

District 1, Area 82  
 General Service Committee  
 Zoom Video Conference Meeting  
 March 29, 2020

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** by DCM Steve A. at 1:05 PM. It was agreed by all that the video conference meeting would be recorded using the Zoom platform software.
2. **Moment of Silence was observed, followed by the Serenity Prayer.**
3. **The Twelve Traditions** were read by Michael H.
4. **The Twelve Concepts** were read by Lisa N.
5. **Roll Call / GSR Reports**

Emily S.	Acceptance Group	GSR
Steve A.	Acceptance Group	DCM
Lisa M.	Back to Basics Group	GSR
Lisa N.	Back to Basics Group	Alt. DCM
Velma C.	Four Seasons Group	GSR
Al. P.	Fresh Start Group	Secretary
Rick H.	Highland Park Group	GSR
Jessica M.	Second Chance Group	GSR
Michael H.	St. Margarets Bay Group	Chairperson, Districts 1 & 2 Central Service Committee
Bill P.	Sunday Night Serenity Group and Step 11 Meditation Meeting	A.A. Member
Trudy A.	Sunday Night Serenity Group	Alt. Area 82 Delegate
Paul B.	Welcome Group	GSR

- Emily S. reported that the Acceptance Group had their first online Zoom A.A. meeting on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, and a second one on March 28<sup>th</sup> with 55 people participating.
- Jessica M. noted that the Second Chance Group just started holding online Zoom A.A. meetings on Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and Mondays at 7:30 pm. The first online meeting was Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, with 36 people participating. The URL for the meetings will be posted on AAHalifax.org.
- As reported by Lisa M., the Back to Basics Group has not yet started holding online meetings. The group will be having a group conscience meeting on Wednesday, April

1<sup>st</sup> to determine if members of the group would like to hold an online meeting.

- The first online meeting of the Welcome Group, as noted by Paul B., was held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, with 43 people participating.
- Rick H. stated that the Highland Park Group started holding online Zoom meetings on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, with twelve people in attendance.
- Velma C. reported that the Four Seasons Group has conducted three online Zoom meetings so far, including a birthday meeting on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. After having tested Zoom using a free account, the group very recently decided to purchase a one-month subscription for a Zoom Pro account.
- With respect to the Sunday Night Serenity Group, Bill P. noted that the group is investigating the possibility of using Zoom to hold online meetings, but it probably wouldn't be before Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, before an online meeting would be held. The Step Eleven Meditation Meeting has started holding online Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:00 pm.

#### 6. **Call for New Business Agenda Items.**

Paul B. introduced the following two new business items:

3. Distribution of the District 1 General Service Committee Minutes.
4. Confidentiality of District 1 General Service Committee member email addresses.

Lisa M. introduced the following new business item:

5. A review of the distribution of the District 1 surplus of \$5,357.04 from fiscal year 2019 – considered to be made up of a \$2,159.89 contribution from the former Live for Today Group, plus the additional District 1 surplus of \$3,197.15.

7. **Motion to Approve the Agenda.** The chairperson forgot to ask for a motion to approve the agenda.

#### 8. **Minutes of the January 26, 2020, District 1 Meeting**

- a. **Omissions and corrections:** None.
- b. **Motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2020, District 1 meeting** was made by Bill P., **seconded** by Lisa N. **Motion passed** with one abstention.

#### 9. **Minutes of the February 23, 2020, District 1 Meeting**

##### **Omissions and corrections:**

- It was noted that the list of meeting participants is missing (i.e., the roll call).
- A member who was not present at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting stated that the formatting of the minutes, and the typing, could be made clearer because for someone who was not at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, extra context is required.
- Also, it is not clear as to exactly what the words "the money" means in the motion which included the words "that the money be divided as per the pie (option A)". That is, does "the money" refer to the entire surplus of \$5,357.04, or does "the money" refer only to the \$2,159.89 contribution from the former Live for Today Group?

- It was mentioned that the item numbering in the minutes does not match the agenda item numbering in the agenda for the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and this item numbering in the minutes needs to be corrected. Also, there are spots where the required capitalization is missing.

Al P. agreed to amend the minutes with consideration of the above noted omissions and corrections. As part of this process, Al will attempt to provide District 1 Committee members with the snippet of the audio tape of the February 23, 2020, District 1 Committee meeting in which the "the money", itemized in the third bullet, above, was discussed. The amended February 23, 2020, minutes will be brought back for approval during the April 26, 2020, District 1 Committee meeting.

## 10. Officer's Reports

- Treasurer's Report** (to view and download the Acting Treasurer's Report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/D1-Financials-Feb2020>).
  - Lisa N., Acting Treasurer, reported on the month ending February 29, 2020: Opening bank balance: \$5,904.34. Deposits totaling: \$18.80. Cashed cheques: \$300.00. Closing bank balance: \$5,623.14. There are no pending deposits and no outstanding cheques. Working balance in operating account: \$5,623.14. Opening prudent reserve balance: \$2,128.41. Interest deposit: \$0.08. Prudent reserve account closing balance: \$2,128.49. Equity share balance: \$5.00. Total assets: \$7,756.63.
  - Lisa N. noted that the bank statement verifies that the bank balances are as reported.
  - Budgeted to Actual Report - January 1 to February 29, 2020: Total revenue of \$697.10, of that amount, group contributions were \$660.00. There were no expenses in February 2020. The year to date total for income is \$697.10 and the year to date total for expenses is \$665.10. Therefore, the net surplus for the year so far is \$32.00.
- Secretary's Report** from Al P. No report. Paul asked if his name is on the Secretary's District 1 General Service Committee contact list. Al responded that yes, Paul B.'s name and email address is on his contact list. Paul B. noted his email address so that the Secretary can confirm it.
- Alternate DCM'S Report** from Lisa N. (to view and download the Alternate DCM's Report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/D1-Alt-DCM-Report-Mar2020>). Rick H. thanked Lisa N. for his receipt of her February 2020 report.
- DCM's Report** by Steve A. (to view and download the DCM's Report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/D1-DCM-Report-Mar2020>). Steve was thanked for the hard work which he did in providing and updating summaries of new online A.A. meetings being held in Atlantic Canada on the Zoom video conferencing platform. On questioning from Jessica M., Steve also noted that on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, he emailed an apology to Kirk S., the Area 82 Delegate (see the minutes of the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, District 1 Committee meeting for the background on this apology). Steve stated that he has not received a response to his apology from Kirk S.

## 11. Other Reports

- a. **Central Service Committee Chairperson** by Michael H. (to view and download the Central Service Committee Chairperson's Report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/CS-Chair-Report-Mar2020>).
- Emily S. asked if the ad hoc A.A. online meetings not affiliated with an A.A. group listed with GSO, are being posted on the AAHalifax.org website. Michael H. answered yes, if these online meetings are being put on by A.A. members living within the boundaries of Districts 1 and 2, they are being posted on the AAHalifax.org website.
  - Paul B. thanked Michael for the work the Districts 1 & 2 Central Service Committee has done to get the online A.A. meetings listed on the AAHalifax.org website.
  - Paul then asked if the 2020 budget for the Districts 1 & 2 Central Service Committee has been established, and if it has, could he provide this budget to the District 1 General Service Committee? Michael handed this question over to Bill P., the Central Service Committee Treasurer, who stated that Central Service has roughly \$11,000 at its disposal in the bank account and the prudent account, with the only commitments right now being the phone bill and the rental for the church. Bill noted that there is approximately \$3,700 in the literature account. The details will be presented during the April 7, 2020, Central Service Committee online meeting.
  - Rick H. asked, and Michael confirmed, that A.A. business cards are available from the Districts 1 & 2 Public Information (P.I.) Committee, but that COVID-19 protocols restrict the in-person distribution of said business cards. The chairperson of the P.I. Committee is Leah C., and her contact information is listed in the *Bluenose Bulletin*.
  - Rick H. also asked about lack of follow-up to an email he sent to Central Service suggesting putting a link on the AAHalifax.org webpage to the AA Grapevine website. Michael said he will look into putting this requested link onto the AAHalifax.org website.
  - Lisa M. expressed a concern about the lack of availability of women's only online meetings in Districts 1 & 2, and that some women's only meetings have been available out of PEI and Newfoundland & Labrador. Lisa thought that removing the online links to the PEI and Newfoundland & Labrador women's meetings might not be a good idea right now. Michael said he will arrange for placement of the URLs for the PEI and NL women's meetings on the AAHalifax.org website (also see New Business Item 13 f.).
- b. **Area 82 Representative** by Trudy A, Alternate General Service Delegate, Area 82.
- Planning for a virtual 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference is ongoing, but there are COVID-19 physical distancing issues about getting access to files at GSO to properly conduct such a full online conference. The business of A.A. must continue, such as elections for trustee positions and important housekeeping issues, so there is a need for some sort of conference which includes the 93 Area Delegates. Trudy is getting email updates on moving forward in this regard almost every day and she and Kirk S., the Area 82 Delegate, are being asked not

to distribute these emails to others because things are evolving so quickly. It has been decided that it is best to wait until a solid plan for moving forward is in place before notifying the entire A.A. membership.

- The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in Detroit, Michigan, has been cancelled.

## 12. Unfinished Business

- Review, discussion, and approval of the District 1 budget for fiscal year 2020.** Further discussion and approval of the District 1 budget for fiscal year 2020 awaits a confirmation of Al P.'s understanding of the exact wording of the motion made by Raquel R. during the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, District 1 Committee meeting to distribute all \$5,357.04 of surplus District 1 monies (see agenda item 9, above).
- 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Service Conference.** Completed. See the Area 82 Representative's Report, above (11 b.).
- Status of the 2020 Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup.** Completed. The 2020 Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup has been cancelled. It is expected that the \$150.00 that District 1 provided for a deposit on the venue will be refunded, as will the \$300.00 is seed money provided (less District 1's share of the bank service charges).
- Treasurer position opening.** DCM Steve A. called three times for nominations to fill the vacant District 1 Treasurer position. No nominations were received. During March 2020, Lisa N. took over from Steve A. as the Acting Treasurer.
- Minutes from the 2019 Nova Scotia Service Weekend and the 2019 Area 82 Assembly.** As of March 29, 2020, the minutes for both of these Area 82 service meetings are not available. Opinions varied on what the District 1 Committee should do next. The consensus was that no further action will be taken by District 1 at this time.

## 13. New Business

- Area 82 Treasurer's Report for fiscal year 2019.** No discussion.
- Hosting CERAASA 2023 in Nova Scotia from February 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** No discussion. This topic will be discussed at the April 2020 District 1 Committee meeting.
- Email distribution of the District 1 General Service Committee Minutes.** Paul B. reemphasized that when the District 1 Committee minutes are distributed by email by the District 1 Secretary, as a PDF document, that care should be taken to make sure that all District 1 GSRs receive these minutes, and that any documents referred to in the minutes are also provided as PDF documents. Paul also noted that the District 1 Guidelines state that the minutes are to be circulated electronically within two weeks of the meeting.
- Confidentiality of the District 1 General Service Committee email list.** It was agreed that this email list would remain confidential. Emails sent to members of the District 1 Committee by the District 1 DCM, or by the District 1 Secretary will continue to be sent using the blind carbon copy (bcc) method so as to not reveal the email addresses of any District 1 Committee members.

- e. **A review of the distribution of the District 1 surplus of \$5,357.04 from fiscal year 2019 – considered to be made up of a \$2,159.89 contribution from the former Live for Today Group, plus the additional District 1 surplus of \$3,197.15.**

See discussion under Item #9, page 2, above (i.e., Minutes of the February 23, 2020, District 1 Meeting).

Bill P. **moved** that any action on the motion made by Raquel R., which was seconded and passed during the February 23, 2020, District 1 Committee meeting, and which, according to the minutes of said meeting, includes the words “that the money be divided as per the pie (option A)”, be deferred until further notice. **Seconded** by Lisa M. **Motion passed unanimously.**

A decision was also made to restrict District 1 spending until the impact of reduced contributions from groups on the District 1 Committee’s budget can be ascertained.

Bill P. moved that the DCM, Steve A., would be reimbursed for the \$20.00 he spent to get a Zoom Pro account for one month in order to hold this current District 1 Committee meeting. After some discussion about whether or not the District 1 Zoom account would be used for meetings which are anything other than the District 1 Committee meetings the following motion was made:

Paul B. **moved** that the password for the District 1 Zoom Pro account would only be shared amongst the District 1 Committee officers. **Seconded** by Bill P. **Passed** with one opposed. Minority voice was deferred.

- f. **Women’s A.A. meetings in District 1.** Currently there is only one women’s meeting in District 1, i.e., the Serenity Sisters Group which meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at the Sackville Heights Community Centre, 45 Connolly Road in Middle Sackville (this group does not appear to be having online meetings at the present time). Jessica M. noted that there three new online women’s meetings which might be based in Halifax, these meetings take place on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, on Fridays at 7:00 pm, and on Sundays at 12:00 noon.

14. **The next District 1 General Service Committee meeting** will be held by online Zoom video conferencing on **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**

15. **The next District 1 Workshop** will be held by online Zoom video conferencing on **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.**

16. **Adjournment** –Steve A. **declared** the meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

17. **Meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge**

The next meeting will be held by online Zoom video conferencing on  
**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020,**  
from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.