

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

- 1) **Welcome and Open:** Meeting opened by Foster L. at 7:00 pm with a few moments of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. All were welcomed to the July CSC meeting.
- 2) **Call for Items to be added to the agenda:** No new items to add.
- 3) **Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Pedro.
- 4) **Roll Call:**
Executive: Foster L. – Chair, Paul B. - Co-chair, and Arlene P. – Secretary.
Committees: Leah C. – Phone Chair, Bill P. – Bluenose Bulletin Chair, Tim M. – Mid-Winter R-up Chair, and Samaira G. – Entertainment Chair.
CSRs: Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Hamish M. – Live for Today, Christine M. - Serenity Sisters, Clare L. - Welcome Group, Ron H. - Colby Village BBS, Garry M. - Second Chance, and Pedro GdB. – Atlantic.
Alternate CSRs: Doug P. – The Only Requirement, and Margaret S. – Acceptance.
Double Duty: Michael H. – Hospital Visitation Chair / Alt. CSR Welcome, Cathy MacN. – District 2 Alt. DCM / Alt. CSR Downtown Dartmouth, Heather L. – Web Admin / CSR Back to Basics, and Evan McF. - Literature Chair / CSR Four Seasons.
Others: N/A
- 5) **7th Tradition:** \$23.55 collected, taken by Paul B.
- 6) **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** No errors or omissions.
Minutes recommended for approval by Tim.
- 7) **Reports:**

Executive:

Secretary: Good evening. Two weeks seems to be the winner in the time line for getting the minutes completed, reviewed and on the website. I appreciate everyone's patience in this matter. As usual, if there are any questions or concerns about the minutes, please don't hesitate to contact me. Helpful suggestions are always sought after if you know a better way of doing something than what I have been doing. Please throw them my way.

Reports only started coming in Monday night, I was unable to send out confirmation emails this time 'round because I was at work at that time. As I get the minutes completed, I will send the confirmation emails after the fact. As always, thank you for putting in the extra effort by getting them in early, I do appreciate the help.

Yours in service, Arlene P., Secretary

No questions or comments.

Co-chair: This month has been very quiet. As usual, I met with Foster to review how our month is progressing. I like to remind the committees that it is very important to send Arlene our reports so she can include them in the monthly minutes. Also, please send your feedback

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regarding our guidelines to Bill if you already haven't done so.

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

No questions or comments.

Chair: Good evening, it was a very quiet month on the service front. Apart from meeting with Paul and following up with the Treasurer regarding upcoming reports, I laid relatively low. I did provide a report to the District 2 Committee, but was unable to attend their Father's Day meeting due to family commitments. I spent a bit of time going through old minutes to find out when we made the decision to not provide meeting lists through the literature committee and, when doing so, I came across a motion passed by Central Service that impacts the Mid-Winter Roundup Committee and that was never acted on. I have placed that issue on the agenda under new business for further discussion.

I attended a follow-up group business meeting in District 2 with Trudy to offer continued guidance to some concerns within the group. Elections are just around the corner and I again encourage all existing Co-chairs to consider their willingness to accept a nomination for the Chair positions for next year. Also, I encourage every one of you to talk to people in who you see potential in and encourage them to come forward. How exciting it would be to have to hold a ballot election for all our positions.

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

No questions or comments.

Committees:

Mid-winter Round Up: The Roundup will be held on Feb 10th to 12th 2017, this is a long weekend. The Questionnaire I mentioned at the last meeting needs a few final tweaks and will be available next month. We have two positions open - Program Co-chair and a Hospitality Co-chair. Our next meeting is August 7th 1pm at Club 24.

Our bank balance is \$2,261.03. We have a pay-out to Al-Anon of \$266.25 and a service charge of \$6.50 which leave an operating balance of \$1994.78. The bank statement is being passed around.

Respectfully Submitted, Tim M. - Midwinter Roundup Chair

No questions or comments.

Webmaster/Website/Email: We had 4,237 views of the web site in June. Top pages/posts were: Meeting List, Newsletter and the Contact Us pages. We have 562 subscribed members getting the monthly email (up by 8 from last month). We had a new volunteer who used the form on the web to express interest. I forwarded the information to the chairs of the committees mentioned (Hospital, Phones, Entertainment and Corrections). A new "Book of the Month" was posted on that page of the web site.

Last month, there was confusion in the newsletter regarding the Detox Service schedule and that was caused by the on-going problem with how this calendar displayed on the web

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(showing Thurs/Fri and Sun/Mon rather than the single days of Thursday and Sunday). After the June Central Service meeting, I changed the Google calendar so each day is no longer entered as a “full day event” but now has the time of the meeting (8pm – 9pm) and that seems to now make the calendar display properly on the web. I informed the Treatment Chair that from now on, he should include the meeting time as he makes new entries in this calendar. Hopefully this will resolve all issues.

To bring the web site and newsletter more in sync, I change the menu tab name: Detox Schedule to be Addiction Service Schedule which matches what the newsletter has. I made an attempt to install a plug-in and use it to make our web site “mobile-friendly”, but the results were under-whelming. I confess that I do not have the skill set in web site development in the WordPress environment; maintenance and simple updates yes, but new development, no. I will speak with Pedro and see if he can help out. I would very much like to get a mobile-friendly version going as that is increasingly how people access the web.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

Questions – Why do the signatures at the bottom of the Central Service Emails read AA Halifax/Dartmouth? Would it not describe our area better as AA Districts 1 and 2? Heather will make the changes.

Help Email Coordinator: (Absent, report sent in and read by Secretary.) Dear Central Service, my report for the month of June is as follows;

We had one person visiting our area who was looking to get a hold of members to find cheaper accommodations while here. We had three people asking for help and meeting information. Two were local and one was from the USA. We also had one person who was sending spam for increasing our web traffic. Most of the month was fairly quiet.

In Service, Shawn M., Help Email Chair

Hospital Visitation: Dear Central Service, there is nothing to report.

Yours in service, Mike H., Hospital Visitation Chair

Telephone: Good evening everyone, I don't have anything to report, everything seems to be going well with the phones at this time.

Thank you, Leah C., Phone Committee Chair

No questions or comments.

Newsletter:

1. A meeting of the Committee on June 28, 2016, for the final round of editing. Subsequently, there were two errata. The District 1 meeting for July was cancelled and will meet in August. This was repaired. Similarly, the Mid-Winter Round-Up Committee will, likewise, not be meeting in July.
2. There was a glitch with the bottom of the third page was cut off in the transfer to the Web Page. Hopefully now repaired.

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3. All groups and Committees were diligent in getting their announcements in on time and that was much appreciated by the Committee.
4. Rob is now taking on more of the initial preparation of the Bulletin and the Chair more of the proof reading and final look. Trudy is our wise owl whom we keep in the closet until there's an issue.
5. The members of the Committee have their eyes and ears out for recruits to join the Committee – the world of reading, spelling, grammar, format and layout and thick skin.
6. In the immortal words of a famous printer, Benjamin Franklin: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

Bill P., Chair, Bluenose Bulletin

No questions or comments.

Entertainment: Dollar Lake Camping trip and Pot Luck Picnic is all set for July 29 to Aug 1 this year. We will be having the Pot Luck Picnic on Sunday July 31 at 1pm. Bring your bathing suits, the water is perfect. Enjoy nightly meeting as well.

Directions: Hwy 102, Exit 5A to Rte 212; 27 km (17 mi) east of airport. 5265 Old Guysborough Rd, Wyse's Corner.

Samaira, Entertainment Chair

Question – Even though there is no cost to camp for the members, what will be the cost of camping for the Committee? Samaira said that she estimates it will cost \$26.00 per night per site and the Committee has booked two sites and it is over three nights. In total - \$156.00 - to be paid by the Entertainment Committee. This is based on last year's prices.

Literature: Good Evening, our inventory stands at \$7,227.05 plus the bank balance of \$1,680.96 = \$8,908.01. There was an order for \$1,166.46 from June that cashed today and a cheque for \$18.96 for Canada Post where I mailed back the excess Braille "Big Books". I kept one box with a few in it. I contacted a member in the Church Point area regarding sending some French books down there, but I haven't heard back from him as to whether they want them or not. I'll contact him again to see. That's about it for now.

Cheers, Evan McF., Literature Chair

No questions or comments.

District 1: (Absent, no report sent in.)

District 2: There is not much to report. There is an on-going concern that some Chairs of the committees are not attending the District 2 meetings, only attending the District 1 meeting. Part of the requirements of the position include attendance at both District meetings, to keep both Districts informed on the happenings of their committees, not just emailing reports in to be read at the meeting. This allows both Districts the opportunity to pose questions of the committee members and hear the news first-hand. A search for the solution to this dilemma is in the works and any assistance in the solution is greatly appreciated.

Regards – Cathy M, Alt. DCM District 2

No questions or comments.

Area 82: (From notes taken at the meeting.) Tim – It has been pretty quiet since the Service Weekend was held last month. In preparation for the Assembly in the fall and work on the Area 82 Questionnaire is continuing.

Other: no report tonight

Treasurer: (Absent, report sent in and read by Foster.) June's numbers: Opening Balance \$7,597.55, Credits \$0.00, Debits \$246.83, Closing Balance \$7,350.72, Outstanding Cheques \$197.65, Operating Balance \$7,153.07, and Prudent Reserve \$4,167.76. Total available funds \$11,320.83.

Submitted by Andrew P., Treasurer

(Secretary's note: Also handed out at the meeting were statements for both May and June 2016.)

Questions – The amount the groups have to pay for the Group Insurance Renewal in September? Foster suggests to budget for \$50.00 as they haven't received the paperwork as of yet.

- With the approval of insurance deductible being held by Central Service and groups having a surplus of monies, shouldn't we, as a committee, give suggestions to those groups as to what to do with the excess monies? The short answer is no. As Tradition Four suggests, each group is autonomous and the groups will decide where the excess monies will be distributed to. Suggestions from the table were that there are two pamphlets from GSO – one named "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" and the other "The AA Group Treasurer" if a group needed assistance deciding in this matter. **(Secretary's note:** If you do not have a copy at your group, you can download them off the AA website, www.aa.org and you are allowed to print one copy.)

All Reports were recommended for approval by Heather.

Old Business:

a) Elections:

a) **Hospital Visitation Co-chair** – no nominations, carried over to next month.

b) Guidelines Update – Foster decided to ask each of the CSRs and the committee members present if they have reviewed the proposed changes with their groups and if there are any changes that are needed. Some groups have had a chance to talk about it, some hadn't. For example, there are changes that were necessary to the Phones description in the guidelines regarding the times of the shifts (Page 9, 7.1.2).

(As it is the Secretary's habit to generalize the reporting of the discussion rather than a who-said-what style, which is only implemented when there is a vote, I will try my best to report what followed in the same generalized style.)

It was brought to the table's attention that there was a great need of a Revisions (Resolutions) document that would list the changes being made (because it is a legal document, we need a list of revisions and the dates these changes were made on.) This was a practice that we should have already implemented and been keeping track of all the changes, but it was over-looked. As the guidelines are getting a through change-up, including wording and grammar, these changes need to be noted for further record-keeping. The committee that has already been struck to revise the guidelines is getting some additional help from a CSR who is involved in this kind of work beyond his service work. He will help with compiling these changes so it makes it easier for everyone to know what changed.

- c) Dropping the use of recommendations in Committee Business** – After some discussion and the re-reading of the proposal from the June 2016 meeting, which reads as follows:

It is proposed: "The practice of recommendations as described in the 'Central Service Committee Guidelines' be eliminated and replaced with the use of Motions for all items of business, and consideration of this recommendation be deferred for consideration at a later meeting of the Central Service Committee to allow review: by the members of the Executive, Sub-Committees, CSRs and the A. A. groups they represent."

Tim M. put a motion on the floor that all business at Central Service be conducted with motions only and seconded. This motion was seconded by Bill P. No further discussion. A vote was taken – For – 15, Against – 0, Abstaining – 1. No minority voice. Motion passed.

New Business:

- a) Should Literature Committee sell meeting lists?** – The original decision to stop selling meeting lists through the Literature committee was taken to a vote in April of 2013. After some discussion of what groups and committee members had come up with in this topic, Bill P. put a motion on the floor that the Literature Committee will prepare meeting lists to be available to the groups at cost, upon request. This motion was seconded by Cathy MacN. No further discussion. Vote was taken – For – 17, Against – 2, Abstaining – 0. After minority voice, there was no vote change. Motion passed.
- b) Mid-Winter Round-up start-up funds** – Foster – While he was going through minutes from previous years, he found a decision that was made in June 2013 that concerned the start-up funds for the Mid-Winter Round-up that has not been followed through on. He had contacted the Chair of the MWRU, Tim M., and spoke with him about it. The last few years, the monies have not been returned to Central Service, as per the vote. After some discussion, the Secretary volunteered to look up the previous meeting minutes and get all the information together so that an informed decision could be made. She is to bring this information to the August meeting.

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

No missed announcements tonight.

The next CS Meeting is August 2, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.