

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2015

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

Alt. DCM-Paige B.
Treasurer- Jen B.
Secretary- P. J. O.
Archives- Denis S.
CPC- Janet B.
Grapevine- Paula D.
Intergroup Liaison- Dean B.
Literature- Lisa B.
Men's Corrections- Al M.
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- Bright Spot Group
Jen B., Alt. GSR- Crystal River Group
John S.- Dunnellon New Beginnings
Al M, GSR- Holder Way of Life
Rick L.- Inverness Friday Night
Rich M., GSR- No Name Group
Sue S., GSR- Rainbow Group
Barb M., GSR- Real Happy Hour Group
Bruce P., GSR- Resentment Group
John H., GSR- Sober Nooners Group
Dean B., GSR- Sober Sand Gnats
Paige B. - GSR, What's The Book Say Group
Brenda R. - GSR, Women's New Beginnings Group
Lisa B. – GSR, Won Rebos Group

Welcome by Alt. DCM:

Paige B., Alt. DCM, 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: 14 registered groups were represented.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the February 22, 2015 meeting.

Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the February meeting were accepted unanimously as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Jen B.

Jen presented the Treasurer's Report for February, 2015, being the Income and Expense Sheet and the Contributions Report, copies of which were distributed to everyone. The beginning balance was \$4270.67, total income was \$363.00 (\$28.00 from the meeting basket and \$335 in contributions), expenses were \$56.00, and the ending balance was \$4577.67. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's Report for February was approved as submitted. As a preliminary report for March, Jen reported \$955 in contributions so far;

payment of expenses for printing for Where and When's, and a Grapevine expense; the current balance is \$5330.20.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Report: Denis S.

As a result of suggestions I made to the North Florida Archives, I have been invited by Kevin G. to be the presenter at the July 2015 Archives Workshop at the Area Assembly. I will be looking forward to representing District 28 Archives at that time.

In the meantime, I have purchased for our Archives two DVD's issued by AA World Services. Both of them are of significant historical value and I will be looking forward to sharing them at events going forward. The titles of the DVD's are "Markings on the Journey" and "Hope."

In service,
Denis

CPC Report: Janet B.

With a lot of help from a lot of our "Trusted Servants" our March edition of our Where and When's hopefully reached all of our listed meetings and meeting places. These were delivered with copies of the latest NCI Journal and a flyer about the Putt Putt golf outing.

The following sites were stocked with schedules: Share Club, Citrus Memorial Hospital (Emergency Room), Lakes Region Library, Central Motel, Chamber of Commerce in Inverness, Family Visitation Center, The Lighthouse, The Centers in Lecanto, and the Laundromat on Highland Boulevard.

The following received schedules plus "Ordered to AA?" and "AA at a Glance": State Probation and Parole, County Probation, Main Sheriff's Station and Sub-Station in Crystal River, Citrus County Courthouse and the Court Alternative Program.

On March 20 we had a table set up at the semi-annual county-wide Resource and Job Fair. We were the only 12 Step program in attendance. The Veterans Transition House availed themselves of our edition of the Spanish written Big Book and some pamphlets. It was a good opportunity to network as visitors were sparse.

While I was in the Courthouse this month I met with the Court Administrator, John Sullivan. I had been hoping to get a single pamphlet holder on the wall near the misdemeanor court (a/k/a DUI Court) devoted only to AA and holding the schedule, "Ordered to AA" and "AA at a Glance" folded together in groups of three. Of course, I had a holder with me, ready to go. We went down to the Court and checked out where it would go. The location is such that Judge Herman could just say to those ordered to attend AA that 'There are AA folders on the wall to your left as you exit the Court.' Mr. Sullivan was interested and agreeable. He is knowledgeable about our program and said he would try to make this happen. I went back the next week to see, but it was not up yet. More shall be revealed.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet B.

Public Information Report:

Paige announced that Lina, the Public Information Chairperson, could not be here tonight, and that Barb M. would be covering for Lina when Lina was out of town. She welcomed Barbara to the task. One of the things that they have discussed with Lina is a promotional piece to be prepared jointly with Janet B., for use by both PI and CPC. They will meet in April, receive design assistance create a demo model and bring it to a future meeting for review. A cost estimate has been obtained.

Men's Corrections Report: Al M.

We had more training sessions, a total of ten attending. We have had not meetings because we haven't heard back from the warden about when we can get in the facility. My calls don't get returned. There are renovations going on. However, I'm sure this will get back on track, they promised me they would. They want our meetings in the facility.

Women's Corrections Report: Brenda R.

I've had the same results as Al; there have been no meetings. My calls aren't returned. It is true there are renovations going on. Also, there is a GED class going on in the facility, the warden is very interested in education and this is taking precedence. We did have five people at the orientation. I still have some people who need to attend either the first session or the second training session, but how they are going to do that I don't know because I haven't heard back from them about that, either

Literature Report- Lisa B.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and to grow in the fellowship. I have continued exploring the literature offerings on the AA website. It says there that a "visitor can browse the complete current literature catalogue that includes Conference-approved literature and other A.A. materials and search for individual titles by category and subject matter." I counted up all the offerings: 12 books, 58 pamphlets, 20 flyers, 8 miscellaneous items which are for the most part workbooks, 17 AA Guidelines, and 39 pieces of Service Material from the GSO. The Literature website is a real treasure trove!

This month, I would like to highlight a piece of Service Material from the G.S.O.:

ORIGIN OF THE SERENITY PRAYER: A HISTORICAL PAPER

The actual origin of the "Serenity Prayer" has been, over the years, a tantalizing, elusive and, some still feel, an unsolved mystery; intriguing to those of us at G.S.O. who have, at one time or another, attempted to trace the prayer to an authoritative, unimpeachable source. Twelve pages later this exhaustive article clearly reveals that "our" Serenity Prayer has had quite a history. At one point the prayer was attributed to Aristotle. Whatever its ancient or modern origin, this prayer seems to have been born, at least in spirit, far back in time out of an ancient perception and a suffering wisdom. Excepting for the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of St. Francis, no other quotation or concept, at once so practical as well as spiritual, has taken over the mind and heart of every member who begins the A.A. journey to sobriety and rebirth.

At the risk of appearing too frivolous, there have been some humorous yet apt endings to the prayer: Erma Bombeck, the popular writer, gave this version: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to keep my mouth shut when I don't know the difference..."

Someone else suggested this ending: "...and the wisdom to keep my mouth shut even when I know I'm right"! Nell Wing, 1981 (Secretary to Bill W.; First A.A. Archivist, 1954-1983)

Finally, the prayer is attributed to *Reinhold Niebuhr* and here is the full serenity prayer:

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things – I cannot change;

Courage to change the things I can;

and Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace;

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,

Not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and

supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen

I am also circulating a paper. If you know your group's Literature Chair, please write it down. If not, please see if you can bring the information for our next meeting.

Thank you for the privilege of growing in service.

Treatment Report: Rich M.

Lynn and I met with Tiffany Coffin at The Centers on March 3rd to discuss their need for AA involvement at their facility. We were very well received. She was very interested in starting an afternoon meeting with younger people as the average age there is under 18. We have a group handbook to set up a meeting. We've also made a request through Paige for paperback Big Books and 12 and 12's. Someone has stocked them with treatment literature so they do not need a large order for pamphlets at this time. I don't know where they got the literature.

So, moving forward, we hope to get a meeting started this month.

NCI Liaison Report- Dean B.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Nine groups were represented, 15 people were in attendance. The Inverness Friday Night group has a new temporary representative, Rick L., who is helping John R., while John is out of town.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted; the Treasurer's report was read and accepted. There was no Hotline report. There were 1206 website hits for the month, of which 816 were first time visits.

The April Journal is ready; we are just waiting for the anniversary listings.

With regard to activities, it was reported that the Putt Putt golf event had a very small attendance but made money. This event might be more successful as a winter activity. Flyers are out for the Floral City picnic on May 3. The Gratitude Dinner committee has been chosen and is considering St. Benedict's in Crystal River as the likely site, with the event to be held on November 8.

There were no Trustee reports and no Old Business.

Under New Business, when the Area delegates meet, they are thinking of making a change to the AA Service Structure graphic. The change will probably be on the vertical conference structure graphic, although the issue was hotly contested. The goal is to have a graphic that better illustrates the relationship of Intergroup to the traditional service structure. This matter will be considered at the AA World Services Conference in April.

Also, Area is looking for members to review the Structures and Guidelines and Advisory Actions for conflicts.

Grapevine Report: Paula D.

It is a privilege to serve as the Grapevine Chair for District 28 on Panel 65. When I came in I gave you all packets containing Grapevine information and flyers, although not everyone got the same flyers. A lot of this is for the home groups. I have also ordered some additional flyers that give information about how to develop the connection between Grapevine and AAWS. For example, at meetings, people can introduce themselves as alcoholics and Grapevine subscribers. It helps promote awareness without changing the meeting structure. Electronic subscriptions are on the increase. The Grapevine challenge is still in progress; individuals or groups can enter. The packet I distributed contains a quiz which was developed in conjunction with the Literature chair. It promotes awareness at the home group level. I will collect these at the next meeting; there will be a prize, a Grapevine. Copies of the quiz will be distributed with the Minutes.

Respectfully submitted.

Workshop Report: Paige reminded everyone that we still need a Workshop Chair; anyone interested should please let her or Steve know. There are two workshops coming up. The first will be on May 9th, and the subject will be the Home Group Handbook. Every home group in the District has been given one of the handbooks. This workshop will be at the Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs. The second workshop, scheduled for July, is titled *AA in the Age of Technology*, and will take place at Club Recovery. We are looking forward to both. We will need help with logistics, setting up, making coffee, etc.

Technology Report: No report.

DCM Report: Steve N.

Thank you for allowing me to be your trusted servant.

It is with gratitude that I note that although I am 2000 miles away, the business of District 28 continues under the astute guidance of Alt. DCM Paige B., Secretary P.J. O. and Treasurer, Jen B. as well as all chairs and other volunteers.

I want to express my thanks to Paige, P.J. and Jen as they have frequently communicated 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.

I want to give special thanks to all the groups who welcomed our visits in the past months. This has been an exceptionally rewarding time as it has proven that the primary purpose is being well served in District 28. Special thanks to those many who have stepped up to be primary contacts for the district with their groups.

It is my function to make sure everyone is aware of the Traditions and Concepts, so I am going to include them at the end of the minutes.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve.

Alternate DCM Report: Paige B.

My name is Paige; I am an alcoholic who has the privilege of serving District 28 as an Alternate DCM.

Wow, March is flying by! I have enjoyed continuing to meet District 28 members at their home groups where carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic is going strong.

While Steve and I are out there, we are working to update our records, correcting GSR and contact information as we go. One of my tasks as DCM is to build an e-mail data base to facilitate effective and timely communication. Another is to maintain updated Area and GSO records. Communication is largely why this structure exists. Keeping our inverted triangle in mind, our voice can only be carried to GSO and the consensus back to us through current, corrected lines of communication. The forward motion of the entire fellowship at some point rests on this.

In April, with the Area 14 Assembly in Gainesville and the World Service Conference in New York, we have work to do! I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the presentation by Glenn Walters, the Area 14 Delegate, of the World Service Conference agenda. Thank you to those who attended. What does that mean to us? What does that mean to you? We need your feedback. How does your group feel about the items presented for action at the World Service Conference level? It matters! Please take the agenda I have distributed here today and will send via email and review it with your group. Next, call or contact Steve or me at floridadistrict28@gmail.com and tell us what your group thinks. It is that simple! At the Assembly either you or Steve lets the Delegate know what you think at a meeting meant to give Glenn a sense of the Assembly. Glenn takes our wishes to New York and we become part of the process by which AA moves forward and does the important work of getting help to the still sick and suffering. If you have questions,

we want to hear from you! We, Steve and I, P. J. and Jen are here to help you, to serve you.

We have exciting changes and opportunities on the horizon. Today you will be given an opportunity to amend a budget which will increase our ability to deliver service to the alcoholic in and out of the rooms, add an additional 15 minutes to our meeting, decide on a path of participation with sister programs, correct a chair position misnomer, create our first Accessibilities Chair position and weigh in on a program to mentor non GSR members in service!

A reminder that the Area 14 Assembly will be held from the 10th through the 12th of April at the Paramount Hotel in Gainesville. District 28 rooms are reserved. The cutoff date for room reservation using the NFA discounted rate is Friday, April 3rd. As the Alternate DCM, I am the room coordinator and can be contacted either by phone or at floridadistrict28@gmail.com. The last time I spoke to the hotel, rooms were going fast. Please let me know if you plan to attend and need a room. Also, let us know if you plan to attend in order for us to have a District 28 name badge for you. District 28 along with District 23 and the Area Grapevine crew has the opportunity at this assembly to volunteer in the Grapevine room. Please let me know if you are available. I look forward to seeing you there!

Old Business:

The first matter raised was the proposed advisory action to create a District 28 paid scholarship room at the area assemblies for people other than trusted servants who are interested in serving the District. This was brought up at the last meeting and tabled. Paula D. at that point raised a point of procedure. She noted that the DCM was the one who tabled the matter, and that to be tabled a motion should have come from the floor, not the DCM. Further, for the matter to come back up under old business there has to be a motion from the floor. The Alt. DCM then asked for a motion from the floor to table the matter and bring it back up in April; Paula stated that the matter could be raised again now; she was raising a point of procedure. As to whether it could be re-motomed, Paula stated that if the motion was voted down at the last meeting, it would have died at that point. Paige remarked that that was not the intention, and that the matter would be raised again at the next meeting, which would be April.

A second item of old business concerned the inquiry we had received from Alanon to participate in a joint venture with them, Alateen and NA. Our concern is to avoid the appearance of a relationship with those organizations. Paige had consulted the guidelines and 12 Traditions. It appears that we can participate in an event, but we must have our own staff, booth and program and not participate in the planning or sponsorship of the event. At this time, the inquiry was preliminary, regarding AA participation in some kind of "Roundup" which was not clearly defined. Our activity would be limited to independent participation as opposed to affiliation, and Paige suggested that our response be along those lines. Upon inquiry of the group, the consensus was that we would consider participating or sending a speaker to the extent permitted by the guidelines and Twelve Traditions, once we receive a request that involves the specifics of the proposed program.

A third item was the need for volunteers at the Grapevine room at the Assembly in April. Yvonne is developing a schedule. There are usually two people in that room at all times, starting at 8:00 a.m., Saturday only. Other districts will also be providing volunteers. No one would be required to be there all day. Interested parties please contact Paige.

New Business:

The first item concerned the starting time for District business meetings. It needs to be moved from 6:00 to 5:45 p.m. We need a motion for this, to modify the Structures and

Guidelines. Paige remarked further that the action is needed because it so difficult to get through the meeting on time and still give everyone, especially the Committee Chairs, adequate time. There has not been enough time to reach some agenda items as it is. There was a motion and second that the Structures and Guidelines be amended to change the meeting time to 5:45. The motion was then tabled for thirty days to be voted on at the next meeting.

The next new business item concerned several amendments to the 2015 budget that needed to be considered, specifically:

- a. Amend printing to \$594.75 to reflect cost of 4 printings per year of W&W at 3000 copies per printing.
- b. Amend Men's Corrections budget to \$325.
- c. Amend Literature budget to \$175.
- d. Amend Archives budget to \$250.
- e. Amend Treatment budget to \$250.
- f. Amend Public Information budget to \$200.

Upon motion to amend the 2015 budget as set out above, and a second, the Motion was passed and the 2015 budget amended accordingly.

The third item of new business concerned the proposal to modify the Structures and Guidelines to include the addition of an Accessibilities Chair position. We can have a committee or receive other input to develop a description of the committee and chair responsibilities. There was a motion and second that the Structures and Guidelines be amended by adding a provision for a District 28 Accessibilities and Chairperson. Discussion from the floor indicated that was a very long list of conditions that could be considered under the subject of accessibility, which we have not addressed in the past, and we need very much to do this. It was not known at this time if the North Florida Area had a job description for the Accessibilities position. Someone brought up that we had recently amended the Structures and Guidelines to established committees on Technology and Workshop, and that while we were addressing the job description for an Accessibilities committee, we should expand the motion so as to add Technology and Workshop to our task of developing job descriptions. There was a motion and second that the motion regarding an amendment to Structure and Guidelines to add the Accessibilities Committee and Chair, along with a job description, be amended to include job descriptions for the Technology and Workshop committees as well. Thereafter, the amended motion was tabled for thirty days to be voted on at the next meeting, after further discussion. Further information on this matter can also be obtained at the forthcoming Area Assembly.

The final item of New Business on the agenda addressed the clarification of the responsibilities of the CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) Chair and the PI (Public Information) Chair. Paige explained that Janet B. has held the title of CPC Chair for a long time and has several times pointed out that she is not really the CPC Chair, as she does not really serve the people that should be served by the CPC Chair. The group that is served should determine which title, CPC or PI, is given to an individual. Janet serves the public in a way that provides public information, so she should be designated the PI Chair. Barbara M. and Lina R. will be working with the professional community, and they should be designated the CPC Chair. A motion was then made that Janet B. be designated as the Public Information Chair, and that Barbara M. and Lina R. be designated as the Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair, the latter being a shared position. Janet for many years served as both PI and CPC Chair, and we have now separated the work, so Janet will just be doing PI work and Lina/Barbara will be doing the CPC work. So the motion just correctly allocates the titles. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

1. District 28 is currently looking for someone to be trained as an Alternate Chair for Men's Corrections. Al M. pointed out that anyone who volunteers will first have to be approved by Corrections before they can be trained, so there is no need for additional volunteers at this time. John H. volunteered to be Alt. Chair when this matter was raised at the February meeting, but Corrections has taken no action. This matter can be brought up again when timely.
2. District 28 is in need of a Workshop Chairperson.
3. People willing to serve in either of the above positions can contact Steve or Paige at floridadistrict28@gmail.com .

Before closing the meeting, Paige read the Third Tradition and Third Concept to the group:

3rd Tradition: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

3rd Concept: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA—the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

A brief discussion of the “Right of Decision” followed, and it was pointed out that we, as AA members can, in addition to going through our DCM, Alt.DCM and GSR's, attend the Area Assembly ourselves and let the delegates know how we feel. We have the right to be heard.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. upon motion made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.