

**Date: November 6, 2018**

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

**Welcome and Open:** Meeting opened by Bill P. at 7:00 pm with a few moments of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**Call for Items to be added to the agenda:**  
None.

**Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Eric L.

**ROLL CALL:**

Executive	Committees	CSR	CSR	Observers
Michael H - Co-chair	Natalie C - Entertainment chair	Eric L - CSR 4 Seasons		Cathy M - DCM Dist 2
Emily S - Secretary, CSR Acceptance	Paul B - co-chair Literature	Tim D - CSR Hubbards		Serena L - Downtown Dartmouth
Bruce B - Treasurer	Kelly D - corrections chair	Barry L - CSR Back to Basics		Samaira G - DCM Dist 1
Bill P - Chair	Beth P - Help Email chair	Fred L - CSR Cole Harbour		Troy S - Cole Harbour
	Rob A - Newsletter chair	Michael A - CSR Keep it Simple		Stephanie J - Serenity Sisters
	Heather C - Telephones chair	Donnie B - CSR West End Step		Ian B
	Leah C - Public Information chair	Marianne S - CSR Serenity Sisters		
	Shawn M - Mid-Winter Round up chair			
	Sue C - Hospital visitation chair			

**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition:** **\$29.30** Collected, notated by Bruce B.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Moved by Natalie C and seconded by Shawn M.

**Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:** Moved by Rob A and seconded by Heather C. Adopted unanimously, no errors or omissions.

**REPORTS**

**Secretary:**

Hello everyone, not much to report this month. I bought my last office supplies for the year, coming in under budget. I shared some ideas with the chair regarding the meeting list discussion. Thank you to committee chairs who sent their reports in by the Monday before the meeting. Thank you, Emily S

**Treasurer:**

Opening balance: \$4016.99

Closing balance: \$3045.35

Debits: \$2191.80

Credits: \$1221.00

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Prudent account: \$4889.50

Literature: \$3147.91

**Co-chair:**

There are still some groups who have yet to pay their insurance premiums (\$40.00). I should have the insurance papers/policies for everyone next month.

**Chair:**

I have been travelling over the past month. I did attend the PI and Mid-Winter Round up meetings. I have prepared a discussion paper on the Meeting List as a point of new business for this meeting. Best Regards in Service, Bill P

**CPC:**

As new chair of CPC, I have been in contact with my co-chair, Foster L and we have a meeting coming up this month. There is still \$200 remaining in the committee budget and I plan to buy some pamphlets. I was able to attend events at the Success College and Northwood with the Public Information committee. I have been active in the committee although not officially in the role until January of next year.

**Corrections:**

I was told that it was being announced at meetings that Corrections needs 10 women and 10 men to chair meetings and that meetings weren't happening because there were no volunteers. This is false as there are 8 men and 9 women who freely offer their time to put on meetings. I for one am enormously grateful for their continued commitment to Corrections. I would like to remind folks that the reason that there weren't meetings for so many weeks was due to the peaceful protest, a death, and a lockdown. On an additional Wed I had 3 women cancel for that evening so subsequently the meeting was cancelled for women. I am not always able to find replacements for cancellations. I recognize that people have other commitments and are not available at a moment's notice. I also have class on Wed evenings and am not available to answer the phone after 1830 hours. It is unfortunate that meetings were cancelled, however things happen. A potential volunteer has been refused access to the prison with no reason given. It is perplexing as the person has no record and has never been in prison. I have asked for further clarification and yet haven't received anything. Another potential volunteer wishes to volunteer but has no vehicle. Please note if you are considering volunteering you need transportation to get there. Although some folks car pool this is purely voluntary and it remains the responsibility of the individual to find suitable means of transport. Unless I am chairing I am not available to drive people to the prison. There is one outstanding request for access that I am waiting for the prison's response. In the last few months it is taking several weeks to get someone cleared. Kelly D

**Question:** So there was no basis in the announcements that 10 women were needed? **Answer:** None at all; I have no idea where this information came from.

**Entertainment:**

Good evening friends. I am pleased to be able to attend tonight. We had a successful Halloween dance at St Theresa's church on November 27. It was a great night full of fun and fright with 82 in attendance, dancing until the witching hour. As I am still waiting for a few tickets to be returned the final tally is not done yet. Speaking of tickets, I do have New Year's Eve gala tickets with me tonight - join us Monday Dec 31 2018 from 8 PM to 1 AM at St Theresa's Church to ring in 2019. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. 8PM - 9PM meet and greet, 9PM - 10PM supper and 10PM - 1 AM dance. There will be door prizes, spot dances, a 50/50 draw, a photo booth, and perhaps a few surprises. As always donations of door prizes are greatly appreciated and dessert is potluck. Thankyou for your support and if you have any comments or suggestions please forward them to me. Yours in service, Natalie C.

**Help Email:**

The Help Email received 6 requests for information this month including two people looking for information on AI-Anon. I responded with an AI-Anon meeting list. Yours in Service, Beth P

**Hospital Visitation:**

During the past month, two members of the hospital visitation committee have been busy visiting our AA members in hospital. We also received a request for visitation from a Windsor member spending time in a Halifax hospital and Doug and Wayne were on it right away! They are an inspiration and a shining example of service in AA. Yours in service, Sue C.

**Literature:**

CUA account balance is \$3,147.91

Scotia account balance is \$455.83

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Inventory balance is now \$3602.20

I deposited \$89.30 into the CAU account October 18<sup>th</sup> along with the deposit of \$810.00 from last month which brought the balance to \$3,147.91. I have been waiting to receive enough of an order to make over \$50.00 US so I can get free shipping. I have a good selection of Grapevine books that people seem to enjoy. With Christmas coming just around the corner it's a wonderful way to give a sponsee or a sponsor a gift that is thoughtful and personal. I have not received any of the wall calendar or pocket planners yet. Hopefully they will be here in time for Christmas. With the postal strike I am unsure of how fast things are being sent out. If you or someone you know would like to order them, please give me a call or text at (902)293-3117 or email me at [literature.aahalifax@gmail.com](mailto:literature.aahalifax@gmail.com). I have printed a statement from both accounts if anyone would like to see these. I also have a copy to pass along to the Secretary to keep with the original minutes. Yours in service, Trudy D

#### **Bluenose Bulletin:**

The November edition of the Bluenose Bulletin had its share of AA birthday announcements, and had plenty of meeting notices and AA events, including the 40th Annual - Lighthouse Round-up in Yarmouth, NS, the New Years Eve Gala and the 40th Annual mid-winter roundup in Dartmouth. What we would ask though, is that Email to the newsletter be sent to the newsletter Email address only when on the newsletter website rather than the webmaster Email address. For clarity this should be fixed as we don't always receive the Email sent to the webmaster.

As always I would like to again take this opportunity to again remind everybody that the deadline for announcements to be included is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. It is also very important that Birthday Announcements be sent to the Committee via the newsletter Email, and not by phone, texting or in person, although exceptions are sometimes allowed for members without access to Email. For the most part we are receiving them correctly now. Finally we are seeking a new Newsletter Chair as my term is up, and our co-Chair prefers to remain in his current position. Anyone interested in this fun and creative way to give back to AA, please speak to Rob A or the CSR Chair / Co-Chair. Feedback is always welcome too.  
Yours in Service, Rob A.

#### **2018 Mid-Winter Round Up:**

The committee meeting was held on Sunday Nov. 4th.

There is very little to report. The flyers are out with the pre-registration information.

The website links are up and running and rest of the round up process is coming along quite nicely.

As for the speakers' travel expense cost question asked last month: There is no answer at this time since the flights and travel arrangements have not been made yet for the speakers. We have in our budget \$ 2000 set as our expense amount for travel. Last year's came in well below that amount and we anticipate that will happen this year as well.

In January I will be asking the newly elected Sub-Committee Chairs for their input as to how their committee would like to contribute towards the service structure information display tables being set up at the round up.

Our next meeting is Sunday Dec. 2nd - 3 Dundas Street - 1 pm.

In Service, Shawn M.

**Question:** Are we having a sign language interpreter this year? Is there a member who is in need of this service? **Answer:** Yes to both questions.

**Question:** If the travel budget for the speaker is based on last year's budget, does this year's speaker come from a similar area/ time zone? **Answer:** Yes.

#### **Public Information:**

Good evening everyone, I would like to report on the great things that have been happening since last month.

On October 10, myself, Heather, the incoming CPC Chair and another member of the PI Committee spoke at Success College in Sackville, It was a great session, with lots of questions asked by the students.

On October 19, myself and Heather visited Northwood Seniors Centre and it was truly amazing. We had 4 social workers attend with us. They explained that there are issues with alcohol at the Centre and most likely would continue going forward. At the centre there are residents at different levels of care, some mobile and some not. Some of the ideas that we discussed were continuing to provide pamphlets, business cards, a couple of Big Books, being able to call the Hospital Visitation Committee to have members visit residents who are not able to leave the centre, and possibly starting an AA meeting at the centre. NA has a meeting at the Centre once a week now.

We have also delivered our pamphlets to Sagewood Nursing Home in Lower Sackville, and we are in the process of getting in contact with all nursing homes in metro to ask if we can leave our AA pamphlets with them.

GSO newsletter for the professionals which is on the website this month under the What's New tab is all about AA and the Older Alcoholic. It is a great article and really shows the need to get information about AA out there to nursing homes and the need to

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help older alcoholics. One of the things mentioned in the newsletter is a Cooperation with the Elder Community Committee as well as an Accessibilities Committee that supports holding meetings in nursing homes, providing transport to outside meetings and the like.

I got the pleasure of attending this year's Assembly in NFLD as my group's GSR and got the pleasure of meeting and talking to the GSO guest Racey J who is on the PI desk in New York. One of the things that she suggested was having some sort of a newsletter/sharing channel for Public Information chairs in order to share information on what each District/Area is doing to carry the message. I found it very exciting to meet her she was amazing.

At the Assembly I got the contact information for the PI Chair for District 15 in St. John's and contacted her to inquire about what they have done to carry the message. It was very informative, she is going to send me information that they have used over in St. John's such as letters they have sent to various organizations and ads that they have put in newsletters. Our committee has also been looking into getting a display board to carry with us to various fairs and forums that we get invited to and Lesley from St. John's is going to send me pictures of the display boards that they have.

I also was talking to the PI Chair from District 7 who was looking to get some information on what is going on with other District PI committees and I will be forwarding to her all the activities that we have done and are working on as well as the information that District 15 will be sending me.

We had our monthly PI meeting on Saturday November 3, 2018, and we discussed various items going forward.

It would be awesome if you could bring back to your groups that we need help on our committee, especially anyone who can do some service during daytime hours. We have many upcoming projects to carry the message and will need members to help deliver pamphlets, make phone calls and attend various fairs and functions.

Our next meeting will be December 1, 2018, 10:00 at [45 Connolly Road, Lower Sackville](#). Yours in service, Leah C

**Telephone:** Things have been going well with the phones. I am currently looking for someone to volunteer to switch the phones over between shifts (call forwarding) - this is an excellent volunteer task for newcomers. Yours in service, Heather C.

#### **Treatment:**

##### **DETOX**

I am pleased to announce that the Detox meetings have been going well and all meetings attended by groups as scheduled and seemed to have found the new location as there had been some confusion in the previous month. If members can continue to announce that the Detox meeting is now held in the bungalows administration building 304 to help to assist groups that may have not yet experienced the change. The Marguerite Center requires female members to put on meetings on the first wed of every month at 7:30, in Timberlea. The Serenity Sisters have been putting this meeting on for over the past 5 years, and are unable to continue maintaining this commitment. Treatment is responsible for continuing to maintain this meeting. Some of the Serenity Sisters are willing to go on a rotation along with having more female AA members share this responsibility. I will be going in with a couple of the Serenity Sisters this coming Wednesday. I am looking for more support to carry the message, if you are interested or would like more information please contact me, the more members we have the easier it will be for all of us. I have also just received notification that the Hubbards Group would like to be removed from the detox rotation over the winter months as they are over an hour away, which can pose a problem travelling for members in winter weather and will go back into the rotation in the Spring. The contact that I had previously from the Timberlea group has since moved away, I would appreciate if a contact regarding Detox meetings, if someone could forward me a new contact name & number, that would be helpful. Service work can be very rewarding but one of the major challenges lately is finding more members to share in the responsibility, if you are not involved in service work I strongly encourage you to give it a try and you will be amazed of the power of helping another Alcoholic who is suffering, 'You can't keep it unless you give it away'. Sincerely yours in Service, Tina M. Treatment Chair.

##### **FORENSICS**

This past month the Forensic meetings have not been going well. I encourage all group GSR's to try and get their group members to step up and try service work in Treatment – Forensics. Average attendance is about 5 - 10. I am still looking for new members of the fellowship to step up and join the forensic teams. Tom S. Treatment Co - Chair.

#### **Webmaster/Website:**

No report at this time.

#### **District 1:**

Welcome, I'm Samaira, DCM of district 1. We have been discussing the past assembly that was last month. With it being a voting year, it was a bit disappointing that only 7 groups were represented at Area, since we have over 40 groups in district 1 and 2. Please bring back to your group and speak about the importance of sending your GSR to Area events.

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I had the pleasure of having lunch with the GSO guest, Racy, the PI chair. She was able to explain what the Central Service/ Intergroup assembly in Montreal is all about. We should be pleased to know it was not for commitments but for the business side of CS. More for huge cities that have employees and how they run. This year we have a new alt gsd and will be working on having more interactions with the committees in our Area. There will be an hour set aside at the service week, so maybe we can looking into having a member of the executive go and represent our committees.

District 1 will be having a workshop the last Sunday of the month, and the Three Legacies.

GSO is looking for stories for a new book on the Three Legacies, date is Nov 17 I believe. More information in the [aa.org](http://aa.org) website. Yours in service, Samaira

#### **District 2:**

District 2 has completed our elections and filled our final outstanding executive positions. Foster L will take position of Treasurer for this term. We were happy to see that 7 GSRs attended the assembly in Nfld this fall. We were happy about this because there are only 15 groups in District 2. It was a great experience for everyone. We had a full discussion most items of business that were voted on at our meeting. There were two items concerning amendments to the guidelines - one was defeated and one was tabled (Tim M's proposal). Remote communities with regards to armed forces discussion took place with a NY delegate and Murdo M who brought the subject up at this table was able to take part and get some answers. The topic of committee chairs attending service weekends was brought up and it was decided that in the future this will always be part of service weekends. The question raised here was about a line being added to the budget to cover travel costs for committee chairs for this event. Our main focus now is to make sure all the groups get their elections done and encourage members to enter into service, and to try to review the conference report over the next two months.

**Area 82:** Nothing to report at this time.

All Reports were motioned for approval by Freddy L And Seconded by Kelly D. Motion carried.

#### **ELECTIONS**

Newsletter chair: Kelly D - elected unanimously

Webmaster chair: none

Entertainment chair: Shawn M - elected unanimously

Literature chair: none

Hospital visitation chair: Rob A - elected unanimously

Help e-mail chair:

Eric L, Michael A and Marianne S stood for the position. Three votes were taken. Michael A was elected with 2/3 majority.

PI co-chair: none

Treatment chair: Stephanie J - elected unanimously

Corrections chair: Troy S - elected unanimously

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Group host for Christmas Eve Social.**

Downtown Dartmouth, Back to Basics and Sackville (3 or the 4 groups at Connolly Dr) offered to host.

**Motion by Rob A: That Back to Basics host the Christmas Eve Social this year. Seconded by Freddy L.  
Motion carried.**

#### **New Business:**

##### **Committees – Travel Budgets**

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It was decided at Area 82 that a portion of the service weekend will be devoted to committee chairs from all districts coming together to share. All districts are encouraged to send committee members. With this in mind, the 2019 budget for Central Service should include travel costs to Truro for committees who will participate in this event.

**Question:** Is this just a one hour portion devoted to the committees coming together? **Answer:** Yes.

**Comment:** There is a desire to have more than an hour devoted to this.

**Chair:** That discussion does not apply at this table. Any discussion on committee member travel to Truro is theoretical at this time, since we are not currently drawing up the budget for 2019.

#### **Meeting List Discussion Paper**

A discussion paper on possible changes to our meeting list format and policies was handed out, and a letter sent from GSO regarding a new meeting list app was read aloud at the table (both attached to these minutes).

**Comment:** This is a topic which should be taken back to groups for discussion and feedback.

#### **Announcements from Groups :**

Leah C will be celebrating 9 years and Joe will be celebrating 1 year at Second Chance group.

There are 3 birthdays coming up at West End Step group: Ashley with 1 year, Bobbi with 1 year and Mark with 14 years.

#### **Adjournment:**

The next Central Service Meeting will be Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm (St. Mark's Church).

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm with the Responsibility Pledge.

Central Service Committee

Monthly Financial Statement for October 2018

**Opening Balance October 2018** \$4016.99

**DEBITS:**

#701	Rent	\$60.00
#703	Phone	\$242.80
#702	Insurance	\$1284
#705	Literature PI	\$30.00
#706	Entertainment	\$545.00
#707	Corrections	\$30.00

**CREDITS:**

7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition	\$41.00
Insurance Contributions	\$320.00
Cole Harbour Contribution	\$200.00
Back To Basics Contribution	\$400.00
Freedom Group Contribution	\$100.00
Four Seasons Contribution	\$160.00

**Closing Balance October 30 2018** \$3045.35

Prudent account:	opening balance	\$4889.29
	interest	. 21

Closing balance	\$4889.50	\$2000 of prudent is For Insurance
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Literature Committee:	Opening balance	\$2248.61	Closing	\$3147.91
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### Meeting List Discussion Paper

**Purpose:** The A.A. Meeting list is to provide timely and accurate information as to the date, time, accessibility, format and type of meetings provided by A.A. groups. It is a vital tool in the functioning of our fellowship to bring the A.A. message to the suffering alcoholic and provide support to members to maintain their sobriety and maintain their spiritual growth.

**Aim:** It has been more than ten years since the Central Service Committee (CSC) assessed the status of our Meeting List as it exists, discussed its content, its appearance, responsibilities for its information, its timeliness, specific resolutions adopted over the years and whether it serves its purpose.

**Scope of this paper:** This discussion paper is to assist discussion and provide topics for examination. Discussion is not limited to the items listed. Any action as a result of discussion will come forward by motion from the voting members. Given the role of the Meeting List, it should have broad discussion including at the Group level before adoption of any resolution at a formal meeting of Central Service Committee.

**Item 1: Responsibility for Content:** The main responsibility rests with the Webmaster and Bluenose Bulletin. By resolution new groups must appear for six months before added the Meeting List. The Webmaster posts the current Meeting list on the website for printing by groups and individuals. The Webmaster and Bluenose Bulletin post notices of changes to group meetings. By resolution, the Literature Chair provides printed copies of Meeting List as required by groups without computer access. The Chair of CS has overall monitoring of the functioning of the activities of CSC.

- Issue a): Communication between Bluenose Bulletin and Webmaster has not always been timely or orderly.
- b) There is confusion by groups and individuals, at times, as to who to give notice to.
- c) there is no policy governing amendments to the Meeting List.

**##Discussion:** It may be time to consider a new Standing Committee of Central Service called the Meeting list Committee as the sole point of contact for amendments to the Meeting List and to be the sole contact to the Webmaster and Bluenose Bulletin for notices.

It is solely the view of the writer that the current Meeting list is somewhat amateurish and does not convey the importance and seriousness of its content for reference and preserving.

**##Action?** It may be useful to stand back and design a new look for the Meeting List (as was done with our Newsletter).

**##Discussion:** The six month rule before a new group is included in the Meeting List stems from a time when putting together the Meeting List was labour intensive and time consuming. There was one group, which frequently made changes to their meeting making the meeting list out of date. It was generally thought that a period should be given for a group to establish stability before inclusion in the Meeting List. This policy has been reaffirmed numbers of times over the years with little discussion.

Even in light of present technology, there are always practical considerations to take into account; however, does this six-month rule not place CSC in a position of passing judgement on the worthiness of an A.A. group in light of the autonomy of an A.A. group. Would a shorter period enable the fellowship to better support a new group?

**##Action:** It may be time to re-visit this six-month rule both in light of our Traditions and practical conderations.

By resolution the Literature was given the task of providing printed copies for groups unable to print the Meeting List for themselves. This is a secondary task for the Literature Committee and not at times easy to fulfill in practice. With the amendments to the Meeting List it is not always practical and financially- prudent to maintain the Meeting list in stock.

**##Action:** Is there some other way of providing this service? - providing a copy of a revised Meeting list at CSC meetings as notice to groups of a new Meeting List and a copy to make copies??

Best Regards in Service



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Bill P.  
Chair

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Alcoholics  
Anonymous®  
www.aa.org

**Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all  
communications to:  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 2, 2018

Dear trusted servant,

We are pleased to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., has licensed the Meeting Guide technology. Meeting Guide was launched in November 2015 and provides a platform for local A.A. entities (Areas, Intergroup/Central Offices, Districts, etc.) to post their local A.A. meetings and currently provides information to more than 100,000 users, reflecting some 86,000 meetings. Since the meeting information is all made available through the app's mobile-friendly interface, those seeking a meeting have a simple, one-stop place to look.

The collated meeting information will be available in the future through G.S.O.'s website, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), and will be a component of the proposed A.A.W.S. app. The intent of incorporating the Meeting Guide component is to make it easier for members to find A.A. meetings.

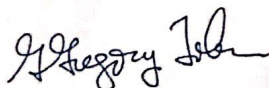
A.A. Intergroup/Central Offices, Districts and Areas that provide online meeting lists are invited to have their meetings displayed through the Meeting Guide. If you are already synchronizing your meetings through the Meeting Guide app there is no additional action necessary. When the new [aa.org](http://aa.org) website launches at some point in 2019, your information will be seamlessly included.

Please note the meeting information database will operate completely independently from the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database that is currently supported by G.S.O. Meeting Guide is a separate tool that offers A.A. entities full control of their local meeting information and collects it in one place. Users of this new portal will be linked to the service entity providing the information. Participation is, of course, voluntary, but the more connected the service is to the Fellowship as a whole, the more powerful a tool it will become.

The current listing of Intergroups and Central Offices and other local entities in "A.A. Near You" on [aa.org](http://aa.org) will not be impacted. Those wishing to contact A.A. in their community will still have access to the information that is currently available on the site.

We have developed instructions about how to connect with this new resource at <https://meetingguide.aa.org>. If you have any questions about this initiative or how to synchronize your meetings to this database, dedicated support is in place. We welcome your input and suggestions.

In fellowship,



G. Gregory Tobin  
General Manager