

MINUTES OF
CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 7, 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 Heather L.

ROLL CALL: 28 in attendance, of which 20 attendees were voting members.

EXECUTIVE	COMMITTEES	CSR	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS
Chair – Samaira G	Telephones - Jonathan G	Zeta S -Colby Village	Paul B (Welcome Group)
Co-Chair – position vacant	Help Email – Sam B	Neale F - Fresh Start	Michael A- DCM District 2
Treasurer – Foster L	Newsletter - Mark B	Joel N - 4 Seasons alt CSR	Michael H - DCM District 1
Secretary – Emily S	Hospital Visitation – Wayne O	Peter J - Downtown Halifax	Kathy S - Back to Basics
	Treatment - Gilles D	Kimberley G - Serenity Sisters	Barney W
	CPC - position vacant	David O - Back to Basics	Mike M
	Literature – not present	Mike A - Welcome Group	
	Corrections - Tom P	Lara B - Only Requirement	
	Webmaster - Heather L	Laura L - Sunday Night Serenity	
	Mid-Winter – Emily S	Toby H - Sunrise Group	
	Public Information - position vacant	Sean M - Keep it Simple	
	Entertainment – Alex C		

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

iCloud space - Back to Basics

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by Zeta S, seconded by Sam B.
All in favour. Motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion to approve the January minutes made by Zeta S, seconded by Foster L. No errors or omissions. All in favour. Motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:**SECRETARY:**

Hello. This month I compiled the minutes and sent them out to group representatives as per usual. There were a few more additions to our email contact list as new members take on the role of CSR and send me their contacts. I co-signed a cheque for the telephone committee and the treasurer and I worked with the Credit Union on the process of approving online transfers together between the central service account and the central service literature account. Thank you and please let me know if I can be of help in any way. Emily

TREASURER:

February has seen generous group contributions and limited expenses, leaving us in a good financial position early in the year. Gerry, Emily and I have been working with the Credit Union in an attempt to straighten out online transfers between our accounts. The process seems to work but an unexpected error message does not allow the actual transfer to take place. It has been determined the problem lies with the credit union and they are working hard to resolve it. *Note: this problem has been resolved.

After discussions with Samaira I cancelled the cell phone that was not being used. We were paying close to \$40 per month for some time for a line that was inactive. We still have four lines that are sufficient to provide full coverage.

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

We received a 3rd party contribution in the memory of David T. The out of town contribution came as e-transfer and I declined it and explained our 7th tradition to the lady. She may contribute to the Club 24 non-profit society.

Yours in Service, Foster L, Treasurer

Comment: There are Microsoft packages which include more than one program - we might look at this to save on expenses during October when they come up for renewal.

*see Appendix A

CO-CHAIR:

Position not filled at this time.

CHAIR:

In the past month I have been looking for members to join central service. I recommend all of us do the same. There are over 50 meetings a week and I'm sure there are members to fill our positions. Perhaps they feel they are "not good enough" to do this work - I have felt this way. Please go back to your groups and talk openly about how service affected your recovery program and growth. I attended both district meetings. They are still in need of alternate DCMs for both districts. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. At District 1

there has been discussion about using a private phone service. I will give some basic info on this during New Business. Thank you, Yours in service, Samaira

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CPC: no chairperson at this time

CORRECTIONS:

Not much has changed. I sent two emails and phoned our contact at the facility twice with no response. I assume everything is still stagnant at the institution. Their lack of staff and covid-19 was the latest reason for no meetings at this time. I still need two ladies to fulfill the ladies list in preparation for meetings. It is frustrating - but we will get through it.

Yours in service, Tom P

Female CSR volunteered to be added to the list.

Question: Is a criminal record check required? Would a check made before Covid still be valid?
Answer: I will get answers on this once I get a response from our contact.

ENTERTAINMENT:

No updates. I have been getting requests for events other than the dances. We have been brainstorming ideas to spice up entertainment and thinking of what we want to move forward with next. Yours in service, Alex C

Q: When's our next dance? We usually have a St Patrick's day dance. A: We are looking at other opportunities for the future instead of just dances.

HELP EMAIL:

February was a much busier month for the Help Email
I received 13 emails and 2 phone calls

1 phone call I helped find a meeting outside of HRM, the other I referred to the AA Phones.

Of the 13 emails:

11 were wondering how to get started
2 were asking info for a family member

Of the 11 wondering where to start:

1 was asking about meetings for beginners
1 was substituting Alcohol for drugs
1 was referred by their Doctor
1 had question about the phrasing "Current Member Only" for a meeting description
7 were referred to the Meeting List

Halfway thru the month, I realized I could attach AA approved pamphlets to the emails as PDFs. I attached 5 "A Newcomer Asks", 3 "Is AA for Me?", 1 "Many Paths to Spirituality" and 1 "Problems other than Alcohol"

Yours in Service, Sam B

Question: Your phone number is on contact list in newsletter - are you okay with getting these phone calls?

A: It was a little off-putting because I wasn't expecting it, but I thought about the responsibility pledge and realized it was just another alcoholic who needs help. I can always refer people to the AA phone line as well.

HOSPITAL VISITATION:

Our member Doug R is at Camp Hill and I am in touch via the telephone weekly. He enjoys the contact with us. Also Dan S is on his way to wellness - I keep in touch with him as well.

Wayne O

LITERATURE:

The month of February has been good. One order of books was made and received. If you look at the entry of February 6 (Appendix B) \$362.74 and February 9 \$520 - these amounts are from the round up sale. The other cash deposit on February 9 for \$317 was from the proceeds of the raffle tickets sold at the round up. The entries on February 14th and 28th are for the rest of February book sales. The entry on February 24 is a cheque paid for Literature ordered.

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

Here is my proposal:

As mentioned, the AAWS Literature is increasing its prices on books by 20% and pamphlets by 30% by the 3rd of April 2023. The proposal is to increase our prices by 20% on all books. For example, the Big Book sells for \$15, and the new price would be \$18. Living Sober sells for \$8, and the new price would be \$9.50 (rounded from \$9.60). Pass it On sells for \$16, the new price would be \$19 (rounded from \$19.20). The 12 & 12 sells for \$14, and the new price would be \$17 (rounded from \$16.80). The pamphlets do not sell very much and we have quite a few on hand already, I feel we could absorb the increase but if we need to revisit it later, we can do that.

The increase would not start until most of the books on hand (price before the increase) have been sold. My educated guess would be sometime in May or June 2023.

I will be back to answer all your questions at the April 4 meeting.

At the April 4 meeting, after the groups have had a chance to ask all the questions and the proposal has been discussed at length, a motion can be made to vote on the increase.

Best regards,
Gerry L.
Literature Chair

Question: Is it in the guidelines to sell literature to other districts?

CS Chair: It was added to our guidelines : "Literature to be sold to Districts 1 & 2" - other districts will be ordering books separately - we don't want our groups to not have books because a big order from another district took them away.

Comment: DCM 1 - noted in guidelines that it is up to discretion of literature chair where he sells, and organization and preparation could take care of any problems here.

***See Appendix B**

MID-WINTER ROUND-UP:

Hello everyone. The financials on the 2023 Round Up are complete: There was a small surplus. Al-Anon will receive \$347.83 based on 22% participation. This leaves a balance of \$1233.22 in the bank account (along with the \$2000 start up fund provided by Central Service). I plan to make a motion during New Business regarding this amount. The first 2024 MWRU Committee meeting will take place Saturday April 8 at 2PM at Club 24, and elections will take place for committee positions at that time. The first major decision the committee will need to make is to plan for either a weekend event or a one-day event in 2024. I would like to request permission from the Central Service table at this time to do some initial venue and pricing research before the April 8 meeting so that the committee will have some clear figures and options to consider as they discuss this decision and then move on to further research. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be part of the exciting experience of helping to organize a mid-winter round up.

NEWSLETTER:

Only having 3 days between the information cut off on 25th and the end of month (28th) was slightly difficult - thanks to the help of our webmaster we made the deadline on time.
Thank you, Mark B

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

no report at this time

TELEPHONE:

Continue to search for people wanting to work the AA day and evening phone, and thanks to all the groups that announce that the Phone Committee are looking for people. We continue to search for a co-chair for Phone Committee. Ensured that the group phone rotation was sent to the newsletter for March 2023. Grateful for the people who have stepped up and are helping with working the AA phones.

TREATMENT:

Good evening everyone My name is Gilles and I am an alcoholic. February was a busy month for treatment - we added 5 groups to the Detox rotation and removed one. We started Forensics rotation as requested by Kelly Isnor, the clinical social worker at the Hospital. We have 6 groups in the rotation. The workshop at Club 24 hosted by district 2 Michael A. was successful; we had 30 people who showed up for it. We had presentations from Anne C. for the Marguerite Center; Michael H. talked about Detox, Dani B.K talked about her experience working with clients from Forensics and Kelly Isnor from Forensics spoke - and myself. We had a question period and everything went well - we achieved our goals.

I collected the Big Books from the book store - Thank you Gerry L. and Foster. We distributed them to each facility. I wish to rectify a statement I made at the last meeting: it was the Fresh Start group who donated the 2 year Grape Vine subscription of 2 books to Detox and not the PI committee. We have a spot in the newsletter and on the Web to better inform everyone. Thank you Heather L and Mark B.. On March 3rd we had our first attempt to put on a meeting at Forensics. Back to Basics showed up with the best intentions but with a lack of communication

on Forensics' part no one attended the meeting. Kelly is investigating the matter with management. We will try again on the 17th. I'm working on Bridging the Gap. Stay tuned.
Yours truly Gilles D

Question: Forensics - is this in the hospital or the jail?

A: The hospital next to the jail.

WEBMASTER:

This month, I took an in-dept look at our web pages and made some edits to improve readability and consistency. I have emailed the Literature chair asking he take a look at the Literature page and proof the information there, and send me edits.

I have emailed both the Phone and Treatment chairs requesting their group schedules. When I get those, I will add a page somewhere with the schedules. This was a suggestion made at last month's meeting.

Beyond that, I have made several meeting list changes and the usual web maintenance things.

I have tentatively scheduled time with Pedro to find out more about a better way to manage our many Gmail accounts. I hope to have something to present in April.

Yours in service,

Heather

DISTRICT 1:

The District 1 meeting was held on February 22, 2023 at 7 pm.

My gratitude to the 8 GSR that attended out of a possible 27 groups in District 1. It is so important for GSR's to be connected with their District. Without the GSR, the group's voice would struggle to be heard. Any questions do not hesitate to contact me at dcmd1aahalifax@gmail.com for any questions you may have regarding the importance of the GSR.

District 1 sometime ago purchased a Grapevine Display Kit with the intent to rotate it monthly from group to group, so group members and guests can glance, ponder, and perhaps request more info on the Grapevine magazines groups purchase for sales to members. Back to Basics will have the Display - Roto: March.

In pursuit of Unity and Participation within Districts 1 and 2, Executives of both Districts have met on zoom to brainstorm on how to attract people to become involved in Service. The third Legacy of AA.

One thought was to visit groups during their business meeting. Just to say hi, face to position, and a vision that would include group participation within the District, as it is laid out in the AA Service Manual.

If each of your groups agree through Group Conscience, it would be an honour to attend your business meetings, and meet for a short brief with Q and A's. It wouldn't be more than 15 minutes, and I'd be on my merry way.

Recently, District 1 Secretary sent to all GSRs a package encapsulating Chapter IV Financial Conference items. These items are to be discussed with the group. The outcome group

conscience voice will be transmitted through your GSR to the District, where I will compile and give a District 1 Group Conscience to our Area 82 GSD, so he will represent our voice in New York at the General Conference this year.

District 1 Zoom Workshop March 29 6-7pm, Judy H. Speaker - Sponsorship. Come to the zoom workshop and support our own Judy H. Zoom Meeting ID: 753 798 8280 Password: SERVICE (all caps)

Yours in love and service,
Michael H.
District 1 DCM

DISTRICT 2:

District 2 has been busy in February as we are preparing to assist our GSD with Agenda Items as he heads off to the Pre-Conference Workshop on April 1. We were asked to give our thoughts on the Theme for 2024 with discussion at our next meeting March 19, 2023.

We had our Workshop on Treatment presented by Gilles. Gilles had 5 panelists to give information on Detox, Marguerite Center and Forensics (Guest from Forensics). We had 30 people in attendance. Gilles did a fantastic job for his first workshop. All were very impressed with the workshop. Thank you Gilles.

As DCM I have been getting out to the groups in our area to promote GSR's to come to District. We have one new GSR elected for the Early Risers and hoping to have a new GSR from Gaston Rd Group elected this month as well.

We are looking to do a workshop on Crosstalk the second Sunday of April 2023.

Thanks,

Yours in Service,

Michael A
DCM2 - AREA 82

AREA 82: no report at this time

APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS

A motion was made by Heather L. to approve the reports, it was seconded by Zeta S. All in favour; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Central Service Elections:

- Central Service Co-Chair : no nominations

- CPC : Kathy S nominated
 - Duties read aloud; All in favour - **Kathy S elected**
- Public Information : no nominations
- Co-chairs 1 & 2 Telephones - Sean M nominated
 - Duties read aloud; All in Favour - **Sean M elected co-chair**

Co-chair committee positions: no nominations

***Please bring it back to your groups that we are looking to elect co-chairs for all committees at central service table.**

NEW BUSINESS

MWRU surplus

Emily S made a motion to keep the surplus of \$1233.00 in the mid winter round up bank account in case it is needed to put towards a 3-day round up event in 2024. Seconded by Foster L

14 in favour

Opposed: none

Motion passed

Private Phone service (CS chair and Back to Basics Group)

District 1 had brought this topic up and discussed it previously. This would be a 3rd party phone answering service and would get rid of our volunteer AA phone line as it operates now. Some cost research was done: Start up fee: \$169.95 (50 minutes free per month). \$199 programming fee (\$75 extra per hour of set up time). Based on our current phone use, monthly fees would be \$1150 per month.

Comment: Other districts are using this service. It may help with managing the phones in a more efficient manner. If someone on the 12 step phone list can't be reached, the service goes down the list one by one.

Comment: We tried this in the past at \$600/month and there were so many problems with people not being able to get through that we stopped using it after 3 months.

Comment: Perhaps we can look for better pricing from another company.

Comment: 95% of calls are not 12 step calls, they are specific questions that AA members alone can answer.

Discussion on pros and cons took place.

A motion was put forward By David O that an Ad Hoc committee would be formed to work together on research and come back with a recommendation for the Central Service table. Seconded by Foster L.

Committee members:

Sean M
David O
Foster L
Joanthan G

All in favour: 16
Against: none

Motion passed.

iCloud space - (Back to Basics) - to be discussed at next CS meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GROUPS

- Sat March 11 Wayne O 33 years Atlantic Group
- March 26 Sunday Nite Serenity Tom P 15 years
- Sean M celebrating 2 years at Keep it Simple

Meeting adjournment at 8:45 PM with the Responsibility Pledge.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Tom P, seconded by Neale F.

Next CS meeting will take place April 4, 2023 at 7 PM on zoom.

Appendix A

February 2023

Operating Account

<u>Opening Bank Balance</u>	\$7971.45
Credits	\$2977.40
Debits	\$210.83
<u>Closing Bank balance</u>	<u>\$10738.02</u>

Cheques Outstanding **\$0.00**

Closing Operating balance **\$10738.02**

Prudent Reserve Account

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

Appendix B

Account Number 72171116

Date Range: 01/02/2023 - 28/02/2023

March 01, 2023

011 Literature Committee

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
28-Feb-2023	Cash and cheque	\$263.00	\$2,500.59
24-Feb-2023	<u>Clearing cheque # 000142</u> Cheque # 000142 Cheque Date 24-Feb-2023 Cheque Account Number 333772171116	-\$1,475.93	\$2,237.59
14-Feb-2023	Direct deposit SQUARE CANADA I	\$222.93	\$3,713.52
09-Feb-2023	Cash deposit	\$317.00	\$3,490.59
09-Feb-2023	Cash deposit	\$520.00	\$3,173.59
06-Feb-2023	Direct deposit SQUARE CANADA I	\$362.74	\$2,653.59