table and CS table and are registered as a group with GSO in New York.

Upon opening the discussion to the floor, there was a suggestion that this really is a notice of reconsideration of the original decision that was made last fall. Usually there is at least 30 days given before a decision would be made. So Foster asked the CSRs to please take this matter back to their groups and bring their group's voice back to the December meeting for a vote. The matter is a motion of reconsideration of the previous decision. All information that is available on this matter should be in the hands of your previous year group's CSR or have been passed on to the newest CSR at the start of this year.

This is the excerpt taken directly from the CS Minutes for December 2014 on the decision. You can find a copy of it in the Archives section of the Central Service Minutes on the AA Halifax website.

“The recommendation on the floor is “That the Only Requirement Group should be listed on the local meeting list and that their announcements should be placed in the Bluenose Bulletin”. The vote was 11 in favour, 12 against. The minority voice was heard and no one wished to change their vote; the recommendation was defeated.”

Also suggested reading was the 12th Concept found in the AA Service Manual. This was Bill W.'s essay of what groups can and can not do.

- b) Group Insurance Deductible** - A CSR brought forward an idea that Central Service should be the keeper of the group's insurance deductible, which happens to be \$1000 per group claim. The original group insurance decision included the fact that the group's reserve for the deductible was their own decision.

The motion put on the floor was that Central Services take care of the \$1000 deductible from each group for the insurance policy. After the floor was opened for discussion, there was no seconder for that motion.

After, there was an idea floated about there being a central pool of money, that groups would contribute to, that would be held by Central Service that in case of a group claim, the deductible would come from that pool so that groups wouldn't have to hold onto such a large sum of money. Basically spreading the risk of the deductible between all the groups listed on the policy. An amount of \$5000 was suggested as the cap for the “pool”, but the final amount would have to be voted on. Foster asked the CSRs to go back to their groups for their input on whether or not we should consider the concept of a pool for the deductible. Please bring your group's decision back to the December meeting. Then if it is decided that the groups are in favour, a committee would be struck to come up with the pros and cons to the concept and present the information for later consideration by the groups.

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

There wasn't any additional announcements.

Next CSC Meeting is December 1, 2015 (ST. MARKS CHURCH, 5522 Russell St).

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.