

MINUTES OF
CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
 December 5, 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 Sharon.

ROLL CALL: 31 in attendance, of which 21 attendees were voting members.

EXECUTIVE	COMMITTEES	CSR	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS
Chair – Samaira G	Telephones - Jonathan G	Tanya E- CSR Four seasons	Sharon N -Highland Park
Co-Chair – position vacant	Help Email – not present	Neale F - CSR Fresh Start	Michael H - DCM District 1
Treasurer – Foster L	Newsletter - Mark B	Emily M -CSR Circle Sisters	Mike C - Highland Park
Secretary – Emily S	Hospital Visitation - Wayne O	Nancy D - Colby Village alt CSR	Anne P - New Hope
	Treatment - Gilles D	Angela E - Serenity Sisters CSR	Claire - alt CSR Downtown Dartmouth
	CPC - Kathy S	Garth M - alt CSR Sunrise	Melanie M - CPC co-chair
	Literature – Gerry L	Becca H - CSR Downtown Dartmouth	Felicity C
	Corrections - not present	Robin M - CSR Keep it Simple	Brianna - Back to Basics
	Webmaster - Heather L	David O - CSR Back to Basics	Paul B - Welcome Group
	Mid-Winter Roundup– Heather L	Nathaniel B - CSR Acceptance	
	Public Information - Bill P		
	Entertainment – Noelle D		
	Insurance - Foster L		

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

- Draft budget 2024
- Halifax Fall Assembly

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by Bill P, seconded by Heather L.
All in favour. Motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion to approve the November 2023 minutes made by Heather L, seconded by Jonathan G.
All in favour. Motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

I'd like to say thank you for allowing me to hold this position and be of service - thank you for all your help over the term. This month I completed the regular duties of compiling the minutes, emailing CSRs, and helping to pay the phone bill and transfer funds online along with the treasurer. I am very excited about the upcoming free talent show Saturday night at the Woodlawn Church - you may be surprised at some of the performances! Hope to see you there. Thank you again, Emily

TREASURER:

It's hard to believe almost two years of life has gone by so quickly. I would like to thank Samaira and Emily for their service over the past 23 months and the entire table for allowing me to be of service in the treasurer role.

I have met with Mike C to begin the transition to him, and he has been given all information and spreadsheets necessary to do the job. Mike has been brought up to speed on the electronic banking and I am sure his assumption of the role will be seamless. Mike and I drafted a 2024 budget for consideration and discussion at the January meeting. He will present it later in the agenda.

We are finishing the year in decent financial position. I have taken into consideration known expenses this month and forecasted revenue in determining the amount we will carry into 2024. While less than 2023, it is sufficient to meet non-discretionary expenses.

I have advised Mike I am willing to continue as a signing officer until a full executive is elected. Bank access by two is necessary to complete bill payments and transfers between accounts.

Thank you to Mike for stepping up and again, thanks to all for contributing to my sobriety. I will sit for another year as Insurance Chair and look forward to it. Yours in Service

Foster L
Treasurer

***see Appendix A**

CO-CHAIR: Position not filled at this time.

CHAIR:

It has been an honour and privilege to serve. Thanks to Emily especially for the agenda she does up. Thanks Foster for keeping me on my toes. This is an amazing group - everyone. We have 31 people here tonight. I was able to go to District 1 meeting this month. It's great Michael will be here to talk about the Fall Assembly. Thank you, Samaira

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

CPC met November 6th, with 10 attendees. We discussed the previous presentations during the month of November, one was already discussed at the C.S. meeting. We presented at the B & G club on Nov. 1st we were well received and had three people presenting A.A. and 6 professional staff attended. The organization's clientele ranges from 12 – 24 years of age and they have extensive outreach programs with diversified programs offered primarily in Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, Sackville, and Spryfield. Programs include crisis management, advocacy, supportive one on one counselling and mentorship, linkages, and referrals to other pertinent community services and provide appropriate recreational activities.

I made calls to the Phoenix house and have exchanged information via email, and they have redirected my correspondence requesting a meeting to discuss a CPC presentation to Fiona McAdam, Director of Programming, Mental Health and Wellbeing and we are awaiting a response. Not expecting anything through the holidays as they have stated they are very busy during the holiday season with donations etc.

Discussed approaching a men's recovery program; the Helm, about a presentation which we are tabling pending further information on feasibility. Still looking into the Man-up organization.

We have ordered business cards for CPC with the AA logo attached.

Received and distributed flyers for the 2nd, annual CPC & PI conference on Zoom, Dec. 2 & 3, 2023. And had the flyer posted on the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted in service, Kathy S. CPC Chairperson

CORRECTIONS:

No report at this time.
(meetings at the facility still not allowed at this time)

ENTERTAINMENT:

Good evening everyone. As you know New Years is just around the corner, I have planned a dinner and dance at the Woodlawn United Church December 31st starting at 7:00 PM. Originally the theme was going to be black and gold masquerade ball I have since decided to change it to: Keep It Simple Masquerade Ball. Everything is coming together the venue has been booked, the DJ has been booked and the caterer is booked, we will be having a roast beef dinner Also with the option for a vegetarian meal supplied by Julians catering. Tickets for dinner and dance Are \$25 and just the dance \$10. The cutoff date for dinner will be December 23rd. I am looking for volunteers for that day for setup tear down and also serving of the buffet style meal. Also have a prize for best mask. And I'm looking for people who want to bring sweets for everyone to enjoy. If anybody wants tickets, wants to bring sweets wants to volunteer or has any questions my contact information is on the flyer post it in the blue nose bulletin and On our AA web page.

HELP EMAIL:

No report at this time.

HOSPITAL VISITATION:

This past month there was no visitation - no one in hospital.
yours in service, Wayne O

LITERATURE:

The month of November has been average. We had a total sale of \$1055.85 for the month of November. The expenses were a total of \$391.28.
Above the regular expenses like the charges from the square this month was the insurance for \$384.00 which was transferred from the literature account by the treasure/Insurance Chair.
So as a final revenue for the month of October and deposited in the account was \$1048.57. So right now we have a balance on the literature account of \$5853.89
I put in an order from NewYork for approximately \$3000 US fund. I should receive it soon.

I put in my order and they said our account number had been deactivated. I sent all the info again and they are trying to sort it out. I purchased the order with my home group number for now.

yours in service, Gerry L

NEWSLETTER:

I worked with Gilles this month to show the group rotation for the five different treatment facility meetings. 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 January 2024 should be submitted to Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.
I am available to answer questions through out the month.

Respectfully submitted in service, Mark
Newsletter chair

MID-WINTER ROUND-UP:

The program is in the hands of our volunteer who will produce and print the programs in time for our event. Many thanks to Jeff D for doing this again this year. It is hugely helpful.

The committee has voted to purchase the Square technology so that we will be able to accept debit and credit payments at the door, in addition to cash.

I have confirmation from 4 Central Service committees that they would like a table at the roundup. Their table can be setup on Friday afternoon/evening and needs to be taken down at about 4pm on Saturday. The 4 committees are: Help email, Treatment, PI and CPC. Thanks to these committees for agreeing to have a presence at the roundup. It's a great way to educate our members on what these committees do!

The first deadline is approaching. Hotel rooms may be booked at the special rate or \$149/night until Jan 5th. Please announce at your groups. We only get to enjoy a 50% discount on the hotel meeting space if we fill 100 room nights over the weekend. Every booking counts!! The

web site and the flyer have information on how to book your hotel room. I've sent a message to both district secretaries to forward to GSRs about this hotel cut-off date.

Also please continue to announce the roundup at all meetings you attend. We'd love to have great attendance! The roundup is Feb 9-11, 2024 at the Delta Dartmouth hotel. Registration is \$30 which includes coffee on Friday and Saturday. The buffet banquet is \$60. The web site shows the details of the buffet.

Many thanks to the committee for their continued hard work. I'm so grateful to have such a dedicated group working on this event.

Yours in service, Heather

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

1. The Committee met on November 11, 2023, with five in attendance.
2. The meeting was largely routine. We are maintaining our distribution with the Medical Clinics. This is enlarged with homeless shelters, senior citizen facilities etc.
3. We continue to attempt to reach out to helping agencies who meet with problem drinkers. This is very much finding out the appropriate contact person in organizations who will open the door for our message.
4. Our ad will be on Halifax Transit shortly.
5. The North American CPC and PI Conference took place this past week end. I have yet to canvass the Committee members who attended.
6. We discussed our Budget for the coming year. We did identify costs for new business cards, posters and signage. Our literature expenses is somewhat haphazard depending on identifying new opportunities for distribution. We are willing to support the proposed budget by the Treasurer with the understanding we can seek amendments to the budget as matters arise through the fiscal year.
7. The libraries in HRM will have a selection of our pamphlets in the near future.
8. I attended the Area 82 Active Committees in November.
9. We continue to be open to any suggestions from members as to potential opportunities to reach out to suffering alcoholics.

ALL IN SERVICE, BILL P., CHAIR

TELEPHONE:

Still looking for folks to help out with AA day, evening and groups for the Week-end phone.

Thank you for your service,
Jonathan

TREATMENT:

Good evening everyone, my name is Gilles and I am an alcoholic. November has been busy at Treatment with Sara and Cheryl refreshing our rotation list - a 7:30 pm meeting will start at Bryony House. Shanon from Bryony requested no meeting in December so they will resume

on Jan 9 2024. I went to the active area committee. I'd like to see more people attending. I was in contact with Heather F at our new and successful meeting at Simpson Landing. I'm told there was 12 people at the meeting Sunday night. Heather didn't realize I had dropped off some Big Books, 12 and 12, and As Bill Sees It with the binder for the meeting. It will be available for the next meeting. Mark B, Anne C. and myself worked on the new treatment page for our newsletter. Heather L as extended our page on the web - thank you everyone. And a special thank you to all our Volunteers in treatment; lets keep up the good work. I must add that if a group or team leader can't make it to any meeting on our treatment list PLEASE let me know and I'll go. We can't be a no show - it's too important and does not reflect very well on AA. Yours truly, Gilles O.D.

WEBMASTER:

November was busy with the regular work to maintain the web site.

I posted the Central Service Guidelines doc to the web on Nov 17th. I'm not certain if there were subsequent changes to the guidelines; if there were and they are ready to be re-posted, then please someone send me the PDF document.

I tried to help Foster as Insurance Liaison with his Insurance gmail account. He experienced some bounce-back messages as he was sending out multiple emails to group contacts. I brought in Pedro to help as well. Pedro had some suggestions to try as he felt it was Gmail's tightened security that was getting in the way. Foster reported that the situation cleared itself in about 24hrs.

Yours in service, Heather

INSURANCE:

November was an extremely busy month insurance wise. A review of the hard copy of the policy I received revealed there were three groups on it that need to be removed, one that had requested so, one that had closed and one that is now on-line only.

Requests for premium payments were sent via email to all those on the policy who had yet to pay, approximately 45 in total. Apart from Gmail being a pain in the neck at times the process went well. As noted in the financial statements 32 groups are paid, 29 this month and 29 remain outstanding. I have asked all groups to please try and remit by the end of December so, if your group is insured and unpaid, please ask your treasurer to remit.

As agreed at a prior meeting the Literature Committee has paid \$384 of the overall bill to cover the rider we purchased for the bookstore.

I look forward to the next twelve month of service to the fellowship.

I have received an additional 8 payments since this report was written. Payment: \$30 per group.

I did get certificate of insurance for Dec 9 event - I will have one for the Dec 31 event as well.

Yours in Service, Foster L, Insurance Chair

DISTRICT 1:

Open Executive Positions for Election for District 1 are still available:

1. Alternate DCM
2. Alternate Treasurer

There is a continuous need to keep stressing how It is so important that these positions be filled. We need to exercise the spirit of rotation (Tradition 2) so everyone has the chance to grow in Service helping others in AA.

Sent to District groups DCM 1 minutes of the Area 82 Fall Assembly, held at Corner Brook NL. Oct 6-8.on October 25, 2023.

Attended the Area 82 Workshop Inventory 12 Nov 2023 as the Secretary. Minutes sent to the Area 82 Secretary to be distributed to all Area 82 Districts 16 Nov 2023.

Continually update the Friendship Connection database through the Area 82 Registrar as required.

Nov 5th, attended Area 82 budget meeting which continued on to Nov 18 approval day. Approved Budget of Area 82 sent to District 1 groups 21 Nov 2023.

Presented the District 1 Workshop - P-18 Inside AA - Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies. 6pm 29 Nov 2023.

Group Insurance Policy is finalized. Policy # 040151682. This policy will be placed on the District 1,2 Website for availability if the AA facility being rented requires a copy. Group contribution to the Group Policy is \$30 to be paid by 01 January 2024. Foster L. of Central Service is the Chair of Group Insurance.

New GSR for the Acceptance Group: Marie M. Welcome to General Service !

Grapevine Display Tracker- Acceptance Group will have it until the end of December 2023. Thank you Stacey GSR of Highland Park for presenting the Display October and November!

Next workshop for District 1 will be on 31 January 2024! Time flies....

Next District 1 meeting will be on the 20th December due to the holidays.

Yours in love and service,

Michael H. DCM 1, Area 82

DISTRICT 2:

No report at this time.

AREA 82:

no report at this time

APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS

A motion was made by Bill P to approve the reports, it was seconded by Gerry L. All in favour; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Central Service Elections:

Co-chair committee positions: no nominations

Executive Central Service positions 2024-2025:

Chair: Paul B nominated; qualified

Vote: all in favour - Paul B elected chair

Co-Chair: no nominations

Secretary: Anne P nominated; qualified

Vote: all in favour - Anne P elected secretary

*Please go back to your groups to let members know we are seeking nominees for Co-Chair.

CS Meeting format change (Emily S)

(Idea to send committee reports in advance to CSRs so that reports are read in advance of meeting, not aloud during meeting)

- my group wondered: what would I do when I get a report? would I know what it means? sense I got was the group didn't care, trusted our elected reps - to send reports early would leave only 3 weeks, will always be running a week behind
- we like it the way it is, think it's important to read aloud at the mtg
- my group was against the idea - format now is simple, this change might discourage volunteers, no support from my group
- not interested, a lot of reports to read - difficult for new comers
- literature report is done at end of month so that it can reflect the whole month; years ago as secretary - there were no 20 pages of minutes, reports can be shorter
- perhaps the solution is shorter, point-form reports to help with our efficiency problem (long meetings which are hard to follow, etc)
- the report could be looked at not as something to be debated but a quick relay of info - anything to be discussed could be under new business
- our group was not interested in this change, it's good for people to read off reports and for everyone to attend and listen, I myself do hope for more efficient meetings
- if those of us who write reports take some of the verbiage out this could help, the longest I've seen this meeting run is to 9 PM which is only 2 hours of service and I don't think that's too much to ask
- the idea one of the things taught to me was to be engaged and present at the Central Service meetings - we are here to carry the message and be present in case people have questions, my job calls for a lot of emails and to add these would be too much for me to read
- our group not in favour of making a change, some asked why would CS find it necessary to bring this back to the group, this should be handled at CS table
- 17 reports - who would actually read it? people may skip over them and not read them

Had a "general consensus", we did not have a motion - no change will take place in format.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Assembly (Michael H DCM)

Area 82 have fall assemblies which rotate locations. 2024 is Halifax's turn to host the fall assembly. We will come together and make a committee and ensure we have everything we need to host the fall assembly on the Thanksgiving weekend. We will be requesting volunteers.

- it will be a committee similar to MRWU committee - there are guidelines for this. They will vote on this committee at the next District meeting.

Draft 2024 Budget

Mike C (treasurer elect): This is an estimate - we have based values on committees who did not spend their allotted money in 2023. It is substantially reduced based on spending this year. We are not here to discuss tonight, it has to be taken back to the groups. Look at your plans and come back with recommendations for changes.

Foster L (current treasurer): The figures we put in for Area 82 and GSO are in there to balance the budget - they would be paid out like any other year if we have the funds.

CS Chair: Zoom amount will actually be \$297 for the year if it's paid monthly. It's a little cheaper if it's paid for the whole year.

Entertainment committee: asked for \$1500 for next year (increase from \$600 in draft)

There was some discussion on whether line items would be discussed at this meeting or in January. There was some discussion on whether the groups who look at the draft give their approval based on the overall budget total, or line by line.

Comment: The budget could also be voted on in February - if discussions and changes happen in January.

Literature: I know the rent is going up by \$300 for the year - we can discuss these details in January and vote in February.

Comment: We don't budget revenue or expenses for literature - it takes care of itself. We cover the insurance.

Comment: I don't agree with the "shot in the dark" idea from committees based on what they want for expenses - it's not fiscally responsible. We are basing numbers based on actual usage this past year. If committees would like to go away and come up with detailed information on why they need an increase, we can discuss this in January.

Comment: Entertainment has always been a committee which is mostly self funding - we have always had 7th tradition baskets at entertainment events and have charged for events.

Comment: We will discuss and change line items as needed in January - this will comprise a final budget which will be voted on. We are not tying anyone into the figures on each line - we are tying the committee to the total budgeted amount for the year. We have flexibility within the line items.

Comment: This budget should be discussed with the new executive who is coming in next year - not now.

Comment: In all the years I have been at CS it's never been a budget total which is approved, with the line item totals moved around as treasurer sees fit - the line items are voted on by the groups. This is my experience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GROUPS

- Dec 17 Cole Hbr Group - celebrating 44 years, gratitude meeting followed by potluck
- Christmas Day and New Years Day bookstore will be closed - just get in touch with me if you need books (Gerry L)
- Dec 20 is our last 2023 District 1 meeting on zoom with digital lobster sandwiches
- Acceptance Group is having fellowship and food after Dec 16 meeting (Sat 10 AM)
- Jonathan has 3 years Downtown Halifax this month, Emily 12 years in January

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Heather L seconded by Angela E.

Meeting ended with Responsibility pledge at 8:58 PM.

Next CS meeting will take place January 2, 2024 at 7 PM on zoom.

Appendix A

	November 2023
Operating Account	
Opening Bank Balance	\$6,582.08
Credits	\$3,479.00
Debits	\$4,139.88
Closing Bank balance	\$5,921.20
Cheques Outstanding	\$0.00
Closing Operating balance	\$5,921.20
Reserve Accounts	
Prudent	\$2,913.73
Insurance	\$4,001.08