

**DISTRICT 28**  
Meeting Minutes  
July 26, 2015

**Officers/Chairs present at meeting:**

Alt. DCM-Paige B.  
Secretary- P. J. O.  
Treasurer – Jen B.  
Archives - Denis S.  
Grapevine Chair – Paula D.  
Intergroup Liaison- Dean B.  
Men’s Corrections- Al M.  
Public Information – Janet B.

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

Janet B. - Alt GSR, Attitude Adjustment Group  
Sandy H. - GSR, Crystal River Group  
Jen B. - Alt. GSR, Crystal River Group  
Al M. - GSR, Holder Way of Life Group  
John H. - GSR, Sober Nooners Group  
Sue S. – GSR, Rainbow Group  
Dean B. - GSR, Sober Sand Gnats Group  
Paige B. - GSR, What’s The Book Say Group  
Vella K. - GSR, Keep In Step Group  
David V. - GSR, Monday Night Men’s Group

**Visitors:**

Ken K., Keep In Step Group

**Welcome by DCM:**

Paige B., Alt. DCM, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.  
Serenity Prayer  
Declaration of Unity  
Responsibility Statement

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

Roll call: 9 registered groups were represented.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the June 28, 2015 meeting. Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the June meeting were accepted unanimously as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jen B., Treasurer, presented the Report fortune, 2015. Copies of the Income and Expense and Contribution sheets were distributed to everyone. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$4235.92, income of \$210.00 (\$30.00 from the meeting basket and \$180.00 in contributions), expenses \$235.43, and the ending balance of \$4210.49. Jen noted that the ending balance was below our Prudent Reserve. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer’s Report for June was accepted as submitted. Jen also presented a preliminary report for July.

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Archives Report:** Denis S.

This month we were privileged to make a recording of Ken from Minnesota who now lives in our district. Ken has been sober for 44 years and worked at the famous Hazelden Center. We are grateful to John L. for his donation to the District Archives of a 1949 edition

of the Grapevine in good condition. Both of these assets will be of great importance in helping us to remember where we came from. Denis S.

**CPC Report:** Barb M.

I am writing to inform you of my monthly progress. I've received the package of information from the New York office. I am reviewing all the material and gathering information on my approach, getting counseling input from another CPC I'm in contact with.

I'm sorry to inform you that the CPC monthly meetings I was hoping to attend to further my knowledge have been canceled due to lack of attendance.

I will continue to work on getting to learn my responsibilities better and look forward to bringing a better report next month!

**Public Information:** Janet B.

Jim, in the office of the West Central Driver Improvement Office always checks the date on our Where & When's. I told him that the ones I just brought in were brand new and he flipped to the back to look at the date. I was there on July 1<sup>st</sup>, so they were very, very new!

I also visited the Inverness Health Department, Central Motel, The Centers in Lecanto, State Probation and Parole, and County Probation at the Salvation Army in Lecanto. Unfortunately, we still do not have our private AA display rack in the County Courthouse so I am still using the general rack.

At the hospital our double holder is neat and we are the only outside service group represented. I also fill a slot in the lobby of the hospital auditorium that I refer to as the Share Club but is now used by many groups. I replaced meeting schedules at the Crystal River Sheriff's Substation and at the Sheriff's Department in Inverness. The Yana Club in Crystal River got a bunch in their mail basket.

Also visited were the Lighthouse, Lakes Region Library, the Family Visitation Center and the Highland Boulevard Laundry.

With a lot of help from a lot of volunteers, I believe I have Where & When's at all meeting sites that are listed including Ingliss, Wahoo, Dunnellon, Chassahowitzka, Ocala and a few meetings in Brooksville.

I attended our Area 14 Assembly from July 10-12. As usual, I learned from those who presented at the CPC and PI workshops.

Our Public Information Committee is growing. Ingrid R. from the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa area has joined Lisa B. and me.

**Men's Corrections Report:** Al M.

I am happy to report that this month we had three meetings at the Citrus County Jail. They were held on Wednesdays, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Attendance averaged 15 to 22 inmates per meeting. We distributed a large amount of Big Books, Grapevines, 12 & 12s and Where & When pamphlets. The response from the inmates was that we brought them a positive message and hope. They stated that it was refreshing considering how negative their environment is. Officer Tucker also stated that he is getting results on the background checks for new applicants and will try to begin processing ID cards as soon as possible.

I also attended the Corrections Workshop at the Area Assembly and was given further tips on how to conduct meetings, along with the time and location of future meetings on Corrections.

**Women's Corrections Report:** None.

**Grapevine Report:** Paula D.

I had the opportunity and privilege to attend the North Florida Area 14 Assembly the first part of this month. In the Grapevine workshop which was very dynamic. It was demonstrated how individuals can phone in their stories to the Grapevine to be listened to

by others. It was a very interactive experience, like you were actually attending a meeting. The process was very simple! It was also suggested that the District could conduct other workshops in that manner.

Another recent development has to do with one of our local Groups that I sometimes attend, First Thought Wrong. The group meets several times a week and has decided to dedicate one meeting per month as a Grapevine meeting, which is wonderful.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Literature Report-** Lisa B.

Lisa was out of town. P. J. reported on her behalf that Lisa had ordered the materials and display rack for District 28 that she mentioned at last month's meeting, and that all had arrived.

**Treatment Report:** Rich M.

We met with Lori and have agreed on setting up the meetings at 7:00 pm on Sunday's. This works the best for them because doing them on the weekends means a minimum of paperwork. All they require is a signature on a confidentiality statement that no one will disclose the names of their inpatient boys.

We also attended the Young People's Group last Friday in Inverness and spoke with Amanda about some of their group attending the meeting. I don't think we'll have too much trouble finding volunteers.

I will be out of town until August 2<sup>nd</sup> so I'm shooting for the second or third Sunday in August to start the first meeting.

Respectively Submitted,  
Rich M.

**NCI Liaison Report –** Dean B.

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm followed by the opening prayer. There were seven (7) groups represented and twelve (12) members present. There were no new representatives from other groups.

**Officers' Reports:**

The Secretary's Minutes were read and accepted.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

**Trustee's Reports:**

Sandy talked with the other Trustees about having a new phone for the Hot Line. The other Trustees reported the same information. There was a discussion on the Hot Line phone rotation, and Call Forwarding. Denis also mentioned how impressed he was at the International Convention to see that they hold Intergroups in such high esteem.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Hot Line - Rick mentioned that we have a new Hot Line phone, and that he has taken the phone rotation after some earlier Trusted Servant difficulties. He stated that Verizon gave us a good rate. There were forty (40) calls to the Hot Line: five (5) 'wet' calls, five (5) that just wanted to talk, and thirty (30) that needed meeting location information. These statistics were for a two week period.

Website - there was no report.

Journal - the decision was made to combine August and September in the next issue.

Events - the Gratitude Dinner planning continues. Picnic in the Park flyers and tickets have been distributed to the groups. Note was made to disregard the 2014 date on the tickets, the rest of the information is correct. There will be a Chili Cook-off planned for October 17th in lieu of a dance; location has not been finalized. This will be an individual and/or group cook-off.

Chairman's Report: was included as Hot Line Report.

Old Business: Motion was made and accepted to have Janet and Lynn make the desired changes to the NCIntergroup pamphlet and cards.

District 17 Office Manager offered us the option to purchase literature with them. Motion was made and accepted to co-operate. 12th Step lists were distributed and we were asked to pass them around our groups for updating.

New Business: there was no new business.

Motion was made and accepted to close the meeting at 5:35 pm. We closed with an ending prayer.

Gratefully yours in service,  
Dean B., Intergroup Liaison.

**Workshop Report:** None.

**Technology Report:** None

**Accessibilities:** Amanda D. submitted a written report.

First I would like to apologize for not being able to attend area and tonight's District meeting. I have many physical limitations and one of them resurfaced right before our Area Assembly. I have since felt better and back to a semi-normal routine. I am not able to attend tonight's District meeting because I am working with another alcoholic in her time of need. I just want to give a clear message that I am still taking my role very seriously and am very active in making sure anyone in our district that has need of accessibilities services has received as such! Now for news.

July was all about partnerships! I was able to go out to The Centers and meet Lynn and her husband. Although no one showed up to let us in we had great conversation on how accessibilities and treatment can work together in the future and being young is something that keeps many from getting sober and staying sober. They also attended the YPG meeting, and I have volunteers from YPG that are willing to try and support meetings at The Centers once they are up and running consistently. I also met an alcoholic this month at Club Recovery who cannot always get to meetings due to house arrest. I gave them my information and offered to bring meetings to them. This is definitely another niche of people that accessibilities can help. I was approached by someone who lives in the Crystal River area who volunteered her time when someone needs help in the CR area; thank you Michele! Overall, July was quiet, however productive. I am still spreading the word and working on getting to all groups throughout Citrus County. I look forward to an even more eventful August!

**Alt. DCM Report:** Paige B.

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

What a month! My July started with an unforgettable trip to The International in Atlanta. It was my first. I attended many service topic workshops and Archives rooms! The experience of walking among so many others in recovery is indescribable.

The Florida State Convention needs your support! The original Chair stepped down a few short weeks ago and an Area 14 trusted servant, Annette, has stepped up. In years where an International Conference takes place, attendance trends downward. Please consider supporting our Florida State Convention in Orlando, August 12-16, 2015. There are volunteer opportunities available. It is a wonderful location at the Rosen Plaza. There are banquets, a dance, ice cream socials, a golf tournament and a 5k walk/run in addition to the workshops and speakers planned.

Once again at the Area 14 Assembly in Gainesville held in July District 28 was well represented. I want to thank Janet, Denis, Brenda, Al, Paula, Rich, Bruce, Sandy, Sue, Bruce and Dean for attending. Steve and I are thrilled to see participation at this level.

The October Area Assembly is scheduled for the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October. If you need accommodations for either Friday or Saturday, please contact me by Monday, October 5 at floridadistrict28@gmail.com.

The District 28 Workshop, AA in the Age of Technology, is rescheduled for the month of September.

In an effort to observe anonymity at the service level, a District 28 email address will be created for all District 28 officers and service representatives. Our target is to have them created by and distributed at the August meeting.

I am looking forward to completing The Area 14 Survey with you. Feedback from you and your group is vital, the grass roots, on the frontline voice in the forward movement of AA.

The Third Annual Picnic in the Park is scheduled for August 22 at the Rainbow Springs State Park...this is an awesome event! I look forward to seeing you all there.

**DCM Report:** Steve N.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as DCM for District 28.

All service positions are currently filled and I am thrilled at the level of service in District 28.

I want to thank Paige, Janet, Denis, Brenda, Al, Paula, Rich, Bruce, Sandy, Sue, Bruce and Dean for attending the Area 14 Conference with me. Committee chairs attended workshops and it is noted that District 28 is well represented in the workshops and at the business meeting.

I have been appointed secretary for the ad hoc committee on the Area 14 Inventory. I urge you to go to <http://aanorthflorida.org/AreaInventory.asp> and fill out the inventory form. Your input will help your area 28 officers and service chairs do a better job serving you and AA as a whole.

I continued to work on the NFAC web site committee and we will be working to design a new landing page that is user friendly and updates the NFAC site to a more modern look. If you have any suggestions let me know.

My hospitalization, illness and continuing recovery as I work to regain full sight has once again demonstrated the value of team work. I want to thank Paige, P.J. and Jen for their service and extra efforts.

Again it is a privilege and honor to serve as District 28 DCM.

Thank you,

Steve N

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

A. Area 14 Inventory. Area 14 has prepared and circulated an inventory form to North Florida Area members. The feedback will help the Area to better serve its members and trusted servants in their respective groups and districts. Paige asked to have copies taken to the groups and have as many as possible submit responses. Responses can be submitted to Area 14 by email, and are requested no later than September 9. The Inventory can also be answered on-line at the Area 14 website. Paige went through questions 1 through 6 with everyone at the meeting. (A copy of the full Survey will be attached to the Minutes for distribution.)

1. *To DCMs: Are GSRs in your District(s) able to attend Area 14 Assemblies? If not, why?* Paige remarked that District 28 had good GSR attendance at the Area Conferences but we should try to improve.

2. *To GSRs: Are your groups receptive to the information that you bring back from the Area Assemblies?* Responses from the floor indicated that it sometimes depends on the information. Some GSRs are appointed just to fill the position; many people come to home group meetings but it is difficult to get people to participate in business or group conscience meetings.
3. *Is the Area doing enough to help DCMs encourage non-participating groups to become active in the Service Structure?* Responses indicated that this is a difficult issue and that perhaps the solution has to come from the group level, not the area. GSRs and sponsors should encourage and invite people to get active in service work, emphasize the rewards and importance. The recent workshop on the Home Group topic was very poorly attended.
4. *Is your Group/District satisfied with our Structures and Guidelines as they stand, and if not, what specific changes would they make? For example: Are they too restrictive? Are they too broad? Please be as specific as possible. We need to get feedback from our groups on this.*
5. *Is enough being done by the Area at the Assemblies to accommodate those with special needs?* Paige described the physical layout of the hotel where the recent assemble was held and noted that some aspects of the facility would have been very difficult for a person with physical disabilities. All we can do is make Area personnel aware of our concerns and keep it in mind for scheduling purposes.
6. *How effective are we in communicating with the Districts (i.e. Service Coordinators, GSR, etc.) on collaborating ideas and hosting workshops to carry the message?* While input from the floor suggested there should be more input at the District level on what workshops are to be sponsored by the District, there was no criticism of the Area's communication.

B. Revision of District 28 meeting schedule. There was the mistake with respect to one meeting date that we published in our 2015/2016 calendar. We will repring the calendar with the corrected date. In response to comments from the floor about meeting on Sundays, it was pointed out that we could change the day and time of our meetings but it would require a change in the Structures and Guidelines. Also, it is convenient for many who also attend the NCI meetings on Sunday.

C. Budget Modification. At the time our current budget was adopted, the Technology Committee and Workshop Committee had not yet been established, so it was necessary that budgets be appropriated for those two committees. The recommendation was that a budget of \$150 be allocated for each of the two committees. Upon motion and second, budgets in the amount of \$150 were established for the Technology Committee and the Workshop Committee.

D. Picnic in the Park. A concern was raised regarding a policy that has been adopted by Rainbow Springs State Park that allows them to prohibit additional people to enter the park after what they consider to be maximum capacity has been reached. The provision is in the rental contracts. This could present a problem to groups such as ours that rent a pavilion and sell tickets in advance of the event at a price that includes park admission, parking, food, etc. Paige did not believe the provision was in our contract but would check and take action to resolve the situation as might be necessary.

## **Announcements**

Nature Coast Intergroup is planning to establish a literature service whereby literature orders can be coordinated and consolidated, which would result in a reduction of shipping charges. The plan is to make it possible to place orders throughout the month that would be available for pick-up at the monthly District meeting. The details and other options are still under consideration and Paige will provide further information in due course.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. upon motion made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## **Tradition Seven – long form**

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.

### **The Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine**

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?

Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?

If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?

Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?

Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?

How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc.

## **Concept VII – short form**

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. purse 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.?