

CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

**St. Mark's Church
5522 Russell Street, Halifax**

- **Welcome and Open:** Meeting opened by Paul B. at 7:00 pm with a few moments of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. All were welcomed to the May CSC meeting.
- **Call for Items to be added to the agenda:** Item to add – New Business – Succession Planning re-visit.
- **Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Kenny.
- **Roll Call:**
Executive: Foster L. – Chair, Paul B. - Co-chair, and Arlene P. – Secretary.
Committees: Bill P. – Bluenose Bulletin Chair, Tim M. - MWRU Chair, Samaira G. - Entertainment Chair, Shawn McG. – Help Email Chair, and Michael H. - Hospital Visitation Chair.
CSRs: Ken C. – Keep It Simple, Deb W. - Downtown Dartmouth, Pedro GdeB. – Atlantic, Gerry L. - Sunday Night Serenity, Clare L. - Welcome, Brad A. – Fresh Start, Mary T. - West End Step, Mike H. - Cole Harbour, Hamish M. - Live for Today, Pamela M. - Acceptance, Dave R. - Living in the Solution, and Allan M. – Sunrise.
Alternate CSRs: N/A
Double Duty: Evan McF. - Literature Chair / CSR Four Seasons, and Heather L. – Web Admin / CSR Back to Basics.
Others: Trudy D. - District 2 DCM, and John McF. - District 1 Alt. DCM.
- **7th Tradition:** \$ 26.00 collected, taken by Foster L.
- **Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** No errors or omissions. Minutes recommended for approval by Bill. Approved.
- **Reports:**

Executive:

Secretary: Good evening. Last month, my work schedule co-operated with me and I was able to get the minutes finished, reviewed and on the website in less than two weeks. 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 the Attendance Sheet, could you please only list your position with Central Service? It is getting a little confusing with people putting their District commitments as well, other than the DCM and their Alternates. If you are representing your home group, please just put Representative and if you are a guest, please put down Observer. It just makes it a lot easier when up-dating the contact list. Some groups have had a different CSR every month – it was the CSR one month, the Alternate the next, and a representative the next, but they all wrote in that they were the CSR.

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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 and read by Foster.) 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 \$7075.56 and added credits worth \$2226.05. Evan and I went to the bank to process the transfer of \$1000.00 to the Prudent Reserve account, however, I forgot to bring along the 7th tradition from April, that amount of \$55.25 which was collected will be deposited and accounted for in my next report.

As voted on, I issued two cheques, both for \$1000.00 to GSO and Area 82 which have yet to clear, as well as the AA phone bill and a cheque to myself for a copy card to produce the reports you receive each month. Our bank total (\$8002.23) minus outstanding cheques totalling \$2226.39, which leaves us with an Operating balance of \$5775.84. Prudent reserve now sits at \$4167.42 after the \$1000 transfer putting total available funds at \$9943.26

Yours in Service, Andrew P., Treasurer

Questions – In our budget, there was a line for Out-reach Programming...the PI committee is planning to do a clinic pamphlet, is there any way that we could assist in the costs? There was no monies suggested in our passed budget for Out-reach Programming this year. And since that is a District committee, we can not directly pass money to that committee. That would have to go through District first, if there is a need for additional monies. We can review in June if we need to put additional monies into Out-reach to allow for assistance to districts, etc.

Chair: Good evening, I have little to report this month. Apart from a meeting with Paul there was little to no activity related to the committee. I was away for both District meetings and regrettably forgot to send a report for their minutes before I left; my apologies to them. I had an enjoyable time in Georgia with my former sponsor and had the privilege of attending a few meetings there and meeting new friends. It is amazing that we can walk into a room of strangers and feel at home.

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

No questions or comments.

Co-chair: For the month of April, all was very quiet. However, I met with Foster briefly just to re-fresh and to make sure we were not missing anything for tonight's meeting. While I was away, I had the opportunity to get my first sun burn on my head, which peeled. Peeling on my head told me that I was still so called human. First time for everything.

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

No questions or comments, just giggles.

Committees:

Mid-winter Round Up: Hi all, the planning has started for your 2017 Mid-winter Round-up. A new committee has been elected with only three vacancies left, Entertainment Co-chair, Hospitality Co-chair, and a Registration Co-chair. If you or anyone you know is interested in any of these positions, you can come to the next meeting on June 12th at Club 24. The dates for the Round-up are February 10th to 12th, 2017 and this happens to be the long weekend. Negotiations have already started with the Holiday Inn.

Hopefully at the next CS meeting, I will have a questionnaire to pass out to all groups. When I first served on the committee in 2006, there were roughly 630 registered. Last year, we had around 420 registered. This is not a trend we wish to see continue. We would like to know why less and less people are coming. Is it the price, venue, program content or the speakers etc..? Hopefully we will find some answers to turn this trend around. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 902-817-8545. Thanks for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Yours in Service, Tim M., Roundup Chair

Questions – Someone asked what positions were still available. Is the meeting change a permanent change (from the first weekend of the month) or is it just for that month? The meeting change for June is just for that month as the Service Weekend for Area 82 is the first weekend in June and Tim is also the Area 82 Alternate Delegate. Is there a link on the AA Website to the Mid-Winter Round-up page? Yes, there is.

Comments – Tim requested that the CSRs take back to their groups that the Mid-winter Round-up committee would love any ideas for programming topics or ideas for the event.

Webmaster/Website/Email: We had 3,684 views of the web site in April. Top pages/posts were: Meeting List, Newsletter and Contact Us pages. We have 531 subscribed members getting the monthly email (up by 8 from last month). I have not received any more pictures from any groups so the 15 I have received continue to be featured in the home page slide show. Again a reminder: If a CSR 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 e-mail address. In the email, please include the group name and the night(s) and time(s) your group meets.

We had one volunteer form submitted in April for Hospital Visitation so that was forwarded to the Chair of that committee. The calendar for Detox continues to display with Thursday / Sunday information repeated on the next day. The month got away from me so I have not attempted to fix it by deleting all the entries and entering them again. I don't have a huge hope that this will fix things, but I will try and do this during May.

Yours in service, Heather L., Web Administrator

No questions or comments.

Help Email Coordinator: Dear Central Service, my report for the month of April, 2016 – The inquiries for the Help area of the website were:

Request to be called = One,
Request for a Big Book Study Only meeting = One,

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Request for AA Pins = One,
Request for a bilingual meeting = One,
Request for regular meeting information (Newcomers) = Three.

Sincerely, Shawn M., Help Email Chair

No questions or comments.

Hospital Visitation: No patients to report. Great news, Paul G. has used the website and has volunteered for to be a contact for Hospital Visitation. As I have been using people often of late, new blood (no pun intended :-)) is always refreshing.

Yours in service, Mike H., Hospital Visitation Chair

No questions or comments.

Telephone: (Absent, no report sent in at the time of the meeting.) Good evening everyone, I am not attending tonight's meeting as I am away on vacation in beautiful Cuba. Everything is going well with the phones, not much to report. The phone committee will be having a training session/workshop on Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 11:00 at 45 Connolly Road, Lower Sackville. Please spread the word.

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

Newsletter:

1. The Sub-Committee met on April 26th for discussion and proof-reading of the Bulletin for publication.
2. All announcements came in advance of the 25th of the month deadline. One announcement was a challenge to decipher as it was in the modern day short hand of texting; there was the alphabet, but few words. A couple of the announcements were in paragraph lengths and needed editing to fit into the spacing available.
3. The Committee welcomed the participation of Central Service Committee Co-chair. This allowed the Co-chair exposure to the complications encountered putting the Bulletin together.
4. On a more serious note, the Sub-Committee received an announcement from an individual concerning a memorial service of a deceased member. This raised questions as to publishing announcements received from an individual and whether this was the type of announcement, which could be published in the Bulletin. An email was sent to the Chair of Central Service Committee on the matter. An email was sent to the A. A. group involved. Finally, an email was sent to the person submitting the announcement. This email outlined the concerns for the Bulletin Committee, inviting a phone call or email to myself to discuss it, and advising of the meeting of the Bulletin Committee on April 26 when a decision would be made.
5. The matter was discussed at the meeting of the 26th. No response was received from the Chair of Central service as he was away, but we did have the Co-chair in attendance for the

discussion. A call was received from the A. A. group to the effect it had not been discussed by the group and it was not an announcement from that group. No response was received from the member submitting the announcement.

6. The Committee decided not to publish the announcement. Based on past practice and decisions of Central Service: firstly, only official announcements coming from A. A. groups, A. A. committees, Districts 1 and 2 or otherwise from A. A. bodies (GSR, Grapevine etc.) could be published, and secondly; it was not the past practice of our newsletter to publish social announcements such as births, marriages, christenings, etc. It was felt that funerals and memorial services fit into this type of announcement. On the 27th, an email was sent to the person submitting the announcement of the decision, suggesting it could be announced at A. A. meetings and an offer from Districts 1 and 2 to announce the date and place of the memorial service through those channels.

Regards in Service, Bill P., Chair, Bluenose Bulletin Sub-Committee

Comment – Foster said he did answer the email.

Entertainment: Please keep your eyes out for our annual AA Camping at Dollar Lake and the Picnic coming in August and September, just like last year. If you have any ideas for July, please feel free to call or text 902-476-3057.

CSRs – if you could take this back to your groups and see if there is any interest in a trip down south. There seems to be a trend among members of travelling down south and I was wondering if there is interest in us going down as a group. This would not be an event sanctioned through Central Service or under the Entertainment Committee umbrella (you would be responsible for all of your own costs and insurance), but I am personally interested in organizing it if it is something you would like.

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

No questions or comments.

Literature: Good Evening All, it's been a fairly quiet month for Literature. We've had a few sales and made a deposit. There have been no orders for GSO or Grapevine. I do have some orders in waiting, so there will likely be an order in the next couple of weeks. The literature inventory value is \$7642.55 + an un-deposited cheque for \$99.00 plus \$1314.69 in the bank for a total of \$9056.24.

I wish you all a good month, Evan McF., Literature Chair

Questions – Has the policy come from the insurance company about the extra rider we put on to cover the literature? (A decision was previously made to add a rider to our group insurance policy for \$10,000 to cover any damages or loss to the literature.) Nothing has been received in the mail up to this meeting.

District 1: Hello friends, good to be here on behalf of District 1. Very happy to report that our friend and DCM, Fred, returned to the table this past month. Mary W, from the Back to Basics group, stepped up to chair in the absence of both DCM and Alt. DCM the previous month. GSRs are getting prepared to attend the up-coming NS Service Weekend, June 3-5, at the

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Dalhousie Campus in Bible Hill. There are some agenda items that could have a direct impact on business at the Area 82 Assembly in the fall.

All four sub-committees continue to carry the message beyond the rooms. The amount of specific project work is impressive. A few quick notes:

- PI will be reaching out to groups to assist with the distribution of pamphlets to local clinics as this has been very successful for the few they have started with.
- Treatment has been successful building a schedule for members to participate in meetings at Forensics in addition to Addition Services meetings and Marguerite Center.
- CPC has several presentations scheduled with professional groups to explain what we are and what we do.
- Corrections currently has all volunteer positions filled for the male and female members to put on meetings.

Our last workshop on District service opportunities was well attended and informative. We are looking forward to our next workshop this Sunday, May 8, 2016, 1:00 pm, 3 Dundas St. in Dartmouth on Central Service service opportunities. We hope to see some fresh faces, please bring a friend or fellow member.

Our minutes with more detailed information are posted on aahalifax.org under Service Meeting Minutes and Guidelines. A reminder that any member is allowed to attend our monthly meetings as an observer to see what goes on.

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

Comment – Foster asked if both districts could look into their budgets and see if there is a need for financial assistance to help with committee out-reach, etc... and if they could bring that information to the next meeting, as we are doing a review in June.

District 2: Things are going well in District 2. Our next meeting is May 15th at 2:00 pm. The next workshop is this Sunday, May 8th at 1:00 pm at 3 Dundas Street in Dartmouth. I am sure this has already been touched on. Just a reminder again that the Service Weekend is June 3-5th in Truro and we would love to see our District 2 groups represented. Remember – even if your group doesn't have a GSR, you can have a representative vote your group conscience at the Service Weekend on Saturday afternoon on June 4th. Your group just needs to be in agreement with you representing the group to allow this to happen. Apologizes to Arlene for not sending this to her in an email, I will be submitting this report in hard copy tonight.

Yours in service, Trudy D., DCM District 2

No questions or comments.

Area 82: (No report sent in, Secretary's notes only.) Tim M. - Area 82 New York Alternate Delegate – Just a reminder about the up-coming Service weekend. There is some interesting topics to be discussed that weekend, including the addition of a per-conference assembly service weekend. Plus Area 82 would like to do an inventory as one has not been done in quite some time.

Question – What is an inventory? It is done in the same style as a group inventory.

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) **Guidelines Update** – Bill has spent 25 hours so far going over all of the Central Service Guidelines trying to work out the wording and corrections. Once completed, he will then pass it on to Trudy for tweaking. Then the document will be sent to the Executive and Committee Chairs for feedback. Once all that has been done, a final draft will then be presented at the CS Table for the CSRs to vote on. A question came up as to why the whole document was being reviewed and changed when we only voted last month to change a few. On reviewing the guidelines, it was noticed that there was a lot of decisions that were made over the last few years that were not up-dated in the guidelines. In consulting the Chair of CS, it was decided that a full review was best and a complete update of the guidelines be undertaken. The feel of the table was that this was a good idea.

c) **Workshop (May 8)** – Foster gave an overview of the workshop which was on the Responsibilities of the Central Service Committee. Even though the workshop was scheduled on Mother's Day, he would appreciate participation of all Executives and Committee Chairs that could attend to share what their responsibilities were in their positions. One comment was that we had an obligation to share our experience.

New Business:

a) **Succession Planning** – One group brought forward that by choosing the option last month of the CSR serving only one year to allow for the switch, that this would knock all the groups out of sync with their other group elections. This would mean the groups would then have to have elections every year, the bulk of the positions in one year, and then the following year, elections for just the CSR. After much discussion, Heather put a recommendation on the floor that for 2017, the elected Executive would sit for only a year. This would allow for the Succession Planning, but would not affect the groups' voting procedures. No additional discussion was needed. A vote was called – For – 17, Against – none, Abstaining – 2. No minority voice. The motion was carried. So when we hold elections in September of 2016 for the Executive positions, these positions will be for a year. Another election will be held in September of 2017 for the Executive positions again, those positions will service for two years.

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

N/A

The next CS Meeting is June 7, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.