

**MINUTES OF
CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 7, 2022
Zoom Meeting**

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

TWELVE TRADITIONS: The Twelve Traditions were read by Mike M.

ROLL CALL: 26 in attendance of which 21 attendees were voting members.

EXECUTIVE (4)	COMMITTEES (6)	CSR (9)	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS (4)
Chair – Samaira G	Telephone – Michael A.	Back to Basics – Paul B	DCM District 1 – Mary W
Co-Chair – n/a	Help Email – Sherry G	Four Seasons - Joel N	Leah C - observer
Treasurer – Foster L	Newsletter - Mike M	Fresh Start – Jeff D	Becca H - Dtn Dartmouth alt CSR
Secretary – Emily S	Hospital Visitation – Gilles D	Downtown Dartmouth - Mark M	
	Treatment - Sharman M	Circle of Sisters - Anne P	
	CPC - no chair	Sunrise – Garth M	
	Literature – n/a	Colby Village – Zeta S	
	Corrections - Tom S	Downtown Halifax - Peter J	
	Webmaster - n/a	Sunday Night Serenity – Rachael S	
	Mid-Winter – no chair	Safety Net - Sean M	
	Public Information - Clayton	Acceptance - Ian S	
	Entertainment – no chair	Serenity Sisters - Jackie	
	Bridging the Gap - Bill P		

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda by _____ seconded by _____ .
All in favour. Motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion to approve the May 2022 minutes made by _____ , seconded by _____ . No errors or omissions. All in favour. Motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Secretary:

Hello everyone - please forgive my being off camera tonight but I'm out of town and using data instead of wifi for this meeting, so my connection is stronger without video. Thank you to everyone who sent me your report on time. This month was fairly quiet for me after I had the minutes compiled and sent out. I assisted our webmaster in connecting with a few groups for some meeting list queries she had. Please let me know if I can be of help in any way.
Thank you, Emily

Treasurer:

Donations continue to roll in, leaving us in a good financial position. Expenses at the sub-committee level are minimal to date. A discussion will be held under old business regarding how best to adjust our approved budget if deemed necessary.

*see Appendix A

Co-Chair: Tim M

No report at this time.

Chair: Samaira G

I have news that the co-chair Tim M is resigning as of today. Please share we are looking for a new cochair. We can vote to elect a new co-chair at the next meeting. Please refer to the guidelines for duties of co-chair. I have been working on glitches with my email account and people have been getting a delayed response. Some members on the executive of central service sit in for vacant committee chair positions and I have been looking into the entertainment committee and its budget. If we take a look at this tonight we can begin to go ahead with some plans. I am working with the webmaster to get a printable meeting list finalized. I spoke with the PI chair and he is willing to assist, but is not interested in combining his committee with CPC at this time. Please take it to your groups that we are looking for a new CPC chair or even a group to form a committee until a chairperson is found.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CPC: no chairperson at this time

Corrections:

Nothing new to report - the facility is still shut down, and they have no idea if they will be opening this year or not.

Thank you, Tom S

Question - Have they thought about having zoom meeting instead?

Answer - They may not have the electronics for it.

Entertainment: no chairperson at this time

Help Email:

I apologize for being behind on my report. I am still enjoying this position. 15 people reached out in May: looking for meeting details, detox info, asking about Alcare Place, and zoom meeting info. Sometimes I have to reply to the same person three or four times, which is great, because more is exchanged when you're going back and forth. Thank you, Sherry.

Hospital Visitation:

May was quiet other than a request from Mark Z from District 3 wanted info for a member coming to Halifax on weekends. He thanked me for the service.

Thank you, Gilles D

Literature:

Hello everyone! Please forgive my short report this month, as I have been busy with work and vacation and have been away for the last month. No new business except that we have changed our store hours from Friday from 5pm-7pm to Mondays from 5pm -7pm effectively immediately. Please share this with your groups and committees and we look forward to being of service as always! This date change will be submitted to the Newsletter to be posted in next months newsletter.

The financial report will also have to wait until next month central service meeting when our financial report can be caught up due to my absence, I appreciate your patience on this.

Looking forward as always to making sure the message of A.A. reaches those in need.

Yours in service,

Joshua M. , Literature Chair

Comment: You can always contact Josh and make arrangements to buy literature from him or meet with him outside bookstore hours.

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

Thanks, Mike

PI:

A few of us met last month, working on some materials for medical clinics - all have been delivered. On June 4 there was a mental health fair - an awareness event - and we gave out business cards and pamphlets. We are low on supplies such as pamphlets. We plan to place an order soon. We have a new committee member. As mentioned earlier, we see Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community as separate committees and are not interested in joining the two. Thank you, Clayton, Public Information chair

Telephone:

The last month actually seemed to be a quiet month for the phone.

The daytime phone saw 2 people have to come off the list (work related reasons) leaving us with only 8 people rotating the day phone.

The evening phone is still going well with a strong team, but we only have one person in the Dartmouth area at this time taking the evening phone.

As the Alt-DCM2, I will be hosting a Telephone Committee Workshop on June 16th, 2022 at 6PM on the Zoom Platform in hopes to generate more interest.

I personally have been taking care of the overnight phone since December. In the last 6 months, the overnight phone has received a total of 3 calls. All calls between 8AM - 9AM. We may want to look at putting the overnight phone on a voice recording asking the person to leave their name and number and a member will get back to them after 9AM. Just a thought, but since Covid the overnight shift has seen little to no calls.

We are also in need of ladies for our 12th Step Call List.

Again, we are strongly asking you to go back and announce the need for telephone support to your groups and guests.

Thanks, Yours in Service, Michael A

Q - How many people on the day time phones?

A - 8 people

Q - When was the last time the binders and info were updated?

A - Within the last two weeks.

Q - Why did you take the phone for May?

A - I wanted to give people a break because the rotation is so quick.

Treatment:

The scheduling is going well with the Marguerite Center and Detox. Thanks to all of you who help to put meetings on for those facilities. Last night we had a small workshop on Bridging the Gap. Bill P has done up a draft on what Bridging the Gap is so the groups who will be going in to these facilities can read it aloud to the patients. This will be added to the regular format that is read at each meeting. We are going to start this program with Detox first then move on to the Marguerite Center.

Thank you
Sharman M, Treatment Chair

New addition to detox meeting format (drafted by Bill P) read aloud: (not available)

Q - Why is the schedule for the groups taking the detox meetings and the schedule for the phones not together in the newsletter anymore?

A - We had this discussion last meeting - it has to do with print layout formatting, and the treatment chair is in agreement with the current format.

Webmaster:

Hi all and I apologize for not being able to attend this month's meeting.

May was busy with Pedro meeting with Johnny to provide training on our web site. I was not able to join for technical reasons but the session they had was useful. Johnny has already been very helpful to me so this Web Committee will be just the thing to keep things all running smoothly.

I completed a project regarding our District 1 & 2 Meeting Lists; both the Meeting List you see from the web site and the Meeting Guide mobile app. First, it is important understand that these are 2 different entities so meeting changes must be entered in 2 places and therefore it's very likely, over time, that things get messed up. I will say though given we now have 87 meetings, I only had 6 questions so big thank-you to Pedro for keeping these 2 systems updated; especially through COVID as there were so many changes!

Emily was able to provide me with contact info for all of the groups I had questions about, and I got the answers I needed so as of now these 2 sources of meeting information are in sync.

Another topic that was brought to my attention in late May was the desire to bring back the PDF paper version of our Meeting List and make that available from the web site. I have dug into options on how this can be done and, so far, all I can report is that it won't be trivial. I am trying hard to avoid a 3rd source of meeting list information as that just complicates things further. There is an export option in the Meeting Guide mobile app and I have been trying to figure out how that turn that output into the desired format for printing. I have a copy of what the paper list used to be like. This 2019 version was able to fit the 70 meetings, in a readable format, on 1 piece of paper. But we now have 87 meetings so that alone is going to make it difficult.

But all is not decided yet. I want to meet with Johnny and review what I've learned so far and see if together we can come up with a plan. We will meet on this in June.

Beyond this, I have done the usual web updates during the month; update plug-ins, post minutes and announcements, etc.

Yours in service,

Heather

Ad hoc – Bridging the Gap:

The Ad Hoc Committee met including Mike, Chair of Telephone, Sharman of Treatment, Leah and Bill P.

1. The Chair of this Committee admits things have been dragging along. To move this into concrete form, we have decided to go one step at a time with a focus on Detox Meetings. The following is the general proposal and plan.
2. To this end, Sharman will be contacting the staff at the Detox Centre to introduce them to the program followed with further information.
3. The Committee has drafted an insert to be included with the Meeting format for Detox. This is in the hands of the Treatment Committee for final drafting and inclusion.
4. We will have initial discussions with the treatment groups as the source of the first volunteers. We envision the groups will solicit their members for volunteers for this task. This volunteer list, as developed, will be provided to all groups putting on meetings.
5. The Committee will order from the Book Store a stock of the pamphlet: "Bridging the Gap" for the information and knowledge of the meeting groups.
6. The mission statement for this program is found in the pamphlet as follows:

A.A. experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to bridge the gap, A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous.
7. The contact volunteers follow the usual Step 12 protocol of women with women and men with men and two people making the contact.
8. We will be meeting in the next couple of weeks with a volunteer knowledgeable with graphics and design for the printed-packages to be handed out to potential newcomers.
9. Our goal is to launch this program in the month of July with all the pieces in place. We assume problems will arise - to be sorted out.
10. Our next step will be devoted to the particular details of the Marguerite Centre.
11. The expansion of this program will include Corrections, Forensics, possibly other facilities as matters unfold.

All in Service – Bill P.

District 1:

No report at this time.

District 2:

(read by Michael A, alt DCM)

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

Updates from GSO:

- Registration is now open for the National AA Technology Workshop in Seattle Washington on September 9-11
- 7th Annual Unity and Service Conference on Traditions and Concepts will be held on July 8-10 virtually and in person in Concord California

Updates from Area 82:

- The Spring Assembly was held with 4 Area Officers, 9 Districts, and 36 Groups represented
 - Agenda Items:
 - Two separate Ad Hoc committees for Finance and Guidelines were approved
 - Delegate and Alt. Delegate will continue to fill the role of Webmaster
 - CPC, Treatment, and Grapevine sub committees are in need of a Co-Chair for NS
 - Kathy will remain as the NS Archivist until the Fall Assembly
 - The Committee Workshop focused on sharing of ideas and struggles filling service positions
- The Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup will be held on June 10-12 in Stellarton

District 2 held their May meeting in person with 5 groups represented

- District 2 has an opening for the position of Secretary and Treasurer
- District 2 will be holding a virtual workshop on Thursday June 16 at 6pm on the Telephones
- District 2 will be holding their regular monthly meeting on June 19 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 _____ to approve the reports, it was seconded by _____.
All in favour; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Central Service Elections:

- CPC - no nominations; please go back to your groups and remind them PI will be of help however they can
- Entertainment - no nominations; please bring this back to your groups
- Mid Winter Round Up - We will push this forward to the next meeting.

Q - Has there been discussion about a desire to have an online round up?

A - no comment

Budget review (Foster L) - input from groups

We have brought in a good number of donations at this time, we don't want to sit on a lot of money that's not being used. My idea was that before sending it to GSO or Area, to ask if we could use it locally? I like the idea of spending locally, there could be opportunities within subcommittees like entertainment and literature where these funds can be used. We can move money around - \$500 is allotted to corrections which are not having meetings at this time, for example. Perhaps books in high schools. Are there any other ideas? Do we need new telephones?

Comment: (Samaira) The executive will be filling in chair positions which are empty, I am willing to do some things this summer for the entertainment committee. The budget was \$1000 when I was chair of entertainment in the past. We should revisit budget line for entertainment.

C - (Ian S) - Acceptance had some ideas at group conscience: AA literature for schools (which books chosen is up for debate); supplying literature to corrections; literature for community free library boxes. We would defer to wherever PI and literature committees decide. The other idea would be if there is an expression of need from GSO it could be an option to send it there.

Q- (Back to Basics) - Are there guidelines in treasurer position that talks about what happens with surplus funds? Should groups be looking to divert funds in other ways rather than sending to CS for donations?

A - I haven't read these guidelines for a little while - from experience and history, normally when there is surplus funds it comes back to the table; the treasurer does not have authority to make decisions on their own. If I had a specific direction in mind, I would put a motion forward, but in this case, I am asking for ideas.

CS chair - Sometimes when the budget comes out, you might bring it back to your group and your group would have ideas to make a change.

Treasurer - We operate with one common goal - if we can assist the district, that is an option.

Comm - Funding for entertainment committee - sounds like they will need money as they're getting back up and going. I suggest putting \$1000 aside.

Motion - Mike M - To increase entertainment budget from \$100 to \$1000.

Seconded by Bill P.

Vote
In favour - 15
Against - none

Motion passed.

Treasurer - Please note the current entertainment budget includes \$400 for the Xmas social.
Samaira - In my memory the budget for the Xmas social was separate from the entertainment committee budget line - the \$400 was a loan to get started.

Discussion:

Comment - Great idea, I haven't gone to camping but everyone I've talked to loved it, it often attracts young people in AA. How will this work - will CS pay for a handful of lots?

A - There are four campsites joined together, we rent all four. We don't know the rate - before, it was around \$140 per night.

Q - You would have extra funds, then.

A - We supply burgers one day, and something else. In the past the budget was about \$1000.

Q - Raising the budget doesn't mean we spend it all right away.

Q - I can't recall, but I thought the budget was set at \$500 because it is used for deposit and ticket sales would replenish money (for events).

A - It may seem like that, but it was not the case. It's a budgeted amount of money, we pay for the sites. There is always a 7th tradition but that is only part of it. The camping and the picnic are just two events - if there are other ideas that come up please call and make suggestions.

Comm - If there is a dance there is an admission charge - but not camping. We are self supporting and we ask ppl to support during dance and other events.

Treasurer: I would caution: this year we are in good shape, but next year we may not have \$1000 for entertainment events.

Comm - Bill P - What has been budgeted for bridging gap? We need funds for printing and pamphlets, in the \$500 range.

Motion to increase Bridging the Gap budget from \$300 to \$750 by Bill P

Seconded by Michael A.

Vote:
16 in favour
against - none

Motion passed.

Discussion:

Treasurer: With these changes, please note we have approved expenses of \$1600 - we are currently sitting on about the same amount. But there is flexibility within the budget between committees.

- **Consolidating PI and CPC committees (Foster L)**

This item removed - since it's already been determined there's no interest

-Newsletter content suggestion (Back to Basics) - input from groups

Comment - Maybe you could use the space to advertise for empty service positions we are trying to fill - our group Fresh start suggested this.

Comm - Our group suggested they prefer AA approved material, just in reference to the little quotes and slogans (Colby).

Comm - Perhaps condensing the meeting notices, it's repetitive month after month.

Comm - Majority of the group were wondering about notice-only content in newsletter, rather than slogans or other content (Downtown Dartmouth).

Comm - I read the newsletter and I think it's on the mark, well done.

Comm - Mike's doing a fantastic job, it might be different than years ago, but it's refreshing - our group highlights what we want to mention during the meeting.

Comm - No consensus with our group but only support for the newsletter - One question to perhaps to raise: what's the newsletter for? if we're clear on what it's for, we can determine what needs to be AA approved and what parts are just news. (Acceptance)

A - We have to recognize, it's not a newsletter, anymore, it's a bulletin.

Comm - (Bill P) A little bit of history: there was full debate years ago on what newsletter was to be, a magazine with articles or an event calendar, and it was consensus that it would be event calendar. We don't sponsor outside activities (club 24 for example). The phrase conference approved causes misunderstanding - GSO let the logo lapse and this is why "AA Approved" came into being - it was never meant to mean anything else is "disapprove." It was for legal reasons only, not as a directive.

Comm - Our group likes the slogans, it creates discussion topics. We have no issues. (Four Seasons)

Comm - Our group as a preference for newsletter as calendar, monthly event news. Meeting notices should be current, not just reference to an online list. It is an AA tradition that if it's not approved or sanctioned AA literature, where do we draw the line? (Back to Basics)

A - Samaira - What I'm hearing is, perhaps we can stop with meeting notices after they've been listed for two or three months. It seems like the consensus is that slogans are things we hear in our meetings - groups can make decisions to not read what is not pertinent to them.

Comm - We do vote in the newsletter chairs, and they are trusted servants.

A (Mike M) - I normally run meeting notices for about 3 months, unless there's another change. There is small print after each notice showing the date it was received. I can get rid of a lot of these but groups often come back and say 'where is my update?' Many members don't use the meeting list online and refer to the newsletter for updates.

Q - Are meeting list updates on the website? A - Yes, they are sent to both newsletter and webmaster.

-Service Palooza

Samaira has asked Leah to talk about this.

Leah: I was helping Tim out but he is no longer co-chair. I think he said there were 4 committee members who were planning to participate. This time it will be in Sackville at 45 Connolly Road. All committees are invited to come and bring materials so they can speak to new people who may want to get involved in service. All committees are asked to participate.

CS chair Samaira: I will have a discussion with Tim in the next few days - details are in the guidelines. All chairs of committees are expected to attend Saturday June 18 from 1 - 4PM. If you are not able to attend please find a previous chair or someone with experience to stand in. It's going to be a great event. Bring your sponsees. There are many committees who can encourage potential volunteers to do work from home.

Q - Should the executive committee of CS go as well?

A - Not sure - people are not lining up to get into these positions. I would go to stand in for Tim. If you want to go, Foster, that would be great.

Q - This was originally set up to get people to join committees - but I think the the exec should come as well - you can talk to about your job, answer questions asked - its good idea.

Comm - (Bill) The palooza was always intended for services of AA - not the executive.

Please take back to your groups to participate and attend!

NEW BUSINESS

-Central Service in person meeting discussion (Michael A)

Michael A - i wanted to bring it to your attention - now that all our meetings are back live we are encouraging people to get back to live meetings. I think all levels of AA should be back live so that we set an example. We should we be looking at going live for CS meetings.

Q- Do we have a commitment from St Marks church and is rent going to be the same? The budget for rent is \$0 right now.

Comm -I think its about time we shut this zoom stuff down, it's been over two years, it's not the same, we should put the ball in motion for in person anyway.

Comm. (Bill P)- I can check with the secretary of the church tomorrow and see if they're available, church seems to be open and require masking; I can check on rent, too.

Comm - I'm for meeting in person - but does anyone know the stats: if we have more attendance online? Is anyone vulnerable to covid? Do we want to think about online hybrid participation? It could be a way to accommodate everybody.

A - It seems we are getting a lot more people online and also people from away, we are a big district, we seem to get more online a lot of it has to do with travel expense. It takes almost 4 hours to go in to the meeting and back from Sackville. Sometimes ppl don't want to wear mask if that is mandated.

Comm - I don't see persuasiveness of "leading by example" - there is a difference between a business meeting and an AA meeting.

A - I have had a few messages already from people who say they would find it hard to come in person.

Comm - Another reason to come in person is to pick up newsletter and pamphlets you would not get unless printed off yourself, copies meeting list etc, so that it's not a financial burden on groups. With regards to rent, rent is \$10 at Club 24.

A - (Samaira) When the printed meeting list is available shortly, they will be at the bookstore. If someone needs information printed out, I would be happy to help, but no one has complained so far about printing.

Comm - I like to meet in person because we can see body language, what the attention span is, interest etc . All that aside, these points are valid: and is it time to look for a new location?

Comm - I love service work, and it really helps me meet my family commitments when I can attend service meetings online.

Comm - Can we do a poll for this, to get an idea, and take it from there? Concerning hybrid meetings, a wifi connection available would be a consideration. It would not make sense to meet in person if there was no interest.

Poll -

Who wants to meet in person? 4 hands

Who wants to stay on zoom? 13 hands

Please bring back to your groups that we are looking for a new co chair, as well as CPC, Entertainment and MidWinter Round Up chair.

*Comment: I want to point out that we did not include in the poll the option of a Hybrid meeting.

Note: We don't need to add the changes to the budget lines to next month's agenda, it will be addressed in the treasurer's report.

Overnight Telephone discussion

Deferred to next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Founder's Day June 10 - Keep it Simple group will have cake and sandwiches and a guest speaker from Maine - please come.

Motion to close the meeting made by _____, seconded by _____.
All in favour; motion passed.

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

Meeting adjournment at 9:10 PM with the Responsibility Pledge.

Appendix A

May 2022

Operating Account

<u>Opening Bank Balance</u>	\$10376.92
Credits	\$1475.00
Debits	\$100.00
<u>Closing Bank balance</u>	<u>\$11751.92</u>
Cheques Outstanding	\$278.45
<u>Closing Operating balance</u>	<u>\$11473.47</u>

Prudent Reserve Account

Opening balance	\$4898.10
Closing balance	<u>\$4998.31</u>

Literature Account

<u>Opening Balance</u>	\$2400.90
Credits	\$447.76
Debits	\$0.00
<u>Closing balance</u>	<u>\$2848.66</u>