

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 June 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 Paul B.
- 4) **Roll Call:**
Executive: Foster L. – Chair, Paul B. - Co-chair, and Arlene P. – Secretary.
Committees: Bill P. – Bluenose Bulletin Chair, Leah C. – Phone Chair, Rob A. - . Bluenose Bulletin Co-chair,
CSRs: Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Deb W. - Downtown Dartmouth, Christine M. - Serenity Sisters, Brad A. – Fresh Start, Garry M. - Second Chance, Mary T. - West End Step, Clare L. - Welcome Group, Natalie C. - Circle of Sisters, Dave R. - Living in the Solution, Reed H. - The Only Requirement, and Ron H. - Colby Village BBS.
Alternate CSRs: Margaret S. - Acceptance, and Doug MacD. - Highland Park,
Double Duty: Evan McF. - Literature Chair / CSR Four Seasons, Heather C. - Phones Co-chair / Alt. CSR Four Seasons, and Heather L. – Web Admin / CSR Back to Basics.
Others: Trudy D. - District 2 DCM, and Cathy MacN. - District 2 Alt. DCM.
- 5) **7th Tradition:** \$ 35.70 collected, taken by Foster L.
- 6) **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** No errors or omissions.
Minutes recommended for approval by Evan.
- 7) **Reports:**

Executive:

Secretary: Good evening. I was able to get the minutes finished, reviewed and on the website in two weeks this time 'round. If there is any questions or concerns about the minutes or you have any helpful suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me. If there is any changes to your contact information, please note the change on the Attendance Sheet.

For those who sent their reports in on or before Monday, I did send out confirmation emails. As always, thank you for putting in the extra effort.

Yours in service, Arlene P., Secretary

No questions or comments.

Treasurer: (Absent, report sent in, read by Secretary.) Good Evening, yet again, I am in the position of not being able to attend this month's meeting due to work and personal commitments. I was also unable to make it to the bank and still to be deposited are group contributions of \$816.00 from the Colby Village Big Book Study Group, \$412 from the Acceptance Group, \$200 from Living in the Solution Group and \$100 from the Sunrise group.

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Those totals, combined with the last two 7th traditions with totals of \$26.00 and \$55.25 makes a total to be deposited \$1609.25 with whatever is collected during this evening's meeting.

Opening bank balance on May 1st was \$ 8002.23.

The bank total is \$5617.55.

Operating Balance is \$ 5420.72.

Total Available funds is \$9588.27.

I apologize once again for being absent from another meeting and not being able to print off the statement sheet, I will have it ready along with June's statement next month.

Yours in Service, Andrew P., Treasurer

Question – The June Disbursement? That will be discussed in New Business.

Co-chair: This month has been very quiet. I met with Foster to review how our month is progressing. I would like to remind committees that it is very important to send Arlene your reports so she can include them in the monthly minutes. Also, please send your feedback 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, as summer begins to settle upon us, things are starting to quiet down. May was relatively slow from a service perspective. On the 8th, we had the privilege of hosting a workshop at Club 24 on what this committee is, how we interact with the Districts and what service opportunities exist for those who are interested. Although the turnout was basically just people who are already in service, we had a good time and it was informative. We are slated to re-do the workshop in November and are hopeful many non-service members will come out. Thank you to all of you who participated.

I was able to attend the District 2 meeting and I had my usual discussion time with Paul. In my capacity of Chair, and by invitation of the DCM, I also attended a group business meeting in District 2 with Trudy to offer support and experience to some concerns within the group. Elections are just around the corner and I 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 which 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

Comment – Foster added that we are slated now to re-do the workshop in September, date to be announced.

Question – When are the Central Service elections? They will be held in September, the first Tuesday of the month. This is an election of all positions at Central Service with a two year rotation, with the exception of the Executive, who will only sit for one year to allow for the rotation that was voted on last month.

Committees:

Mid-winter Round Up: (Absent, no report was sent in to read neither for the meeting nor for the minutes.)

Webmaster/Website/Email: We had 4,600 views of the web site in May. Top pages/posts were: Meeting List page, Newsletter page and the May Newsletter document. We have 554 subscribed members getting the monthly email (up by 23 from last month).

I received a picture from Colby Village BB Study group and it is now among the sixteen that are featured on the home page. Again a reminder: if a CSR or committee member is here tonight from a group who has not yet sent in a picture, please take a picture at your group (no people included) and send it as an attachment to my Web Master Email address.

Regarding the Detox calendar display on the web page (under Group Service Schedules >Detox Schedule), I am not able to figure out why each Sunday/Thursday is presented over two days each (Sunday/Monday and Thursday/Friday). I have communicated with the Treatment Chair to see if there was a regular schedule that I could enter myself to see if I could fix the problem. But groups are sporadic and the Treatment Chair takes care of that calendar himself. We agreed to just leave as-is, trusting that groups checking the schedule know the meetings are on Sunday and Thursday only. So no further action will be taken regarding this calendar's display on the web site.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

Questions – There was a problem with the website not viewing properly on various phones so members couldn't find the meeting lists or the newsletter. Heather will look in to this as this is the first time she heard of this. There is a continuing problem with the link in the email to connect to the newsletter. It is a possible DNS problem, Heather is still looking into that matter.

Help Email Coordinator: (Absent, report sent in, read by Secretary.) Dear Central Service, due to an illness with a family member (Cancer), I'll be unable to attend the meeting this month. My report for the Email Help Chair for the month of May 2016 is as follows. It has been a fairly quiet month.

We had two requests for help, one request for help with opening up the newsletter, one request for a panel discussion participant, and one request to help write the newsletter (which I believe the person was pitching for work). There is nothing else to report at this time.

Yours in Service, Shawn M., Help Email Chair

Hospital Visitation: (Absent, report sent in, read by Secretary.) I have been visiting two members in hospital this past month. One is at the Victoria General and the other was at the Rehabilitation Hospital, but has since been sent home. Visits were appreciated. Thankfully, that is all to report.

Yours in service, Mike H., Hospital Visitation Chair

Telephone: Good evening everyone, it has been a great month for the phones. We had a new group, Living in the Solution, volunteer to take the phones and they have been added to the list

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for the weekend of July 23. The workshop / training session on May 28 was well attended. It was great to see members from the Living on the Solution Group attend. As a result of the workshop, five members volunteered to carry the phones, and we had two members put their name on the 12 Step List. We also had a member volunteer for the phones through the website Volunteer Tab.

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 for the 12 Step list.

Thank you, Leah C., Phone Committee Chair

No questions or comments.

Newsletter: This was a routine month for the Committee and the final version was posted by the end of May. Highlights include the upcoming free A. A. Day, the annual camping and picnic weekend, and the Courage Round up in August.

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

No questions or comments.

Entertainment: (Natalie read Samaira's report, but no report sent for minutes. My apologies, I didn't take any notes as the Co-chair said she would send the report.)

Literature: Good Evening Everyone, we've been fairly busy with orders in May. I had an order come from GSO at the beginning of May, and I'll be placing another one soon for those of you wondering about availability of Big Books, etc.

Our inventory is \$6828.55 plus our bank balance of \$2118.03, giving us a total of \$8946.58. That is all for now.

Have a great month, Evan McF., Literature Chair

Comments – Evan added that he had French and Braille Big Books and was unsure what to do with them. Suggestions were to inquire at the French Immersion schools' libraries and for the French books and the local CNIB for the Braille books. The Public Information committee could help with that as they are usually the ones to distribute material to schools. There are also some French speaking groups on the Arcadian Shore that might be in need of them. Evan will look into these suggestions.

District 1: (Absent, report sent in, read by Secretary.) Good evening CSRs, Members and Guests. My report will be short because there are a lot of duplications going on with these reports when everyone can read the minutes when they come out at the end of each month. There are the Committee reports, CSRs' Minutes, Districts 1 & 2 Minutes - how many reports and minutes do we need?

What I will tell you is that the District is running well and I am glad to see all the committees reporting what they are doing. We have had a couple of requests that CPC and PI are looking into, one is from Canada Air Lines that will take place sometime in the future. I am sure these request will be look after with great speed. I have spoken with the Chairs by e-mail and these request will be taken care of.

The Service Weekend went well, yet I think we need more attendants. The motion on getting rid of the Provincial Round-up failed. So it will continue with the districts taken care of it.

That is all for now.

Yours, in love and service, Fred D.

District 2: The DCM is continuing visits with the groups. All committees are functioning well, having monthly meetings and progressing through their plans for the year. The Workshop Committee has three workshops left. June 12 (1:00 pm) at George Dixon will be on Chairing Meetings in AA and be facilitated by Bill P. Foster and Trudy will be doing one in all committees in both Districts and Central Service in September and Back to Basics will do one on the AA Group in November.

We are starting to search out people to stand for nominations in the fall elections.

The CPC co-chair has stepped down and we thank him for all his good work.

Regards – Cathy M, Alt. DCM District 2

No questions or comments.

Area 82: no report tonight

Other: no report tonight

All Reports were recommended for approval by Heather.

Old Business:

a) Elections:

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

New Business:

- a) **June Financial Disbursement** – Foster presented – Normally, as a Committee, we would send monies to GSO, Area 82 and back to the Districts if they were in need of assistance. From what was reported from the Area 82 Service Weekend, the Area is not in need of assistance at this moment and neither are Districts 1 and 2. Both DCMs had contacted Foster and said as such. So there was \$3000.00 available for disbursement and he suggested we send the full amount to GSO as they were in need (the Grapevine is struggling with lower subscriptions numbers, etc.). Evan put a motion on the floor that the Central Service Committee would make a contribution to GSO in the amount of \$3000.00. After discussion, a vote was taken. 17 for, 0 against, with 1 abstaining. There was no minority voice to be heard, so the motion passed.
- b) **Guidelines Update** – Bill presented – (**Secretary's note:** The hand-outs, the Revised Guidelines and The Cheat Sheet to the Revised Guidelines, are attached to the minutes for reading. The original Central Service Guidelines are on the website, if you need them. The Cheat Sheet tells you the difference between the Current Guidelines and the Revised

Guidelines.) So we are asking the groups to go over this with the members of their group and bring back feedback to the next meeting so changes can be made before the vote in August.

Bill made this recommendation: It is recommended that the June 7, 2016 draft of the Revised Guidelines for the Central Service Committee be adopted, with such approval deferred for a later meeting of the Central Service Committee; until reviewed by the members of the Executive, members of the Sub-Committees, CSRs and the members of their A. A. groups which the CSRs represent.

A vote was taken; it was a unanimous vote in favour.

c) Dropping the use of recommendations in Committee Business – Bill presented – (Secretary’s note: there was a hand-out, it too will be added to the minutes for ease of use.)

Bill’s proposition: 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.”

This matter, as well, needs to be brought back to the groups and CSRs need to bring feedback to the next meeting in July for voting.

A vote was taken; it was a unanimous vote in favour.

d) Meeting lists made available through Literature committee again – this will be an agenda item for the July meeting. Groups are asking if it will be possible if the Literature committee could please start printing meeting lists and having them available at the CS meetings. Not all groups have access to the on-line available lists. Discussion on this topic will take place next month.

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

No missed announcements tonight.

The next CS Meeting is July 5, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.

(Secretary’s note: The Revised Guidelines couldn’t be inserted into these minutes. It is available in PDF form as a separate attachment on the website.)

Cheat Sheet – Way Around the Guidelines

1. The suggested Guidelines are based on those of 2012 posted on our website. The suggested Guidelines attempt to incorporate resolutions of Central Service over the past four years. The sub-Committees have been more active during that time and the duties described are hopefully closer to how the Committees operate. The same considerations have been given to the roles of the Executive. Certain procedures of Central Service are spelled out in more detail to eliminate confusion. Sections 1 to 3 follow the same matters in both Guidelines. Under the new Guidelines s. 3.1 makes clear that any personal phone numbers or email addresses are confidential and only for internal purposes of AA - specific to the job at hand. There have been some minor reordering of previous sections.
2. CSR's and Alternates are found at 4. To 4.5 under the suggested Guides. There may be rewording but no change in substance.
3. Section 6 to 6.2.4 of the current Guidelines and Section 5 to 5.1.4 contain the same matters possibly rewording. There is an addition of relevant experience from whatever source.
4. For the suggested Guidelines beginning with Section 6 the various officers and sub-Committee Chairs are described in more detail than found in the current Guidelines. For the Co-Chair and Treasurer there are the added responsibilities associated with the insurance deductible. At page 8 the responsibilities of the Treasurer are spelled out in more detail with the Financial Affairs of Central Service. It is to be noted that under current practice the Literature Chair is a signing officer for Central Service, not restricted to the Literature Account. The Secretary is not currently a signing officer.
5. Section 7 of the suggested Guidelines deal with the sub-Committees in terms of their function. Here will be seen greater detail than current Guidelines. The consistent change is the duty to attend and provide reports to Central Service. Section 7.2.1 to 7.2.3 of the suggested deals with the leadership and participation in the sub-Committees
6. Section 8 of the suggested, deals with terms of office of all positions within Central Service which is 7.6 to 7.7.8 of the current.
7. Section 9 of the suggested and Section 8 of the current deal with meetings, procedures and the like. They should be close in substance.
8. Section 10 of the suggested and Section 9 of the current deals with some special rules of procedure. These should be closely read. The suggested is attempting to be more precise and clear as to what happens at meetings.
9. Elections are found at 10 with the current and Section 11 with the Suggested. The requirement of nominations is contained within the suggested. The suggested section contains more detailed description of the process and allows for private discussion and vote by the members in considering nominees. This is not clear with the current.
10. The Meeting list is Section 11 of the current and Section 12 of the suggested. Not much change except for language.
11. The last two in both Guides concerns the Cocktail Party and Amendments to the Guidelines. A change of detail and language but much the same in substance.

A Recommendation to Eliminate the Procedure of ‘Recommendation’

1. The basic definition of recommendation is advice and suggestion. A motion is a proposal to act.
2. At Central Service we use a recommendation without a seconder, as if it has the same force as a motion. If passed, action is expected and reports given at meetings.
3. If sued we are not legally incorporated. Incorporation means the legal body is sued not the individuals who make it up. When not incorporated, there is a question as to whether we are liable as individuals who make up Central Service at a meeting, the whole of the members of the groups or the Signing Officers or the assets of Central Service.
4. The Guidelines for Intergroup & Central Service Committees put out by GSO suggest consulting a lawyer for incorporation. Most groups have a central office and employees. We have neither. However we do interact with the general public through our Sub-Committees. This has the potential, however small, to cause a lawsuit filed against us. We have insurance, but it does have limitations.
5. In Robert’s Rules of Order there is a procedure called ‘Committee of the Whole Meeting’ A group may have trouble with an item of business in understanding it, defining it, describing it, and generally not sure what to do about it. The main meeting adjourns for a Committee of the Whole. There are no motions only recommendations like we have at present. There are relaxed rules of procedures. When the Committee of the Whole has a recommendation they agree to, this meeting adjourns and the regular meeting re-opens. A member turns the recommendation into a motion with a seconder and debate goes on to conclusion.
6. We have the relaxed rules of order but without the force of a motion.
7. It is proposed we maintain the relaxed rules of order but the force of a motion. This will better represent the will of Central Service as a body and not seen as the individual whim of the Executive Committee or Sub-Committees.
8. Area 82 conducts its meetings by way of motions. Research on the Internet of Guidelines used in other Areas and Districts, shows this is a common practice. Research is not sufficient to find Intergroup Committees who still use the practice of Recommendations.
9. How relaxed or formal the rules of procedure followed depends on the type of meeting and number of participants. As Central Service meetings are composed of less than fifty people there is no need for all the formalities of any Rules of Order.

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.”