

MINUTES OF CENTRAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 6th,2024

Zoom Meeting

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

TWELVE TRADITIONS: The Twelve Traditions were read by Jonathan G.

ROLL CALL: 23 in attendance, of which 20 attendees were voting members (V= voting, NV non-voting)

EXECUTIVE	COMMITTEES	CSR	ALT CSR/OBSERVERS
Chair -Paul B. (Vote in tie situation)	Telephones -Johnathan G. (V)	Garth -Alt. CSR for sunrise (V)	Michael H-DCM District 1 (NV)
Co-Chair - vacant	Help Email -not present	Nathaniel B -CSR Acceptance (V)	Bernie S -DCM District 2 (not present)
Treasurer- Trudy D. (V)	Newsletter - not present	Angela M. – CSR Serenity Sisters (V)	Melanie – co chair CPC(NV)
Secretary – vacant	Hospital Visitation -Wayne O. (V)	Becca H -CSR Downtown Dartmouth (V)	Patrick (observer NV) Highland Park
	Treatment -Gilles D. (V)	Sharon N -CSR Highland Park (V)	
	CPC -Kathy S. (V)	Julia D. – CSR West end step group (V)	
	Literature -Gerry L. (V)	Mike A -CSR Welcome Group (V)	
	Corrections -Tom P. (V)	Tanya E -CSR Four Seasons (V)	
	Webmaster -not present	Robin M -CSR Keep It Simple (V)	
	Mid Winter Round-Up – Noelle Acting Chair	John C -CSR Lions Den (V)	
	Public Information -Not present	Melissa E -CSR Any Lengths	
	Entertainment – Noelle D. (V)	Tim D -CSR Hubbards (V)	
	Insurance -Foster L. (V)		

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:**

New Business items-

Corrections

Telephones

Newsletter submissions

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Jonathon, seconded by Kathy. All in favour. Motion passed.

**MINUTES APPROVED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

In the minutes under the treasure report it was stated we had sent a refund to Pete L. in Wolfville and be taken off the insurance policy, this is not the case their group had made a double payment, and the refund was for this double payment. They will remain on the group insurance policy.

Motion to approve the March 2024 Minutes made by Noelle, seconded by Tim D.

All in favour. Motion passed.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**SECRETARY:**

Ann has stepped down from this position. Please bring this position back to your groups.

**TREASURER:**

The three reports will be added to the end of the minutes. After the reports there was a question about the \$300 recorded in January budget to actuals sheet for Entertainment. This was a cheque written in December for the NYE dance. It was a 2023 expense but because it was in the Treasurers approved January report as an expense, I felt I could not just take it off the budget sheet. The entertainment committee will not lose that money this year. It has been noted this is just a clerical issue and they do have this money available in their budget.

**CO-CHAIR:**

Position not filled at this time.

**CHAIR:**

1. Anne P has resigned from the position of Secretary, when you see Anne please say thank you for her Service. Please pass this along to your groups
2. On April 7 I will be partaking in a group setting s from Area 78 and 79 intergroup. The topic will be, where is the 4 committees located in your District.
3. Thank you to Trudy for stepping and handling the chair Position while I was away on Vacation. Thank you all for your Service

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community):**

CPC met on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The members reported on the organizations that we researched to reach out to during the month; YWCA, JHS, Laing House, YMCA, & Hawthorne House.

We completed and sent off an email to JHS, to the contacts that he was given. I also sent off the same email to a young lawyer (A.A. member) who has a contact there and she said she would send it directly to him. No response yet. No reply from Sir Stanford Fleming House.

Claire and I are still working on the YWCA, and we will get something off to them this month. I thought that I had contact with the YMCA; however, it turned out to be the YWCA and they are not affiliated with the other. They do host the same community programs as the YWCA. Both agencies provide intricate services to the youth ages 11-16 years of age and their families. They also provide services for new immigrants to the Halifax area.

I was speaking with Michelle Rivoire, she is the general manager for the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth. She asked for A.A. information to present to her team, so I emailed her links to the CPC informational links at [A.A.org](http://A.A.org) for appropriate pamphlets and videos for professionals. She told me that they could look at a time for us once she meets with their senior leaders and gets back to me.

Our newest member, Tasha researched Hawthorne House, their focus is on working with marginalized youth ages 12 – 18, owned by HomeBridge Youth Society. They have 6 facilities in Halifax, Sackville, and Dartmouth. Their mandate is “utilizing an inter-disciplinary approach to youth care...stabilization, emergency placement, therapeutic programming, educational opportunities and long-term interventions in a youth care setting” We will reach out as soon as possible to this organization.

We are still working on other organizations not mentioned in this report and will report as we proceed. PI and CPC are in the process of planning a workshop at Club 24, details to follow.

### **CORRECTIONS:**

I'm looking into when AA can go back to putting on meetings, the current communication has suggested a daytime meeting, but further discussion and clarification needs to take place. Once I have updated info, I will pass it on. (meetings at the facility still not allowed at this time)

### **ENTERTAINMENT:**

Things are going well. There will be a Spring dance on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Woodlawn United Church in Dartmouth. The cost of the event will be \$5. My plan is to have an event every month or at least every second month if possible. Next on our list of events will be a Meditation afternoon focused on the Prayer and Meditation example in Step 11 to be held hopefully at Club 24.

### **HOSPITAL VISITATION:**

I have had ongoing communication with a lady from the Highland Park Group. It came to my attention today that a member from Four Seasons Group is looking for visitation. I will find out more and get that happening.

### **LITERATURE:**

The month of March has been slow. We had a total sale of \$724.50 for the month of March. The expenses were a total of \$3331.16. The expenses were the regular charges from the square, the New York book order invoice, the exchange for the US to Canadian fund and the service charge for the US draft. I made a deposit of \$724.50. So right now we have a balance on the literature account of \$3331.03. Report table added at end of minutes.

**NEWSLETTER:**

Just a reminder that meeting notices / updates should be sent to both the Webmaster (Webmaster.aahalifax@gmail.com) and the Newsletter (Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com) to ensure your message is communicated to the AA community. Newsletter submissions for April 2024 should be submitted to Newsletter.aahalifax@gmail.com by the 25th of the month. I am available to answer questions throughout the month.

**MID-WINTER ROUND-UP:**

The 2025 MWRU will be holding its next meeting April 7th 1pm at club 24, we have filled positions of hospitality and treasure and are looking for anyone interested in joining the committee.

We have reached out to Meghan at the Delta in regard to booking our event and the dates will be determined at our next meeting. Both Heather and I have signed the Cheques to pay rent at Club 24 to hold our meetings for the next 12 months and I have passed that Cheque along to Cathy at Club 24, we have also signed the Cheque to give to central service and I will make arrangements to meet with Trudy to pass that along.

I regret to inform I have to step down at our April 7th meeting from my very short time as MWRU chair as I'm sure the position will be filled promptly, and I look forward to helping in other ways at this event.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

Bill P. sent regrets for not being available for the meeting while away on vacation. PI and CPC are setting up a workshop for the month of June. His full 2 page report is attached to the end of these minutes.

**TELEPHONE:**

1. Still looking for people to work the AA day and evening phone.
2. Updated all binders contact lists for Area 82
3. Had an issue with the weekend phone during the weekend my home group held it on 22nd / 23rd of March. On the 22nd I took the phone out to get it charged and noticed on the screen that it was asking for security code after a successful automatic update, that I didn't ask it to perform. I contacted BELL and seeing that my name was not on the account, could not assist me. I contacted the prior phone chair and he had not ever seen this issue before, the same response of a few others that I contacted. I contacted Anne and informed her to ensure that the day phone (which I had and was working) be switched to week-end phone to ensure calls would not be missed. Contacted Central Service Chair and informed him of what happened and that the AA phone service was running, we were just down a phone. He contacted Bell and sent me instructions on to perform a factory reset. After the reset the phone still asked for the security question. Will be using the AA day phone for all times for the time being. Notified the upcoming groups, the co-chair, Sean who overlooks the evening phone and Anne who worked the overnight and ensures the phones are "switched". Chair informed me that new phones will be purchased. Will get this rectified as soon as possible.

**WEBMASTER:**

Not in attendance. Email sent but no report attached!

**TREATMENT:**

Good evening, March had some changes to the group's rotations cancellations to their previous commitments due to a lack of members doing service. It's a problem but we are autonomous. I have been announcing our treatments workshop at as many meetings I attend as possible. April 14 1pm Club 24. Bring your questions you'll get answers. A group didn't show up to their scheduled Sunday night meeting at Detox. We can't have that happen. I suggest the groups have treatment coordinator at their group to make sure someone attends, or they'll attend themselves. See you all at Club 24 on 14 at 1pm.

**HELP EMAIL:**

I apologize I am not able to make tonight's meeting. The Help Email received 9 emails in March. 4 of which were people looking for help for friends or family. I provided the contact information for Alanon and attached the AA Pamphlet, 'Is there an Alcoholic in your life'. The remaining emails were meeting inquiries.

**INSURANCE:**

This past month I completed a thorough review of the insurance policy. The result was the removal of two groups that no longer meet and the addition of a second location for another group. I created a group distribution mailing list that includes all insured groups. An email was sent to all asking if the contact information I have is still correct; all but three were. I do not see much activity from now to when the renewal process begins in October, apart from obtaining ant necessary Certificates of Insurance for AA sponsored events.

**DISTRICT 1:**

The 74th General Service Conference Review was carried out by District 1. District 1 conscience/view of which will be given to the General Service Delegate at the 2024 Area 82 Preconference Meeting on the 7th of April our District conscience on these matters, to which the GSD with all other Area 82 District Conscience's, will take to New York and represent. For quick reference of the items District 1 voted on: , 5 conference items were with Corrections, 1 was CPC, 1 was Finance.

Area 82 PreConference Meeting Particulars below: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89962135907> Meeting ID: 899 6213 5907 April 7th 3:00pm NS, 3:30PM NL All groups and members are welcome to participate. " Come one, come all!

District 1 is still looking for an Alt-DCM, Alt-Treasurer, and an Archivist for Area 82. The guidelines state that the archivist collection shall stay in the area of where the Archivist is located. The collection is currently being held in HRM, and no move of the collection would be required if the new Archivist came from HRM. Please consider.

Upcoming fun stuff! ( Flyers can be read on the AAhalifax.org website, and the Area82AA.org/events/ ) St. John's Intergroup Annual Spring Convention April 12-13, 2024., Bridgewater May Day, May 18th, 2024 NS Provincial Roundup, June 7-9, 2024, Regional Forum Ottawa 23-25 August. Service Weekend. Details were sent to groups on 21 January, info can be found on the AAhalifax.org website, and the Area82AA.org/events/ site. To further explain there is a 6-minute film about Regional Forums, what they do, etc at <https://www.aa.org/regional-and-local-forums>. Forums offer unique opportunities for A.A. members across the U.S. and Canada to connect with individuals involved in the AA service outside of our Districts, with many from GSO to learn firsthand from each other how they tackle common challenges in AA Service.

District 1's next workshop is Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare SMF-209 being held at 6pm May 29, 2024, on zoom. Our Guest speaker will be Samaira G.

## **DISTRICT 2:**

I attended the Area 82 Active Committee meeting on Monday March 25. Attendance is still down there, but the host was having technical difficulty and that may have been the problem this time. I attended the Assembly Committee meeting in March. One more co-chair position was filled, but they still have a few left.

I will be in attendance at the pre-conference assembly meeting on April 7 on zoom to discuss with our Delegate any items he should be bringing to the General Service Conference. That meeting is open to all members so that they may have a voice on the agenda items. The zoom number is 899 6213 5907 and the time for that is 3:00 pm.

We have a workshop scheduled on April 14. It will be facilitated by Gilles, our Treatment Facilities chair. It is called Service in Treatment and will be held at Club 24 at 1 pm. The notice in the newsletter states that tea and coffee will be available. I'll probably bring cookies too.

There is a spring fling dance on April 20 at Woodlawn United hall, 54 Woodlawn Road. Like to see all of you there. It's only 5 dollars admission payable at the door.

District 2 still has a vacancy for a district secretary. As DCM, I have assumed the duties of the Secretary until such time as one is elected. Anyone interested in that position should attend the next district 2 GSR meeting on April 21 at 2 pm. We will be serving cookies there as well.

## **AREA 82:**

No report at this meeting

## **APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS:**

We didn't ask for approval at this meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Elections

-Co-Chair of Central service- no one nominated

-Co-Chair of Insurance Committee- no one nominated

-Secretary of Central Service- no one nominated

All positions still need to be filled, Please go back to your groups to let members know we are seeking nominees for the above positions.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Corrections- issue was addressed earlier and Tom will let us know what decision will be made.

Newsletter- The newsletter has an announcement about a Club 24 event that is not sponsored by and AA group. The newsletter chair should be notified so he knows not to include that sort of thing going forward.

Telephones- A phone had recently been updated; a security code needed to be entered but no one know it. Bell was contacted but no one knew the security questions in order to resolve the issue. Bell can give us a new deal for around \$240 a month. Virgin Mobile can give us the same deal for \$189 a month. Because this is an internal thing Paul can go ahead and move forward.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**April 30<sup>th</sup> Sunrise Group Garth M 38 years; April 25<sup>th</sup> Gary S 21 years Four Seasons; April 29<sup>th</sup> Downtown Dartmouth 4 birthdays; Hubbards Group changed format- Big Book 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 12 & 12 and discussions the remaining weeks.**

**Next CS Meeting will take place May 7, 2024 at 7 PM on Zoom**

**Meeting ended with Responsibility Pledge**

**PI report:** March 29, 2024

Public Information Business Cards

Issue: I

It has come to the attention of the PI Committee that the new design for the PI Business Cards are disputed for lack of the AA logo (Circle and Triangle), fail to use the AA colours (Blue and Yellow) and are not AA Conference Approved.

Response:

1. There seems to be much confusion as to the status and meaning of A.A. Conference Approved Literature. I would suggest a search of the Internet using ‘AA Conference Approved Literature’ for the Memo from A.A. World Services Inc. on the meaning and intention of this phrase.
2. As background, the circle and triangle was a copyrighted by AA. This provided legal protection to the literature. It prevented third parties from copying the books and pamphlets published through AA World Services Inc and selling them with no benefit to AA. This is the purpose of copyright.
3. The copyright has a life span of sixty years. If not renewed at that time, then the AA literature becomes common property for anyone’s use and profit. Unfortunately , the copyright was allowed to lapse and the AA literature suddenly had no copyright protection. In this circumstance the Executive adopted the present copyright of AA Conference-Approved Literature. The previous logo was quickly replaced with the present statement as the copyright to protect the AA World Services literature from being exploited by outside parties. The use of this wording as the copyright is not a policy statement of the AA Conference. (refer to the Memo above)
4. The Grapevine magazine and its literature is protected by its own copyright.
5. As noted in the Memo above, AA World Services nor the Conference approves or disapproves of literature produced by AA Areas, Districts, intergroup Committees like Central Service or by individual groups. As the Memo indicates they can be referred to as “AA Literature” i.e. think of our newsletter and meeting list.
6. The previous and current business card was creation of the PI Committee. It took much discussion. The previous design was plagiarized from an AA poster. We did get an OK from a

staff person in New York as the card was in line with the purpose of the poster. It was permission to use copyrighted material. There was no permission for the overall design of the card as this was our business.

7. After adoption of the original design, we sought advice and critique from a professional in the business of public relations and advertising. He dismissed the design as too busy, too much visual information, the message was indirect and negative advertising.

8. At the time we were too busy getting the message out and put the criticism on a back burner. Over the last six months, we have debated the issue at the Committee level. Our starting point is the long-form of the Eleventh Tradition, which directs honesty, humility and personal anonymity. The central issue was "attractiveness". Our target audience is not the fellowship. It is the person outside the doors of AA with a problem with alcohol. Our second target are the care givers that an alcoholic might turn to or a loved one, relative, friend, or colleague. The card had to convey a direct message as to what AA has to offer, it had to be optimistic and cheery and how to find us.

9. The direct message to a troubled alcoholic is recovery. We used an abstract design for a rising sun. The letters AA in the general public mind is synonymous with alcoholism and its treatment.

10. The final design feature is the blank block in the centre. If this is filled in on contact with AA it becomes the most important message on the card.

11. Once again, after getting the first lot printed ; we consulted again with another professional in the field of graphic design and public relations. It was suggested that we tone down the colours as too bright -somewhat overwhelming, use lower case letters for RECOVERY as easier to read and move the hard information of phone number and web address to the back of the card to make it less information intensive. Keep it simple and direct.

12. AA has never copyrighted colours in association with the copyright. The graphic design and colours used by AA ; reflects the times. The design of the new pamphlets from AA are quite different from the past. This is the issue of attractiveness with the current population of alcoholics.

13. For the next AA conference there are some 500 resolutions to be addressed. It would be mind -destroying to have to consider all printed materials from every level of AA for conference approval. There is a tradition for group autonomy.

14. Finally, at all levels of AA we are allowed to make mistakes. With experience and further thought we can make the corrections. This is a blessing pointed out by our founder in the book 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. In this text, with the Traditions we have a litany of bone-headed decisions or temptations avoided, that inspired the Traditions as we have them.

15. So while we are defending the design, it may not be quite right, and there may be some further amendments. At the end of the day, it is about providing an encouragement for a troubled alcoholic to walk into the doors of AA - Attraction.



## *Literature (Table) Report for March 2024*

REVENUES	TOTALS	NOTES
CHEQUES	\$90.00	For books sale
SQUARE	\$333.50	For books sale
CASH	\$193.00	For books sale
E-Transfer	\$108.00	For books sale
<b>TOTALS REVENUE</b>	<b>\$724.50</b>	

EXPENSES	TOTALS	NOTES
Visa/Mastercard	\$2.70	Charges 2.65% per transaction
Interac/Debit	\$1.87	Charges 0.75% +7cent per transaction
Service charge	\$7.50	
New York book invoice	\$2406.01	
Exchange US/Canadian	\$913.08	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3331.16</b>	

Opening balance as of 1 March 2024	\$5937.69
Total deposit at the Bank for March 2024	\$724.50
Balance at the Bank as of 31 March 2024	\$3331.03