

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2015

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM-Steve N.

Alt. DCM-Paige B.

Treasurer- Jen B.

Archives Chair- Denis S.

Corrections Chair (Men)-Al M.

Corrections Chair (Women)-Brenda R.

CPC Chair- Lina R.

Grapevine Chair- Paula D.

NCI Liaison- Dean B.

PI Chair- Janet B.

Technology Chair- Cathy E.

Treatment Chair- Rich M.

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and visitors present at meeting:

Janet B., Alt. GSR-Attitude Adjustment Group

Sandy H., GSR-Crystal River Group

Al M., GSR-Holder Way of Life Group

Rich M., GSR-No Name Group (Chassahowitzka)

John H., GSR-Sober Nooners Group

Dean B., GSR-Sober Sand Gnats Group

Paige B., GSR-What's The Book Say Group

Ronnie G., GSR-You Have A Choice Group

Brenda R., GSR-Women's New Beginnings Group

Lynn D., Visitor-No Name Group (Chassahowitzka)

Mike F., Visitor-Crystal River Group

Larry M., Alt. GSR-You Have A Choice Group

Jen B., Alt. GSR-Crystal River Group

Welcome by DCM:

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

Steve welcomed the new GSR and new Alt. GSR, Ronnie G. and Larry M., from the You Have A Choice Group.

In his opening remarks Steve reminded District Service Representatives (Committee Chairs) to submit their monthly reports to the Secretary. It is most helpful to have them submitted in electronic form. Additionally, the DSRs were asked to give a brief summary of their monthly reports which will appear in their entirety in the monthly minutes. If all business unfolds as intended, there will be twelve District Service Representatives at the meeting's end. We were reminded that everything needs to be said but, not everyone needs to say it. Paige, Jen and P. J. were thanked for their work while he was gone.

Serenity Prayer

Declaration of Unity

Responsibility Statement

Roll Call: Paige B. took roll call and minutes. Nine groups were represented.

Secretary's Report: Steve N.

Minutes from the March 29, 2015 were received. There was one amendment. There was a motion to create job descriptions for the Technology Chair and Workshop Chair positions. This was made in error as the job descriptions for those two positions were already written. A motion to accept the Secretary's report as amended was made and seconded. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Jen B.

The Treasurer's report and the Group Contribution Report for March 2015 were distributed for review. The beginning balance for March of 2015 was \$4,577.67. Group contributions totaled \$780.00 which brought the monthly income to \$808.11. Monthly expenses totaled \$208.46. The ending balance for March 2015 was \$5177.32. A preliminary review of April Income and expenses was given. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made, seconded and approved. Steve thanked the Crystal River Group for their \$700.00 contribution.

The 7th tradition basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Report: Denis S.

I went to the Area Assembly. One of the things they are encouraging us to do is to get group histories from District 28. Groups can download the Group History form from the GSO website, and I also have the form. When the forms have been completed they can be mailed to District 28 at PO Box , Beverly Hills, FL, or sent electronically to the district at floridadistrict28@gmail.com. Copies of the forms will be sent to the Area Archivist, Scott H. This month I framed some pictures I received from members and I want to thank everyone who has sent items of interest, especially Paula D. and Al M., for their generous donations to District 28 Archives.

CPC Report: Lina R.

Thank you for the new position. As CPC chair I face challenges. There has been no chair in this position for a while; there are no "footprints in the snow." We must start from scratch. My service sponsor suggested I gather some AAs willing to start in CPC. Personal anonymity is rarely possible in doing this work. Anyone interested in talking about it? She also suggested contacting nearby districts to find out what they are doing and if they can help us out. She sent me a roster so I can start there. I have a contact at a local hospital and am thinking an event for the nurses there is a simple project. I'll look further into that. Because I am a snowbird I need to get something in place that can occur or continue in my absence. There are many resources for CPC experience and we can begin now to avail ourselves of them. It really is, in my experience, exciting and fun work!

PI Report: Janet B.

April was quiet compared to our March "Blitz!" Most all of our sites were fully stocked and required only to be neatened up. The courthouse does not have the designated AA holder up yet but we are still using the large rack on the second floor. This month I visited the Inverness Health Department and they were very gracious and made space for us on a table in the lobby. We are invited to use our own pamphlet holder for the meeting schedules. At an open discussion meeting on this past Friday a visitor from Vermont staying at the Central Motel mentioned she was so grateful to find the Where and Whens in the hotel office when they checked in. I also attended our NFAC this month. The Public Information Chairperson is also our elected delegate to New York. He kept us very busy going over agenda items that were to be considered at the General Service Conference. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Respectfully yours, Janet Bruno.

Corrections (Men) Report: Al M.

My name is Al and I am an alcoholic. After tons of struggle we are about to bring a meeting into the jail on Wednesday. We will see what happens. Brenda and I were at the Area Assembly and talked to the Alternate Area Corrections Chair. He called them too. There were no approvals of applications previously submitted. There is still one more volunteer training session planned.

Corrections (Women) Report: Brenda R.

My name is Brenda and I am an alcoholic. I attended the Area Assembly. Al and I went to the Corrections Workshop. We talked to a former Corrections Chair and the Area 14 Alternate Corrections Chair who did contact the jail. As Al said we are going to start up this week. Friday will be the women's first meeting. Hopefully it will go right back on track with a meeting every other week. At the assembly they talked about bringing back to the groups the need for members interested in correspondence with inmates. There is a form on aa.org if anyone is interested. In particular, there is a need for male correspondents. Currently, there are a lot of women involved but very few men. Please bring this back to your groups. This is one way of getting into service. Thank you for letting me serve.

Grapevine Report: Paula D.

I am an alcoholic, my name is Paula. I had the privilege of attending the Area Assembly where we covered the Conference agenda items. There is a consideration for two new books. Structures and Guidelines ask the Grapevine Representative to have literature available at meetings, etc. A request for funds will be made. No quizzes were completed for review.

Literature Report: Lisa B.

No report.

Treatment Report: Rich M.

We received our literature order from World Services. We are in the process of getting something going at the Centers. One problem we face is that they are so young, high school age. We need to get some younger people in there. If anyone has any ideas, I would welcome it.

NCI Liaison Report: Dean B.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. There were nine (9) groups represented. Fourteen (14) people in attendance. No new representatives. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Trustees reports: Denis S. is working with Mike from Crystal River on the Spring Fling and reported that the event organization is progressing well. Bill reported that he is enjoying reading the Service Manual and understanding the Concepts. Janet and Sandy had nothing to report.

There were 74 Hotline calls: 3 Alanon calls, 4 NA calls, and 1 Detox call. Steve N. reported 23,055 website hits, 847 first time visits, and 2,192 page views. The Top 5 pages viewed were the When & Where, The Legacies, Responsibility, the Journal, and the International Convention.

There was no Journal report.

Mike from Crystal River reported that the May 3rd Spring Fling has volunteers for cooking and that there will be plenty of activities planned and available for all. Paige reported that we are seeking a speaker for the June 6th Founder's Day Breakfast and that we are asking District 28 to participate and co-sponsor the event with no financial commitment.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business Sandy H. suggested that we provide a room for the NCI Chairperson at the Area Assembly. Motion was made and seconded, vote was taken and passed. It was also made known that we need a new Recorder for the Secretary. Motion was made, seconded, voted and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Workshop Report: Steve N.

We have no Workshop Chair. We have two workshops coming up. The first workshop is on May 9 at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs. The topic is the Home Group. At some time in July, hopefully at Club Recovery, we will hold a workshop focused on AA in the age of technology.

Technology Report: Cathy E.

No report.

Alternate DCM Report: Paige B.

My name is Paige. I am an alcoholic and have the privilege to serve as District 28 Alternate DCM. I want to thank Steve for being available while on vacation, thank P.J. and Jen for their support while Steve was away and thank the GSRs and Service Chairs for the good work we accomplished in March. The Area Assembly in Gainesville was well attended by District 28. All totaled, we had an assortment of fifteen members attend a variety of workshops, volunteer in the Grapevine Room, sell Grapevine raffle tickets and participate in meetings. I attended the Delegate's meetings, the Sunday business meeting, the Accessibilities Workshop, the Finance Committee Meeting and the Intergroup Workshop. I am always a bit awed by the sense of the assembly meeting where the Delegate determines the will of the members in Area 14 to take their voice(s) to the General Service Conference. I am grateful for the men and women who not only step up but step up to the mike and speak for the betterment of us all. District 28 had Grapevine Room responsibilities this time and so I had the pleasure of serving with Yvonne and Nikki selling tickets and wrapping up on Saturday afternoon. This is a large part of the joy of serving, the opportunity to meet and spend time with some of the finest people on earth! Our district supported the GV room solo at this assembly and not surprisingly blew the doors off their hinges in both raffle ticket sales and room sales which totaled in the neighborhood of \$900.00 late Saturday. A heartfelt thank you to all those who volunteered and made this a success! In a recent response from Area 14 Chair, Heather, to a copy of District 28 minutes; she expresses that she is impressed by the District Service Representatives' (District Committee Chairs') body of work and how on the ball they are so early in their term...Good work! She encouraged each District Service Representative to forward their monthly report to their Area 14 counterparts, the Area Service Representatives. I have copies of the Area 14 contact list available today so you may know who your area counterpart is and how to get your report to them. For the record, I did not realize that was the correct title at the district level. I was certain I was going to learn a lot in this service position and I certainly am! On May 9, 2015 District 28 will hold the first of Panel 65's workshops, "The Home Group." All are welcome to attend. Please be sure to bring the Group Workbook Steve and I distributed in the first months of 2015. We look forward to seeing you there! The July Area 14 Assembly in Gainesville is scheduled for July 10, 11 and 12. Rooms are reserved for District 28. If you plan to attend and stay please let me know by the cutoff date Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at floridadistrict28@gmail.com. With many thanks, Paige B.

DCM Report: Steve N. Thank you for allowing me to serve. I want to thank your other officers, Paige, P.J. and Jen for all their efforts while I was on vacation. They constantly communicated and kept District 28 running smoothly in my absence. As planned my vacation ended just in time to get back on the road and travel to Gainesville for the April Area 14 Assembly. What a presence District 28 had there! 15 District 28 A.A. members were present and actively involved in the proceedings. Our folks manned the Grapevine Room and were highly praised for their efforts. Eight of our committee chairs attended the Area workshops for their committees. I really want to thank Paige, Bruce, Brenda, Al, Diane, Amanda, Lina, Patti, Paula, Janet, Babette, and Denis (*also past delegate Marilyn who is from District 28*) for their attendance at the conference and their contributions to our primary purpose. At the Sunday morning business meeting we had 13 sitting at our table for 10 votes. Although we are one of the smaller Districts in Area 14, we had the second largest number of votes with nine groups represented (plus your DCM). It also was noted as I read the financials that so far this year District 28 had the second highest amount of contributions to Area 14. Way to go Groups! I attended several workshops including DCM Training, but concentrated primarily on my assignment to the Area 14 Web Committee. As a voting DCM member of that committee I have been given several tasks. I will be working with the DCM from Area 17 to develop a webmaster job description and plan for finding a future webmaster should our current webmaster move on. I also have mapped the Area 14 website to determine where everything is and insights into the navigation of the site. I participated last week in a Google Hangout Meeting to

begin the heuristic content analysis of the site to see if the content sends the message we want to send and does it according to A.A. Traditions and today's best website practices. I am looking forward to seeing all who choose to attend District 28's Home group: The Heartbeat of A.A. Workshop at 9:00 am on May 9th at Hope Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs. You are all invited to join us for fellowship, fun and hopefully new insights into the "Heartbeat of A.A." See you there! Again thank you for allowing me to serve.

OLD BUSINESS:

Before taking up Old Business, the DCM noted that the meeting Agenda will be amended to add two items to New Business, namely, that NCI has invited District 28 to co-sponsor the Founders' Day Breakfast, and that Paula has requested to amend the Grapevine budget.

The first matter was a motion, which had been previously tabled, to amend Structures and Guidelines to reflect a new monthly meeting time of 5:45 PM. There were two reasons for the motion. Presently, our meeting needs to end promptly at 7:00 p.m. It is difficult to get our work done in one hour, and if we go over we would impinge upon the time of the group that meets after us at 7:30 p.m. Second, there are many of us who attend the NCI meeting at 4:30 p.m. It is usually over by 5:15 and we often have a 45 minute wait before the District 28 meeting. There was no discussion offered. A vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

The second matter was a tabled motion to amend Structures and Guidelines by adding provisions for the creation of a District 28 Accessibilities Committee and Chairperson. Meetings that are claimed to be handicapped accessible should in fact be handicapped accessible, these are important issues, and the Committee and Chair would help us address the issues appropriately. There was no discussion. A vote was called. The motion passed unanimously.

A third matter was to amend Structures and Guidelines to reflect the addition of an Accessibilities Chair job description. The job description for the Committee Chair position was not included with the original motion. The proposed job description is as follows: The Accessibility Chair presides over the District Accessibility Committee. This committee will handle all accessibility needs and issues for District 28. The chair will be funded to attend Area Assemblies. This Committee and the chair position has been created to ensure equal access to everyone. The goal of the District Accessibility Committee and its chair is to find the means and to assist people in accomplishing that purpose. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed job description. It was noted that the motion made at the March meeting regarding a job description for the Accessibilities Committee and Chair had been expanded to include Workshop and Technology job descriptions, but that was moot as to Workshop and Technology as the job descriptions for those Chairs and committees had already been adopted.

There was much discussion around the job description for the Accessibilities Chair. Concern that there were not sufficient parameters and that the position's job description needed more definition was voiced. It was suggested that the Chair, like all others in the district, should have the ability to set his/her own agenda. Also, it was suggested that we abide by the Traditions and Concepts which suggest that the Chair is given equal authority and responsibility to fill the position. To further define the position might handcuff them. The Area Accessibilities Committee would serve as a great resource. After discussion, a vote was taken on the proposed job description and the majority was in favor. No minority opinion was stated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve made reference to the Nature Coast Intergroup invitation to District 28 to be co-sponsors of the Founder's Day Breakfast, without a financial commitment. A motion was made and seconded that District 28 accept the invitation. After brief discussion, the motion was called for a vote and passed without opposition.

A second matter of new business was a motion from Paula D., the Grapevine Chair, to increase the Grapevine budget. Paula explained that after reviewing the literature distribution and taking an inventory of present and projected needs, the present budget of \$50 would not be adequate. The balance remaining at this time was \$24.50. Discussion followed and, upon a suggestion from the DCM, a motion was made from the floor to increase the Grapevine budget from \$50 to \$150. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Upon comment from the floor, the DCM advised that District 28 would be happy to consider holding workshops, upon invitation, at any appropriate location.

In response to a question from the floor, it was confirmed that any AA member could attend the Area Conference and stay in the host hotel and make personal payment for the room at the discount rate offered for people attending the conference. However, this is assuming there were District 28 rooms available. Persons interested in attending should contact Paige B., the Alt. DCM, at floridadistrict28@gmail.com regarding reservations. There is a deadline of July 8 for the upcoming Area Assembly in July. A block of rooms for District 28 has been reserved for District 28; some have already been claimed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

District 28 needs a Workshop Chair and we also need an Alternate Chair for the Literature Committee, as Lisa has some travel plans and some help may be needed. Anyone willing to serve in this position should contact Steve or Paige at floridadistrict28@gmail.com.

The Home Group Workshop will take place on Saturday, May 9 at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Citrus Springs.

Concept 4/Tradition 4

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?

Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA, of nearby groups, of loners in Alaska, of Internationalists miles from port, Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?

Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?

Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?

Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths-his lengths, not mine-to stay sober?

Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

· Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?

· What does "In reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?

· Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to close was entertained, seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.