

District 1, Area 82  
 General Service Committee  
 Zoom Video Conference Meeting  
 May 31, 2020

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** by DCM Steve A. at 2:16 pm. It was agreed by all that the videoconferencing meeting would be recorded using the Zoom platform software.
2. **A 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 Velma C.
5. **Roll Call / GSR Reports**

Karen R.	Acceptance Group	Alt. GSR
Steve A.	Acceptance Group	DCM
Lisa M.	Back to Basics Group	GSR
Velma C.	Four Seasons Group	GSR
Heather C.	Fresh Start Group	GSR
Rick H.	Highland Park Group	GSR
Jessica M.	Second Chance Group	GSR
Christine M.	Serenity Sisters Group	GSR
Trudy A.	Sunday Night Serenity Group	Area 82 Alt. Delegate
Paul B.	Welcome Group	GSR
Tom R.	West End Step Group	Acting GSR

- Rick H. – On average, the Highland Park Group is having 20 to 35 people participate in their meetings. Their meetings take place on Tuesdays at 12:15 pm and Fridays at 7:30 pm. There will be an online birthday for one Highland Park Group member on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Karen R. – The Acceptance Group holds a meeting every Saturday at 10 am, with 60 to 75 people in attendance. There is an open discussion meeting in the main Zoom room and two breakout rooms focusing on the Twelve Steps: one on Steps 1 to 3, and the other on Steps 4 through 12.
- Velma C. – Prompted by the letter from GSO notifying A.A. members that the General Service Board has authorized an emergency drawdown of \$3 million from the Reserve Fund, the Four Seasons Group held a special in-person and appropriately COVID-19 protected Seventh Tradition collection on the grounds of the Sackville Heights Community Centre, as well as collecting online contributions. A total of \$1,100 was collected and

forwarded to GSO. A drive-by 60<sup>th</sup> bellybutton birthday celebration was organized for a Four Seasons Group member on the evening of May 31<sup>st</sup>. As for A.A. birthdays, the Four Seasons Group is having a hard time getting members to celebrate their birthdays using the online Zoom platform. Any suggestions from other groups on how to increase birthday participation would be greatly appreciated.

- Heather C. – The Fresh Start Group has an open discussion Zoom meeting on Wednesdays at 8:30 pm, except the last Wednesday of every month which is a birthday celebration meeting. Attendance is averaging between 25 and 35 people. The Fresh Start Group also sent off a special contribution cheque to GSO. As for birthday celebrations, the Fresh Start Group has a membership list with sobriety dates noted and group members due to celebrate a birthday are contacted by Heather each month. If members agree to celebrate, their name and years of sobriety are placed in the *Bluenose Bulletin*.
- Jessica M. – A total of 35 people are participating, on average, in the Second Chance Group's Zoom meetings which are held every Monday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. The group is continuing to work out the details for helping more people to feel suitably equipped and comfortable in hosting the group's Zoom meetings. Their first Zoom birthday meeting was held on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, with the topic being gratitude.
- Christine M. – The Serenity Sisters Group is a women's group which meets three times a week using the Zoom online platform; that is, every Tuesday and Friday evening at 7 pm, and every Sunday at 12 noon. On average, 25 women attend each meeting. All meetings are open discussion meetings except for the third Tuesday of each month, which is a women's speaker meeting. Two birthdays were celebrated on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, with the topic also being gratitude.
- Paul B. – A second Zoom online birthday meeting was held by the Welcome Group on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, with two people celebrating. Zoom meeting attendance is averaging between 30 and 40 members, with meetings every Tuesday and Saturday nights at 7 pm. The Welcome Group is also sending a contribution to GSO. Their last business meeting was well attended, with 23 group members participating and asking lots of questions about what is going on in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Tom R. – Tom says, "Zoom is the new boom, that's for sure." However, at the West End Step Group, this has not necessarily worked in their favour, it seems. At their face-to-face meetings attendance was anywhere between 45 to 60 people, and now with the Zoom meetings, attendance has dropped to between 12 to 24. There are getting some attendees to their 'candlelight' Zoom meetings from way out of town. At their last business meeting it was decided to send a contribution to GSO, and the group is now in the process of setting up an e-Transfer bank account to collect Seventh Tradition.
- Lisa M. – The Back to Basics Group has had a few weeks of Zoom meetings now after being publicly listed on the AAHalifax.org website. Meetings take place on Wednesdays at 8 pm, and on Fridays at 7 pm. Back to Basics held their first online birthday meeting on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and it went well using their usual in-person birthday format in an online setting. Attendance at regular meetings is averaging 25 to 30 people, and there were over 50 people at the birthday meeting last week. As for birthday celebrations that were missed once COVID-19 started happening, the plan is to catch up on these birthdays perhaps with online celebrations in June and July. Back to Basics has held two business meetings online which went well, with participation of the 8 to 10

group members that also usually attended the in-person business meetings in the past. The group is planning to send a contribution to GSO.

6. **Call for New Business Agenda Items.** Two new business items were introduced:
  1. Online group Seventh Tradition collection using e-Transfers, and group banking methods for online transfers of money.
  2. Districts 1 & 2 Central Service subcommittee reports during the 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend – who is the best choice of service person to present these reports?
7. **Motion to Approve the Agenda.** Lisa M. **moved** that the agenda be approved as amended, and Heather C. **seconded**. **Motion carried** unanimously.

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

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

Deferred to next month (June 2020). Secretary Al P. was not attendance and Steve A. did not receive any regrets from Al. Steve A. noted that this was the second month in a row that Al had not sent in regrets. A discussion ensued as to how many unexcused absences Al P. was allowed before the District 1 Committee could vote to remove him as Secretary. Steve A. noted that the District 1 Guidelines indicate that the number is three unexcused absences during his term as Secretary. Steve A. will call Al P. on the telephone to ascertain Al's plans for continuing in his position as District 1 Secretary.

#### 9. **Minutes of the April 26, 2020, District 1 Meeting**

- a. **Omissions and corrections:** None. Lisa N. was thanked for completing the April 2020 District 1 minutes.
- b. **Motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2020, District 1 meeting** was made by Tom R., **seconded** by Karen R. **Motion passed** unanimously.

#### 10. **Officer's Reports**

- a. **Treasurer's Report** (to view and download the Acting Treasurer's Report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/D1-Financials-Apr2020>).
  - Lisa N., Acting Treasurer, sent in her regrets for today's meeting. Steve A. reported, on Lisa N.'s behalf, on the month ending April 30, 2020: Opening bank balance: \$6,103.14. Deposits totaling: \$503.01. No cashed cheques. Closing bank balance: \$6,606.15. There are two pending deposits totalling \$120 and no outstanding cheques. Working balance in operating account: \$6,726.15. Opening prudent reserve balance: \$2,128.58. Interest deposit: \$0.09. Prudent reserve account closing balance: \$2,128.67. Equity share balance: \$5.00. Total assets: \$8,859.82.
  - Steve A. noted that the April 30, 2020, bank statement verifies that the bank balances are as reported.
  - Budgeted to Actual Report - January 1 to April 30, 2020: Total revenue of \$1,297.10, of that amount, group contributions were \$1,260.00. There were no expenses in April 2020, however a refund of \$91.01 was received from the George Dixon Centre for unused District 1 room rental in March 2020. Also, a

reimbursement of \$412.00 was received from the Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup Committee. The year to date total for expenses is \$162.09. Therefore, the net surplus for the year so far is \$1,135.01

Lisa M. questioned the reimbursement of \$412.00 from the Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup (NSPR) Committee, asking why it was not the total amount of \$537.50 provided by District 1 to the NSPR Committee in 2019 and 2020. Steve noted that District 1 provided \$87.50 in fiscal year 2019 for one half of the room rental charges paid to Club 24 for meetings of the NSPR Committee, and \$150.00 to St. James Church Hall in 2019 for one half of the venue deposit (total of \$237.50 provided by District 1 in 2019). District 1 was refunded the entire \$300 in seed money provided to the NSRU Committee in 2020. Accounting for the remaining \$125.50 in non-reimbursed District 1 expenses (i.e., \$237.50-\$112.00) was as follows: \$87.50 for rent paid to Club 24 in for NSPR Committee meetings in 2019, \$25 for rent paid to Club 24 for NSPR Committee meetings in 2020, \$3.00 in bank charges, and \$10.00 of District 1 funds left in the bank account to be reimbursed to District 1 when the bank account is closed.

Tom R. asked if the rent for the George Dixon Centre is \$91.01 per month. Steve A. answered yes that amount was indeed the rent for March 2020. Steve also noted that District 1 pays \$26.00 per hour, including HST, for rent at the George Dixon Centre. For March 29, 2020, the room was rented from 12:45 pm to 4:15 pm because a District 1 workshop was planned for that day (i.e., a total of 3.5 hours).

- b. **Secretary's Report:** No report. Al P. was not present and did not send in any regrets.
- c. **Alternate DCM'S Report:** Lisa N. sent in regrets for this meeting. She did provide a written Alternate DCM's Report which can be viewed and downloaded by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/D1-Alt-DCM-Report-May2020>).
- d. **DCM's Report** by Steve A. (to view and download the DCM's Report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/D1-DCM-Report-May2020>).

## 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-May2020>).
  - Paul B. asked why, in the [Online 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Payments Technology Committee Suggestions](#) document, that some people are listed as 'stakeholders.' Paul noted that the word 'stakeholders' is a word used for business, and that "Central Service in Alcoholics Anonymous should not be run as a business, and that we should try to keep things simple." In response, Michael H. stated, "that was an error."
  - Tom R. reported that all elections for positions on the 2021 Mid-Winter Roundup Committee that took place at the committee meeting held on May 10, 2020, have been rescinded. This was because not enough notice of these elections was provided to A.A. members. The nomination and election meeting will now take place on Sunday, June 7, 2020. Tom noted that he is the Chairperson of the

2020 Mid-Winter Roundup Committee, and that he was elected to the position at the committee meeting immediately following the conclusion of the 2020 Mid-Winter Roundup. Tom also stated that the 2021 Mid-Winter Roundup is tentatively booked to take place at the Westin Nova Scotian in Halifax from February 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Lisa M. asked how she could circulate details of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to members of her group. Tom replied that the meeting notice is in the [June edition](#) of the *Bluenose Bulletin*, and it is also [posted](#) on the AAHalifax.org website.

- In response to Paul B.'s question regarding whether Central Service had considered sending a contribution to GSO, Michael stated that there had been no finance discussion on this topic whatsoever.

b. **Area 82 Representative's Report** by Trudy A, Alternate General Service Delegate, Area 82:

- Trudy joined the meeting towards the end and was able to address some questions regarding Districts 1 & 2 Central Service subcommittee reporting during the 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend (see discussion under New Business).

## 12. Unfinished Business

a. **Nova Scotia Service Weekend by Zoom videoconferencing, Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

2020 NOVA SCOTIA SERVICE WEEKEND NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM:

- a. DISTRICT 10 PROPOSAL – Amend Area 82 Guidelines regarding General Service Delegate (GSD) expenses at General Service Conference in New York.

On April 26, 2020, Steve A. wrote an email to the Area 82 Treasurer, Monique M., requesting information on the GSD's expenses for the General Service Conference that are paid by Area 82. Monique forwarded Steve's email to Kirk S. for response. Kirk responded that, in essence, most of the GSD's expenses, except for \$1,800 US, are paid by GSO, including reimbursing him for his airfare. Last year (2019), Area 82 sent the Canadian equivalent of \$1,800 US (i.e., \$2,400 CDN) to GSO as stipulated in a 2017 General Service Conference Advisory Action.<sup>1</sup> Kirk had submitted expenses to Area 82 in 2019 for hotel costs at a Halifax airport hotel the night before his flight to New York, and the night of his return to Nova Scotia, as well for some meals and transportation costs. Kirk noted that he believed that if Area 82 were to pay all his expenses to participate in the General Service Conference in New York, those expenses would amount to around \$10,000 CDN.

After some discussion, the sense of the meeting was that the District 1 DCM, Steve A., should vote against the District 10 proposal during the 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend.

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<sup>1</sup> 2017 General Service Conference Advisory Action: "The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800." General Service Conference, [2017 Final Report](#), pg. 9.

- b. **Feedback from District 1 groups on hosting CERAASA 2023 in Nova Scotia from February 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** [A total of \$2,500 in seed money will likely be available (repayable). [CERAASA 2021](#) is scheduled to be held in St. Catharines, Ontario, from February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.]

There was concern expressed that hosting CERAASA in February 2023 would compete/interfere with the 2023 Mid-Winter Roundup, and that Districts 1 and 2 had difficulties getting volunteers to help organize the Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup this year (2020), and why would that problem be any different for hosting CERAASA in 2023. It was decided that this agenda item would be revisited in June 2020.

- c. **District 1 Treasurer position opening.** DCM Steve A. called three times for nominations to fill the vacant District 1 Treasurer position. No nominations were received. Lisa N. will continue as Acting Treasurer.

### 13. New Business

- a. **Proposal to provide, to GSO, the entire \$2,159.89 contribution made in 2019 to District 1 by the former Live for Today Group.**

After some discussion about the motion passed<sup>2</sup> during the February 23, 2020, District 1 meeting to disperse 'surplus' District 1 funds from 2019 according to the formula given in the A.A. pamphlet [Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix](#), the following **motion** was made by Lisa M., and **seconded** by Tom R.:

To rescind the February 23, 2020, District 1 motion on distributing 'the money' according to 'the pie (option A).' **Motion passed** unanimously.

The following **motion** was then made by Lisa M. and **seconded** by Heather C.:

To take the \$2,159.89 provided to District 1 in 2019 by the former Live for Today Group and contribute that entire amount to GSO in New York. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Paul B. asked after contributing \$2,159.89 to GSO, what is the status of the District 1 surplus for 2019? Steve A. noted that the District 1 surplus from 2019 would now be \$3,431.

- b. **A new 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend proposal to cancel the in-person Area 82 Assembly scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and to replace it with a Zoom videoconferencing meeting to take place on the same dates.**

The sense of the meeting was clearly that the District 1 DCM, Steve A., should vote **in favour** of this motion during the 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend.

- c. **Online group Seventh Tradition collection using e-Transfers, and group banking methods for online transfers of money.**

Lisa M. noted that other not-for-profit groups that she is involved with have used electronic transfers and direct bill payments with a "pseudo" second signature by forwarding, for example, a bill statement to the second signing officer, and having the

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<sup>2</sup> The unapproved February 23, 2020, District 1 meeting minutes state: "Racquel moves that the money be divided as per the pie (option A). Seconded by Jessica M. Voted 8 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions. Minority heard, no votes changed. Motion passed."

control of the two people signing together now happening "after the fact." She also stated that there is trust involved in doing it this way.<sup>3</sup>

Lisa also explained that it can be arranged with the bank where the second signing officer would have to "do a release" with the bank for the money to be sent anywhere electronically as arranged by the first signing officer. This second signing officer would also have to have online "sign-in rights" to the bank account. Lisa noted that the bank she is talking about is Credit Union Atlantic.

Paul B. stated that the Welcome Group writes a cheque made out to their treasurer, as a trusted servant, with two signatures. Their treasurer then deposits the cheque in their own personal account, and then makes the e-Transfer to GSO using their own personal bank account. Proof that this e-Transfer has been made to GSO is then provided to the members of the Welcome Group.

Michael H. noted that because Central Service is "so bound by rules" that they cannot do e-Transfers out of their bank account, but he will investigate the second option that Lisa M. spoke about (i.e., the "do a release" option).

**d. Districts 1 & 2 Central Service subcommittee reports during the 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend – who is the best choice of service person to present these reports?**

A discussion was held as to whether Michael H. or Trudy A. would be the best person to present the Districts 1 & 2 Central Service subcommittee reports during the 2020 Nova Scotia Service Weekend. It was decided that since Trudy A. is already chairing monthly meetings of the active Area 82 service committees such as CPC and PI, that this reporting would best be done by her. Trudy stated that she agrees with doing this reporting.

The question arose whether or not the four committees (CPC, PI, Corrections, and Treatment Facilities) should go back to Districts 1 and 2 because Districts 1 & 2 work more directly with the Area 82 Committee (i.e., the DCMs are members of the Area 82 Committee).<sup>4</sup> It was decided to continue this discussion at a future District 1 meeting.

14. **The next District 1 General Service Committee meeting** will be held by online Zoom video conferencing on **Sunday, June 28<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, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.** The workshop topic is: *Contributions and Self-Support: Understanding the Seventh Tradition.*
16. **Adjournment – Tom R. moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded** by Lisa M. **Motion carried** unanimously. Steve A. declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm. A thank you was extended to Trudy A. for her service for attending.
17. **Meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge.**

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<sup>3</sup> This is because the one person with the online bank account access could still make off with all of the group's money by doing an e-Transfer to their own personal bank account. This is a footnote added by the Acting Secretary, Steve A., during the preparation of these minutes.

<sup>4</sup> An undated but believed to be 2017 document entitled "District Subcommittees," outlines the reasons for possibly moving the four District 1 & 2 subcommittee to Central Service. This document is available to read and download by visiting [here](#).