

Date: Oct 1, 2019

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

October 1, 2019

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:

- Christmas Eve social
- Insurance increase
- Mailbox for Central Service

Twelve Traditions: The Twelve Traditions were read by Shawn M.

ROLL CALL:

Executive	Committees	CSR	CSR	Observers
Bill P - Chair	Troy S - Corrections chair	Dave R - CSR Living in the Solution	Eric L - CSR Four Seasons	Steve A - DCM Dist 1
Michael H - co-Emily S - Secretary	Kelly D - chair newsletter	Garnett E - CSR Fresh Start	Dennis K - CSR Back to Basics	
Bruce B - Treasurer	Michael A - chair help email	Jeremy J - CSR Acceptance Group	Garth M - alt CSR Sunrise	
	Matt W - Webmaster	Cole D - Downtown Halifax	Eric P - CSR Colby Village	
	Heather C - chair CPC	Sandy K - CSR Serenity Sisters	Lynn M - CSR New Hope	
	Catherine M - Literature chair	Al P - alt CSR Fresh Start	Tim D - CSR Hubbards	
	Leah C - chair Public Information	Teddy A - CSR Lions Den	Donnie B - alt CSR West End Step	
	Stephanie J - chair treatment			
	Shawn M - chair entertainment			

7th Tradition: \$31.80 Collected by Bruce B.

Approval of the Agenda: Motioned by Troy S. Seconded by Tim D. All in favour. Motion passed.

Minutes Approved from Previous Meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes by Eric P, seconded by Leah C. Adopted unanimously. All in favour.

REPORTS

Secretary:

This month I completed the regular secretarial duties and also spoke with a number of individuals to seek a nominee for the central service secretary position for the 2020/2021 term. I attended a spiritual retreat in September which was not 12-step based but was very beneficial, and I was very grateful to be able to go. Sincerely, Emily S

Treasurer:

Opening balance: \$5885.83

Closing balance: \$6090.51

Debits: \$2131.45

Credits: \$ 2336.43

Prudent account: \$ 4891.76

Literature: \$ 999.57

VISA/Debit: \$ 444.40

Question: Can you tell us about the Visa/Debit balance? **Answer:** It is money in the bank, it is a positive balance.

Question: Is there a list of groups who have not yet paid their insurance premium? **Answer:** It's listed in the newsletter.

Question: Is there an amount on record yet for what was spent for the Intergroup conference to Arizona? **Answer:** We don't have those figures yet.

Co-chair:

I'm currently in Sedona Arizona hiking for the next few days. Sobriety, and the wonders of the 9th step promises keep revealing themselves. I am deeply grateful for what living the steps provides.

The Intergroup conference was extremely educational/informative. I will be presenting a report that will entail commonalities and what has been learned in the coming weeks.

Gratitude to Kelly for monthly Bluenose updates of groups owing for the Insurance. The list is dwindling as everyone's paying as soon as they can.

Thank you all for your dedicated service in Central Service.

Yours,

Michael H

Chair:

CSC Chair Report
October 1, 2019

1. It was an intense month. I attended the meeting of District 2 and submitted a report to Districts 1 and 2 on behalf of Central Service.
2. Committee meetings were slow in September with hurricanes and trips by Chairs.
3. There was a delegation of three members representing Central Service at the ICOAA Seminar in Arizona for 2019.
4. Mike and I attended with Marie Mac accompanying Mike. I paid for her registration. There were three workshops in each time slot which we were able to cover.
5. There were about three hundred people in attendance, the majority paid staff of Intergroup offices with a few volunteers. The Seminar was attended by the Chair of AA World Service and the Trustee and lead staff of the Grapevine.
6. Everything was recorded and I paid for a flash drive which was promised within a month.
7. I took vacation days before the Seminar with Mike and Marie after. We will get together when they return to develop a report of our mutual learnings from the event.
8. There is chat group of Intergroup and central service committees. It is secret and requires permission from the administrator to join. I will follow up on this in the next few days on behalf of chairs of Central Service.
9. Some quick highlights, we can join the GSO meeting list app quite easily. This will need to have a meeting list separated from our web site to synchronize with this app. However, the California groups use another app which links to Google maps and allows for specific directions. More on this after I get on the Intergroup site. In any case we can have some app running locally before the year end.
10. The literature is largely sold though the intergroup offices. This includes AA literature, non-AA literature (Hazelton) and what is called Drunk Junk – medallions coins birthday cards pens etc. There is no formula for the mark ups other than

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low on AA materials, higher on non-AA literature and scandalous on Drunk Junk. Literature is a profit centre for the Intergroup with offices.

11. There remains the range of Committees who set policy and have the last word but the coordination and design of implementation is dependent on office staff. Volunteers man the phones, their web sites, etc.
12. Because of American laws with staff and a retail store they are legally incorporated and have a federal charitable tax number. This is not so much for tax receipts as discounts on sales tax.
13. I attended a very interesting work shop on anonymity in the Digital Age. I will be recommending to the Mid Winter Round up a workshop on this subject and the issue of Anonymity generally. It was a little scary, anything with Google in the Background is subject to data mining. This includes words and phrases and facial recognition. The algorithms know the meaning of "Friends of Bill W" and if you post a picture make sure there is nobody in the back ground who might be recognized. You may suddenly get ads for Hazelton or the Betty Ford Foundation etc.
14. GSO and the Grapevine are in the process of implementing new computer systems. This is to make like better and more efficient but also has growing pains.
15. GSO and Grapevine have under study more use of the computer web particularly aimed at millennials who have lived with computers and computer apps. Under discussion are video of pamphlets which can be downloaded on a telephone app.
16. This is only a flavour of what was learned. Nobody could give me the miracle formula for recruiting volunteers they wanted to know what we were doing. With meeting lists a number of the groups went through the controversy of listing or not listing atheist and agnostic groups. The resolution was similar to our experience.
17. As a service nerd, I was in a room full of people with the primary purpose planted in their hearts but focused on the nuts and bolts of how that is brought about in practice.
18. It was exhausting but after three days in Las Vegas, I'm with my own people.

Best, Bill P

CPC:

CPC report for September: The committee met on Saturday the 21st. The CPC committee was contacted to participate in a Mental Health Community Fair on October 10th at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth 11:30 till 2:00. The committee also has some upcoming presentations in November. The next meeting for the committee is October 19th at North Woodside Community centre at 10:00. Always looking for new members to come and see what CPC is all about. Yours in service Heather

Corrections:

We are currently operating on 4 - 5 week rotation with meetings at the Correctional Centre.

Two new members recently joined the committee and are being rotated through the schedule for October.

The team has been extremely flexible with trading/substituting meeting nights when required by another member. It is greatly appreciated by all.

As always, we welcome and encourage new members to join in this vital service of giving back.

PS...Used Grapevines are always welcome for inmates. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any copies you would be willing to donate.

Yours in service,
Troy S

Question: Can members also donate books to corrections? **Answer:** Yes please, just contact the committee.

Entertainment:

Due to the Hurricane and me being away our last Entertainment committee meeting there was only a couple of people in attendance. We are working towards the upcoming Halloween Dance, information has been posted to the newsletter and on the website for the dance.

I have tickets to distribute to groups who have either sold the tickets that they were given, or wish to take tickets to sell (About thirty or so).

There really is not much more to report at this time. We are working on setting up a regular bowling event.

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After the Halloween Dance has concluded we will start to work on the New Years Dance next.

In Service, Shawn M.

Help Email:

Good evening, the Help Email had 4 emails in September.

Sept 5, 2019 – Erin S sent in email requesting where she and her husband (alcoholic) can attend meetings in the Clayton Park area. Sent a copy of the meeting list, highlighting meeting in her area. She is not an alcoholic but want to attend with her partner. Explained Open Meetings. She replied back liking the Meeting List and how it show Wheel Chair Accessible meetings. She is in a wheelchair.

Sept 6, 2019 – Michelle G – Sent in email wondering how to Join AA? Sent a copy of the meeting list. Explained the Only Requirement is the Desire to Stop Drinking? Gave option to women's meeting. Explained O, C, D, W, S meetings are.

Sept 11, 2019 – Scott. Says he filled out an Online Form for Volunteering???? No one responded to him. Recently moved back from Ontario.

Sent Scott a copy of our Central Service Committees emails and phone numbers.

Sept 24, 2019 – Erin M, Email sent in. How do I participate in meetings? Do I have to sign up? Where are they located? Explain to Erin all you do is just show up. Sent her a copy of the meeting list. Explained Types of meetings as well as the option a few women's only groups.

Yours in Service, Michael A

Comment: Bruce B was in contact with Scott. There used to be a tab on the website which you could click to get in touch with different committees and volunteer with them. This is still in place, and could be what he was referencing.

Hospital Visitation:

Good evening everyone,

We had a quiet month for hospital visitation with no requests for visits. All the volunteers have been very appreciated. I continue to remind everyone to make their group members aware of this service.

Allison

Literature:

Central Services

Literature Report - at September 30, 2019

Inventory on hand	9,300.10
Credit Union Acct	999.57
Scotia Bank Acct	441.40
Cash on hand	118.90
Accounts Payable	269.00
Total Value	11,128.97

Sales were \$937.30 for the month and Purchases were \$1,291.74. Rent was \$35.00.

During September Trudy and I attended the AA Sackville Day where we sold \$534.00 worth of books and \$240 in Book Draw ticket sales. Books drawn valued at \$68 and we had a net profit of \$176 from that draw.

I attended the District 2 meeting and asked for the Outreach provision to be donated to the Literature Committee to purchase bookcases for the Bookstore. That request was approved.

I will be attending the Fall Area 82 Assembly in Sydney in October. The profit from the book draw in Sackville should cover most of my accommodation expenses. I will also be sharing a room to reduce those costs.

Bookstore days for the fall are the first Saturday for October, November and December. Hours will stay at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Our bookstore day in September was cancelled due to the hurricane.

Thank you for your attention. Respectfully submitted, Cathy M

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Comment from Literature chair: We have had trouble with the new computer system at GSO (as referenced in CS chair's report) as it affects literature and particularly Canadian customers. Because of this I have been using my personal credit card recently and paying myself back from the account.

Question: There is no budget for literature within Central Service, and you have been taking trips to round ups and events - is some of that money coming from central service? Why wouldn't all of the travel expenses come from literature profits?

Answer: Currently the literature co-chair and I pay for our own meals and gas and then accommodation expenses come from central service. We are currently in an assessment stage with the literature profits, trying to determine exactly what the true profit is because prices change depending on number of items we order at a time. I have been trying to make sure never to order less than twenty items at a time to reduce costs as much as possible, which is making a difference. We are making more profit than originally thought. As time goes on, we will have a clearer picture about profits and expenses.

Bluenose Bulletin:

This month the bulletin has been especially challenging as the necessary information for upcoming committee meetings and service schedules are not submitted by the deadline or not at all. In some cases it has taken several emails/texts/phone calls to get the necessary information to ensure these important items are included in the bulletin. It can't be stressed enough that it is the individual committee's responsibility to provide all the necessary upcoming meeting information as well as service schedules to the bulletin before the 25th of the month. We appreciate your understanding that we need to have a cut-off date for submission each month to give the necessary time for us to finalize the bulletin.

There is a Halloween dance this month. Make sure you check the Bulletin for more information. You won't want to miss out on this event.

Also all requests for submission in the bulletin needs to be sent to: Newsletter.AAHalifax@gmail.com and not to the Webmaster.

When submitting notices for birthdays please ensure you provide the first and last initial of the celebrant, years celebrating, meeting date and the name of group.

Yours in service,

Kelly and Eric

Question: Why is there a section highlighted in yellow in the meeting list? **Answer:** This shows that there has been a recent change to the information in that section.

Mid-Winter Round Up:

Due to the hurricane we did not have a meeting last month, but everything is going well and the brief problem with online registration has been solved. Next meeting will be Sunday Oct 6 at 1 pm at Club 24.

Question: Do you still have volunteers who act as greeters at the round up? **Answer:** Yes.

Public Information:

Good evening everyone, things are going well with Public Information, we will be having our monthly meeting this Saturday October 5, 2019, at 10:00 at 45 Connolly Road, in Lower Sackville. Please announce at your groups that we need more members to help us with various upcoming projects.

We are very excited to be attending with the CPC Committee, the Festival of Hope Mental Health Fair at Alderney Landing on October 10, 2019.

Our committee continues to work on ideas to carry the message to those who may not know about AA.

Yours in Service

Leah C.

Telephone:

I'm not able to be at the meeting this evening.

All seems to be going well with the phones. If any new groups would like to be added to the weekend phone rotation, or if a member would like to help out with the day or evening phones, please let me know.

Thank you
Sharman M

Treatment:

Forensics:

The meeting did go as scheduled at Forensics during the month of September; however, one team had cancelled at the last minute making it difficult to find someone to attend on their behalf. Forensics is doing well with a fairly good attendance and genuine interest from the people who attend. Volunteers are required to make the teams a little larger to allow for last minute cancellations. I have been approached in the last month as well by people who wish to be added to the list.

Detox:

Meetings are being held regularly at the Detox Center in Dartmouth and I am receiving a positive response, not only from the members of the groups that attend; but also from comments made by those in attendance.

Marguerite Center

The September meeting went quite well at the Center. It was announced that AA days in Bedford would be held and in-house members were invited to attend. Three of the members from the Center did come to AA Days on September 21 and thoroughly enjoyed the day of meetings and speakers. They were provided with transportation from and to the Center and their fees were covered by donations from the groups and individuals. I wish to thank the organizers of AA days as the event was very successful and gave a very positive perception of the fellowship for those who were less fortunate.

Yours gratefully in Service

Stephanie J.

Question: Is there a meeting format which is used at the forensics meetings? Who has a copy of it? **Answer:** Treatment chair had a copy made of the meeting format last week and is working on resolving any issues around this.

Question: Our group has been discussing forensics and the struggle to fill volunteer positions - we contacted your committee and were denied because some of us could not make a commitment for the long term.

Answer: Chair will look into this. Sometimes it is difficult for Tom to keep his volunteer teams alive and healthy when he is dealing with short term commitments.

Question: Have you ever considered having a workshop put on to educate members about chairing meetings in the addictive/mental health areas? Sometimes it seems there is a stigma at play which discourages members from volunteering.

Answer: This would be a matter to be taken to District 1 & 2 meetings as it is their responsibility to host workshops.

Question: Have you thought any more about current volunteer format of teams vs groups coming in to put on meetings? **Answer:** Chair is currently working with forensics unit to discuss this, look into back ground checks and requirements - she is plugging for the idea of groups coming in.

Question: How many people put on a meeting at forensics? **Answer:** We try to have teams of 4, but as few as two would work. 5 or 6 members would be great as well.

Webmaster/Website:

This month's updates to aahalifax.org include the usual newsletter and meeting list uploads, along with uploads of the Halloween Dance and Mid-Winter Roundup flyers. We also began the process of revamping the online meeting list to become compatible with the Meeting Guide App, released by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. This app is compatible with Apple and Android devices and will help members search for nearby meetings by location. (there are only 260 cities who have joined so far so we are ahead of the game) The app also features Daily Reflections and links to other AA resources. There will be no changes to how the print and electronic copies of the meeting list are accessed on the site. The electronic version of the list, however, will see improved search features and be part of a larger and growing AA meeting database. Even better, both our site and the database can be updated at the same time.

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The app is in beta testing and will hopefully go live on our site by the end of October. Have a great October!

Yours in Service, Matt W.

District 1:

Hello everyone, my name is Steve and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving the groups in District 1 in A.A. general service as their DCM, and to represent these groups on the Area 82 Committee. My home group is the Back to Basics Group in Halifax.

This month my report consists of three points which might be of interest to the members of the Districts 1 & 2 Central Service Committee.

- The Final Report from the 69th General Service Conference is now available. The report consists of the text of conference presentations such as "Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service" by Jon P., the panel 68 delegate for Area 64, Tennessee, and reports from the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., and AA Grapevine, Inc. It also contains all the Conference Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations. The report can be downloaded by visiting: <https://kc-aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/69th-GSC-Final-Report-Anonymity-Protected-English-8-1-19.pdf>.
- The 2020 Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup, co-hosted by Districts 1 & 2, will be a one-day Founders Day event on Saturday, June 13th, 2020. It is taking place in the St. James United Church Hall located at the corner of Portland Street and Prince Albert Road in Dartmouth. The theme will be, "2020: A Clear Vision for You." It is anticipated that the registration fee will be \$10. There will be a potluck lunch, a roast beef banquet dinner, and a dance. Banquet tickets are expected to be \$15 per person.
- Box 4-5-9 is a quarterly news bulletin from the General Service Office. This newsletter includes information about A.A. service, literature, events, sharing from groups, service committees and individual A.A. members. The fall 2019 edition of Box 4-5-9 has an excellent article on the history, development, and current status of the Meeting Guide app. The issue can be downloaded by visiting: https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/en_box459_fall19.pdf

Respectfully submitted, peace and love in service, Steve A.

District 2:

Good evening friends, my name is Shayne and I am an alcoholic. I am grateful to be here and grateful to be sober today. District 2 met on Sept. 15 for the regular GSR meeting, with 6 GSR's, 3 observers and our Central Service Chair in attendance, a group conscious was formed on workshop topics and on a late proposal for the Area Assembly this year. Cathy M. was in attendance and proposed District 2 use its outreach funds to purchase a new bookcase for the literature committee. District 2 feels this is a great way to help carry the message of hope in our city and was happy to contribute. District 2's Secretary Nancy D. stepped down from her position creating an opportunity for someone to join the executive team. I ask anyone interested to please review the qualifications in the guidelines and attend the next District 2 meeting, held on Oct. 20th. I ask all CSR's of District 2 to announce at your home groups the vacant position and encourage members to step into service. The Provincial Round Up meeting was held this past Saturday, Sept. 28th. Chair person Shawn M., District 1 DCM Steve A., AGSD Trudy A. and myself were in attendance. Some executive decisions were made in the absence of a committee. A) to host the event at Saint James United Church in Dartmouth, b) to host a one-day event and c) to have a banquet with the event. Many positions need to be filled in order for this event to succeed. I encourage everyone here to announce this at all meetings in the HRM and to ask those looking to get involved in service to attend the next round up meeting, held the last Saturday of each month, 1 pm at Club 24. The Fall Assembly is only ten days away, its theme is "Love and Tolerance is our Code". This year's agenda is certainly a full schedule. Area 82 has 6 proposals to discuss and vote on, the 2020 budget to be approved and an amendment to the guidelines, which will need discussion and voting. The GSO guest this year is Patrick C. Patrick will host a GSR workshop Friday night and will share his story with us Saturday evening. It will be a weekend filled with Service, Unity and Recovery.

Yours in Service , Shayne S.

Area 82:

No report at this time.

All Reports were motioned for approval by Kelly D and Seconded by Cole D. All in favour. Motion carried.

ELECTIONS

Nominations:

Webmaster co-chair: none

Executive Elections:

Co-chair: none.

Treasurer: Bill P nominated. Qualified. Elected unanimously.

Secretary: Kelly D nominated. Qualified. Elected unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mailbox for Central Service:

Comments: Literature chair checked with Club 24 to see if they would be willing to share a mailbox and the answer was yes; this would cut the cost for both Club 24 and central service by half.

Comment: Mailbox originally used for donations and important bank statements but this is no longer relevant. Most of the mail is junk mail or the odd communication from GSO. Our current mailbox contract runs out March 31. Another option is to use a personal home address for which there would be no fee, but the address would be changing every two years. We will discuss this further when we approve the 2020 budget.

Christmas Social Dec 24:

It has been three years since the party was hosted at Club 24 so the Eye Opener group would be willing to host this year.

Sackville groups discussed the topic and were hoping someone from Halifax might step up.

Halifax groups operate mostly in churches where they have events on Christmas Eve, so it is difficult to host there.

Should this be brought back to the Eye Opener group to be discussed? - It has already been discussed.

Motion by Emily S that the Eye Opener Group host the Christmas Eve social at Club 24 this year. Seconded by Kelly D. All in favour. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance increase:

Is the executive committee allowed to make decisions like this (as mentioned in the chair's report) to absorb the cost of the insurance increase (approx \$120) without bringing it to the table and back to the groups?

- This increase was mentioned as a possibility in a clause in the contract which was approved by this table - if there are groups added, the insurance company reserves the right to readjust the fee. The increase, an additional bill, was sent to us after this table voted on the original cost and contract. It has to be paid no matter what. The only alternative is to go to each group individually and ask them for an additional payment of \$3 and change.
- Central service representatives were not asked about this.
- But we did report the action to the table.
- It seems this is a common sense decision, it is the business of the executive committee to take care of this issue - if the table voted that Central Service would not absorb the cost, what would happen then?
- We feel it is the right thing to do to ask for the approval of the table for this action because it is the right thing to do.

Cathy M made a motion to approve the action of the central service executive committee to absorb the additional cost of approximately \$120 insurance increase by Central Service. Seconded by Troy S.

25 in favour, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

Announcements from Groups :

- Teddy A will celebrate 2 years Oct 8 at the Lions Den
- Victor L will celebrate 39 years the last Monday in Oct at Downtown Dartmouth
- Sober Today group at St Pauls Church in Dartmouth Saturday nights desperately needs support
- Please bring back to your groups that we are getting bowling going again Sunday afternoons and we need your support
- At the end of October West End Step is having a memorial event for member Mark E who passed away
- At New Hope Group Allie is celebrating one year
- Dave R celebrating 5 years at the Living in the solution Group
- Kelly D will be celebrating 9 years at the Four Seasons group
- District 2 is now looking for a secretary and District 1 is still looking for a treasurer

Adjournment:

The next Central Service Meeting will be Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm (St. Mark's Church).

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

Monthly Financials Central Service Committee September 2019

Opening Balance Sept 2019 \$5885.83

DEBITS:

760 NWCC (CPC) \$108.00
 #761 Rent \$60.00
 #762 Bell Mobility \$251.45
 #763 Heather C (PI) \$55.20
 #764 C/S Literature (Corrections) \$263.80
 #765 Insurance \$1393.00

CREDITS:

7th Tradition \$31.80
 Back to Basics \$300.00
 Highland Park \$200.00
 Armview Sunday Morning \$250.00
 Second Chance \$400.00
 Downtown Halifax \$400.00
 Insurance premiums \$504.63
 Atlantic Group \$250.00
 Closing Balance Sept 30 2019, \$6090.51

Prudent account: opening balance \$4891.55
 interest .21

Closing balance \$4891.76 (\$2000 of prudent is For Insurance)

Literature Committee:

Opening balance \$1739.27 Closing \$999.57 (Visa/Debit Card) Open \$189.64 Close \$444.40