

**DISTRICT 28**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2014

**Officers/Chairs present at meeting:**

DCM- Steve N.  
Alt. DCM-Paige B.  
Treasurer-Jen B.  
Secretary- P. J. O.  
Archives Chair-Denis S.  
NCI Liaison-Toni T.  
CPC- Janet B.  
Grapevine- Paula D.  
Technology- Cathy E.  
Workshop- Diane P.  
Literature- Lisa B.  
Treatment- Rich M.  
Women's Corrections- Brenda R.

**GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:**

Janet B., Alt GSR- Attitude Adjustment Group  
Babette VS, GSR- Bright Spot Group  
Sandy H., GSR- Crystal River Group  
Rich M., GSR- No Name Group  
Diane P., Alt. GSR- Rainbow Group  
Barb M., GSR- Real Happy Hour Group  
Bruce P., GSR- Resentment Group  
Dean B., GSR- Sober Sand Gnats  
Paige B. - GSR, What's The Book Say Group  
Cathy E., GSR- Women to Women Group  
Brenda R. - GSR, Women's New Beginnings Group  
Lisa B. – GSR, Won Rebos Group  
John S., Visitor- Sober Sand Gnats

**Welcome by DCM:**

Steve N., DCM, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Serenity Prayer

Declaration of Unity

Responsibility Statement

Steve announced two new GSRs: Bruce P. for the Resentment Group and Dean B. for the Sober Sand Gnats Group.

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

Roll call: 8 groups were represented.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the December 14 meeting, which were amended to reflect that Lisa B. had been appointed Literature Chairperson. Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the December meeting were accepted unanimously as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jen B.

Jen presented the preliminary Treasurer's Report for January, 2015, being the Income and Expense Sheet and the Contributions Report, copies of which were distributed to everyone. The beginning balance was \$5537.77, expenses were \$1422.85, and the

ending balance was \$4259.92. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's Report for January was approved as submitted.

Following Jen's presentation of her report, DCM Steve presented the annual Audit Report, which was conducted pursuant to the requirements of the Structures and Guidelines for District 28. Several recommendations were made. The Audit Report will be attached to the Minutes of the meeting when they are sent out.

**The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Archives Report:** Denis S.

Denis reported that several people had been given him items for the Archives collection, for which he is grateful, and that they will be included. He has communicated with the webmaster regarding these items, and they will be on virtual display at some point.

He attended the Area Assembly and went to the Archives workshop. He made the suggestion that there be improved communications between District archivists as well as with the Area archivist, and was informed that the suggestion might be implemented at the very next Assembly. He also informed the Area Archivist that he was having difficulty finding any more people with more than 40 years for audio recordings, and he said to go ahead and step down to 35 years. Denis will be doing that, looking for more people to record.

**CPC/PI Report:** Janet B.

This month was spent checking our outlets to be certain they had enough of our Where and When's. All were filled with the exception of the main station of the Sheriff's Department and the Lakes Region Library.

The Hospital site, Citrus Memorial's Emergency Room, has become very uncluttered due to the absence of the very large rack of NA pamphlets and Club Recovery meeting schedules. This makes it so easy to simply neaten up our dual holders without having to weed out other non-AA information.

I look forward to serving the District in 2015. One of my goals is to try to get permission to have a single AA pamphlet holder outside of Judge Yerman's courtroom. This will hold our "Ordered to Attend AA?" plus "AA at a Glance" and our current meeting schedules. Our present location is away from the Misdemeanor court down a hall by various offices and Teen Court. It is a very busy rack and AA often gets lost in the shuffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet B.

Steve commented that Janet had given the report for both CPC and PI because the two were not yet separated. Janet will continue with CPC. Lynn G. had been asked to be PI Chair, but has taken the position of editor for the NCI Journal. Steve is appointing Lina R. as PI Chair, but she could not be at the meeting.

Steve will have a copy of the Report from the CPC Workshop distributed with the Minutes.

**Men's Corrections Report:** None

**Women's Corrections Report:** Brenda R.

Brenda had been out of town and has not had the opportunity to get much done. She did talk to Char this morning and learned that there have been no meetings since the Friday after Christmas, due to cancellations. She will call to find out what is going on.

**Grapevine Report:** Paula D.

My name is Paula D and I am an alcoholic and a Grapevine subscriber. It is a privilege to serve as the Grapevine/ La Viña Chair for District 28 on Panel 65. In the first 25 days of my service commitment, I have registered with the General Service Office as the Grapevine/ La Viña Representative for District 28, renewed my subscription for the Grapevine, planned

some fun and exciting activities for us to learn more about the benefits of the Grapevine, looking for an alternate Grapevine Chair (please let me know if you are interested in serving in that capacity), attended the Grapevine service workshop at the Area 14 Assembly and purchased a 2015 Grapevine/ La Viña calendar.

By registering with the General Service Office as the Grapevine/ La Viña Representative for District 28, I will be receiving ongoing updates about the Grapevine to pass on to the District.

In the Grapevine workshop at the Area 14 Assembly, the primary discussion was about how the Grapevine/ La Viña is more than words in a magazine.... It is about The Language of the Heart... One alcoholic telling their story to another alcoholic... and how to PASS IT ON.....

PASS IT ON (Benefits of the Grapevine)

1. Sign up to receive the free Daily Quote; PASS IT ON.
2. Subscribe to the Grapevine (online or in print); PASS IT ON.
3. Become a Grapevine Rep; PASS IT ON.
4. Start a Grapevine Meeting; PASS IT ON.
5. Contribute with stories, photos, polls, etc. PASS IT ON.

Now, you are probably wondering why I mentioned the purchase of the 2015 Grapevine/ La Viña calendar. I propose a challenge to all the GSR's and fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous at this meeting tonight. If you are WILLING to sign and return the pledge of PASS IT ON, your pledge will be added to the basket for a drawing for the calendar tonight at the end of the meeting.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Literature Report-** Lisa B.

Thank you for asking me to serve as District 28 Literature Committee Chair for Panel 65. It is certainly an honor. I emailed the current Literature Committee Chair for Area 14, Lori P. for information on how to proceed. She sent me an encouraging email detailing a number of suggestions to utilize for our district. At the January Area 14 Assembly in Gainesville, I met Lori and attended the Literature Committee Service Workshop presented by her. Lori showed an outstanding PowerPoint which I've requested she forward to me. We met later on and discussed a few ideas. Among them was another literature challenge with a thematic approach. I contacted GSO, registered as District 28 Literature Chair and requested the free literature package which is sent to all new chairpersons. The package included a Guideline for a Literature Committee. I would like to connect with literature chairpersons from meetings throughout district 28. I am also looking forward to getting direction from our DCM and Alt. DCM as to how I can serve.

**Treatment Report:** Rich M.

Rich reported that he also attended the Assembly. He didn't get his literature as soon as some of the others, but has received an e-mail from New York that was helpful and gave him some more information. The Workshop was very interesting and provided some excellent information. Are the treatment centers the only facilities available for treatment in our area? In response, Denis pointed out that all of the hospital emergency rooms provide detox on an emergency basis. It was also pointed out that the telephone numbers of all of the local detox providers are on the back of our Where and When's. Steve added that we don't endorse any particular provider.

**NCI Liaison Report-** Toni T.

Our meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Serenity Prayer. Jen called roll; there were 8 groups present. There were new reps present from the following groups:

Sober Sand Gnats in Ingliss, Common Solution in Inverness, and the Old Firehouse Group in Chassahowitzka.

Jen read the Secretary's Report and it was accepted. Paige presented the December Treasurer's Report; Report accepted. A preliminary January report was presented. A copy of the end-of-year report was accepted.

In the Trustees' Report, Steve thanked everyone for a term well served. He and Sandy combined their report as some changes proposed to bookkeeping in the future and final audit completion; all was in order. Also, as Trustee, Steve proposed that we relax Roberts Rules of Order. It was suggested that we also update the By-Laws.

Steve presented the Hot-Line report. There were 78 calls, 3 regarding detox, 4 regarding NA, and the rest were just to talk or to request rides to meetings. Regarding the Web, there were two major points: (1) A 15-20 minute presentation by Chuck P. on The Traditions is available. Click in and check it out. (2) There were 43 hits on audio resources.

Lynn G. had the Journal report. She is the new editor for the NCI Journal. She presented a mock-up and asked about color printing. There will be a new Journal issue this month.

The Events Committee ((Diane, Paige and Babette) reported that Babette was the Chair for the Putt Putt event in March. That event, along with the Valentine's Dance, are under control. Mike F. is Chair for the Spring Fling. A new Events Calendar was proposed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

**Workshop Report: Diane P.**

Diane reported that four workshops are being planned for 2015: The Group Handbook, to be held at the Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs on May 9th; AA in the Age of Technology, planned for June 14, location to be determined; The Twelfth Step, planned for October 12, location to be determined; and an Open House to be held at the Holder Community Center on December 13<sup>th</sup>. All workshops will provide coffee and a Danish type of breakfast, with the exception of Holder, which will be serving more of the snack type of refreshment with coffee and soft drinks. The visits by Steve and Paige to all of the home groups is part of the preparation for the workshop on the Home Group, to get people ready and encourage their attendance. We need a speaker for the Technology Workshop; Cathy E. will be the Chair for the Technology Committee.

Steve asked for comments from the GSR's on the Area Conference. Babette remarked that she has been to several Area conferences, and the Workshops at the most recent Conference were great. There is so much to learn, and she thinks the Conferences really improve the AA experience.

**Alternate DCM Report: Paige B.**

My name is Paige B. I am an alcoholic and District 28, Alternate DCM for panel 65. First, I want to acknowledge the privilege of serving with what I believe to be a collection of amazing and talented trusted servants.

Copies of the most recent Where and When, January 2015, are available. The next printing will occur in either March 2015 or upon depletion of our current supply. The January Where and When, already updated with new meeting information, is available on the Nature Coast Intergroup Website. One of my new hats is Where and When Chair. Any additions, deletions and changes may be forwarded to me at [floridadistrict28@gmail.com](mailto:floridadistrict28@gmail.com).

I attended the January Assembly in Gainesville. I sat in on two DCM workshops, the Finance Committee, the Intergroup Committee, the Accessibility Committee, a Concepts Workshop and the Sunday Business Meeting. Additionally I had the good fortune to hear key note speaker Chet P. on Saturday night. Of particular interest for me is the Finance Committee, I hope to sit on it as a DCM one day. The chief points of the session were the

acknowledgement of a surplus of income over expenses for the year 2014. The amount is approximately \$12,500 above a maximum of twelve months in prudent reserve. It was proposed that a portion of this, \$5,900.00, be used to fully fund the Area 14 Delegate's trip to the General Service Conference in New York. The motion was carried at the Sunday Meeting.

The topic of discussion at the Intergroup Workshop was a growing trend of declining support. Of concern to me was resurgence of the misconception that Intergroup is not a part of AA and that it is not bound by the Traditions. I guarantee, I will be sitting in on and weighing in on this down the road.

The Accessibility Committee addressed non visible disabilities such as, mental and emotional illnesses, illiteracy and dyslexia. The meeting opened with a speaker, one of the most powerful I have ever heard, Lane, who shared his story the challenge of getting sober as an illiterate man. The committee will undertake the creation of a disability compliance checklist for groups and meetings.

Chet was fabulous and funny, as always, in his keynote address. Earlier in the evening I was privileged to sit in on a Concept workshop given by him and Delegate Glenn W. The Assemblies have a bit of something for everyone...I hope to see you there in April!

Rooms for the Area 14 April Assembly have been booked at the Paramount in Gainesville...a female GSR room, a male GSR room and a scholarship room. The deadline for requesting a room is Friday, April 3, 2015. Please make your decision early; the Paramount has indicated the rooms are going fast!

On January 24 the District 28 Audit was performed and completed. It is my responsibility to oversee this process. I want to thank Jen for the fantastic work she has done as our Treasurer and the GSRs who stepped up to perform the audit, Sandy H. and John S. Thanks to Steve N. for showing up and lending expertise, humor and support.

District 28 has a new email. Steve and I may be contacted at [floridadistrict28@gmail.com](mailto:floridadistrict28@gmail.com).

Soon, Steve and I will begin our "Road Trip", visiting each and every group and meeting in District 28! We look forward to meeting you all and sharing this wonderful journey in service!

**DCM Report:** Steve N.

Thank you for allowing me to be your trusted servant.

I was privileged to be able to attend my first Area Assembly as the DCM for your District. I also want to thank all the good folks who attended workshops and the main business meeting. We were very fortunate in that we had solid representation at the workshops and in the business meeting. The following attended the assembly (no particular order as I lost my notes and am picturing people at the table and in the workshops): Paige B., Alt DCM and GSR for What's the Book Say Group; Diane P., our Workshop Chair; Lynn G., then our PI chair and now Nature Coast Journal Editor; Lina R., then visitor and now our PI chair; Rich M., our Treatment chair, Sue S., GSR for the Rainbow Group; Lisa B., our Literature Chair and GSR for the Won Rebos Group; Paula D., our Grapevine Chair; Denis S., our Archives Chair; Al M., our Men's Corrections Chair and GSR for Holder Way of Life group; and Babette V.S., GSR for the Bright Spot Group.

I have been assigned to the web site committee and attended that meeting. I am getting familiar with the structures and guidelines related to the NFAC website and am on a committee with Rick, the DCM from District 17 to develop language for the structure and guidelines to address changes in webmaster in the S&G. We are also charged with developing a website inventory to see how we can do it better.

Learning to do my job, I attended the morning DCM mini-workshop and the afternoon DCM workshop. I also attended the Literature, Traditions, and Intergroup workshops. Here is a list of ideas I found interesting that we might adopt in District 28:

- Add to NCI website a virtual archives
- Hold a Unity Day Picnic (NCI)
- Develop a text list for 12 step work
- Hold a once a month Unity meeting in the separate sections of the District and have it be a speaker meeting.
- Set up an anonymous Google Voice Number for Hot Line carrier to notify multiple potential 12 steppers.

Glen W., our area delegate will be travelling to New York for Conference one week after the April 10 Area Meeting. He is travelling with Area chairs to do a three hour agenda item workshop for multiple districts each weekend in the month of March. He needs our input. We have arranged with the Ocala and Leesburg Districts to have all of you be welcome to a joint workshop on the morning of March 7 in the Villages. We also are coordinating with District 13 to provide a 90 minute workshop with the delegate only at First Presbyterian" 250 Bell Ave. Brooksville. The meeting will probably be 3:30 - 5:00PM on Saturday March 7th. Glen will also be the speaker at a meeting in the same location from 5:30 - 6:30. I would like to thank Mike A. DCM from the Leesburg District, Rich, DCM from Ocala District and Steve R., DCM from Hernando District for working with us to provide these multiple opportunities to learn the agenda items and give our input to Glen.

Paige and I have worked out a visitation calendar for the month of February. We hope by the end of March that one of us will have visited every group in the district. We will be bringing a Group handbook and other literature for each group. The calendar will be attached to this month's minutes when they are sent out by P.J.

The Group workshop which we had scheduled in March will be postponed until May as the delegate workshop is more important at this point in time.

I want to express my thanks to Paige, P.J and Jen as they have met with me and are all working hard to better serve each and every group in the District. I also believe we have a good set of Committee chairs and they will be asking you to help them out as we all work together in the A.A. service structure.

It is my function to make sure everyone is aware of the Traditions and Concepts, so I am going to include at the end of the minutes thoughts on Tradition 1 and Concept 1. This will allow me to educate without having to take up our precious meeting time. I am also giving each attendee today the illustrated 12 traditions and the illustrated 12 concepts. While we don't have the movie out yet, we do have the comic book version that may help simplify these two sides of the A.A. triangle for us.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve.

### **Old Business:**

The DCM directed everyone's attention to items 1 through 5 under Old Business on this meeting's agenda, which had been items 5-9 of the December 2014 meeting's agenda under New Business, and which are as follows:

"1. Amend the Structure and Guidelines to establish permanent Workshop and Technology Chairs and set duties for them as follows.

Workshop	Technology
<p>-Responsible for suggesting topics and recommending workshops that help to carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic.</p> <p>-Responsible for developing and organizing workshops that further mutual understanding and awareness of AA.</p> <p>-Regularly attends all District Meetings.</p> <p>-Reports all Committee Activities at the District Meeting &amp; has an electronic or written copy of their report for the District Secretary.</p> <p>-Encouraged to attend Area Assemblies and see what workshops are being offered in other districts in Area 14 and report back to the district what has been discovered at Area Assemblies.</p>	<p>-Responsible for reviewing all material on the Nature Coast Intergroup website which by structures and guidelines is also the official website of District 28</p> <p>-Reports all additions and changes and makes recommendations to the webmaster as to content particularly in the District 28 Web Page.</p> <p>-Regularly attends all District Meetings.</p> <p>-Reports all Committee Activities at the District Meeting &amp; has an electronic or written copy of their report for the District Secretary.</p> <p>-Encouraged to attend Area Assemblies to attend the web site committee and to keep up with AA policies on technology and websites to share in a written report with the District.</p>

2. Amend Structures and Guidelines to reflect manner of Treasurer's report to be an actual full month report and that the report to be approved at business meeting is the full report of previous month. An interim report to keep members apprised of current expenses and income up to date of meeting should also be orally presented if requested by representatives.

3. Amend Structures and Guidelines to reflect actual practice, remove from Secretary's duties and add to Alt DCM duties: "Maintains, updates "Where & When's. Have "Where & When's" printed when the District Approves."

4. Amend structures and guidelines to add to secretary's duties: "Send out an announcement and proposed to-date agenda for the regular business meeting one week prior to the meeting."

5. Amend the Structures and Guidelines in paragraph **IV. Communication Process:** ... **B** as follows: "The DCM or Alt DCM will ~~visit~~ communicate with all groups within the 3 months following the Area 14 Assembly in order to update the group and answer any questions."

Steve reminded everyone that at the December meeting, a motion had been made and seconded to adopt all of the proposed amendments to the Structures and Guidelines as set as set out above. The motion to adopt the amendments had then been tabled.

The DCM then proceeded to call up each of the five proposed amendments for a vote on the merits. As to item 1, a question was raised as to whether the proposal had been published in the Journal. Steve explained that the Journal is an NCI enterprise, there is no District 28 journal, and that all of the proposed amendments to the Structures and Guidelines had been published in the Minutes of the District 28 meeting as required and were duly distributed. Upon a call for a vote on item 1, it was passed unanimously. As to item 2, an objection was advanced that this was really a District administrative matter, which was acknowledged, but it was pointed out that the report was required by the Structure and Guidelines. Upon a call for the vote, item 2 was adopted with one vote in opposition, but no request for a minority opinion. Items 3 and 4, upon being called for a vote, were passed unanimously. When Item 5 was called for a vote, an objection was advanced and a motion to amend the amendment was submitted, which amendment would change the original proposal from "~~visit~~ communicate with" to read instead "visit and/or communicate with..." The proposed amendment was seconded and passed. Item 5 as thus amended was tabled, to be taken up at the next meeting.

### **New Business:**

A motion to increase the Grapevine budget by \$8.60, to cover an excess that was caused by the purchase of two Grapevine subscriptions, was made and seconded. Upon discussion it was determined that the expense should have been from the Corrections budgets, so the motion was withdrawn.

Steve announced that District 28 was looking for a volunteer to serve as Alt. Chair of the Men's Corrections. He also announced that there were two new addresses for Contributions recipients, which would be placed in the Minutes of this meeting.

Paula collected the pledge sheets that she had earlier distributed for the PASS IT ON challenge that was made earlier in the meeting. A drawing was held for the Grapevine Calendar.

Diane P. announced that the flyers and the tickets for the Valentine Dance were available.

In answer to a question, Steve reminded everyone that the District 28 Structures and Guidelines were posted on the NCI website.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. upon motion made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

### Food for Thought from the DCM:

#### Concepts and Traditions of AA

##### **Tradition One**

**Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.**

Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?

Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?

Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?

Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?

Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?



Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?

Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?

Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?

Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?

Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

**Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.**

Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?

Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate?

Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?

Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group?

In my area?

Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.?

Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?