

Date: April 4, 2017

Page 1 of 7

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.

Call for Items to be added to the agenda:

Twelve Traditions: The Twelve Traditions were read by Sarah S.

Roll Call: Executive: Paul B. -Chairperson, Bill P. -Co- Chairperson, Jacqueline K. -Treasurer and Trudy D. - Secretary.

Committees: Heather C. - Phone Chair/ CSR Four Seasons, Sheila C. -Literature Chair, Mike H. – Hospital Visitation Chair, Pedro G. – Webmaster **CSRs & Alt's-** Alan M. -Sunrise, Andrew S. - Atlantic, Margaret S. – Acceptance, David R. - Living in the Solution, Sarah S. - The Only Requirement, Donnie B.- West End Step, Gig M.- Early Risers, Perry B.- Welcome, Beth P.- Downtown Dartmouth, Clare L.- Live for Today, Barry L.- Back to Basics, Emily F. - Alt. CSR Acceptance **Others:** Racquel R. - District 1 Alt. DCM, Louis M.- Secretary District 2, Gary K.- Observer

7th Tradition: \$24.85 collected, taken by Jacqueline K.

Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting: adopted unanimously, no errors or omissions

Reports: Chair: Good evening, March started out on a slow note with me going away but attending some meetings elsewhere in Canada. I had the privilege of visiting a intergroup office in Quebec, which was a learning experience from a different perspective and it always good to learn how AA works in other Areas. Thank you, Trudy, for stepping up and running the meeting for the month. This Month, we met as an Executive to make sure we are going in the correct direction to carry the message and provide the services to the suffering Alcoholic. One new idea, was bought forward and it will be discussed under new business. I was able to represent Central Service at both district meeting this month Its good to see both districts working hard to carrying the message. As well, attended the AA pop up day, which had some great food and great meetings. Good Job Natalie and Gig. Good job to all of you who are working so hard to carry the message

Co-chair: During the month of March, there was an Executive meeting between the Chair Co-Chair and Secretary. The Treasurer could not attend an was advised of our discussion. The Agenda was reflecting on the state of things at Central Service and tossing out ideas for further development. The meeting focused on everyone's enthusiasm on attending the Ceraasa conference in New Brunswick. This led to a general question on how we might make the issues and deliberations in the larger A.A. community to the attention of the local groups. This led to our mutual discovery of the new Web site for GSO which contains a What's New button. One of the items in this listing is an article from BOX 459 on Safety at meeting which would be of interest for anyone chairing a regular meeting and the business meeting of groups in developing policies and guidelines on this subject. The Co Chair was tasked with checking out any copyright issues with GSO in our use of this site. We basically got a green light with a courtesy as to where the information comes from. The next steps will be discussions with our webmaster on transferring generally this information to our own web site, discussion with the Bluenose Bulletin on alerting the readership etc. More to follow.

Treasurer: The opening balance on March 1 was \$3967.77. Debits= \$858.29. Credits= \$1982.35. Closing balance= \$5091.83. Prudent Account balance is \$4169.18. The Revenues and Disbursements sheet is provided for the groups on the last page of these minutes.

Secretary: I want to thank everyone who made the effort to send me an electronic copy of their report before tonight's meeting. It makes my job as secretary much more efficient. I already have most of the body of the minutes complete and just have to refer to my notes for the nit-picky stuff and old and new business after tonight's meeting. This helps me get the minutes out more quickly and the groups who have business meetings in the second week of the month can have proper minutes even without a CSR! It also helps me personally to get the minutes off my plate quickly and for that I am so grateful for the understanding shown by the committee people with my request. I am so happy to be part of this great committee. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Bluenose Bulletin: The April 2017 Bluenose Bulletin was rich with birthday celebrations. We always hope to see many of our AA members at these events. Most people, in the Districts were kind enough to get their Emails to the Committee on

Date: April 4, 2017

Page 2 of 7

time. Once again, I would like to again take this opportunity to remind everybody that the deadline for announcements to be included is the 25th of each month. It is also important that Birthday Announcements be sent to the Committee via Email, and not by phone or texting. The Committee is still looking for a new newsletter co-chair so we ask that the word be spread to the various groups. Good knowledge of MS Word is a requirement. We had several event announcements, ranging from AA bowling to the Bridgewater May Day to the Nova Scotia provincial round-up. As before, the Committee is looking forward to maintaining the quality, readability and integrity of the Bluenose Bulletin as a tool to be used to spread accurate information to the AA community at large.

Webmaster/Website: We had 4210 views of the web site in March, and an monthly average of 4400 for the past 6 months. The top pages/posts visited were: Meeting List, Newsletter and Service minutes' page. We have 588 subscribed members getting the monthly email, up by 7. During March, I continued working on incremental improvements in our web site, routine maintenance and Gmail support. The main work was updating and revamping the contact page. We now have the correct and up-to-date contacts and a new layout. I created two distinct contact pages, one for professionals and another for AA members. We now have all contacts in one page with easy to read and search ready tables. There's also a print friendly file in PDF format for download. I started the process to update our group and meeting list. I sent an email to all CSR representatives asking to confirm the information. There are a few that do not have email and will need phone calls. This is a process that will take some time to complete. Once done we will have a new up-to-date meeting list and I'll work on a page format that will be user friendly as well as a PDF version. I expect to have this complete before end of April. I appreciate the help and support I receive from everyone. Please keep telling me when things don't work as it should, on the web, newsletter or Gmail. As usual, please make sure to provide me as much information as possible. This will help me a lot when fixing things.

Email: This is an overview about help emails during the month of March. In total, there were **4** emails; however, that does not include responses. The emails ranged from those who have never been to AA and looking for the courage to attend that first meeting. Suggestions were offered on how to make that 1st step of walking thru the doors of AA, and the submission of a meeting list. At this point, I have still been unable to find a permanent -Chair for Help Emails; however, I have been putting the word out about this vital position. Hope this information proves helpful. Thank you for allowing me to be of service with the Help Emails during the month of March.

Hospital Visitation: We have one long term, and one member for a couple of days. Other than that, its been a healthy month.

Telephone: Good evening, the phone Committee is still looking for a co chair, also for men and women in district 1 and 2 for the 12-step list, I have also brought my concerns up at the District 1 meeting on March 25th, and I'm planning on attending the District 2 meeting in April. Looking to book a date for a phone workshop. We are looking after the phones right now with the man power we have, but more hands make less work. It's a great way to give back.

Entertainment: Happy spring and greetings from the Entertainment Committee. Said committee has been busy during the past month with several AA functions. The bowling is up and running with attendance at approximately 15 for our first 2 Sundays. Members are having fun and are striking up new friendships. The next dates are Sunday April 16th and 30th. Cost is 7.00 for 3 strings and shoe rental. The laughs are free. The first AA Pop Up day held on Saturday March 25th at Club 24 in Dartmouth was a great day and a brought together many members from many different groups. The 5 meetings had good attendance and the food and fellowship in between was enjoyed by all. Waiting for the next group to step up and host a similar event, or something a little different. Last but not least we have the AA Beach Party. The dance had the potential to be a great night but it lacked one important component, people. The attendance was 4. Although the 2 members from Dartmouth and 2 from Truro did say it was the best indoor Beach Party they had been too.... lol. Perhaps the next dance will be more of a success. Please submit any ideas for future events to entertainment.aahalifax@gmail.com

Literature: Good evening, A deposit of \$1,060.00 was made March 17, 2017. The bank balance of the Literature account as of March 17, 2017 is \$2,564.78. The inventory value to date is \$6,336.50 and cash on hand is \$52.00 which includes a \$35.00 float.

2018 Mid-Winter Round Up: The 2018 Round Up committee met April 2nd with two more additions to the committee. We are looking for chairs and/or co- chairs for committee, hospitality, entertainment, secretary and other positions. We have some revisions to carry out to the contract with the hotel. We will be asking the Central Service Committee for the

Date: April 4, 2017

Page 3 of 7

seed funds to get our bank account set up. This will be a sum of \$2000 plus the \$500 deposit required by the hotel. The hotel is confirmed for Feb 23,24,25 2018. Please spread the word and an early bird flyer will be posted next month.

District 1: We have formed a workshop committee and our first workshop for district one will be held on May 28th at 1pm at the Dixon Centre. The topic is "The AA Group" based on the pamphlet of the same name with an emphasis on the role of the GSR. Workshop dates for 2017 will be May 28, July 30, September 24 and November 26.

District 2: District 2 has had two meetings since we last attended Central Service. My apologies for not being here last month as well. We have been doing well in our new jobs, both new GSR's and executive members, trying to figure out how to do the business of AA. We have discussed the proposal to transfer the committees over to Central Services and this is now being discussed at the group level and will be voted on at our April meeting. Please note that we forgot to advise either the newsletter or webmaster that our meeting in April will be on the 23rd of the month because of Easter Sunday being the 3rd Sunday. So, if members here could remind their groups and make note of the change in your newsletters that would be helpful. Several GSR's in the District were able to attend CERAASA in February and have reported back on a very good experience where we all were able to learn much more about how decisions are made throughout the fellowship and particularly in New York. We are now looking forward to the Service Weekend the first weekend in June and the Provincial Roundup the second weekend in June in New Minas. We hope that all members here know that they are welcome and urged to attend both of these Area 82 functions either as individuals or representatives of your groups. Information is available on all the websites regarding these two upcoming events. There is a workshop being held Sunday April 9 from 1-3 at 3 Dundas Street once again on chairing aa meetings, there were so many questions and discussion points from the last workshop that we are holding a second hoping to address further items for members. We hope you will be able to attend. Coffee and tea will be provided and there is no cost involved. If any committees or members or groups are interested in having a service related workshop in Dartmouth, please feel free to contact the Alternate DCM Rod M. at 434-5907 or email to DCM2.AAhalifax@gmail.com. And a final note to the Webmaster, all DCM emails are still being forwarded to Trudy's personal e-mail and it is becoming increasingly inconvenient to both of us.

Area 82: The monthly newsletter "Delegates Corner" is available on the Area 82 webpage.

All Reports were motioned for approval by Alan M. Seconded by Mike H. Vote taken - passed unanimously.

Old Business: Elections -

1. Help Email Chair- none
2. Literature Co- Chair- none
3. Telephone Co- Chair- none
4. Newsletter Co- Chair- none

New Business:

1. What's New Tab- GSO has revamped their website and has a "What's new" tab. Many helpful items on it. Groups should check out the tab to find information from GSO about issues such as Safety at the meetings. Much discussion around that issue at our table. Bill would like CSRs and group members to explore the tab and come back to him with ideas that we can put on our website for groups to be informed. There is a Workshop this Sunday about chairing a meeting and the topic of safety while conducting a meeting.
2. Central Service Reps- check out the pamphlet The AA Group to find out some valuable information on the roles of each Service position. There is a Workshop May 28th using this pamphlet
3. Districts Subcommittee proposal- Districts are looking at moving the subcommittees to the Central Service Committee. The proposal is included as an attachment with these minutes. Until the Districts vote on this it is a mute point at our table. If the Districts vote to do this then our autonomous table will discuss this.

Announcements: Gig said the Pop Up AA was very successful and hopes more groups will host one. Tom O. WESG celebrating Thursday 11 years. Heather L. Back to Basics is celebrating 5 years tomorrow night. Jacqueline K. Cole Harbour celebrating 9 years May 7.

The next CS Meeting is May 2, 2017. Meeting adjourned at pm with the Responsibility Pledge.

Date: April 4, 2017

2017 Approved Central Service Budget															
Revenues		Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals	Variance
Group Contributions	\$7,000.00	\$367.00	\$60.00	\$1,950.00											
7th Tradition	\$400.00	\$26.00	\$34.15	\$32.35											
Insurance premium	\$1,200.00	40													
Entertainment Comm.															
Transfer front Literature															
Miscellaneous															
Business Account Totals	\$8,600.00	\$36.25													
Expenses															
Rent - Church Hall	\$600.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00											
Telephone Committee	\$2,800.00	\$187.97		\$542.04											
P. O. Box Rental	\$220.00														
Insurance Premium	\$1,200.00														
Area 82 Contribution	\$1,000.00														
GSO Contribution	\$800.00														
December Social 2017	\$400.00														
Bluenose Bulletin	\$300.00														
Entertainment Committee	\$700.00														
Webmaster Expense	\$150.00														
Treasurer Expense	\$50.00														
Secretary Expense	\$100.00														
Chair Expense	\$100.00														
Co-Chair Expense	\$100.00														
Miscellaneous	\$80.00	45.03		\$256.25											
Business Account Totals	\$8,600.00														
2017 Net Revenues minus Expenses															
Literature Opening Balance		\$1,782.03													
Literature Credits	\$10,000.00	\$469.00													
Literature Debits	\$10,000.00														
Literature Closing Balance		\$2,251.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals \$469.00															
Prudent Account		\$4,168.82	\$4,169.00												
Interest		0.18	0.18												
Balance		\$4,169.00	\$4,169.18												
Equity Share		\$5.00													
Surplus Shares	\$45.00														
Net 2017															

District Subcommittees

Issue

The four subcommittees presently report to Districts 1 and 2 and have responsibility to be at, and report to, both Districts meetings each month. The current District 1 and 2 Guidelines document speaks to the handling of subcommittee matters. However, several issues have been raised at District meetings that are still creating questions in the minds of District members. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Election of Subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs
 - Where should election be held
 - When to hold them
- How do we ensure equal representation on the subcommittees between the two Districts
- How do we best deal with the budget process for the subcommittees, including any in-year adjustments that may be required
- How do we address the issue of reporting to Districts when a subcommittee does not cooperate

The matter of non-reporting last year resulted in an attempt to remove the Chair and Co-Chair from their position. Districts 1 and 2 held diverging views on the procedures used to achieve this and a recommendation was made to review the existing procedures, as laid out in the District 1 and 2 Guidelines, and propose revisions that were clear and understandable. A working group was created to conduct this review and after deliberation makes the proposal below as a solution the matters identified above.

Proposal

To shift reporting responsibility for the four District Subcommittees - Public Information (PI), Corrections, Treatment Facilities (TF) and Cooperation With The Professional Community (CPC) from Districts 1 and 2 to the Central Service Committee. June 2017 is offered as the targeted date for the move.

It is understood that if this proposal is accepted the current Districts 1 and 2 Guidelines document will no longer be required as the AA Service Manual identifies District roles. Individual Districts may choose to develop their own. Additionally, it is presumed that Central Service and the two Districts will discuss any budgetary impacts.

District Subcommittees

Background¹

In 1964 Area 82 was created when a split of the Atlantic Provinces Area took place. At that time Districts 1 and 2 were created on paper; however, they functioned as one committee due to the limited number of groups registered at the time. No subcommittees existed in Halifax Dartmouth until the early 70's when PI was instituted and reported to Area 82. In short order it became part of the Halifax/Dartmouth Central Service Committee (CS) and, as TF, CPC and Corrections came into being they reported to CS. In the late 70's CS ran into trouble financially and was threatened with closure as a committee. At that time, the districts decided to take over the 4 subcommittees so as not to lose the valuable work they were doing. That change in reporting still exists today.

"Traditionally, general service committees and intergroup/central service have performed different functions. Central offices provide local services; General Service committees maintain the link between AA groups and the AA General Service Board by means of the Conference. So these two separate but vital service structures coexist in many Areas in mutual cooperation and harmony."²

Pros

- All subcommittees would be the responsibility of the Central Service Committee
- Four subcommittee chairs would report to one entity, not two
- All matters that are common to both Districts would be centralized
- District meetings would devote 100% of their time to group and Area concerns
- Reporting to one entity provides an opportunity to share and work more closely with all other CS subcommittees
- Central Service would report to District meetings on behalf of all subcommittees, including updates on current activities. DCMs are present at the CS meeting and can also carry information back.
- Follows the Intergroup/Central Service model as laid out in the AA Service Manual and GSO Guidelines
- Brings Districts 1 and 2 in line with the structure used across Canada and the United States

Cons

District Subcommittees

Respectively submitted by:

Mary W – Working Group Chair

Mike C – Working Group member

Cathy Mac. - Working Group member

Foster L - Working Group member

¹ Reference Material: Did You Know, 50 Years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Nova Scotia, GSO Guidelines, discussions with elder members of AA

² Quote from the AA Service Manual