

District 1, Area 82
General Service Committee
ZOOM VIDEO Conference Meeting August 26th, 2026

Welcome and Call to Order:

Meeting opened by Barney at 6:00 pm. It was agreed by all that the video conferencing meeting would be recorded using Zoom software.

- 1. A Moment of Silence was observed, followed by the Serenity Prayer**
- 2. Twelve Traditions:** The Twelve Traditions were read by Lisa.
- 3. Twelve Concepts:** The Twelve Concepts were read by Heather.
- 4.** Interpretation of Concept 8 By Maria R, interpretation of Concept 9 will be done next month by Kim.

5. Roll Call / GSR Reports:

VOTING MEMBER S PRESENT	HOME GROUP	DISTRICT 1 EXECUTIVE	UPDATES
Tie only	Back to Basics	DCM- Barney W	
Yes	Back to Basics	Treasurer- Michelle W	
Yes	Welcome group	Secretary Rob R	
VOTING	HOME GROUP	DISTRICT 1 GSR's	UPDATES
Yes	Hubbards Group	Eric	
Yes	Sunday Night Serenity	Judy H	Soft Chairs
Yes	Back to Basics	Brendon M	
Yes	Consious Contact	Nathanial	
Yes	Highland Park	Lisa L	
Yes	WESG	Dave T	
Yes	Downtown Halifax	Maria R	
Yes	Acceptance	Jesse H	
Yes	<i>Fresh Start</i>	<i>Heather</i>	
No	<i>CS Chair</i>	<i>Heather</i>	
No	Alt GSD	Paul B	

No	B2B Alt GSR	Daniel	
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No Welcome Rob

11 (plus DCM) voting members in attendance, the DCM will only vote in the event of a tie.

6. Call for New Business Agenda Items:

None

7. Motion to Approve the August agenda:

Motion to approve by Brendon, seconded by Kim, agenda approved unanimously.

8. July 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Omissions and corrections

Motion to approve the minutes by Heather, seconded by Dave, minutes approved unanimously

9. Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer shared and read the:

- Monthly Treasurer Report
- CUA Bank Statement
- Budgeted to Actuals Report
- Group Contributions Report

Secretary's Report: Rob shared his activities

- Forwarded all correspondence received to all district 1 GSR's
- Maintained the mailing list

DCM report for District 1

Hello friends, I was able to attend all of my other committee meetings this month. Active area committee, Central service meeting and the Nova Scotia archives meeting. I'm happy to report that the other wings of our AA service structure are humming along.

I'd like to encourage the GSR's here to seek out some of these other meetings out to strengthen their understanding and unity through some of these other AA service members. I think we're all a little surprised by the mid months notice from our area committee regarding the format change at the upcoming area 82 assembly and will speak more on this during the new business section of our meeting. I continue to try to attend all of our district 1 meetings, and I'm available to help groups with any service structure or business meeting related challenges. please feel free to reach out by text or through email.

Yours in service
Barney W

Alt DCM's Report: Role is vacant. No nominations

Motion to pass officers reports

Motion by Nathaniel Seconded by Michelle

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Other Reports:

Central Service Report

Central Service report to Districts 1&2 August 2026

News from August 4 meeting:

It was decided that the annual Service Fair, normally held in Sept, will be incorporated into the Mid-Winter Roundup event in Feb 2027. We have had very poor attendance at the separate Service Fair event held each Sept. In the last 2 years, only about 3 non-Central Service people came. At the MWRU, we have an audience of hundreds of people. So in Feb, we will try and have every subcommittee represented.

We are still seeking a group to host the annual Christmas Eve Social. The CSRs are again taking this to their groups, but I would ask that you, as GSRs, also ensure your group knows they can participate. Central Service has a \$700 budget for this to rent space and buy the food/beverages.

We did a first reading/review of the 2027 budget. Those CSRs that wish, can take the draft budget to their groups and they will have a couple of months to bring any questions back to the table. The intention is to vote on the final version by December.

Our in-person meeting will be moving to Northwood Community Centre at 185 Gary Martin Dr in Bedford for our Oct meeting. We hate to leave the library, but look forward to our new space this fall.

The 4 district committees continue to work well. One idea that came up at the Aug meeting was to allow our AA members that are “house bound” to reach out to Hospital Visitation and/or Treatment. Hospital Visitation could send 2 volunteers in to visit the person...possibly holding an AA meeting with them. Treatment could use the Bridging the Gap list to find someone who would take the person to 1 or more AA meetings, if driving was the issue. So we are open to this idea and will continue to work on its implementation.

In Sept, we will begin elections for all subcommittee chairs and cochairs. Please consider if any of the positions are of interest to you. There is much interesting and exciting work to be done at Central Service. Please spread the word to your groups!

Yours in service .

Heather L Chair Central Service.

Area 82 Representative: Paul B Alt GSD reported.

Paul discussed the changes to the area assembly format, including the cancellation of the hybrid version. Paul reported that the Fall Assembly would proceed with transportation arrangements being made, and that hybrid model discussions would still take place at the assembly. Anyone going to the fall assembly please let Paul know by email so we can make sure there is transportation for all from the airport to the venue.

Elections- Alt Treasurer, Alt DCM

No nominations for these positions

11. Unfinished Business:

Area assembly airport information

Paul B explained this in his report

12. New Business:

Area Assembly format change

Mid-month we got a notice from our area committee saying that the hosting Committee in Newfoundland has changed it the format of the upcoming area assembly from a hybrid model to an in person only. There's been a lot of discussion sort of based around this for the last 6 months. At this point it's somewhat unclear in our guidelines whether or not our area assemblies should be hybrid or not? That was going to be a topic at the assembly itself, but I think due to some sort of technology challenges it was changed to in person only. More information on this will be made available in time. For now if you are planning to attend in person please let Paul B know so transportation can be arranged for all. The option to return to a permanent hybrid format going forward may be brought up as a floor action at the assembly time permitting. So Barney asked all GSR's to bring the Hybrid conversation back to thier groups so we can discuss it at Septembers meeting prior to the assembly in case there is a vote on the issue. We also have a floor action that will be presented by Barney on Maria's behalf. It is as follows, read into the minutes by Maria R;

From: District 1, Area 82, Maria R., GSR, Downtown Halifax Group

TOPIC: The Silent AA Member who cannot read and the AA Gifts of Hope which are made accessible.

AGENDA ITEM: That GSO create a compendium to the existing service piece

“Making the A.A. Message Accessible”, F-107, on page 15, in the title “Easy-ToRead Literature”.

EASY-TO-READ LITERATURE Members with difficulty reading, illiteracy and limited reading abilities can be less visible than other accessibility challenges. The group’s

literature chair can make a point of announcing that many books, pamphlets and Grapevine articles are available in audio format. Many groups read aloud, a practice which can help all new members learn the steps and traditions. Help with reading and comprehension can also be offered one on one through sponsors or other group members. Resources available: There are audiovisual resources available through GSO. In addition, several pieces of illustrated and easy-to-read literature can be ordered from GSO, including the Plain Language Big Book. AA Grapevine carries a large inventory of e-books and CDs containing the shared experience, strength and hope of individual members.

This information in the compendium could state stories on members that overcame barriers in literacy limitation skills. Make the member feel part of the AA program, strengthen their recovery and sobriety and would better help them understand our program and maybe, just maybe, prevent relapse.

The resources available on page 15 states: "Resources available: There are audiovisual resources available through GSO. In addition, several pieces of illustrated and easy-to-read literature can be ordered from GSO, including the Plain Language Big Book. AA Grapevine carries a large inventory of e-books and CDs containing the shared experience, strength and hope of individual members."

The compendium will add a personal touch to the e-books and CD's by members themselves sharing their experience, strength and hope and the gifts of hope which were made accessible. With the help of sponsors and group members they can overcome their reading difficulty.

I was informed by GSO that the pamphlet, "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" P-83 (which was previously called "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs") will no longer be published. There wasn't one story among the 12 stories that I read that had a member with literacy limitation skills in the pamphlet but the stories were spiritually uplifting and the AA members assistance

was phenomenal.

I called the library and the librarian gave me the percentage of people with literacy limitation skills from Statistics Canada: 49% of adult's literacy skills are below high school level, 19% lowest level cannot read instructions on a medication bottle.

As a foot note I asked how many Americans had literacy limitation skills and she quoted the National Literacy Institute; 79% have literacy limitations, 41% sufficient literacy skills and 43 million Americans can't read.

Hence, this agenda item came about because of my personal experience while chairing a Big Book study in my home group. When I went around the table members shared but one member said "pass I can't read". I will never forget the look in his eyes. I went home that night and relived the experience mentally and prayed on it, what came to me was the 3rd Step spiritual principle of faith. I further meditated on the saying "faith without works is dead". So I believe the experience was meant for me to take action.

As a member of the Downtown Halifax Group and GSR, I can't stress enough how important it is to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic and how we are responsible when anyone anywhere reaches out for help the hand of AA needs to be there to offer the message of hope no matter what challenge.

In closing thank you everyone for your time and to my service sponsor for her assistance and secretarial skills.

Yours in Service, Maria R, GSR, Downtown Halifax Group, District 1, Area 82

.Eastern Canada regional forum report

Barney will send a full copy of the report to the secretary for distribution, he touched on some of the highlights;

I attended the Eastern Canada Regional forum in Boucherville Quebec this past weekend. Regional forums are regularly scheduled events in which GSO staff, trustees, and board members present and meet with members of our association. This forum was attended by and had presentations from Bob W the general manager of GSO, Scott H the chairman of the GSO board, Chris C, the publisher of the Grapevine, as well as many trustees and delegates. Our own area 82 delegate Dwayne M gave a great presentation on what AA is doing to send our message to remote communities. I believe area 82 had six members present at the Forum, it was primarily attended by Quebec and Ontario members with some membership representing New Brunswick and Pei. Language translation was accomplished by a phone app named "wordly", this worked reasonably well and the forum was able to seamlessly switch between our French speaking members and our English. The information that was passed on to the membership was vast. From presentations on the structure and the workings of our GSO operations, to financial projections of our two corporate boards regarding future cash flows. Service in alcoholics anonymous has offered me a few major perspective shifts that I sorely needed to maintain my sobriety. This event in Boucherville provided me this latest opportunity. I feel like I have a much better grasp on the relative size of our service structure, as well as it's fragility. I'd like to thank district 1 for allowing me to make this trip and for the knowledge that I've gained. this report on the forum agenda will be available by email later this week. If any members would like to discuss any of the forum topics further please let me know.

Yours in service

Barney W

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday September 30th, 2026, 7:00 pm. But be there for 6

14. Next District 1 Workshop: Corrections Wednesday September 30th 2026, 6:00 pm. followed by our district meeting at 7:00 pm

15. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by brendon, it was seconded by Kim, and the meeting. motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

16. Meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge

