

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2014

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM-Paula D.
Alt. DCM/Where and When-Steve N.
Treasurer-Debra S.
Secretary-P. J. O.
Intergroup Liaison-Toni T.
Grapevine Chair-Debra S.
Archives Chair-Denis S.

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:

Big Book 164 Study Group-John W., GSR
Crystal River Group-Sandy H., GSR
Dunnellon New Beginnings B.B.-John S., GSR
Holder Way of Life-Al M., GSR
Monday Night Men's Step-Rick T., GSR
Real Happy Hour Group-John C., GSR
What's The Book Say-Paige B., GSR
Won Rebos-Lisa B., GSR

Welcome by DCM:

Paula D. welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Serenity Prayer

Declaration of Unity

Responsibility Statement

Roll Call: P. J. O. took roll call and minutes.

Roll call-9 groups were represented.

Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the January 26, 2014 meeting were accepted unanimously as submitted..

Treasurer's Report: Debra S.

Debra presented a summary of the Contributions Report and the Income and Expense Sheet for February, copies of which were distributed to all present at the meeting. Ending balance for the month was \$5805.79. The Contributions total for the month was \$318.00. Debra noted that the High Noon Group was no longer in existence and would be removed from future Contribution Reports, and that the name change of the Youth of the Nation Group to Freedom Group will be reflected in the next report.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Report: Denis S.

Denis reported that he had attended and all-Florida workshop in Winter Park. In addition to the Florida people, there were representatives there from both GSO and Akron. It was wonderful to work with these people, and they covered several issues including copyright and document preservation.

In District 28, Denis has recorded Al A., from Long Island, who has 50 years sobriety, and has made arrangements to record Eddie, who has 45 years. Denis has prepared a release document that will be signed by the individuals that are interviewed in the future.

CPC/PI Report-Janet B. (Presented at meeting by Toni T.)

Such a short month with so many places to cover. My firsts were at the Crystal River Sheriff's Sub-station and at the Yana Club.

The Salvation Army's (County Probation) rack was almost empty. They will be hosting the Community Resource and Career Fair on March 29. AA has been invited and we will have a display table attended by myself and others whom I'm hoping will stop by.

Also stocked this month was State Probation and Parole, Sheriff's Main Station, Court Alternatives Program (Drug Court), County Courthouse, Guardian ad Litem, Children's Visitation Center, Share club, Citrus Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room, S.W. Central Driver Improvement, Chamber of Commerce, Lakes Region Library and the Central Motel.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet B.

Men's Corrections Report: David N. (Presented by John S.)

I tried to see if a meeting could take place last week, but was informed that the person in charge was not present. There may be men who are willing to go in and conduct meetings, but there are problems getting permission to come into the facility.

Women's Corrections Report: Char S. (no report)

Grapevine Report: Debra S.

This is the 70th year of the Grapevine. Founded in June of 1944, the Grapevine is not allowed to accept contributions from Groups, and is supported solely by product sales and subscriptions. However, there are ways that we can help. There are newly printed editions of the original 1951 and 1971 issues of the Grapevine, that were commemorative issues honoring Dr. Bob and Bill W. upon their deaths. The magazines contain the life stories of each of the founders, along with stories from friends and AA members of that time. The price for both is \$5.99, and they come in a plastic sleeve. Also, there is the Convention Special Edition: 75 years of AA. This magazine has 65 years of Grapevine histories in it. It celebrates the people who helped kindle the AA light for recovery of millions of alcoholics. Supplies are limited; the price is only \$4.00. The Grapevine is also offering "The Language of the Heart: 25th Anniversary Edition," soft cover only, \$13.99 each while supplies last. With June of 2014 coming up fast, the Grapevine is offering an anniversary kit that can be downloaded free from www.grapevine.org/GV70kit. Those who join the AA Grapevine community can upload their own story or art. There are special offers, some of them free if you have joined. Other features on the site include a calendar where you can share news of events, and also receive the Grapevine Quote of the Day.

Literature Report- Paula announced that Mark is the new Literature Chair. He will be with us next month.

NCI Liaison: Toni T.

Toni is the new NCI Liaison. She reported that at the February NCI meeting there were eight groups represented; there were no new group reps present. The Secretary's reports was presented and accepted. The Trustees reported that audit had been completed successfully; a \$20 discrepancy was found and reconciled. NCI is under the suggested Prudent Reserve amount, so no contributions will be made until that amount has been reached. The Treasurer reported that there was a balance of \$278.54 on hand. Rick T. presented the Hotline report for Dave N. It was reported that when trying to call the hotline number, the phone was not in service. It was learned that the phone had already been replaced once, for free, so they had to pay for a new one. The new phone is now up and in service. The Webmaster report was presented by Denis S. There had been 776 visits to the site. Regarding the NCI Journal, it is now in PDF format. The January edition is on line now; the February edition will be on line the first week of March. We can print updates on upcoming events. The Events calendar now displays a full year of upcoming events. It is anticipated there will be a Softball game in May; a Founder's Day event in June; Workshops in March and April will address Intergroup functions; there will be more information to come. NCI is in need of some assistance for the Webmaster; a Journal editor and a new vice-chair. At the Officers' election, Steve N. was re-elected as Trustee, John W. was elected to serve as Trustee, and Paige B. was elected Treasurer. Toni T. was appointed NCI Liaison.

Treatment Report- Paula reported that Willye M. is still the Treatment Chair, but there is no new activity to report at this time.

Alternate DCM Report: Steve N.

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as District 28's Alt DCM

District

Where and When's

If there are any changes that need to be made, please let me know. My email address is northsea@usa.net. All changes you sent me are almost immediately forwarded to the NCI web master to update the web page meeting list.

Area Assembly

The dates for the next assemblies are April 4-6 which will be held at Lake Mary, FL. You can make reservations for these on the North Florida Area website at <http://www.aanorthflorida.org>. Please make your reservations at least 30 days before the assembly. The area reserves only a certain number of rooms with the hotel. You can also call Marriott Central Reservations at (800) 380-7724, 24 hours a day. The district has reserved 2 rooms for GSR's of groups that do not have funds to send their GSR to assembly. I will need to know by March 29 if you are using these rooms or they will be canceled.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Steve N.

Al M. reported that he tried to get a reservation and was not able to get a room at the price that had been quoted to us. Paula advised that the hotel has a contractual obligation to provide a certain number of rooms at the guaranteed rate. She will contact them and try to rectify the problem.

Al also commented on the situation mentioned by John S. during the report on Corrections, having to do with meetings in the facilities. The problem lies with the

Corrections people. To go in and conduct a meeting you have to have an I. D. card that can only be obtained by attending the appropriate training session, but Corrections seldom offers the training. We need to address this as the meetings are very important to the people inside.

DCM Report for February 2014: Paula D.

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as your District Committee Member (DCM) for Panel 63

- At the January assembly, we had the opportunity to meet the past “A” trustee from GSO, Ward Ewing who was the speaker for Saturday night.
- The 2014 dates for the North Florida Area Assembly are:
 - April 4-6 – Conference agenda items
 - July 11-13 – Area Inventory
 - October 17-19 – Elections of new officers
- Bullet point preconference agenda items will be reviewed by our Area 14 Delegate at the March 30th business meeting. **The committee chairs will email or present their reports to the District Secretary that month for inclusion in the minutes instead of having them read at the meeting.**

The Traditions

John S. presented **Tradition II** and the checklist:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

The Concepts

Al M. presented **Concept Two** and the Checklist:

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

1. Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the “Conference”)?
2. What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group’s G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
3. Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

Paula thanked everyone for allowing her to serve.

Old Business:

Paula renewed a matter raised at the last meeting regarding the recommendations of the Audit Committee. The Committee had recommended that “all collections should be deposited into the bank account and all reimbursements should be made from the checking account.” Paula called for discussion; none was offered. Upon motion and second, the stated recommendation of the Audit Committee was unanimously adopted for update of the District’s Structures and Guidelines.

Lisa B. raised a question regarding the 7th Tradition responsibilities and duties of a Group with regard to funding AA activities. Paula indicated that funding for the GSR to attend the Assembly would be expected. At the bare minimum, the District would provide funding for the DCM to attend, and to provide the literature that the District needs to function.

Paula advised that there is some interest in having an ad hoc committee to consider whether the District Structures and Guidelines should be revised and updated. Some changes might be necessary to reflect actual practice. For example, the Guidelines currently require the Secretary to mail, not e-mail, copies of the Minutes of District meetings to the GSRs. These are the kinds of issues the committee would be looking at. Paula asked that anyone interested in serving please let her know. The committee will present its findings and recommendations to the District for consideration.

New Business:

While presenting her DCM report, Paula had mentioned that the former “A” Trustee from GSO at the Assembly meeting had raised the point that some people on the outside see AA as a religious organization, and suggested that groups might consider reciting the Responsibility Statement rather than the Lord’s Prayer at the end of meetings. Paula asked, rhetorically, if this was something we might consider doing at our business meeting, as the Responsibility Statement would be a reminder of our mission to carry the message to others. There were several responses. One member observed that we don’t talk as much about God as we should. The AA success rate has fallen, perhaps as a result of this failure, and it appears that some people are afraid to talk about God. Many of us would not have gotten sober without God. We should keep God and prayer in AA, as a reminder that God loves us. Does prayer and talking about God scare away some newcomers? Perhaps, but maybe those people have not reached their bottoms. People shouldn’t be forced to participate in prayer at meetings; those who choose not to pray can stand outside the circle. People who are atheists or agnostics will come to believe. If we remove God and prayer from AA, we are not being true to the history of what works in AA. If newcomers or others find this objectionable, they are free to establish their own meetings. Another member advised that he had come into AA as an agnostic, but has come to believe in God as the Power greater than himself. In closing, it was stated that we should not let a minority change things. The discussion ended without any motion being made with regard to the subject.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. upon motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.