

MINUTES OF
CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
July 5, 2022
Zoom Meeting

WELCOME AND OPEN: Meeting opened by Samaira at 7pm with the Serenity Prayer.

TWELVE TRADITIONS: The Twelve Traditions were read by Mary W.

ROLL CALL: 14 in attendance of which 11 attendees were voting members.

EXECUTIVE (4)	COMMITTEES (6)	CSR (9)	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS (4)
Chair – Samaira G	Telephone – Michael A	Zeta S -Colby Village	Mary W - alternate treasurer Dist 1
Co-Chair – position vacant	Help Email –	Peter J - Downtown Halifax	Blair - DCM Dist 2
Treasurer – Foster L	Newsletter -	Sarah M - Hubbards	
Secretary –	Hospital Visitation –	Garth M - Sunrise Group	
	Treatment -	Jake B - Four Seasons	
	CPC - position vacant	Jeff D - Fresh Start	
	Literature –	Rachael S - Sunday Night Serenity	
	Corrections -	Johnny M - Highland Park	
	Webmaster - Heather L		
	Mid-Winter – position vacant		
	Public Information -		
	Entertainment – position vacant		
	Bridging the Gap -		

7th Tradition: *E-transfer is now set up; please email Central Service meeting 7th tradition contribution and group contributions to:

treasurer.aahalifax@gmail.com

*Please put a note along with your transfer as to what the donation is for and which group you represent.

Contributions can also be mailed to:

Central Service, RPO Gladstone, PO Box 31338, Halifax NS B3K 5Z1

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Bluenose Bulletin - Heather L (Back to Basics)

CS Chair - Is this a new item which has not been discussed previously? A - Yes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda by (not recorded) seconded by (not recorded).

All in favour. Motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion to approve the June 2022 minutes made by Heather, seconded by Zeta. No errors or omissions. All in favour. Motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

Hello all, my apologies for not being able to attend this month's central service meeting. I plan to draw up the minutes from the recording and have them emailed out in a timely manner. In June I had the fortune to attend the Service Palooza and the Provincial Round Up in Stellarton, which was a very moving experience - good for the soul. It made me look forward even more to upcoming social events, like the AA camping weekend, which I was happy to see in this month's newsletter. Thank you again and please let me know how I can be of help.

sincerely, Emily

TREASURER:

Group support for Central Service continues to be strong placing us in a good financial position. Expenses at the sub-committee level are still minimal against the approved budget. I have provided Emily with an updated copy of the 2022 budget and will ask that she forward it to all groups.

With the departure of the committee co-chair, Samaira has asked that I assume responsibility for the group insurance file. I sent an update of the policy to all groups earlier this month. If your group is not on the list provided and wishes to be added or if you are aware of groups that are listed but no longer meet, please let me know.

Fifteen of the 36 listed groups have not paid the 2021-2022 premiums. I would suggest at this point in the year, with the new policy only 3 months out, we just clear the slate and focus on all participating groups paying the 2022-23 premiums when the amount is known. We can discuss this later on the agenda.

I attended the service palooza which was a first experience for me; an enjoyable afternoon.

Yours in Service, Foster L Treasurer

*see Appendix A

Question Mary W alt treasurer Dist 1: Budget for entertainment going up to \$1000 - what other events are planned to justify such an increase? We have no committee just now.

Answer: CS guidelines state the executive will step in when committees are lacking chairs. Budget was originally at \$1000 - I don't know why it started dwindling in its amount. We used to have supplies on hand to pass on and these have to be replaced. Not all of the budget will be used, but we increased in order to bring it back to what it was.

Question Mary W - We have no chair for Mid-winter Round up and CPC - will you step into these positions as well?

A - The rest of the executive will be filling in these positions.

Q - Where do we stand on a mid-winter round up? A - This will be addressed under chair's report.

CO-CHAIR:

Position not filled at this time.

CHAIR: Samaira G

First I need to apologize for missing motions and seconders for the previous minutes. We are all trying our best. We had our first Service Palooza in a while - many people signed up for committee work and this was a great success. Over the next couple weeks I will be in touch with hotels to see about moving ahead with the mid-winter round up, and I will need volunteers to help. I will also talk to previous chairs to see what we can do. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please call or text me.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CPC: no chairperson at this time

CORRECTIONS:

No report at this time.

ENTERTAINMENT:

CS Chair - Contracts are signed and AA camping will take place at Dollar Lake Provincial Park on August 5, 6 and 7. We plan a picnic in Point Pleasant park in September. If you have any ideas please contact me (by phone).

HELP EMAIL:

I'm finally able to take a few days off.... it's been a long year without a vacation. Help Email wasn't too busy this month. 5 women and 7 men. Some ppl just reaching out for what meeting they can attend that day. Looking for sign up. And basically just meeting stuff. Gave all necessary information. Happy belated Canada Day everyone.

Your friend in Service,
Sherry G

HOSPITAL VISITATION:

June was very quiet. Palooza was the highlight of the month. I'm glad I attended and was able to sign on new volunteers .

Thank you, Gilles D

LITERATURE:

No report at this time.

MID-WINTER ROUND-UP: no chairperson at this time

NEWSLETTER:

Just a reminder that meeting notices / updates should be sent to both the Webmaster (Webmaster.aahalifax@gmail.com) and the Newsletter (Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com) to ensure your message is communicated to the AA community.

Newsletter submissions for August should be submitted to Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com by the 25th of July 2022.

Thanks, Mike

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

No report at this time.

TELEPHONE:

Good evening everyone, The day phone and the evening phone are coming along much better. From the Telephone Workshop and the Palooza, we have added 3 additional people on the day phone list and a couple more on evening list. Also an additional 3 people on the 12th step call list.

With summer here, at times it can be hard to reach people, but no big issues.

The overnight phone saw no phone calls since our last meeting.

It's strongly recommended that we place the overnight phone on a voice message. The day shift can make any call backs. If we find that we are getting calls during the overnight shift, we can reactivate the phone.

I am also going to be purchasing new binders for the phones.

I have spoken to Foster and we already have an approved budget for the replacements.

Thank you, Yours in Service, Michael A

Comment: Agree with putting overnight phone on voicemail due to the lack of calls at that time. If there was an emergency I'm sure people would call 911 instead of AA.

TREATMENT:

Hi everyone

I hope you all had a great day. I'm sorry that I'm not able to make the meeting tonight. All is going well with both the Marguerite Center and Detox. I try to send a reminder out to the groups when it's their turn to go and I also let the nurses and staff know at both facilities . That seems to work well.

Have a good meeting. Thank you, Sharman M

WEBMASTER:

An update on the possibility of having a PDF/printable meeting list. Johnny and I met 2 weeks ago just to review what we have now on the web which includes:

- A Meeting List page on the web site which we maintain with meeting changes/ additions, etc.
- A plug-in where we enter meeting information again to be uploaded to the mobile app Meeting Guide.

This meeting guide plug-in has an export option that sends all of the information out to an Excel file. I have yet to make progress on figuring out how to edit this Excel file (with as few steps as possible) in order to make something that could be a PDF. And to be clear, the old tri-fold Google Sheets document is not being considered as we have too many meetings to fit that plus it was very difficult to maintain in the first place and would be a 3rd tool that would need to be updated every time a meeting changed.

I will be looking closely at the Excel export option of the Meeting Guide plug-in as that is the only reasonable way forward. I hope to have a clearer update in the coming months.

Beyond this, I have done the usual web maintenance during the month; update plug-ins, meeting changes, post minutes, newsletter, work shop flyers, announcements, etc.

Yours in service,

Heather

Q- (Blair) If you could send me the excel export details I will have a look - I'm pretty good with formulas and perhaps I can help. A - Will do - thank you!

Question Mary W alt treasurer Dist 1 - Is Johnny now the co-chair? A - We don't have a co-chair position, but Johnny is part of the committee and Pedro is in the background, willing to help. Question Mary W - If someone is making changes to the website, it should be coming from someone voted into a position. A - I asked that when we discussed it before, but we have committee members on the phone committee for example who are not voted in. Q - Would it be a good idea to have a co-chair position so any work can fall back on them if the chair can not do it? A - I don't have a strong feeling about this - to have Johnny offer to help is a rare and wonderful thing. I don't feel strongly that we need this position.

CS chair - We discussed this before and we felt it was fine to accept the committee member.

Comment Mary W - This is not stated in the minutes.

Comment - I am a strong supporter of succession planning and it would be great to have someone in place for when the 2 year term is up.

Johnny - It's a practicality: for the awareness of the table, I am in technology and I do this for work. This position is a massive job - I couldn't believe the level of technical stuff. There are maybe only 10 people in whole fellowship who might be able to do this. I was just trying to be nice to get a little involved. But I don't think it will be easy to find many willing co-chairs.

Comment Mary W- I did find this addressed in the minutes after all, thank you.

Comment Foster L - If there is no position existing for co-chair, we will never get anyone interested in taking it. It may sit vacant, but to have it as an existing position, this is a prudent thing to do.

Comment - This is the very type of committee which could use a co-chair, thinking of the need to take it over in the future. At the Area level it's hard to find someone to take on the website as well. We have taken for granted this volunteer aspect, the website only kept going

because Pedro stepped in out of the goodness of his heart, but these are specialized skills we might have to start looking for a paid professional long term.

CS Chair - Maybe we can put it on next month's agenda whether we would like to add a co-chair position to the webmaster position. And we can talk about the paid position.

BRIDGING THE GAP:

No report at this time.

DISTRICT 1:

We as members of District 1 would like to thank you for all the work and dedication in Carrying the message to the Alcoholic who still suffers. Let's continue to carry the message

- District 1 next workshop is July 27 @6pm Topic: Introduction to Corrections. Please bring another AA member to this workshop to find out various information on a update on Our Correctional Facilities
- The Grape vine kit has been distributed. The Highland Park group will be having it displayed in their meetings.

- District 1 is looking for an Alt DCM. Please pass this around to your group members.
- District 1 is looking to invite you as members of the Central Service Committee to attend our business meetings so that we can show you how things are done at the district level, when you are ready to move forward into another position of Service. Please join us at our next business meeting. In July 27/2022
- There has been a Quarterly report sent out by Area 82. If your group has not received this information, please send me a request.
- The fall assembly is coming soon. Please remind your groups to think of any fall Agenda assembly items. No date has been given but when it does, we will send out an email in advance.

District 1 wants to thank you all for being of Service to this great Fellowship. your dedication to Service in the fellowship is important. - Paul B DCM District 1

DISTRICT 2:

Good evening, I am grateful to be here and grateful to be sober. The month of June was busy with Area 82 and District 2 business.

Updates from GSO:

- A communication was sent from GSO on the updated Meeting Guide App and how to ensure your meeting is displayed with the correct details
- The Akron Intergroup News for June has been communicated with great information on Founders Day

- AAWS is experiencing printing delays for the hardcover Big Book and other books due to supply chain issues
- The 2022 National AA Technology Workshop will be held in Seattle, WA on September 9-11 in person and online
- The July Grapevine Newsletter has been distributed

Updates from Area 82:

- There will be a Quarterly Area 82 DCM/Area Officers meeting held in July
- The Q2 Financials have been distributed by the Area 82 Treasurer
- The General Service Board is looking for nominations from Area 82 for the Class B Trustee-at-Large/Canada position (election at Area 82 Fall Assembly)

District 2 held their June meeting in person with 4 groups represented

- Anne P. from Circle of Sisters is the new District 2 Secretary
- District 2 has an opening for the position of Treasurer
- District 2 will be holding their regular monthly meeting on July 17 at 2pm at Club 24

Yours in Service,
Blair A. DCM District 2

AREA 82: no report at this time

APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS

A motion was made by Johnny to approve the reports, it was seconded by Foster.
All in favour; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

-Central Service Elections:

- Central Service Co-Chair : no nominations
- Entertainment chair - no nominations
- Mid Winter round up - no nominations
- CPC - no nominations

- Overnight telephone discussion:

CS chair - We have discussed this during the telephone chair's report. It was decided that we put a message on the overnight phone for now. Are we in agreement? Yes.

NEW BUSINESS

-Group Insurance (Treasurer, Foster L)

Foster read the memo which went to all groups in June. *see appendix B

The crux of this is: we are in a good financial position. Some groups were not in a position to contribute due to loss of income during Covid. I'm going to recommend that we wipe the 2021 slate clean due to our favourable financial situation and move ahead to premiums to be collected in October 2022. Once I get a finalized list of groups who want to participate, I will contact Macleod Lorway and get them to update the group names on the policy. In the past the CS committee is listed due to our previous in person meetings, District meetings as well. I've been asked by Safety Net and Colby Village to add these groups - and I understand Living in the Solution group is no longer. New Hope will come off as well.

Comment: Safety Net has a cheque ready - will they be covered for the rest of 2021? Answer - I will send a note to the insurer to see if they can be added on.

Q - Is there a way we could add all groups to the policy? Is the cost going to be that much more substantial? It would save you having to add and subtract groups. Answer - It is possible, it might drive the cost up a bit. I think it's better to work with the ones who want to work with us, who will accept the policy. Once I have it, I will reach out to the secretary to make sure a copy of the policy goes out to all groups.

Comment - I was under the impression it was for all groups - and the ones which could afford to pay would cover this cost for everyone. Answer - I was the one who negotiated with the insurer in 2013. We considered, if all groups were covered, and yet some were not interested in being involved, how do we fairly split the cost? It's a good point and one I will clarify with the insurer. One question to consider: if a group refuses to pay, do we deny them coverage?

CS chair - It did come up and we discussed that some groups did not want to be on the policy. We wanted to know the exact number of groups participating so that we could work out how to split the cost evenly between groups.

Foster - I'm making a recommendation today, not a motion (no money involved): That we clear the slate for the 2021 insurance and start anew in October for the next year.

CS chair: And cover the remainder of funds which have not been paid yet.

Q - Has District 1, District 2 and Central Service paid?

A - District 1 and 2 have not paid for 2021; Central Service did pay.

Can we have a show of hands for those in favour of this recommendation?

All in favour.

Treasurer - My phone number is online if anyone needs to get in touch about the policy.

- Bluenose Bulletin - Heather L, Back to Basics

Heather L read a letter on behalf of the Back to Basics group concerning the newsletter content and citing various items from the Central Service guidelines and service position duties around the newsletter. The group requested that guidelines be followed.

CS Chair - This was discussed in great length in the last meeting - the quotes you mentioned are to be left to the discretion of the newsletter chair.

Question Jeff D - This already went back to the groups, am I correct? I remember discussing this with my group.

Answer - Yes, and it was discussed at the CS table in detail.

Question Alt treasurer District 1 Mary W - I don't see in the minutes a resolution of any type on this issue. What Back to Basics is asking is that the guidelines be followed. Years ago we had things added to the newsletter, and more and more things were put in and it did cause conflict. It was decided it would be an events-only information bulletin.

CS Chair - The secretary has the recordings from the minutes and we can check to see if there was a resolution as we believe there was.

Mary W - Back to Basics was going to bring this tonight as a motion but we changed our minds because the guidelines were brought in as a motion. But perhaps we need to make a motion on this after all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Johnny M - You may know Harold from Highland Park, his wife passed away, please keep him in your thoughts. There are two birthdays at Highland Park: Sharon and Doug will be celebrating at the end of the month, July 29.

Paul B wanted to mention that we are looking for an alternate DCM. District invites all CSRs to our district meeting to learn what's happening at the district level as this is a rotation year.

Motion to close the meeting made by (not recorded), seconded by (not recorded) .
All in favour; motion passed.

Next meeting August 2, 2022 at 7 PM on zoom.

Meeting adjournment at 8:17 PM with the Responsibility Pledge.

Appendix A

June 2022

Operating Account	
Opening Bank Balance	\$11751.92
Credits	\$1410.00
Debits	\$604.16
Closing Bank balance	\$12557.76
Cheques Outstanding	
Closing Operating balance	\$12557.76

Prudent Reserve Account

Opening balance	\$4898.31
Closing balance	\$4998.51

Literature Account

Opening Balance	\$2848.60
Credits	\$421.23
Debits	\$0.00
Closing balance	\$3269.89

Appendix B

Group Insurance Policy #040145906

The purpose of this memo is to offer information to all groups re the status of the 2021-22 group insurance and to gather information to be used in setting the 2022-23 policy with Macleod Lorway.

Background:

In 2013 Churches, halls and other rental facilities used by AA started demanding all persons using their buildings carry liability insurance against perils that may occur. Their policy holders would not accept third party liability in the event something happened at one of our meetings/events. Groups began to seek out individual policies, many costing hundreds of dollars a year.

Central Service Committee researched to possibility of a group policy that would cover all groups and committees (Central Service, Districts) interested in participating. The accepted policy would cost group less than \$50 per year (in 2013) and would cover any slips, falls, accidents etc. at AA meetings and events hosted by a group or Central Service. The policy has been in effect since 2013 and automatically renews annually. The annual premium is based on the cost of the policy divided by total participating groups and committees.

Current Status:

For fiscal 2021-22, ending in October 2022, there are 36 participating groups/committees with a total premium of \$1800.00, or \$50 per group/committee. Currently 21 groups/committees have paid the premium so \$1050 of the premium paid by Central Service has been recovered.

Participation is voluntary unless otherwise demanded by the landlord and in some cases groups that are better off will join to help offset the cost to groups with fewer resources.

Groups listed on the current policy are named below. Should you wish to be removed please let me know. If you are unsure if your group has paid the 2021-22 premium contact me, I have a current list.

Next Year:

I will be in discussion with our insurer soon to set the 2022-23 policy and will need to know if your group or committees wants to participate. Please advise as soon as possible. Invoices for 2022-23 payment will be sent to participants in October 2022.