

**CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**St. Mark's Church  
5522 Russell 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 January CSC meeting.
- **Call for Items to be added to the agenda:** No items to add to agenda.
- **Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Rob.
- **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, Leah C. - Phone Chair, Mike H. - Hospital Visitation Chair, and Samaira G. - Entertainment Chair.  
***CSRs:*** Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Deb W. - Downtown Dartmouth, Clare L. - Welcome, Mike H. - Cole Harbour, Mary T. - West End Step, Gerry L.- Sunday Night Serenity, Christine M. - Serenity Sisters, Hamish M. - Live for Today, Pamela M. - Acceptance, Brad A. - Fresh Start, Garry M. – Second Chance, Allan M. – Sunrise, and Ron H. – Colby Village BBS.  
***Alternate CSRs:*** Barry L. - Back to Basics, Margaret S. - Acceptance, Doug P. - The Only Requirement, Natalie C. - Circle of Sisters, and Racquel R. - Living in the Solution.  
***Double Duty:*** Evan McF. – Literature Chair / Four Seasons CSR  
***Others:*** Trudy D. - District 2 DCM, and Joya G. - Observer.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Tradition:** \$37.55 collected, taken by Andrew P.
- **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** No errors or omissions. Minutes recommended for approval by Ron.
- **Reports:**

***Executive:***

***Secretary:*** Good evening, everyone. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday and best wishes for the new year to come. The last set of minutes were completed and up on the website within two weeks. I hope it was to everyone's liking. If you have any questions pertaining to the minutes, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks again to all who make the extra effort to send in your reports on or before Monday. It does make life easier getting ready for the meeting as I continue to be scheduled to work Tuesdays and only have Monday to prepare a working draft. I did send out confirmation emails to all who sent in their reports early.

Yours in service, Arlene P., Secretary

No questions or comments.

***Treasurer:*** Due to having to fly home unexpectedly to Ottawa for personal reasons and a busy work schedule, I was unable to get into the bank to make deposits during the month of December which you will see indicated by nothing in the "Credits" portion on the Activity Statement. I paid the phone bill on the final day it was due and was informed the next bill was

ready if I wished to pay that as well. That is why you will see the phone bill of \$390.40 for a two month period of phones. I deposited \$1986.05 on January 4th which will be represented in the February Report, of those monies, \$1000 was from group donations and I will specify which groups contributed on the February report. I also deposited two refund cheques from our previous Insurance agreement for a total of \$940 which will also be represented in next month's report.

December's numbers: Opening Balance \$6,364.48, Credits \$0.00, Debits \$1,140.49, Closing Balance \$5,223.99, Outstanding Cheques \$0.00, Operating Balance \$5,223.99, and Prudent Reserve \$3,166.90. Total available funds \$8,390.89.

Yours in Service, Andrew P., Treasurer

No questions or comments.

**Co-chair:** In this past month, I had a meeting with Foster in which we discussed the new insurance policy, in addition to some discussion on succession planning. I also would like to thank Samaira and her helpers for organizing a great New Year's Eve dance. It was well attended and everyone seemed happy. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the District 1 meeting in December due to memory not being clear...lol...lol...however will attend the meeting in January.

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

No questions. Only comment was a thank you to Bill for the wonderful job with doing up the packages for the insurance policies.

**Chair:** Good evening, welcome to 2016 and the final year of our term as trusted servants. December was quiet with the lead-up to Christmas and New Year's. I attended the District 2 meeting and enjoyed a great potluck lunch. Between the birthdays and the gratitude meetings, I think I ate more food at the meetings this past month that I did at home.

As usual, Paul and I met to discuss the insurance file options for succession planning that will be discussed later on the agenda.

The Christmas Eve social was well attended and it was good to see old friends again. While I did not attend, I am told the New Year's Eve dance was also a success.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next 12 months as we continue to create a welcoming environment for the still suffering alcoholic.

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

No questions.

Executive Reports recommended for approval by Secretary Note: Not done this month. The Chair said it was to be done when all reports were finished. That was not the decision made by the committee back in November 2015.

**Committees:**

**Mid-Winter Round Up:** Program received the final approval and it is ready to go to the printer. We are waiting for the galley proof from the printer. Murdo has been in touch with the speakers and the trips are being booked.

Joe came on as the Hospitality Co-chair and Allen as the Registration Co-chair.

Tim, the Co-chair, is contacting Eastlink and the radio stations with a public service announcement. Jacqueline brought in the Registration fliers to the Central service meeting and Bill will bring the fliers to the districts. Please let your groups know about registration. If you pre-register by January 17, you will be entered into a draw and could win one of three prizes, a free room for a night, a banquet ticket or a registration for the round-up! A motion for \$300 petty cash was approved by the committee.

Thanks, Jacqueline K., MWRU Committee Chair

Questions – Looking at the flyer, the prior request for putting on the registration desk's opening time was not done. Is there any way to correct that? It will be changed on the website version of the flier, but the hand-outs have already been printed. Apologizes for the over-sight.

**Webmaster/Website/Email:** (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) We had 3,893 views of the web site in Dec. Top pages/posts were: Meeting List, Newsletter and Contact Us pages. We have 500 subscribed members getting the monthly email.

In the December minutes, I read that this table reported a member who could not open the newsletter from the link in the monthly e-mail. This has been reported before. I have tested every link in the monthly email and all work for me. I had the Chair test the same links last month and he reported them all as working. So if you ever get a report from a member, encourage that person to contact me directly so I can trouble-shoot what is going on. I suspect they need to close/re-open their browser or at least "clear the cache". There is nothing wrong with the link; it's on the receiving end. People can contact me from the web using the "Contact Us" link – Central Service contact page.

I had one submission from the web "Volunteer" page. I forwarded that onto the chairs of the committees this person has selected.

I have received one set of photos from Bill P. of his meeting. I plan on taking pictures of my Back to Basics meeting. I ask that each CSR take one or two photos of their own home group meeting (all set-up but before any people are seated). Send me the pictures via email please. This will allow me to get this new section of the web page started. Perhaps once these pictures are available for viewing on the web, others will be encouraged to send in pictures of their own groups. Bill P, can you please continue with the announcement in the newsletter for one more month.

I continue to be unavailable 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](mailto:webmaster.aahalifax@gmail.com) or call me at 902-476-7690.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

Question - Has anyone else run into a survey that pops up when you use the website? It was suggested that it would be a piece of spy ware and it will be taken care of.

**Help Email Coordinator:** (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) Good day all, this is an overview about help emails during the month of December 2015. In total, there were 5 emails. Keep in mind that this does not include responses by email or phone calls. Requests ranged from those asking about the process of attending a first meeting to another question about the impact of mental health issues combined with alcoholism.

Over the last year, many people have inquired about "joining AA" and are unsure of what to do when it comes to attending a first meeting. My answer is quite simply that if they have a desire to stop drinking, they can show up at any meeting at all with no questions asked.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Happy new year to all!

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

**Hospital Visitation:** Report for December is as follows:

One Hospital Visit requirement to report. Mr. Donny D. Open heart surgery. I'm pleased to report that its not Donny's time to date. He is recovering well. In fact, he has been allowed to drive. Now, I'm not sure if that is good or bad, nonetheless, that is the way it is.

I apologize for missing the past two meetings, but I was inundated with studies.

Happy New Year to all, Michael H., Hospital Visitation Chair

No questions or comments.

**Telephone:** Good evening everyone, I don't have much to report. Everything is going smoothly with the phones. I am still planning on having a workshop/training session in the near future. 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 – When Cole Harbour Group picked up the binder from the Welcome Group for their turn of the phones, the phone charger was missing from the binder. The Welcome Group said it was missing when they received it from the last group. Can it be replaced and is it the only one missing? From what the committee knows, it is the only one missing and it will be replaced, but this is the fourth one to be replaced in the last few months. This opened up a discussion as to why people are not returning the charger to the binder and why isn't there more accountability as the chargers cost additional monies that were not budgeted for. The table asks that the groups please be more mindful with the phone chargers.

**Newsletter:** The Bluenose Bulletin for January 2016 is now posted on the AA Halifax website. With the holiday season completed, the newsletter is back to its usual three pages.

With the election of a Co-Chair and the addition of a third member, we now form a formal committee. We will be reviewing the look and layout of the newsletter which may bring a change to its overall appearance but not the overall intention of an Events Calendar.

We will be holding a session with our proofreader to pass on her secrets of grammar, spelling, fonts, layout, format and fact checking. This will become a function of the committee. The art and craft of proofreading is not as straight forward as it may be understood.

The Bluenose Bulletin is moving along swimmingly with the likelihood of rotation and continuity to unfold for the elections in the fall.

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

No questions, but a comment by Rob, Co-chair, that there are plans in the works for a new layout for the newsletter and it will be presented for approval when it is completed.

**Entertainment:** Happy New Year's to you and thank you for a great year. The New Year's Eve Dance and Potluck was an amazing night. We sold all the tickets and had lots to eat. We were able to have quite a few door prizes for the night. Ranging from \$10 and \$20 gift cards, and a movie night for two. Will still have \$120 remaining from the ticket sales which can be returned or keep for the coming year.

In the following year, we will be having our Annual Picnic at Point Pleasant Park, the Annual Camping trip at Dollar Lake, and the New Year's Eve Dance. So keep your eye out for fliers, and see if you can join the Entertainment Committee to help out with these events.

A few things that we are looking into for the coming year are, dance classes, a variety show which may be open to all Districts in area 82, outside skating, sledding, and more dances.

I would like to thank Dwight and Elisabeth, both non-members for the amazing support during all the events we had this past year. From picking up supplies for us to working the New Year's Eve dance canteen, and cooking all the burgers we had at our Picnic at the Park.

As Tradition 8 states, "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers." I just want to give thanks again for the very special workers, Dwight and Elisabeth.

If you have any ideas, please call or me at 902-476-3057.

Thank you, yours in service, Samaira G., Chair.

Samaira also shared the Cocktail Party (Christmas Social) report that was submitted by Shawn for the Keep It Simple, the hosting group. The \$400 that was originally given out to the group for supplies was returned in full as the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition taken at the event matched the amount received.

Question – Someone asked why doesn't the Cocktail Party rotate where it is being held each year. The answer came from the last hosting group, who did it the year before as well. Every CSR was asked last fall to go back to their groups and ask if the group was willing to host it. The only group willing was the Keep It Simple Group. So if other groups in other areas aren't willing to do it, it won't rotate.

**Literature:** Good evening everyone, and Happy New Year to all, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and I wish you all the best in the new year. I've been getting out to more meetings before Christmas and since I've been back from a visit to Newfoundland to try and sell Calendars and pocket planners. We still have pocket planners and Calendars for sale. \$12 for the calendars and \$7 for the pocket planners. Get them soon before the year gets too far in.

I have left the book of the month the same again to promote the new book from Grapevine. It's called "Forming True Partnerships". I did an inventory before Christmas to get an accurate count of what we have in terms of literature, books, etc.

We have \$12.00 in cash on Hand, \$5522.20 in inventory, and \$510.35 in the bank for a total of \$6044.55

I'll be updating the order form on the website in the coming week. Unfortunately at that time, I'll also have to raise the prices of the literature we sell. I know we've gotten used to the prices as they are, and I have put off doing this in hope that I wouldn't have to. However, with the dollar reaching an 11 year low and the US exchange rate hitting us hard, I have no other option. Just to give you an idea of the situation, the last order I put in before Christmas with The Grapevine was roughly \$240.00 US and after the exchange rate it came to \$376.16. I done the calculations and if I were to sell that whole order at the current prices we'd be losing about \$30. That was an unusually low order amount as I took advantage of the free shipping offer from The Grapevine for last month. Of course as the amount goes higher, the amount lost will go higher. I realize our purpose is not to be making money. However, we do not want to be losing money. I figured I'd bring the news to the table at this meeting, and I'll have an updated order form at the next meeting for all to look at. I'll also have the prices updated on the order form as soon as I make the changes. As I said, I put this off for a long time, but it must be done.

Thank you, Yours in Service, Evan McF., Literature Chair

Questions – Since the Literature Showcase, has the inventory gone down? Yes, the inventory is less.

- Is the inventory covered under your occupancy insurance – in case of fire or flood damage? No, it is not. Is there any way to add that on? Evan is looking into it.

No comments.

**District 1:** (Absent, report was received later.) Happy new year to our fellow members at the Central Service table and all the best in 2016.

The sub-committees: Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, and Treatment Facilities each continue to do great work carrying the message to entities outside the walls of A.A. For specifics on what each committee does, please see our meeting minutes available on [www.aahalifax.org](http://www.aahalifax.org).

Each committee has plans established for 2016, which will help with our budget process in the next month.

We had an extremely informative workshop in December on the 12 Traditions, but were disappointed in the attendance. We hope to see new faces showing up to workshops in 2016 as these are intended to help us get informed with service work so please pass that on.

Our last meeting had very low attendance and we hope this turns around quickly in 2016. Groups need to be informed of issues discussed at the table as we work on behalf of the groups.

Yours in service, John M., Alternate DCM District 1

**District 2:** Not much to report. We meet the third Sunday of each month. We are looking for a Secretary. Please ask around and try to help us fill this important position. Workshops will resume in February. Please check the newsletter for updated workshop information.

Yours in Service, Trudy D., DCM of District 2

**Area 82:** no report tonight

**Other:** no report tonight

All Reports were recommended for approval by Evan.

**Old Business:**

a) **Elections:**

- a) **Hospital Visitation Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- b) **Telephones Co-chair** – Joya was nominated, she answered the table's questions and it was an unanimous vote. Welcome to the committee, Joya!!!
- c) **Entertainment Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.

b) **Group Insurance Reserve Fund – Update** Paul informed all present that he will be striking up a committee to look into the matter. If you would like to take part in the committee, please get in contact with Paul to volunteer. He has the copies of the insurance policies for the groups listed. Please see him after the meeting to get your group copy. And this item will be a standing item on Old Business until a decision is made.

c) **Budget 2016** – Everyone was given copies of the proposed budget last month to look at and take back to your groups. Are the committee members happy with the amounts listed for their committees for 2016? All in agreement. Bill made a motion that we accept the budget for 2016 as purposed. Jerry seconded that motion. It was an unanimous vote, the budget was passed.

**New Business:**

a) **Succession Planning – Discussion** Foster noted that every two years, the entire committee turns over and the majority of knowledge and experience goes out the door with the old committee, leaving everyone to start over. While there are co-chair positions that should carry forward some knowledge there is no guarantee those positions will move up at election time. For discussion only at this time, he floated the idea of holding the election of the Executive Committee and the CSRs on off-years (alternate) so there would always be a one year overlap between both. Other discussion suggested we may do so with just the CSRs, maybe elect half in one year and half in another. There was general agreement this was a good idea and that many options could be available. Foster asked the table to take this back to the groups and we will put it on the February agenda for more discussion.

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

The first Sunday in February, the 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Cole Harbour Group, Michael H. will be celebrating 26 years. Open Speaker meeting starts at 8pm at the Iona Presbyterian Church on Lucien Drive (Bel-Ayr Park) in Dartmouth.

The announcement that was in the Bulletin about the Crib Tournament was incorrect. Crib has been cancelled.

**The next CS Meeting is February 2, 2016.**

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:09 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.