

MINUTES OF  
CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 4, 2023  
Zoom Meeting

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

**TWELVE TRADITIONS:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Mike C.

**ROLL CALL:** 22 in attendance, of which 19 attendees were voting members.

EXECUTIVE	COMMITTEES	CSR	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS
Chair – Samaira G	Telephones - Jonathan G	Zeta S -Colby Village	Bill P (PI representative)
Co-Chair – position vacant	Help Email – Sam B	Johnny M - Highland Park	Michael A- DCM District 2
Treasurer – Foster L	Newsletter - Mark B	Laura L - Sunday Night Serenity	Melanie M
Secretary – Emily S	Hospital Visitation – Wayne O	Mike C- Downtown Halifax	
	Treatment - Gilles D	Garth M - Sunrise Group alternate CSR	
	CPC - Kathy S	Louis - Back to Basics alternate CSR	
	Literature – Gerry L	Mike A - Welcome Group	
	Corrections - Tom P	Lara B - Only Requirement	
	Webmaster - not present		
	Mid-Winter – Emily S		
	Public Information - position vacant		
	Entertainment – not present		

7th Tradition: \*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**

Founders Day event on June 10 - Back to Basics  
Group Insurance - Samaira G

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Tom P seconded by Zeta S .  
All in favour. Motion passed.

## **MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Motion to approve the March minutes made by Tom P, seconded by Gerry L. \*Error in previous minutes: approval of January minutes as opposed to February.  
All in favour. Motion passed.

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

### **SECRETARY:**

This month I assisted the treasurer in transferring funds online to the literature committee account as well as providing a second online signature approval to pay the telephone bill online. I am very happy that the treasurer has discovered this quick and efficient way to pay this recurring Central Service bill which saves on time and also cheque fees. Thank you to the committee members who sent me your reports in advance of the meeting -this helps with with preparation of the minutes. Please just let me know how I can be of help to any of you, Emily.

### **TREASURER:**

March was steady with Central Service activities. Emily and I have finally resolved the problem with transferring funds between accounts and we are using this method to pay literature for subcommittee purchases. Additionally the same process works for paying the phone bill so there is now little need to write cheques. This makes our work much less labour intensive.

All groups on the insurance policy have now paid their premium. Thank you to all. Two new groups were added this month and Certificates of Insurance have been obtained and provided to their landlords. As our policy is paid for and adding groups does not increase our premium, there was no charge to these two groups. They will need to pay premiums when the policy renews.

The Telephone ad-hoc committee of which I am a member has met three times since our last meeting. We will provide an update later in the agenda.

I received a \$1000 e-transfer from a private business in memory of a deceased member. In accordance with our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition I declined the transfer and called the sender to explain why. They were very understanding and will send the funds to a non-profit that supports AA activities.

I am available anytime to answer any questions you may have throughout the month.

Yours in Service, Foster L, Treasurer. **\*see Appendix A**

Q - Can we take donations if it's under a certain amount? Answer - Not from an organization, only a private member. That contribution was intended by the family to go to Club 24 and they confused AA with the club, which operates as a non-profit.

## **CO-CHAIR:**

Position not filled at this time.

**CHAIR:**

My email has been phished - disregard emails from me or report it as spam (check the address). I will call or text you first and I would never ask for anything. I attended District 1 meeting and an item which came up was to remove four committees from Central Service to district level. I believe their intention is that each district would have two of the four committees. This item should go back to your groups through your GSRs. In our service manual it talks about the committees being at district or CS. We do have an active committee at Area which I will attend regarding those committees. This is not a voting item here tonight.

Question: Could you repeat four groups in question please. Answer: CPC, Public Information, Treatment and Corrections. Those four committees used to sit at both district 1 and district 2 meetings years ago.

Q - Are GSRs being given the history of why those committees moved to central service in the first place, so the GSRs can make an informed decision?

A - I would suggest producing a document for district which could be helpful in decision making. The formal proposal may exist.

**Note:** Foster L located a copy of the report which was made when committees were moved to Central Service the last time - DCM 1 can distribute this to GSRs.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cooperation with Professional Community:** The committee met on Zoom on March 20th, to discuss CPC committee activity moving forward. The chairperson spoke with Foster, treasurer, to discuss the CPC current budget, which was minimal; therefore, he advised if we projected needing an increase to contact Emily, Secretary, to add a budget increase to the agenda for the central service meeting. The committee also was in need of pamphlets, which were ordered and received after the chair confirmed the purchase with Foster. The cost of the order was 183.20. The committee also met on April 1st at 45 Connely Drive to discuss a proposed CPC yearly budget. It was projected that we propose a budget of 1500.00. The breakdown of cost is as follows:

Literature/pamphlets - 700.00

Printed letters - 200.00

Equipment (audio/visual) - 300.00 needed is for a new screen and banner for presentations.

Refreshments - ( re: professional informational meetings) - 200.00

Business cards - 200.00

Miscellaneous - 100.00 Total - 1500.00

Other business - Strategizing for an informational session, after an invitation was requested from The Women Warming Treatment Centre, where a committee member volunteers. The committee is also working on a presentation for the CFB Halifax Base and is awaiting a reply to our request. Respectfully In Service, Kathy S. CPC Chairperson

**CORRECTIONS:**

I sent the 2 lists in - 11 women and 11 men - so they can do the security checks on them. My contact tells me they are not there yet to open up the facility. However they will start security checks to have that part done going forward. If anything more needs to be done by our members going forward she will notify me with the details.

Yours in service

corrections chair

Tom P

**ENTERTAINMENT:** no report at this time

**HELP EMAIL:**

The Help email saw a total of 8 emails in March. Two people were looking for help for a family member; one was a member looking to help with the AA phones, three were wondering how or where to begin their sobriety journey; one was inquiring if the meeting list on line was accurate/ up to date and one had a question about open/closed meetings. Most responses to the emails I was able to include a pamphlet that gave more detail into their inquiry. Thank you all once again for allowing me this opportunity to be of service.

Yours in Service,  
Sam B

**HOSPITAL VISITATION:**

We had one person in hospital recently. Unfortunately Jennifer M passed away after a few visitations. A very sad thing. Yours in service, Wayne O

**Comment:** It you would like to be on Wayne's list of those who help with hospital visitation, seeing the look in someone's eyes when they see AA cares is very rewarding. Please get in touch with him.

**LITERATURE:**

The month of March has been good. One big order of books was made and received but not paid yet. If you look at the entry of March 2 - \$180, this was a transfer from Foster for 12 Big Books for the Treatment Committee. If you look at the entry of March 14 - \$48.67, this was for a book sale with credit card. If you look at the entry of March 22 - \$1194.70, this was for books and pamphlets sales by Cash and cheque. If you look at the entry of March 28 - \$355.20 this was a transfer from Foster for books and pamphlets for the CPC committee, PI committee and the Treatment committee. If you look at the entry of March 30 - \$210, this was for more books and pamphlets sale. So right now we have a balance of \$4489.16.

But I have not received the invoice from NewYork yet because there are some back ordered. The invoice should be approximately \$1798 US Funds. Let's say the exchange is \$1.37 - it would be approximately \$2463 Canadian Funds.

I tried to put in an order for pamphlets but it turned out 75% were out of stock, as you probably know why. Everyone is trying to get their stuff before the increase. I ended up not putting in an order for pamphlets.

As you know NewYork Literature pricing is going up as of 3rd April 2023. I put in an announcement in the March and April newsletter as you have probably seen already.

You have seen my proposal for Literature increase. I have enough books now to last for a few months at the regular price. When I am ready for the increase, I will make a motion at this meeting and we can go from there.

Best regards,  
Gerry L.  
Literature Chair

**\*See Appendix B**

**MID-WINTER ROUND-UP:** We are looking forward to our initial Mid Winter Round Up 2024 committee meeting on April 8 where new committee members will be elected. All are welcome. There are a number of members who have expressed an interest in taking part. A good deal of research on facilities was done over the past month so the new committee will have some clear facts and figures to work with as they begin to discuss options. Thank you, Emily.

**NEWSLETTER:**

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

Newsletter submissions for 2023 should be submitted to [Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com) by the 25th of each month 2023.

Respectfully submitted in service,  
Mark

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

We have had two meetings since the first of March. We reviewed all medical clinics where pamphlets and posters have been distributed - we confirmed our contacts and made sure they were up to date. Pamphlets and posters went to all homeless shelters - just found out the Doubletree in Dartmouth will be a new homeless shelter. Reviewing design of our biz cards and posters. We want to make them more optimistic and more focused on recovery. We have also put an ad in the newsletter for ideas and suggestions on this. Have had some comment from professional public relations person (not affiliated with AA) who suggested current format was too negative and too busy.

Thank you, Bill P

**TELEPHONE:**

- Continued to search for people for the day and evening phone
- sitting on AD Hoc phone committee regarding answering service
- Sent week-end group lists to the newsletter and webmaster
- with assistance of Gilles D, updated and currently looking for men and woman for 12 step calls - have included bridging the gap list for folders

Have a great day and thank you for your service,

Jonathan

**TREATMENT:**

Good evening everyone. March kept me busy. Forensics started on March 3 with Back to Basics. The group went in but there was a shift change at 7 PM so the residents were not transferred to the conference room for the meeting. I met with our new contact at Forensics. Her name is Lori Wilson and she is replacing Kelly Isnor while she is on maternity leave. Lori and I had a talk about the meetings and who is attending our meetings. It is up to the group to decide who is going - men and women together is preferable. Lori was okay with that. On March 17 the four Seasons Group went and had a really good meeting. On the 31st it is the Bedford Group. They had a good meeting I was told. Lori and I decided we would start the meeting at

7:30 PM rather than 7 PM, to give them time to coordinate the patients to attend the meeting on time. I asked Lori what she knew about AA and recovery - she said not much. So I invited her to our meeting and she and a co-worker attended our meeting and they greatly enjoyed it. I also started to work on Bridging the Gap. I updated the 12 Step Call list for the Aa phone line with Jonathan. At that time I started to create a new phone list for Bridging the Gap and I'm happy to announce we have 12 women on our list and 14 men. I purchased pamphlets at the bookstore and was given flyers there free to promote Bridging the Gap. I'm stapling our AA help line card to the flyers so patients can access the volunteer list in their area. Presently I have volunteers in Halifax, Dartmouth, Sackville, Timberlea, Fall River and St Margarets/Hubbards and Lantz areas. I also attended the Area 82 committee members meeting on the last Monday of the month at 6 PM on zoom. We brainstormed and shared ideas - it was awesome, all CS members should attend. I contacted Heather at Detox and Jan at the Marguerite Centre and will provide them with our CD Hope and the Young peoples video to incorporate in their program. They were both interested and open to the idea. I used my treatment committee kit to my advantage. I am maintaining a working relationship with each facility as described in our guidelines. I contacted Gerard Flynn at Crosbie House - I am giving him flyers for patients returning home to HRM. He is ecstatic and grateful that I reached out to him. I am delivering flyers to the detox with 3 Grapevine books this week. Yours in service, Gilles D

Comment (Gilles): I was wondering if I should approach Alcare, or half way houses in the city. I couldn't find anything in the guidelines.

CS Chair - That might go under PI - if they wanted more information, PI could refer them to you.  
Comment - I wouldn't see an issue with staying within district 1 and 2 and approaching houses like that under the Bridging the Gap banner. You could perhaps reach out to other districts who have facilities like this and see if they would like to enter into a discussion with you about Bridging the Gap.

Question - For forensics meetings - is there an optimum number of members who should go?  
Answer - It's preferable to have men and women, 3 - 4 members should go. Same thing with detox.

**WEBMASTER:**

I'd like to provide an update on the idea suggested 2 months ago to have the full group schedules for Detox, Forensics and Weekend Phones posted to the web.

I did receive the information from the Treatment and Phone chairs, and I thank them for that. After reviewing what these "schedules" are, the suggestion was made to simply have the newsletter include 2 months of each schedule rather than the 1 month that appears now.

The reason is that for Detox and Forensics, there is no set schedule but rather a group rotation. This is because groups tend to drop out of be added so setting actual dates far in the future is not that useful as it'll most likely need to be changed throughout the year.

So given we are simply trying to provide groups a bigger picture of when they are responsible for service, myself and the chairs of Treatment, Phones and Newsletter felt that by printing 2 months worth of group schedules (current month and next month) would be sufficient. Again, thanks to the 3 chair people for helping to look at this problem and come up with a solution.

Another thing I've heard from a couple of members is about the posts on the home page of the web. The way the home page works is that it includes the last 4 posts made, so it does not take long for posts to scroll off of this page. All posts ever made are available via the navigation tab called Posts.

To try and improve access to posts, I have increased the number of posts that appear on the home page from 4 to 8. I'm hopeful that this will keep posts like upcoming workshops on the home page longer.

I'm still trying to schedule time with Pedro to find out more about a better way to manage our many Gmail accounts. He is a busy fellow, but he and I will continue to try and catch up. I will update the table as soon as I am able to learn more.

Yours in service, Heather

## **DISTRICT 1:**

### **DCM 1 March Report to Central Service**

Good evening Central Service members of District 1 and 2 and guests,

I presented a District 1 Group Conscience brief on Chapter IV Finance at the 73rd Pre-Conference Workshop. The workshop with the Area 82 Executive Committee GSD was Saturday 01 Apr 2023 from 10am to 4 pm. Our District had 9 groups of 27 that brought forth their group conscience on the area's that our District was given to review.

Regarding my visiting groups as I requested last month as the DCM 1, 4 seasons, Downtown Halifax, Sunday Night Serenity, and Fresh Start responded. Thank you.

District 1 proudly received a new GSR. Pam S. of Halifax Sunday Morning in the Dixon Centre. We welcomed Pam and thanked her for stepping up for the GSR role for the next 2 years. We encourage all groups to elect a GSR so their groups can have a voice in AA General Service.

We are no longer looking for the now infamous Grapevine Display Kit, GSR of Second Chance volunteered to assemble one, and perhaps that will suit our needs. More to follow on the big reveal 26th Apr 2023 at the next District 1 Meeting on zoom..

I attended the Active Area 82 Committee Meeting Monday night 27th March. It's on the last Monday of each month on zoom. The Zoom data can be found under Area 82 "Events" drop down at <https://area82aa.org/events/>. This is a chance for GSRs and Committee members to learn what's new with the Area Officers and the 4 Committees.

The Area 82 Archivist mentioned that there can be flash drives made available for e-archived historical literature, Area 82 Web manager expressed that the Area 82 website can be a great place to advertise/utilize what is going on in the Districts for a greater audience as well as AAHalifax.org.

With regards to District 1 GSRs attending the Fall Assembly in October, at Corner Brook NL, the alt-GSD is looking at alternative travel arrangements for those who require it. The alt-GSD has a mandate to propose options at the May Spring Assembly on zoom this year.

Furthermore, there is an Event Flyer that all District 1 GSR should have received and distributed to group members regarding the Corner Brook event. Noteworthy: Greenwood Inn is giving an AA price for a block of rooms. How many is not known..

Hope that District 1 Groups send their GSR's. Re: The AA Service Manual page 8, Duties and Responsibilities #1 of the GSR states that "GSR's are asked to attend and participate in these assemblies."

Yours in Love and Service,

Michael H.  
DCM  
District 1

## **DISTRICT 2:**

Our District meeting was held on March 19, 2023.

Not much happening in March. Our newest GSR Stan M has joined from the Early Risers Group.

We had 4 GSR's not in attendance due to vacation and Ontario Regional Conference held that weekend.

Our Secretary has stepped down due to joining a group in Halifax.

District 2 is still in need of an Alt-DCM and Secretary.

Please bring this back to your groups.

April Workshop as postponed until June due to the second weekend in April is Easter Sunday.

Yours in Service, Michael A, DCM2-AREA 82

**\*Please bring it back to your group that District 2 is in need of Secretary and alternate DCM.**

**AREA 82:** no report at this time

## **APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS**

A motion was made by Gilles D to approve the reports, it was seconded by Sam B. All in favour; motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**- Central Service Elections:**



**CPC co-chair:** Melanie M nominated  
- all in favour - **Melanie M elected CPC co-chair**

- **Central Service Co-Chair** : no nominations
- **Public Information chair** : Bill P nominated  
-all in favour - **Bill P elected chair of Public Information**

**Co-chair committee positions:** no nominations

### **Private Phone Service - Ad Hoc Committee report**

Foster:

Firstly, we tried to determine what we were trying to fix. The problem looked like some phone calls were being dropped - return calls not made, sometimes phone not answered.

We looked at answering service - not one of the four of us were comfortable with this based on cost, past experience, and anonymity.

We looked at internet based service - when you call, you get a menu, press 1 and you get meeting info, press 2 and you speak to someone, etc.

Rep from Ottawa intergroup explained how it works for them - they have four 3 hour shifts where calls are directed to individuals' personal cell phones. We could set it up any way we wanted. We don't know yet what cost is. Waiting for response. Sounds like training is ongoing. If we went to that system we would need a new position at the CS table for someone in charge of organizing this.

If we are only trying to fix the problem that calls are not being answered, we can probably do that in house. Ottawa rep suggested any calls outside of 10 AM - 10 PM go to an answering machine - we seem to be doing better than this currently.

We will keep digging and come back to the table with a proposal or suggestions on how to fix any current problem.

Comment: We don't call back people who don't leave a name or number - this is because it could be dangerous in domestic situations or breach anonymity. We could look into changing answering machine message - to be clear that we don't call back if name and number are not left.

Comment: I return calls but I do not identify myself as from AA.

Question: I got info about an answering service which is really cheap in Truro - will get info to Foster.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CPC budget:**

Kathy proposed \$1500 for CPC budget (see previous report for financial breakdown).

Question: What meetings will you need food for? Answer: Information sessions for professionals.

#### **Motion by Kathy S to amend CS budget to \$1500 for CPC committee.**

Seconded by Mike.

17 in favour  
2 abstained

**Motion passed.**

## **Group Insurance:**

CS Chair read a letter concerning insurance:

Hi Samaria,

Nice to talk with you this afternoon about the AA group insurance programs in Nova Scotia and the possibility of amalgamating our two programs.

I have been authorized by the District 17 Committee to pursue the possibility of joining our two group insurance programs together to lower the overall cost to our participating groups. The first step was to approach our insurance broker, MacLeod Lorway to see if it would be possible and if so to then contact the Central Service Committee.

I have spoken with our insurance broker, MacLeod Lorway, about the idea of joining the Halifax Regional Central Service Committee Group Insurance program with the 18 groups in the District 17 Inter-District (Districts:17, 3, 10, 7) insurance program. MacLeod Lorway asked Economical Insurance about amalgamating the two group insurance policy programs. Economical Insurance Company said they would consider this if the District 17 policy 40151682 was amalgamated under one policy owner, the Central Service Committee policy 40145906. and the premium would remain the same.

With this in mind I would like to propose that our two insurance programs be amalgamated under the one policy 40145906 owned by the Central Service Committee as suggested by the Economical Insurance Company.

Clearly, we will need to work out the administrative details of an amalgamated insurance program as it would be unfair for our District 17 Inter-district program to be dumped in your lap. I'm very aware that it takes time and effort to administer this program. And so, we look forward to working out a mutually agreeable plan to administer this new expanded program.

I look forward to discussing the proposal with your questions and suggestions.

Pete L

Chair, District 17 Inter-District Group Insurance Program

Comment: Not sure this is an issue that needs to go back to the groups - this could be in house issue to be solved at the table. Our current policy is listed as District 1&2 - I think we would have to abandon our current policy and start fresh with this new idea. I can talk to the other district and our provider- I don't think groups would disagree with paying less money so I don't think we need group feedback on this.

A - It looks like the letter is suggesting we would not have to start fresh but just add them as we add any other group in district 1 and 2. I suggest we let the groups look at this and then we move forward.

## **Founders Day:**

Back to Basics is volunteering to put on an event for Founders Day in June - their church has agreed to offering the space on the date.

Comment: If you need monies from Central Service, please put together a budget and bring it to the table. Perhaps you can contact the entertainment chair because they have a budget for events.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GROUPS**

Second Chance meets 8 PM Monday nights with a Joe and Charlie meeting- Saturday we meet at 7:30.

Last Friday of April David M Highland Park has 35 years.  
Four Seasons starting next month Tuesday lunchtime meeting will resume.  
April 25 Sunrise Group Garth will celebrate 37 years.  
Foster is celebrating 45 years at Cole Harbour Group May 7.

Meeting adjournment at 8:38 PM with the Responsibility Pledge.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by \*        seconded by \*

**Next CS meeting will take place May 2, 2023 at 7 PM on zoom.**

## Appendix A

### March 2023

#### Operating Account

<u>Opening Bank Balance</u>	\$10,378.02
Credits	\$262.26
Debits	\$918.20
<u>Closing Bank balance</u>	<u>\$10,082.08</u>
Cheques Outstanding	\$0.00
<u>Closing Operating balance</u>	<u>\$10738.02</u>

#### Prudent Reserve Account

Opening balance	\$4904.60
Closing balance	<u>\$4905.54</u>

## Appendix B

# Account Activity

Current Balance \$4,489.16

Current Interest Rate 0.000%

[▶ More Details](#)

## Search Account Activity

Account

Show  most recent transactions in the last 15 days

Date Range From  To   
dd/mm/yyyy dd/mm/yyyy

Monthly

[▶ Advanced Options](#)

## March 2023

April 01, 2023

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
30-Mar-2023	Cash deposit	\$210.00	\$4,489.16
28-Mar-2023	Mbr Direct Transfer	\$355.20	\$4,279.16
22-Mar-2023	Cash and cheque	\$1,194.70	\$3,923.96
14-Mar-2023	Direct deposit SQUARE CANADA I	\$48.67	\$2,729.26
02-Mar-2023	Mbr Direct Transfer	\$180.00	\$2,680.59

[Return to My Accounts](#) [Top of Page](#)

