

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2013

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM-Paula D.
Alt. DCM-Steve N.
Treasurer-Deb S.
Secretary-Paige B. (Interim)
Grapevine Chair-Deb S.
Archives Chair-Denis S.
Intergroup Liaison-Paige B.
Literature Chair- Genêt R.
Men's Corrections Chair-David N.

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:

Attitude Adjustment Group-Rose C., GSR
Big Book-164 Study Group-John W., GSR
Bright Spot Group-Babette V. S., GSR
Crystal River Group-Sandy H., GSR
Dunnellon New Beginnings Big Book Group-John S., GSR
Floral City Group-David N., GSR
Keep In Step Group-Mary S., GSR
Monday Night Men's Step Group-Rick T., GSR
Rainbow Group-Ron B., GSR
Real Happy Hour Group-John C., GSR
Resentment Group-Ernie P., GSR
Women's Friendship Group- Genêt R., GSR

Michael F.-Crystal River Group-Visitor
John A.-New Beginnings Group-Visitor
Paul T.-Resentment Group-Visitor
Diane P.-Won Rebos Group-Visitor

Welcome by DCM:

Paula D. welcomed groups and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
Serenity Prayer
Declaration of Unity
Responsibility Statement
Recognition of New GSRs- none present

Roll Call and Secretary's Report: Paige B. (interim Secretary) took roll call and minutes.

Roll call-12 groups were represented.
Minutes from the June 2013 meeting were read and accepted unanimously as written.

Treasurer's Report: Debra S. delivered the Treasurer's report. The report was approved as written unanimously.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Report: Denis S.

Thanks again for the appointment to District Archives Chair. I cataloged a box of old items given to me by John R. It contained many interesting items especially a reproduction of a first edition Big Book and two copies of a second edition.
I went to the Area Assembly on Saturday and attended the Archives Workshop given by Area Archivist Stephen R. The workshop was dedicated to the procedures used for preventing old papers from

deteriorating. Stephen suggested that we begin archives activities in District 28 by collecting group histories. I will print the group history questionnaire from the area website and distribute it to the groups. He also suggested we might consider purchasing a digital recorder and offering people with more than thirty years sobriety the opportunity to have their story recorded. Stephen displayed, at the workshop, the recent poster used by District 28 and Nature Coast Intergroup for the Founder's Day Breakfast. The recent cooperation between District 28 and the NCI has attracted the interest of many districts and intergroups in Area 14.

Men's Corrections Report: David N.

My name is David and I am definitely an alcoholic. For the record, I do contact correctional officer John Tucker as well as each member of the AA volunteer team each and every week. I will report on these telephone conversations only when they yield information relevant to this chair report.

On July 3, Gene and Stewart chaired an AA meeting which was attended by 12 inmates. Gene has been with us for a while however, Stewart is a new volunteer who attended his first meeting at Citrus County Corrections as an AA chairperson.

On July 10, I spoke with correctional officer John Tucker via the telephone. He informed me that 2 new AA volunteers have been approved to bring meetings into the jail. Mr. Tucker also informed me that he was close to getting me approved to bring AA meetings in also. An AA meeting was held on the 10th of July however, the meeting was chaired by an inmate due to the fact that I was unable to find a replacement when the scheduled volunteer had to cancel on the evening of the meeting due to medical reasons. On July 17, Walter chaired an AA meeting that was attended by 16 inmates. On July 24, 17 inmates attended a meeting that Richard chaired.

In conclusion, Correctional officer John Tucker has been very cooperative and supportive of my effort to bring AA meetings into the jail. I have a very good working relationship with him and look forward to serving as the AA Men's Corrections Chair for the foreseeable future. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity. Sincerely, David N.

Women's Corrections Report: Read by Diane P. for Char S.

The July 5th meeting was canceled by CCA. The July 19th meeting was well attended by 9 inmates, most of whom actively participated and two District 28 volunteers. Mr. Tucker told me that one of our volunteer applications was turned down. 5 applications are still pending, and I am waiting for a lady who took an application to get it back to me so I can submit it. Yours in Unity, Recovery and Service, Char S.

CPC/PI Report: Read by Rose C. for Janet B.

Over the past two months all the usual sites have been stocked with meeting schedules. The Central Motel had a new office person who seemed glad to keep our information at the counter. I've made it a habit to tell all people to urge users of the schedules to avail themselves of the website and the hotline for updates.

We have been invited to a resource fair aimed at reaching out to newly released inmates from county, state and federal facilities. This will be held at the Resource Center in Hernando on Wednesday, September 18 from 10 am to 2 pm. I was invited to set up a table by John Young on behalf of AA. Of course, I agreed! What a great way to carry the message. Judge Howard is also interested as is Ginger West, who is the director of the facility in Hernando in Citrus County.

This is an example of the purist kind of networking or as Bill W. said, "Being friends with our friends." I am looking for all the new books of our AA publications so, we can give them away. If you can donate please give me a call. Janet B.

Grapevine Report: Debra S.

The Grapevine has published a new book, "One on One; AA Sponsorship in Action." I have made copies of this information and have placed them on the tables for anyone interested in ordering it. I personally have ordered one so I can see if it might be an appropriate gift for those that get their first anniversary since this is when sponsorship is to begin.

The Grapevine has an area on its website where members can talk about what is on their mind. Whether it is about how you feel about the whole A. A. structure, guidelines or mission or more specifically things that you feel a need to express. This forum is called Talk about this on What's on Your Mind.

You or any member of your group can also sign up for the "Daily Grapevine Quote" that will come to your e-mail each day. It is free and I find it very inspirational for my sobriety. You may want to sign up here on the Grapevine homepage at <http://www.aagrapevine.org>.

Literature Report: Genêt R.

The Area Literature Contest is still in full in swing. Both individuals and groups can enter. The deadline is October 4, 2014.

I attended the Literature Workshop at the Area Assembly. A review of the newly redrafted pamphlet, "The Seventh Tradition; Circles of Love and Service" was conducted. After much discussion, discussion was tabled with no action taken. The blue card, our Open and Closed Meeting Statement, was reworded in an effort to broaden the definition of those welcomed to attend open AA meetings.

I am working on a project at the area level. I believe GSO should send acknowledgments for AA birthday contributions in the form of a thank you note.

A good idea I heard at the workshop; some groups encourage AA birthday contributions to GSO by putting annual celebrant's medallions in a GSO Birthday contribution envelope.

NCI Liaison: Paige B.

The Meeting was opened and chaired by Chair Rick T. Genet R. took roll call. Thirteen groups were represented. Secretary Denis S. read the June minutes which were approved unanimously. A suggestion to eliminate last names and personal information from the minutes prior to posting on the website was made. Bill W. gave the Treasurer's report which was approved unanimously. Three Trustees were present, Sandy H., Steve N. and Debra S., they had nothing to report. Paul B. was absent. The hotline fielded 84 calls; 62 AA, 6 Wet, 5 AI-anon/AI-ateen, 2NA, 6 Treatment and 3 Miscellaneous. The website is, typically for this time of year, experiencing a drop in activity of about 10%. Historically this occurs following the departure of, "The snowbirds." Still, the website is busy with the lion's share of the visits for the Journal and for the Where and Whens. The July Journal is out! 300 copies are printed and available. The deadline for submissions is the third week of the month. Journal editor, Babette V. S., is pleased with the number of birthday submissions and grateful for articles so far and encourages everyone to continue. In an effort to increase Journal availability, several suggestions were made; to download and read the Journal electronically, to print copies for your group from the website and to read them at your home group and leave them there for the next person to read were made. The NCI is hosting a picnic in Rainbow Springs State Park on August 17, 2013. Initially, a 100 person per event limit dictated ticket availability. Upon review, the park agreed to open the number of individuals allowed to attend. The cost is set at \$5.50 per person which includes the price of park admission and lunch. There will be games, a 50/50 raffle, an AA skit, swimming and so much more! A discussion of ticket handling rendered several ideas for admission and collection. Additionally, accessibility and liability questions were raised and discussed. All proceeds above cost will go to GSO. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed. "Great events do not happen, they need each and every one of us to make them happen!" Anyone interested in volunteering a little time at the picnic or serving on the Events Committee can contact Paige B. at ahotcoffeekindagirl@gmail.com. Intergroup Representatives were asked to get feedback from their groups regarding location ideas for the 2013 Gratitude Dinner. Under Old Business, Chair Rick T. addressed the need to disburse excess funds accumulated in the form of a CD. A committee will be formed to address this and bring recommendations back to the Reps for discussion and approval. It was mentioned that a substantial amount of the monies, \$1,500.00, was donated to NCI from the Women's International Conference specifically for the formation of an intergroup office. Under new Business, a suggestion to make Literature available locally, through Intergroup, was made. Discussion was tabled until the August 2013 meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Treatment Report: - Willye M.

All is well with residential in-house groups, workshops and literature studies of AA. The Centers (ARSAT) has a new name. "Stepping Stones to Recovery", will now appear on reports as the adolescent treatment unit name and no longer ARSAT. So changes have been made with exception to our groups and meetings. Living Sober Sundays start up again next month with the reading of our new addition of "Living Sober" in print. Thank you to the Women's Group for that lovely thought of giving along with carrying the message. We all thank you! The open meeting of AA is growing larger and the primary purpose of the group is great. We would love to see more of you all on Friday nights at 7:00pm in Lecanto. Remember this is an AA meeting not treatment. Friday nights are self-supporting and that all AA groups and members need support most importantly in carrying the

message.

For those of you that do not know, my mother has pancreatic cancer and we are hanging in with her. I hope you, along with Paula, all understand that I will not always get to the district meetings. My attendance is contingent on how she is doing. Serving as Treatment Chair is such a pleasure, hope to see you all next district meeting. In Love and Service, Willye M.

Alternate DCMs Report: Steve N.

Where and when's will soon be sent out for printing. If you have any changes in meetings or new meetings not listed, please email those changes to me at northsea@usa.net so we can the printing template correct.

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the Area Assembly in Lake Mary and attend the two DCM workshops so I can step in for Paula if needed. Also, Finance, Finance Committee as Paula is assigned to that committee. Also attended Grapevine, Treatment and Public Information workshops at Paula's request so we would have a rep there. In the second DCM workshop we Skyped with the Delegate from Belgium. Three comments made an impression on me: 1. "If Bill was here, he would applaud what we are doing today..." (Using technology to reach out) 2. "We need to go back to the 1940's...get back to basics." 3. We should say, "Service commitment instead of service work."

The Grapevine Workshop highlights were: 1. Grapevine Reps need to work with the other committee chairs like Corrections, Treatment, Public Information, etc. so that back issues of Grapevines can be placed in doctor's offices, institutions and libraries. 2. Groups or District 28 can buy subscriptions to Grapevine for local libraries. 3. There is a literature pamphlet for Grapevine. Order it and distribute on meeting racks. 4. Check the Service Manual for how to correctly use passages, stories, jokes, etc., from Grapevine in your publications. 5. One effective use of Grapevine is to use it for discussion topics at meetings.

Public Information highlights included: 1. If having district workshops and activities, send fliers to Rita to get them on the Area 14 internet site. 2. One effective tool is to create fliers with pull tab hot-line phone number to distribute in public places like Laundromats (thanks to Ernie I was able to add that to the meeting), VA lobby, libraries, churches, etc. Can put in businesses with permission. Some may not allow public posting, but will let you put them in the employee break room.

Treatment discussed using traditions within the treatment setting. It was apparent that treatment facilities embrace some traditions, but they may have a problem with others like five, six and twelve. Other highlights of the Area Assembly include the fact that the Archivist position will be open in October and a new Archivist will be elected at the October Assembly. The 2015-2016 assemblies will be held in Gainesville at the Paramount Hotel. Friday, September 13th is the deadline for the Area inventory. An interesting thing was said about why we hold hands at the end of meetings. We are reaching out and we are making personal contact-both important to AA traditions and concepts.

The District has two rooms reserved at the Lake Mary Marriott for the October 4th -6th Assembly. They are reserved for Saturday night, October 5th and check-in time is 3:00 pm. Please let me know if your group needs a district room for you. If I have no requests for occupants of the rooms by September 29th, at the District Meeting, the reservations will be canceled.

Again, thank you for allowing me to participate in service work as it is important in keeping me sober!
Steve N.

DCMs Report: Paula D.

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as DCM for District 28, Panel 63.

Area 14 Assembly

I had the pleasure of attending the North Florida Area 14 Assembly July 12-14.

A special note of thanks to those who participated in the assembly: Denis S., Paige B., Sandy H., Genêt R., Ron B. and Steve N.

Steve, our Alt. DCM and I had the privilege of meeting the Belgium Delegate via Skype. She described their service structure and shared some of the problems and solutions that they experience and it was interesting to realize that they are much the same as our own:

Group numbers increasing and membership numbers remaining the same

Participation of the fellowship members in General Service service

Some of the solutions that we talked about:

- Utilizing the phrase “Service Commitment/Opportunity” vs “Service Work”
- Keeping the Human Touch in the program by Holding Hands to represent “Passing it on” –
- Focus on Showing our Gratitude!

She stated that “1000’s of lives have been saved by the continued existence of Alcoholics Anonymous” and she believes that it is because our Higher Power is providing the service people that we need. Let us not forget from where we came!

She said that it would have made Bill W. very happy that today’s technology is allowing International Delegates to Skype and share their experience, strength and hope with each other.

I am very grateful for having experienced this wonderful opportunity. It reinforced how much I am responsible to the fellowship, not just at home in Citrus County, but to those sick and suffering in Belgium and around the world!

Remember the deadline to return the Inventory Sept. 13th.

The General Service Conference moved the deadline for sending in any Agenda Items to December 15th. The most effective process is for these to come from the groups to the District and to the Area. In order to have the support of the Area, any Agenda Items will need to be brought either through committee or from the floor at the October 2013 Assembly.

2013 Assembly Dates - October 4-6, 2013

2014 Assembly Dates - January 17-19, April 11-14, July 11-13 and October 17-19, 2014

Concept / Tradition
The Traditions
(The Long Form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Tradition 7—

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Concept VII and Checklist

Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.

Do we act responsibly regarding the “power of the purse?”

Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Concept/Tradition
The Traditions
(The Long Form)

Old Business:

Nature Coast Intergroup Picnic:

The Nature Coast Intergroup is holding a picnic on Saturday, August 17, 2013 from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm at Rainbow Springs State Park. Tickets are on sale for \$5.50. The ticket price includes the cost of admission to the park and a BBQ lunch from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Proceeds above cost will go to GSO. Intergroup Chair, Rick T. clarified District 28's involvement as being limited to supporting Intergroup's effort to announce and man the event. District 28 is not responsible in any way financially or for the event's organization.

Fall Workshop:

Discussion was tabled and the item was moved to August 2013 agenda.

New Business:

District 28 Inventory:

Discussion was tabled and the item was moved to the August 2013 agenda.

Structures and Guidelines

District 28's Structures and Guidelines were last reviewed and revised in 2010. Copies were distributed to officers and committee chairs for review. Officers and committee chairs were asked to review their responsibilities and bring recommendations for changes back for the August 2013 meeting.

Reminders:

- Intergroup Picnic-August 17, 2013
- August District Meeting-August 25, 2013
- Area 14 Assembly.-October 4-6, 2013
- September 29, 2013-Deadline for GSR room request for October Assembly.
- October workshop.-Date TBA