

CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING – Amended
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 February 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 Pedro.
- **Roll Call:**
Executive: Foster L. – Chair, Paul B. - Co-chair, and Arlene P. – Secretary.
Committees: Leah C. - Phone Chair, Bill P. – Bluenose Bulletin Chair, Robert A. - Bluenose Bulletin Co-chair, Jacqueline K. – Mid-Winter Round-up Chair, and Mike H. - Hospital Visitation Chair..
CSRs: Ron H. – Colby Village BBS, Sarah S. - Living in the Solution, Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Mary T. - West End Step, Brad A. - Fresh Start, Gerry L.- Sunday Night Serenity, Reed H. - The Only Requirement, Natalie C. - Circle of Sisters, Allan M. – Sunrise, Deb W. - Downtown Dartmouth, and Pedro B. - Atlantic.
Alternate CSRs: Lisa N. - Hubbards, Margaret S. - Acceptance.
Double Duty: Evan McF. – Literature Chair / Four Seasons CSR, and Heather L. - Web Admin / CSR Back to Basics.
Others: Trudy D. - District 2 DCM, Fred D. - District 1 DCM, and Doug P. - Observer.
- **7th Tradition:** \$30.95 collected, taken by Foster L.
- **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** No errors or omissions.
Minutes recommended for approval by Bill.
- **Reports:**

Executive:

Secretary: Good evening. The last set of minutes were completed and up on the website within two weeks. That delay was waiting for reports to be sent in. If you have not received a confirmation that I have received your report, please re-send it within a week of our meeting. This will allow me to get these minutes done in a timely fashion and save me from having to chase you for the report. If you have any questions pertaining to the minutes, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will update the contact list this month as I have noticed some emails bouncing back. Please note any changes to your information on the Attendance Sheet.

My thanks to all who make the extra effort to send in your reports on or before Monday. Unfortunately for me, those numbers are dropping steadily and more and more reports are coming in on Tuesday afternoon. With my work schedule, I have no way of dealing with those reports on Tuesday as I work from 8am to 5pm and I do not have a job that allows me to do anything extra-circular during those work hours. 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: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) Good Evening, I apologize for my absence, but my work schedule would not allow for me to attend this month's meeting. We began the month of January with an Opening Balance of \$5223.99 and added credits worth \$1986.05 which should have been deposited in December. One cheque cleared, valued at \$50 for church rental, leaving us with a bank total of \$7160.04.

We currently have one cheque outstanding for the phones in January which was written for \$191.50, leaving us with an Operating Balance of \$6968.54. I was unable to make a second trip to the bank in January to deposit three cheques I received at our last meeting plus 7th tradition plus monies from the Entertainment Committee with those all together totalling \$1012.55, which would have our Operating balance sitting at \$7981.09 once deposited. Prudent Reserve which now sits at \$3167.03 Operating Balance plus Prudent Reserve = \$11148.12.

Yours in Service, Andrew P., Treasurer

Questions – Were we not supposed to get a Group Contributions list as well this month? Yes, but there were some mistakes in the document, so that will be fixed and presented at next month's meeting.

- Clarification of Royal Cheques, what are these? Those were the remaining balance of our refund from Royal and Sun Insurance Company that was from our cancelled policy. They sent two separate cheques to cover the full amount owing us.

Co-chair: (Have to put off report as Co-chair is here, but un-available at the moment.)

Chair: Good evening, January has been quiet from a service perspective. Paul and I met to discuss committee issues and vet some possible options around the succession planning issue. I regret to say I received a notice of resignation from Carol-Anne D. as Help Email Co-ordinator; for personal health reasons, she was unable to continue in this role. Paul is currently replying to any help requests received until a new coordinator is found. I sincerely thank Carol-Anne for her work and the tremendous compassion she showed when talking to those seeking our assistance.

I attended the District 2 meeting on January 17th and am pleased to see the good turnout they get and the support from sub-committee chairs. It feels good to know we are all working as one to keep AA available in both Districts.

You may have noticed the pictures on the website of different meeting halls in our area, similar to what you find in the Grapevine. This is an excellent addition to the site and I would encourage all groups to consider sending Heather a digital photo and have your group included. We are continually seeking input on the website to ensure it is user-friendly and meets the needs of the groups. Your continued feedback is appreciated.

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

No questions.

Committees:

Mid-Winter Round Up: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.)

There is no mid-winter round-up report as there has been no meeting since the last meeting.

Thanks, Jacqueline K., MWRU Committee Chair

Webmaster/Website/Email: We had 4,552 views of the web site in Jan. Top pages/posts were: Meeting List, Newsletter and Mid-Winter Round-up pages. We have 506 subscribed members getting the monthly email.

As it is now 2016, I have removed the theme message (80 year anniversary) from our AA Halifax website. I asked Pedro for some new banner images, without words, so that the same text was removed. He provided some lovely images which can now be used...currently the banner is an image of the MacDonald Bridge.

I renewed the subscription of our website with HostGator on Jan 3rd for a total of \$153 CDN. I have that receipt with me tonight to be re-imbursed.

We had two more volunteers come from the web which I passed along to the committee chairs involved. So this new menu tab is proving to be useful.

I have received pictures from 5 AA groups so far (Sunday Serenity, Back to Basics, Downtown Dartmouth, Atlantic Group and Sunrise Group) so I have added these to our "slide show" that appears when on the home page of the web site. These will be randomly displayed among the Step/Tradition/Concept slides that were already there.

I hope that I can receive many more pictures so as to augment this neat feature. I ask Central Service members here tonight to remember to take a quick pic of their own group (NO PEOPLE included please) and send that pic to me...just include the name of your group and I can then add the pic to the slide show. Once I get enough pictures, I may switch the Step/Tradition/Concept over to just pictures for a while. Please spread the word at meetings you attend to encourage other groups to send in their picture.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

No questions.

Comments – There was a phone call from Florida. Someone would be travelling to our area and greatly appreciated finding our website and all of its information.

- The next theme message is actually on the header of the Bluenose Bulletin.

Co-chair: Dear All, the month of January has been a really busy month which enable me to get in touch with AA as a whole. This month, I met with Foster in which we went over some secession planning strategies and ideas to bring back to the table. We also went over the insurance policy for the groups, and information that has been gather to move forward regarding the group insurance. We are planning to have an insurance policy meeting for anyone who is interested in being part of the committee. Please see me after this meeting!!!! I attending the District 1 meeting, things seem to be going very well in District 1. I have also taken over from Carol-Anne as the Help Co-ordinator, which keeps me busy as well. I would like to thank Carol-Anne for all of the hard work she put forward in this important part of carrying the message to the alcoholic.

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

No questions or comments.

Help Email Coordinator: In taking over the Help Co-ordinator position, this is a very important role to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This job requires very little time and is a good way to help another alcoholic.

This is an overview about help emails during the month of January 2016 – In total there were four emails, which range from people looking for meetings and direction on how to get to a meeting and what is the process in attending an AA meeting. In all circumstances, a meeting list is attached and some simple suggestions are mentioned.

As mentioned before, I would like to thank Carol-Anne for her efforts in this position.

Yours in Service, Paul B., Acting Help Email Co-ordinator

No questions or comments other than if the CSRs could please go back to their groups and announce that there is a need to fill this position.

Hospital Visitation: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) There are no hospital visits to report this month.

Michael H., Hospital Visitation Chair

Telephone: Good evening everyone, as everyone knows Joya G. was voted in last month as the second co-chair for the phones. She has been attending various meetings to spread the word about the need for volunteers for the phones and the 12th Step List. I am happy to say that she has had positive results, as two members have joined the list for answering the phones and 6 have asked to be added to the 12th Step List.

It has recently been brought to my attention that members of some groups in the districts are under the impression that the phones are the responsibility of the Sackville Groups. I know that the majority of the members that carry the phone are from Sackville, but I believe that has to do with the fact that the Chair and Co-chairs for the last three years have been from Sackville. As we all know, the phones are the responsibility of the members/groups of both Districts 1 and 2. I ask that the CSRs please mention this at their meetings and please remind members the importance of getting more volunteers for the phones and the 12th Step List.

The phone committee had a meeting on January 27. Most of the items we discussed were in relation to making sure that the phones binders are up to date – such as making sure the various district meeting lists were up to date. We also added the contact list for PEI and New Brunswick (Area 81) to the binder so if we get any calls as a result of the Eastlink commercials, we can send people in the right direction. We also discussed the fact that the current announcement in the newsletter should be changed to say something that may strike interest in members. I will submit a new announcement to the next newsletter.

Thank you, Leah C., Phone Committee Chair

Questions – Someone asked about the volume of calls on the over-night phone. Some members gave their experience of manning the over-night phone and there weren't many calls, if any.

- Are the phones manned 24/7? Yes, they are, but especially the over-night phones have been manned by the same folks for a few years now. We would really like some more help in covering the phones.

Newsletter: 1. A year ago in February, 2015, the Bluenose Bulletin was re-designed to follow a more strictly events calendar. This was to allow a quick scan read for relevant information to convey at meetings.

2. This February, 2016, with a Co-chair with skills in graphics and design, a new-look Bluenose Bulletin is unveiled for February. Some re-arrangements of information have been made, but striving to maintain the qualities of quick readability and easy access to relevant information and of course, keeping the newsletter to three pages.
3. The notice for the Highland Park Big Book study group has reached its six months in the Bulletin. This notice will now transfer to the Meetings List.
4. Groups have been diligent in meeting the 25th of the month deadline for announcements in the newsletter. As an aside, it is preferable to have the announcements in the form of emails, so we have a record. This is particularly important for proof reading. It is not unknown for the first drafts to have errors in names and initials and birthday years.
5. The Bluenose Bulletin has a succession plan in motion. Our current proof reader, Trudy D. is passing on the witchcraft of proof-reading to the Co-chair, Rob and he will be taking on this task as his main responsibility in the next two to three or so months. We have an additional member who wishes to join the Bluenose Bulletin and she will begin with the proof-reading experience. Thus for the next term, there will be two experienced people with the knowledge of the details of the Bulletin which are not written down anywhere, but are critical to a successful and useful service.
6. Finally, coming into my second year, the Bulletin continues to be fun and interesting. In my service experience, I have never been answerable to so many people with the newsletter. It is valuable in that there is a perspective on the overall state of the organization of AA in our region.

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

Entertainment: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) This has been a slow month after a very busy holiday. Still looking for some idea for the districts. Please feel free to call me at 902-476-3057. We will be looking for an event in March, so please check the website for details.

Yours in Service, Samaira G., Chair.

Literature: Good Evening All, a few things to report tonight. Firstly, the Order Form has been updated with new pricing and added literature. It has been posted to the website and I've printed a copy for all to look at. There have been no orders placed in the month of January.

Our Financial situation is as follows:

We have \$940.85 in our account, and \$7129.80 in inventory for a total of \$8070.65. We will be putting in an order before the Mid-Winter Roundup, so any groups waiting on literature should have it in the next couple weeks. Have a good month everyone.

Yours in Service, Evan McF., Literature Chair

No questions.

Comment – from Evan – he has the new pricing list for the literature. A small discussion about exchange rates affecting pricing and shipping rates.

District 1: All is running well at the District and next month we will be doing our Treasurer's Report for the Proposed Budget for 2016. All four committees are operating well and making great progress with new agenda for this year. I know they will do well and we will be looking for new Members from other groups to help in this work. We need many groups to take part with this fine work that our committees are doing and I hope to get out and spread the word with as many groups as possible. I have gotten to 26 groups in our district and visited at their meetings to share this message which is needed in service. Most of them have received me with open arms and have given me just a little time to talk about services. Once again at the district, I have asked GSRs to invite me out to speak at their meetings or business meetings.

I have just a wonderful set of officers along side of me who are doing their jobs in AA with many GSRs attending to business. Now I know we are caring the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to our members and also to the outside world because of these committees. Please remember we have members who are suffering and losing family members out there so please keep them in your prays.

Yours in Love and Service. Fred D., DCM District 1

No questions or comments.

District 2: Hi all, everything is going well in District 2. We elected a new secretary, welcome Louis M. Our proposed budget for 2016 has been handed over to the GSRs for group discussion. We will vote on it in February's meeting. We would also like to welcome Gerry L. as the new Co-chair of the Corrections Committee.

We, together with District 1, have some workshops lined up for March, April, May and June. Please check the Bulletin for dates and times. We would like to remind people that these workshops are important tools for GSRs, for anyone in Service and for anyone who might have an interest in service work.

Cathy and I will be doing group visits during the months of February and March. If anyone would like us to visit their business meeting, please just call one of us and ask.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Trudy D., DCM of District 2

No questions or comments.

Area 82: no report tonight

Other: no report tonight

All Reports were recommended for approval by Lisa.

Old Business:

a) **Elections:**

- a) **Hospital Visitation Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.
- b) **Entertainment Co-chair** – Natalie nominated, she accepted the nomination. She answered any questions the table had for her. Vote was taken. Unanimous vote. Welcome to the committee, Natalie!!!
- c) **Help Email Co-ordinator** – no nominations, carried over to next month.

- b) **Group Insurance Reserve Fund – Update** Paul – there will be a meeting in two weeks time of Paul and three other members to form the committee to look into the options available to bring back to the table. If you are interested in participating, please contact Paul after this meeting.
- c) **Succession Planning – Discussion** Foster asked if the CSRs had a chance to talk to their groups about this topic. A few had so far, everything was positive, but really the groups would like to know what the options were to choose from. Foster will put something together to bring to the table for our next meeting as to the available options of Executive and CSRs.

New Business:

No topics brought up for new business.

But...there was a question about whether or not it had been definitively found out if the Chair of Literature had enough insurance coverage for the literature in his occupancy agreement. It was asked at last month's meeting and an answer was supposed to have been brought to this meeting. It was discussed again and the Literature Chair will come back with an answer for March's meeting.

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

Has the St. Margaret's Bay Group moved? It will be looked into and reported back at the next meeting.

The next CS Meeting is March 1, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.