

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2015

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM – Steve N.
Alt. DCM - Paige B.
Secretary - P. J. O.
Treasurer – Jen B.
Accessibilities Chair – Amanda D.
Archives Chair - Denis S.
Grapevine Chair – Paula D.
Literature Chair – Lisa B.
Public Information – Janet B.
Women’s Corrections- Brenda R.

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:

Janet B. - Alt GSR, Attitude Adjustment Group
John W. – GSR, Big Book 164 Study Group
Sandy H. - GSR, Crystal River Group
Paula D. - Alt. GSR, First Thought Wrong Group
David V. – GSR, Monday Night Men’s Step Group
Sue S. – GSR, Rainbow Group
Bruce P. – GSR, Resentment Group
Paige B. - GSR, What’s The Book Say Group
Brenda R. – GSR, Women’s New Beginnings Group
Lisa B. – GSR, Won Rebos Group
Amanda D. – GSR, YPG Group

Visitors:

James C., First Thought Wrong Group

Welcome by DCM:

Steve N., 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: All officers were present and 11 registered groups were represented by GSR or Alt. GSR.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the September 27, 2015 meeting. Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the September meeting were accepted unanimously as submitted.

P. J. reported that the Group registration numbers shown on our Resource Page were current and consistent with what had been received from the Area 14 Registrar. Although a few anomalies remained they had no impact on active groups and would be addressed in the near future. Steve encouraged all GSRs to advise District and Area of any changes in GSR and other contact information for their group so that the groups continue to be carried on the active list.

Treasurer's Report: Jen B., Treasurer, presented the final Report for September, 2015. Copies of the Income and Expense and Contribution sheets were distributed to everyone. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$3396.27, income of

\$80.00, expenses \$247.99, and, after a correction, the ending balance of \$3255.28. Jen noted that the ending balance was again below our Prudent Reserve. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's Report for September as modified was accepted as submitted. Jen also presented a preliminary report for October.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities Report: Amanda D.

I apologize for not getting an Accessibilities report out for September. I had an unexpected opportunity to move and did so. I'm all settled in now and was of course still able to work and learn as Accessibilities Chair!

I attended the Area assembly in October and it was fantastic. I went to the Treatment, Traditions, and Accessibilities workshops. I am pleased to announce that during the Accessibilities workshop and our Area business meeting it was voted to have a motion sent to the next General Service Conference for them to consider producing an audio version of our Service Manual and Concepts for World Service. One has actually already been produced by District 13, however due to quality and ownership issues they cannot distribute it. I am excited to see how it pans out! I think it's important to have audio versions of everything we have, for the blind and sight impaired. I also was able to meet with September Grace Williams, the Area Accessibilities Chair and get some insight from her on how to help those with disabilities we cannot see, like phobias. She suggested I start researching and even reaching out to those in the mental health field on how to approach these AA members and how I can help them. I will begin working on that! I look forward to the next assembly.

One of our own in our district is losing his sight, and I would like to get with him and see if he can benefit from an audio Big Book and/or 12&12. I know these things are available online, but are they within in my budget? There are two options of the Big Book on audio, one with stories and one without. The price difference is huge. Should I send an order for a few copies to have available? I'm thinking to order them for cost efficiency and to have more copies available to others who need it.

I also have the Hotline for our district and enjoy that as it is a way for me to reach out to those with special needs. Some people can't get to a meeting, and just need to talk to another alcoholic. Please remind your groups if they know anyone with special needs I am available and willing to get them the message of AA any way I can.

In love and service,
Amanda D.

Archives Report: Denis S.

This month we were fortunate to have a new person join the Archives Committee of District 28. Sheila S. from the Sober Sand Gnats group will join me and Al M. on the committee.

Sheila will present the Archives Display at the upcoming Gratitude Dinner and will be available to accept new artifacts, attend events, pass out group history forms and interact with members in furtherance of Archives work. She has already assisted with preservation work and Al and I look forward to working with her.

CPC Report: None

Public Information: Janet B.

I love our bright gold new meeting schedules. They are truly standouts on the communal racks that we use in a few places.

So far the gold has been placed at: State Probation & Parole in Inverness and County Probation in Lecanto, the Sheriff's Stations in Inverness and Crystal River. While I

was on that side of the county I stopped in at the Yana Club and on the way back east at the Centers in Lecanto , where I left a huge stack for their counselors, clients and the meetings that are held on site.

Jim at Driver Improvement was pleased to get the updated issue. He always checks the back. I also stocked the Health Dept., Citrus Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room and their public auditorium.

I checked out Courtroom II at the Citrus County Courthouse. There is no AA rack up yet so I used the general rack. I also visited the Lakes Library and the Court Alternative Program. Ernie P. stocked the laundromat.

In the northwest section of our area, Sheila S. and Lacy E. are in the process of stocking the Ingliss Fire Station, Hair Salon, Bait & Tackle Shop, Buddy & Fred's Hardware, Food Ranch and the Heritage Insurance Company. In Yankeetown they go to the Ingliss/Yankeetown Town Hall, the Women's Club, the Post Office, the Fire Department and the Library. Lisa B. has been busy in Dunnellon stocking the library and meetings around town.

I still have a few more sites to fill and a few leads for new places.

Paula D. gave me a copy of the Grapevine with the hopes of placing it in the five libraries. The copy was given to the lady in charge of publications along with my phone number. She did not call. I called and am still waiting for a reply.

Linda from the Lakes Region Library called Amanda regarding a presentation about AA. I had a nice talk with Linda on the phone and also met with her. The date of the presentation will be March 4, 2016. More will be revealed.

Avanti left a message with Bob G at one of our meetings that they wanted AA to bring a meeting to their facility. I have called and left my number. Hopefully, we will connect soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet B.

Some of the work I describe is CPC, some Literature, some Grapevine and some just PI. We all try to work together.

Women's Corrections Report: Brenda R.

I was at the Area Assembly and attended the Treatment and Corrections workshops. I talked with the Area Corrections Chair again regarding meetings to see what we can do to get things back on track. The Area Chair has urged Al and I to meet with the Warden and introduce ourselves so he knows who we are. We are trying to work with John Tucker, the contact person there. We had only one meeting since last month, just last week. There were thirteen women, and they really wanted the meeting. One of our girls who put in an application has been approved to come in, but we still need to get her badged. We are making progress, little by little.

Men's Corrections Report: None.

Grapevine Report: Paula D.

I am an alcoholic and my name is Paula. It is my privilege and pleasure to serve District 28 as the Grapevine / La Viña Chair.

The AA "Thought for the Day" is available as a free email from Grapevine.

Area 14 Assembly - Grapevine / La Viña workshop

The Area 14 Corrections service coordinator briefly spoke at our workshop to discuss the need and desire for Grapevine / La Vina materials by inmates. There is frequently a significant gap in time between AA meetings for inmates. He stated the Grapevine is the number one requested and read piece of AA literature by inmates.

“Grapes for Mates” will be kicked off at the January 2016 Area 14 Assembly. It is a unity of services, with Grapevine / La Vina and Corrections, to carry the message. A purple bin will be placed in the Grapevine room for anyone to contribute new or used Grapevine literature to be taken into the correctional facilities. There is currently a list of over 30 inmates who have requested to receive Grapevine subscriptions.

Our Area Grapevine / La Vine Service Coordinator has made arrangements for these inmates to receive subscriptions as they become available through contributions by individuals, groups or Districts.

District participation

Our District can participate with Area 14 or contribute Grapevine / La Viña literature at our District level.

I have been talking with our Public Information Chair to determine how the Grapevine can be used more in that area.

This month's Featured Book is titled *Forming True Partnerships*.

The November Grapevine issue's special section features stories on relationships in sobriety.

Starting with the Preamble, followed by the Steps, Traditions, personal stories, and ending with the Serenity Prayer, the Grapevine Magazine is The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, “our meeting in print,” that speaks the Language of the Heart.

The donation of Grapevine subscriptions is very much appreciated.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Literature Report- Lisa B.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the AA Service Structure.

The **GSO** Trustee's Literature Committee is in review of stories submitted for the purpose of updating A.A. For the Woman Alcoholic, A.A. for the Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic and recovery experience from members with mental issues as well as those who sponsor such members. This will go on through January when a “structure of progress report” will be presented at the **GSO** Literature Committee meeting.

Here in District 28, the Literature Committee has been researching the topic of Gratitude in preparation for putting together a display for the November 8th Gratitude Dinner.

Treatment Report: Rich M.

Everything is going well at the Centers. We put in a request for 6 more Big Books and 6 more 12 and 12's and Paige ordered them.

We're still averaging 4 to 8 boys and are getting quite a few volunteers but we can always use more.

Our meeting time and place: 7:00 p.m. Sunday

The Centers

3238 S Lecanto Hwy

Lecanto, FL 34429

Respectfully Submitted,

Rich M.

NCI Liaison Report – presented by Denis S. for Dean B.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Rick T. with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Jen B. took roll call; there were nine groups represented.

Jen B. read the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report for September was presented by Paige B. and accepted as read. Paige also presented a preliminary report for October.

Trustees Denis and Sandy praised the Chili Cook-off and Janet B. also was present.

Amanda D. reported 47 calls to the Hotline.

Steve N. gave the Nature Coast Intergroup Website Report:

Up until October 24th there have been 970 visits to the website this month. There were 672 unique visitors with 398 making multiple visits. The average visitor viewed 2.36 pages per visit. 66.8% of the visitors were new with 32.2% being returning visitors. The bounce rate for the site's first page is down from 82% to 65% which means more people are actually spending time on the site once they arrive. The ten most visited pages were: Where and When, Meeting Information Page, Meeting by Day (with Monday, Friday and Sunday being the most looked at), District Home Page/Minutes, Meeting by Location, Information Links, Calendar, Journal, Contact Information, and NCI Minutes. The ten most frequently downloaded documents or information were Where and When, Journal, Chili Cook Off Flyer, Responsibility Statement, Workshop Topics, Gratitude Dinner Flyer, Legacies Information, Traditions.mp4 by Chet, State Convention 59 Flyer, and Young AA Hotline Phone Number.

Janet B. proposed that we print the name of Intergroup as the Intergroup of District 28 to help us get our flyers on the North Florida Area website.

Page B. gave a report for Lynn D. saying that the Chili Cook-off was a big success and that preparations for the Gratitude Dinner on November 8th were well under way. A list for ham and/or turkey donations for the dinner was circulated along with a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Chair Rick said he attended the Area Assembly and went to the Intergroup Workshop.

As an item of new business, Paige proposed that an event be held in January 2016 to mark the 75th Anniversary of AA in Florida. Paige would try to get an appropriate speaker. NCI would initiate and sponsor the event and would request that District 28 be asked to be a co-sponsor.

Workshop Report: Steve noted that there currently is no Workshop Chair and that if anyone would like to volunteer to serve in that capacity please let me know; they would be most welcome.

Technology Report: None. Rich M. could not be here tonight.

Alt. DCM Report: Paige B.

My name is Paige and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as Alternate DCM for District 28.

She attended the Area 14 Conference in Gainesville, October 9-11. She enjoyed meeting and working with her peers from other Districts in Area 14. The next Area Assembly will be January 8-10, 2016. Contact Paige at floridadistrict28@gmail.com for details and reservations by January 4.

The 60th Florida AA State Convention, "New Freedom New Happiness," is scheduled for August 3rd through 7th, 2016, and will be held at the Innisbrook Golf and Spa Resort in Palm Harbor. Registration for the convention is already underway. Registration and more information are available on the website, www.60flstateconvention.com.

The October edition of Where and Whens have been printed and distributed. If there are any additions, editions or revisions for the next printing, please contact Paige at floridadistrict28@gmail.com.

It was an honor and privilege to serve with Steve, Paula and Bruce on the Ad Hoc website committee.

Plans for the annual District 28 Gratitude Dinner coming up on November 8 are well underway. The theme for the event is "Gratitude is the Best Attitude." It will be held at St.

Benedict's Church Fellowship Hall in Crystal River. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., dinner is at 5:00 p.m. and there will be a speaker at 6:00 p.m. If you have not already obtained a ticket through your home group, they can be reserved online at www.events@ncintergroup.com. Groups are asked to donate a turkey or ham and individuals please bring the item indicated on the back of the ticket. Volunteers have been designated for many of the usual positions but we can always use more. She passed around sign-up sheets for volunteers and group food donations.

As part of the event marking the 75th Anniversary of AA in Florida, Archives is working on developing a history of AA locally. In our area, evidence indicates AA started around 1971, but there is reason to believe it started earlier since people, some of them important figures, had been coming down here for hunting and fishing for many years before that. Please talk to old-timers in your group to see what you can find out about AA history in your location.

Paige made flyers available at the meeting for several upcoming AA events in District 28, Area 14 and State.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,
Paige B.

DCM Report: Steve N.

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

I met with your officers (Paige, P.J. and Jen) this month and want to thank them for their input and service to the District.

I also met twice with the District 28 Website Ad Hoc Committee and would like to thank Paula, Bruce and Paige for their hard work coming up with the recommendation to District 28 to operate our own website and for their input into website guidelines which would be presented to the District 28 business meeting if the GSR's approve the recommendation.

I also attended the North Florida Area 14 Conference in Gainesville. I attended The Saturday morning CPC Workshop on How the Traditions apply to CPC work with an emphasis on Traditions 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8. I then attended the Saturday morning workshop on Public Information which also reviewed Traditions important to PI with emphasis on Traditions 6, 8, 11, and 12. I then attended a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Area 14 Inventory to prepare for the afternoon Inventory Session.

In the afternoon I attended the DCM/GSR sharing session which was about service and service sponsors. I learned many new things which I hope to share with you in a brief article for the Nature Coast Journal. I will say that this was my first sharing session (For more information see S-40 of the Service Manual.) and I learned from a past delegate how to conduct a sharing session. Later that afternoon, I attended the NFAC Website committee and submitted an idea for a new landing page which was well received. I also discussed a request by another DCM that the web committee take down The Nature Coast Intergroup Chili Cook-off flyer because it was Intergroup not AA. I prevailed to keep it up in arguments to the website committee and later the Chairperson instructed the Web Committee Chair to take it down. Only if it is the group conscience of this District that this is worth fighting, I will appeal the Chair's decision to not publish events of Nature Coast Intergroup.

I attended the Area 14 Inventory session moderated by the Area 15 Delegate and Chair. The results will be published with the minutes of the business meeting.

Sunday morning I attended the Area 14 business meeting. I am very pleased to announce that we had the second highest number of votes present as well as being year to date the second highest financial contributing district in the area. I also want to thank the following District 28 members who were present Sunday morning. Paige B, Alt. DCM and

GSR; Dean B, GSR; Sandy H.(1), GSR; Brenda R, GSR; Rick T, GSR; Amanda D, GSR; Wendy S, GSR; Sandy H(2); GSR; Paula D, Alt GSR. We also had excellent representation by our Committee Service Sponsors Saturday at the various workshops. I want to thank Brenda R, Corrections; Paula D. Grapevine; Rich M. Technology and Treatment, Amanda, Accessibilities, Denis Archives, and Dean B, Intergroup Liaison, Rick T, Intergroup Chair, and Lynn R, Intergroup Events. We repeatedly have had top representation at Service Committee Workshops.

The Treasurer's report indicated good news with contributions up, expenses down and a bottom line over prudent reserve.

Six motions were discussed and passed: 1. Amend budget so Delegate elect and Chair elect can attend SERF. 2. Amend budget to add \$500 for Chair elect and increase from \$400 to \$500 each for Delegate and Alt Delegate to attend SERF. 3. Fund Delegate and Alt Delegate to attend SASA at \$1000 each. 4. Fund South Florida delegate \$350 to attend this Conference today. 5. Give to DCM's of Growth Committee current Structures and Guidelines to replace the one now on the website. 6. Request GSO to create an audio format of the Service Manual for blind members who wish to do service.

Please feel free to contact me with any District 28 concerns, suggestions, etc. This definitely is an organization of the upside down triangle and I am dependent upon your input to be an informed DCM for District 28.

My current contact information is:

Home phone 352-489-0404

Cell Phone 352-586-8751

Email address floridadistrict28@gmail.com

Again it is a privilege and honor to serve you as DCM. Thank you for the opportunity.

Steve N.

District 28 DCM

The Tenth Tradition and Concept will be included with the distribution of the Minutes.

Old Business:

1. Creation of a District 28 website. Steve announced that the Ad Hoc Website Committee had recommended in favor of District 28 creating its own website. Steve then asked if there were comments from the floor. David V., GSR, said his group questioned why there should be a separate website for District 28 and suggested that money could be saved if District and NCI shared a common website. Paula, and Ad Hoc committee member, pointed out that although District and NCI share a lot of resources, people search for District 28 on the web and can't find us. We are separate entities but there would be no problem in having a link to take a user to NCI. David replied that his group opposed the proposal; that meeting schedules and other information was repetitious and money and resources could be saved by not having separate sites. Paige pointed out that not only are District and NCI separate legal entities, they are completely different. David felt that meeting schedules and other common information could be available by links. Steve pointed out that there has always been cooperation between the two entities and that it would be the same in the future. Lisa B., GSR for her group, reported that her group was in favor of the proposal. It would give people more opportunities to find AA on line. Steve acknowledged that was an important point. Bruce P., GSR, said that his group initially opposed the idea but discussion brought out that an additional site would help get more information about AA out to people in need, the more information the better, so his group now supports the proposal. There was then a motion to approve the Ad Hoc Committee recommendation and create a

separate website for District 28, and a second. Upon a call for a vote, all were in favor with the exception of one dissenting vote. The dissent reiterated his position and allowed the previous statements in opposition to stand as the minority opinion. No votes changed. Motion passed.

2. A motion to have a Hot Line Workshop in February of 2016 was made, seconded and passed.

3. Paige made a presentation regarding the printing schedule and amount of Where and Whens being printed. She pointed out that the current print amount was 3000, four times each year. The current distribution is 2000 divided among the home groups, with the remainder distributed to CPC and PI. We just had a printing and are almost out already. Janet said she has new cites that need the materials. She recommended that the print amount be increased to 5000, three times per year, and in the future perhaps change the distribution with more for PI and CPC. Increasing the printing would result in a budget increase, but District and NCI could share the cost. A motion was made and seconded to increase the printing budget for Where and Whens by \$160. Motion passed.

New Business:

1. NCI has requested that District 28 join NCI as a co-sponsor of the Florida AA 75th Anniversary event. The format of the gathering has not yet been determined. The Area Archives Service Coordinator, Scott, will be present and may have some interesting information for us. A motion was made, seconded and passed that District 28 be a co-sponsor with NCI for this event. The district will have no financial responsibility for this event. The Archives presentation may be supported in whole or in part by Area 14, Nature Coast Intergroup will fund the remainder.

2. We should consider arranging a meeting with the Area Delegate to the World Service Conference in New York if he is available prior to the conference. It was very informative when we had the delegate here last year. We would invite GSRs from other Districts to attend, and hold the meeting at a time other than our regular meeting. Pre-Conference meeting with the delegate last year were held in Brooksville and at The Villages. The tentative date for this would be in March 2016. A motion to extend the invitation and arrange the meeting for March was made, seconded and passed.

3. Steve next addressed the matter of the NCI flyer for the Chili Cook-off having been removed from the Area website. Steve did not want to appeal the decision of the Area Chair to remove the flyer unless the group conscience of District 28 supported the appeal. The flyer was removed by Area on the basis that NCI was not a part of AA. An initial complaint had been made by the DCM of District 15 who went to the Website Chair and demanded that the flyer be removed because NCI was not part of AA. I attended the meeting of the Website Committee and argued that the website was to promote AA events in Area 14, we had an AA speaker at the event, there is an intergroup workshop at Area meetings, that GSO publishes guidelines for intergroups, and that certainly in District 28 the Nature Coast Intergroup is a part of AA. The Website Committee and Chair initially supported my position that this was part of AA and decided to keep the flyer on the site. The next day the Web Chair removed the flyer because, he said, he was told by the Area Chair to do so. Paula pointed out that there are specific Area guidelines as to what can be posted on the site and we should appeal the decision to remove the flyer because the decision is contrary to the guidelines. A motion to appeal the decision was seconded and passed without dissent.

Paula asked that the issue of whether we are doing enough to support Spanish speaking groups at Area 14 be addressed. Following discussion, a motion was made and

seconded that a request be submitted to Area 14 that a translator be available for one hour at each Area Workshop on a rotating basis. The motion was seconded and tabled.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion and second at 6:45 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really *is* an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

Concept Ten: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

- Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
- Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.?
Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority?"