

**MINUTES OF
CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**
August 1, 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 Sam B.

ROLL CALL: 29 in attendance, of which 22 attendees were voting members.

EXECUTIVE	COMMITTEES	CSR	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS
Chair – Samaira G	Telephones - not present	Jake B alt CSR - Four Seasons	Michael H - DCM District 1
Co-Chair – position vacant	Help Email – Sam B	Robin M - Keep it Simple	Paul B - Welcome Group
Treasurer – Foster L	Newsletter - Mark B	Becca H - Downtown Dartmouth	Mary W - Treasurer District 1
Secretary – Emily S	Hospital Visitation – Wayne O	Angela E - Serenity Sisters	Bernie S - DCM District 2
	Treatment - Gilles D	Neale F - Fresh Start	Maria R - Downtown Halifax
	CPC - Kathy S	Nathaniel B - Acceptance	Melanie M - CPC co-chair
	Literature – Gerry L	Mike A - Welcome Group	
	Corrections - Tom P	Toby H - Sunrise Group	
	Webmaster -Heather L	Mike C - Downtown Halifax	
	Mid-Winter Roundup– Heather L	David O - Back to Basics	
	Public Information - not present	Emily M - Circle of Sisters	
	Entertainment –Noelle D	Amy J - Any Lengths	

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

Insurance Liaison update (Foster L) - old business

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by Angela E seconded by Gerry L .
All in favour. Motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion to approve the July minutes made by Heather L, seconded by Kathy S.
All in favour. Motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

Hello to everyone. I fulfilled the regular secretary duties this past month, compiling the minutes and helping our treasurer transfer funds to the literature committee and paying the telephone bill online. I also co-signed a money order with the literature chair. I am helping to organize the upcoming AA's Got Talent night on September 16 and am happy to report we have about 16 acts lined up to perform. We have received the funds from Central Service and also the New Pair of Glasses group to pay rent at the Woodlawn church, so we are able to offer a free event. We are desperately in need of a sound tech - please, if you yourself have experience with sound equipment, or if you know of someone who might be able to help, we need a volunteer to organize and play sound files through the system and to help with setting up microphones and possibly guitar amplifiers. Thank you and I hope it's okay that I used this central service platform for my request. Please let me know how I can help with any secretarial duties. yours in service, Emily

Q - Am I charging rent for Woodlawn to entertainment committee? A - Yes this is part of the entertainment budget.

TREASURER:

There were no financial contributions this past month, but we remain in a good financial position. Cheques to GSO and Area have cleared our account and in addition to the telephone bill a transfer was made to the Literature account to cover a subcommittee expense.

On the insurance front Pete L and I finalized a letter for all DCMs that was sent out by the Area Secretary. The letter introduces the new Nova Scotia Provincial Insurance Policy and asks DCMs for their support. It is now clear we will need a point person for this file on this Committee. I will work on guidelines for the position that can be presented at the September meeting for consideration and a vote at the October meeting. These guidelines will be fluid as in the first year, as administrative issues are worked out, they will need to change.

I am seeking expressions of interest for this position for the next 2-year term. Should you, or someone you know, be interested feel free to contact me at any time.

Yours in Service,

Foster L, Treasurer

Q - Do you require funds at CS table right now or are you good at this point? A - Right now we are in good financial shape. I wouldn't want to dissuade groups from sending funds but we are in pretty good shape.

***see Appendix A**

CO-CHAIR: Position not filled at this time.

CHAIR:

This week I was able to attend district one business meeting - sad to see so few GSR's. Please bring it back to your group the importance of attending both district meetings and central service so you may be updated on our area and our districts. Your District 1 DCM is providing in depth information about GSO, area and our district so again please inform your groups of the importance of attending.

I let the district meeting know that I was asked by a group if they could have a special meeting like Bedford/Sackville AA Days - there was a few voices stating their opinions about this event. After the meeting I was able to get clarification on what the group actually was planning and realized they do not need central service approval for their event as tradition states, "each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."

The other item that came up at the district meeting was participation of the area active committee meeting on the last Monday of each month at 6:00 PM. The purpose of that meeting is to share ideas with other districts in the area. It connects the committees to GSO. We have brought up having it put mandatory attendance in our guidelines and it was the consensus of the group that it would not be put in our guidelines but taken as a suggestion.

The last thing is the Service Palooza. With so many events happening I believe we can have it in October - this way I can call each committee chair to discuss what is involved.

Yours in service

Samara G

Question - You mentioned turn out to district meeting was low, is there a better way to get people out? Answer - We have 28 people in this meeting - we have more CSRs who come out than GSRs. Just a reminder, if your group doesn't have a GSR currently, please consider it. Some groups decide they want one representative or the other, not both (CSR and GSR).

Area 82 active committee meetings when attended by Central Service chairs can be very helpful to other districts and we can learn from each other. For example people from other districts who may have members in a Halifax hospital - they may like to know what we do in this area. Sometimes entire committees in other districts can form based on info from our committees/our district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community):**

CPC monthly meeting was at 45 Connelly Drive on July 8th, 2013. We discussed and approved some documents to use for presentations and one letter to accompany letters to Individual doctors for next spring when the PI committee distributes its pamphlet packages to medical clinics, and some old business items.

Discussed having a tab for CPC put on the website and will explore formats and work toward getting one up and running soon.

We received an email back from the CFB Halifax Military Base Treatment Facility manager, Tony Jenkins. Tony said he would like to invite us to a staff meeting which is always held on Tuesday afternoons at 1PM. For this reason, a few of the longer-term members held a zoom meeting July 17th, to help me to determine how to proceed and prepare for the event. I then sent out an email response to him asking what they would like to learn from our presentation, who would be

attending and the expected duration of the meeting. Once this is determined by Tony, we will then hold another meeting with all members of the committee available and decide a plan of action and set a date that is cohesive with their treatment team. We will provide a copy of the scientific research papers; The 2020 Cochrane Institute Study on the efficacy of the A.A. program of recovery for alcoholics. Gary W. from the Area 82 meeting last evening sent me a copy of it.

We will further discuss a suggested medical clinic under discussion but need to focus on the military base at this time.

No word back from the Acquired Brain Injury Day Program or the Elizabeth Fry Society yet.

Going to contact The Atlantic School of Theology, Dr. Ross Bartlet or associate which was suggested at the last CS meeting. Another suggestion was brought to us at the Truro Roundup about the Phoenix Association which is also another avenue to explore. We are grateful for suggestions and hope you will continue to help us out in this capacity. All suggestions are welcome!

The next CPC meeting will be held at 45 Connelly Drive, Sackville, on August 12th, at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted in service,

Kathy S., CPC Chairperson

CORRECTIONS:

I've been having some technical difficulties - my apologies. I don't know if the people at corrections were trying to reach me because of this trouble with my phone, but I have nothing to report at this time. My computer will be up and running soon.

Tom P

ENTERTAINMENT:

Good evening, everyone. First, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as entertainment chair, I am very excited to embark in this role.

I have researched previous minutes to get some ideas of what entertainment looked like in the past and I am looking forward to bringing new ideas to the table.

I have spoke with Samara and received the 7th tradition box from her for upcoming events We are also planning to visit the site at dollar lake prior to the campout. Also, we will be planning the BBQ for September at Point Pleasant Park. I have connected with Foster in regards to my budget for the year.

The next event after that will be AA's Got Talent on September 16th hosted by Emily S.

I'm currently looking for venues for a Halloween and a new year's dance, and in the new year have some ideas for great and fun events. The only thing left for now is access to the entertainment email.

Thank you all, Noelle.

HELP EMAIL:

The Help Email has been busier this month than in the last couple months. There were 14 emails. There has been an increase of non-alcoholics reaching out looking for help. I have referred 2 people to Alanon and let them know their friend/family member can contact us when they are ready to get help. Most other emails were questions about meetings such as "Can I bring a Friend?", "When/where is the next meeting?" or about how to get started on their journey to recovery. I continue to include PDFs of the pamphlets where applicable. I also attended the Area 82 meeting last night and gave a report. Area and the Fall assembly could really use our support. I hope to see more of us there next month.

Yours in Service,
Sam B

HOSPITAL VISITATION:

We have Dennis S from Welcome Group who suffered a stroke in rehab on Summer Street - he is coming along well. He anticipates he may be released near the end of the month. yours in service, Wayne O

LITERATURE:

The month of July has been fairly quiet but good. Now if you look at the entry of 18 July \$159.78, this was for book sale by credit or debit card. If you look at the entry of 20 July \$132.30 this was a transfer of money from Central Service for the purchase of books and pamphlets by the Treatment Committee Chair . If you look at the entry of 24 July \$103.32 this was an US draft for a back order of books and the \$35.14 was for the exchange to Canadian Funds. If you look at the entry of 26 July \$797.00 this was for books sale by cash and cheque, on the same date you have a cheque for \$300, this is for the rent to Club 24 until the end of December 2023. Rent may be going up next year. So right now we have a balance of \$2862.85

Are there any questions?

Best regards,
Gerry L.

Q - Right now it's difficult for us to get material due to back orders - we send GSO part of our 7th tradition, are they going to get more materials for us to purchase?

A - The back order issue has been going on since last December, especially the pamphlets. Regular books are not hard to get - the problem is mainly with pamphlets. That's a NY problem - I have no answer for that.

Chair: It has nothing to do with our 7th tradition - back orders are on everything it's even taking longer to get a new car!

Comment: I've only started to get familiar with what material is for free online but they have almost everything you can imagine online. We could look at using those, on an app.

A - Committee chairs sometimes need kits for committees etc.

Comment: Online materials - AA.org has a plethora of pamphlets in PDF form. Could we consider downloading a PDF and sending them to a printing company?

A - There is a note with the online pamphlets about one only for personal use.

Comment: I do have some pamphlets in stock - I just don't have huge amount. I have all the most common books in stock. (Gerry L)

MID-WINTER ROUND-UP:

The committee continues to work in all areas and things are going well.

Program committee has a draft program complete with its Friday, Saturday and Sunday speakers.

Entertainment has excellent ideas for a Friday evening "game show", a dance for Sat night as well as a varied program for Sunday morning spiritual presentation.

I will be getting details from the hotel on the banquet buffet we can offer and then the committee can finalize the cost. We expect to be able to get a flyer ready for the event during August.

As a reminder, the event will be Feb 9-11 2024, at the Delta Dartmouth hotel.

Yours in service,

Heather

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 should be submitted to Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.

I made a major mistake in the August issue by posting that the Tallahassee group had closed. This is totally incorrect, and it is still an active group. I had misread an email they sent to me but I have removed the post from the August issue and the necessary correction made in the meeting list. Sincere apologies were made by me to the group.

Respectfully submitted in service
Mark
Newsletter chair

Q - How long does a change made to a group or meeting stay in the newsletter? I noticed there is still an announcement in the newsletter from a change which happened in March.

A - It's usually six months that a change is posted in the newsletter.

Comment: Even though final submissions come in on the 25th I invariably get three or four additions after the date. I suggest to members that it's best not to print your newsletter until the 1st or 2nd of the month.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

no report at this time

TELEPHONE:

Apologies as I had thought the Central Meeting was next week. There is nothing to report for this month. And have prior commitment with my daughter so will not be there.

Thank you for your service,

Jonathan

TREATMENT:

Good evening .The month of July was busy, Sara started going to Bryony House, we went on the 11 and the 25 of July.Those meetings were small but successful . It was suggested we change the time of the meeting the clients eat supper from 6 to 7. We should start at 7 .30 it would be more convenient.The next meeting is on aug 8 and the 22 of August. We will notify the next person going, on those time changes..We provided the Bryony House with Big Books , 12 and 12 , As Bill see s it and some pamphlets. There's been a request for more books at other locations and some meetings in a pocket booklet they will follow as soon as we can access them.I would like for groups and team leaders to give us feedback from their visit at the treatment center to assess our performances. We received our video Hope from the book store and they are distributed to the Detox, the Marguerite Center ,Bryony house. I'm also in communication with some DCM s about Bridging the Gap in their district so we can reach more people leaving our treatment center going home to their own districts. Well that's it for us. Yours truly in service Sara G. and Gilles D.

WEBMASTER:

July was relatively quiet. There were several meeting list updates to enter and some posts about upcoming events. Also, I posted the usual meeting minutes for District 1 and Central Service. Finally, I uploaded the new Literature Order form with new pricing to the web site.

Entertainment gmail: the last person to use it was Shawn, a few years ago. I found his phone number and texted to see if I can reach him but haven't heard back yet. If I can't get in touch with him, I will have to create a new gmail account for this committee.

Yours in service,

Heather

DISTRICT 1:

Good day to all. There has not been much on the go of late.
We have a new GSR for Acceptance, many thanks for stepping into service.
4 Seasons Group has the Grapevine kit for the month of August.

Service Requirements

We are at month 8 of a 2 year election term, and we still require positions to be filled at the District 1 level.

Guidelines for the positions can be found on the AAHalifax.org web. @ <https://www.aahalifax.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines/Guidelines-for-District-1-July-2022.pdf>
Position to be filled are as follows:

3.2 Alternate District Committee Member (ADCM) Qualifications:

- A background in AA service work including two (2) years of service as a GSR as suggested in the Service Manual.
- Enough sobriety (suggested five (5) years) to be eligible for election to an Area office.
- Have a Service Sponsor (suggestion found to be helpful).
- The time, energy, and desire to serve the District well.
- Actively working the Twelve Steps of A.A.

3.4 Alternate District Treasurer Qualifications:

-Suggested minimum of five (5) years sobriety.-A responsible person with good record-keeping ability.

-A background in service at the Group or District level.

-Have a Service Sponsor (suggestion found to be helpful).

- Actively working the Twelve Steps of A.A.

-The time, energy, and desire to serve the District well.

Lastly, i'd like to quote our founder Bill W.

“ Our Twelfth Step - Carrying the Message - is the basic service that AA Fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.”

If you feel that ADCM, or Alt-Treasurer is your next challenge in service, please do not hesitate to come to the next District 1 meeting, or let your GSR of your group know that you have interest. We will accommodate.

Yours in love and service,

Michael H.
District 1 DCM

DISTRICT 2:

Bernie S: Last month my alternate was here. There hasn't been a district meeting since then. I have been trying to get my contact info out there. I did the signing officer thing. I have a workshop lined up for this month August 13 on the importance of a home group and how GSRs can also participate in their home group. There has always been apathy getting GSRs to district meeting - it has been this way for a long time. We are not doing too bad for attendance right now in District 2. I am planning to attend the assembly in Cornerbrook as I have been offered a drive. Next month I will have a thorough report.

AREA 82: no report at this time

APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS

A motion was made by Mike C to approve the reports, it was seconded by Tom P.
All in favour; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Central Service Elections:**
Central Service Co-Chair: none

Co-chair committee positions: none

Service Palooza: (Samaira G)

We will set the date for the palooza for Saturday Oct 21. To all the committees: if you can't make it, please send someone from your committee to represent you.

Comment: Usually the service palooza is set before the October CS election date to arouse interest. Answer- Due to other events, this is the only date possible, and thankfully we are only electing executive positions this year.

Comment: The attendance was low at the last palooza. I don't know if it wasn't advertised enough or what.

Comment: My sponsor took me to the palooza I attended - I suggest sponsors can bring sponsees along so they can learn about service.

Question - We might want to change the name from palooza to service fair or work fair or something else so that it will help people understand the event better.

Comment: Would it be better to have people visit group business meetings with this service info, or to have it represented at the round up? A - That could be brought to the table that we could move this "job fair" palooza to the round up to help promote what we're doing.

Comment: We don't have the same kind of space at our new hotel like we did in the past for all the committees to have presentations in the lobby. This won't be possible.

Please bring it back to your groups the the Service Fair/ Service Palooza is coming up October 21, 2023 - there will be a flyer soon.

Insurance Liaison Position: (Foster)

I spoke to Pete from District 17 and we talked at length about the approach we might take for admin of new provincial insurance policy. Our letter went out to all districts. We are talking about having one person here who would be liaison with insurance company and have contact/point people around the province to provide info from four or five districts. This table would be the point for paying the bill and making sure insurance company is kept current. It will be quite a bit of work with groups changing addresses, opening and closing etc. We are asking DCMs to give cooperation and be the point of contact, these details have yet to be ironed out. We feel it's a lot of work so there needs to be ownership of the duties to make sure the bill gets paid etc. This is why we asked to consider creating a new position. If the table agrees to this approach we can move forward from there.

Motion: (Foster L) I will move that CS committee creates new position whose sole responsibility is to be insurance liaison for the rest of the province.

2nd Mike C

Q - Is Foster prepared to stand for that position? A - Yes I would let my name stand, I hope others express an interest as well.

Q - It would be great to have the new position, my concern is that finding volunteers right now seems to be a problem. A - (Foster) Right now the regular insurance duties are written into the guidelines of the CS committee cochair. I have taken the position in the absence of this person. I think the position should not be in the hands of the cochair who is busy with other duties.

Q - I'm in favour of the position. If that position gets filled but then becomes vacant - would that fall to the cochair? A - In CS any time there is an empty position it falls to the executive who collectively figures out who will get it done.

Comment: This position should carry a cochair position with it and I think it's important to have a co chair groomed for when the 2 year position is up - someone who is encouraged to step up after the term and who knows the duties.

Comment: When i had that cochair/insurance position, i paid upfront and then collected from groups. If the policy will now be province-wide, how are you going to make sure you get paid? For the groups who are currently in the policy, will the cost increase or decrease?

A - For groups currently on the policy, the premium now is \$1950 across 40 groups, so if we got \$2500 across 80 groups its going to be cheaper - once the premium is set, if groups get added in, there is no additional charge. My suggestion would be that this table would pay the premium

and have the proper channels in place to collect the money. It will be one of the responsibilities of this new position to make sure the money is collected.

Vote:

19 in favour

0 opposed

2 abstentions

Motion is passed.

Foster will have recommendations for guidelines for the position which we can vote on the following month. We will elect this position in October.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GROUPS

- Downtown Halifax Group: we are sponsoring a Celebration and Spiritual Gathering Oct 14 at 8:45 AM - 3:45 PM at St Margaret of Scotland Anglican church (highland park group location)
 - Theme: A time of Prayer, Spiritual Growth and Reflection (Steps 3, 7 & 11) Cost \$20 - flyers will be issued. It will include a lunch.
- Mark F celebrating 3 years at Cole Harbour Group this Sunday
- Thurs Aug 31 Four Season Andrew 5, Bev 7, Jamie 13, Velma 14. Monday Aug 28 Active Area committee 6 PM on zoom
- Saturday Aug 26 Welcome Group: Chris celebrating one year, and Sara 1 year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Heather L seconded by Toby H.

Meeting ended with Responsibility pledge at 8:54 PM.

Next CS meeting will take place September 5, 2023 at 7 PM on zoom.

Appendix A

July 2023

Operating Account

<u>Opening Bank Balance</u>	\$10,859.51
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$4,127.30

Closing Bank balance \$6,732.21

Cheques Outstanding \$0.00

Closing Operating balance \$6,732.21

Prudent Reserve Account

Opening balance \$4,908.63

Closing balance \$4,909.64

Appendix B

011 Literature Comittee

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
26-Jul-2023	<u>Clearing cheque # 000143</u> Cheque # 000143 Cheque Date 26-Jul-2023 Cheque Account Number 333772171116	-\$300.00	\$2,862.85
26-Jul-2023	Cash deposit	\$797.00	\$3,162.85
24-Jul-2023	Debit memo	-\$35.14	\$2,365.85
24-Jul-2023	Official Cheque	-\$103.32	\$2,400.99
20-Jul-2023	Mbr Direct Transfer	\$132.30	\$2,504.31
18-Jul-2023	Direct deposit SQUARE CANADA I	\$159.78	\$2,372.01