

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 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.
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
Sandy H. - GSR, Crystal River Group
Paige B. - GSR, What’s The Book Say Group
Dean B. – GSR, Sober Sand Gnats
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
Sheila S. – Sober Sand Gnats

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 7 registered groups were represented by GSR or Alt. GSR.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the October 25, 2015 meeting. The Secretary advised that pursuant to the request of Paula D., the Grapevine Chair, a change had been made on p. 8 of the Minutes that had previously been distributed, under item three of New Business. The language in the last part of that paragraph wherein Paula made a motion concerning an appeal of the decision made by the Area 14 Chairperson was revised to more accurately state what she had said. After revision, it reads: “Paula pointed out that there are specific Area guidelines as to what can be posted on the site and, if the decision was contrary to those guidelines, then I move that we give the DCM discretion to appeal the decision.” Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the October meeting, as revised, were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Jen B., Treasurer, presented the final Report for October, 2015. Copies of the Income and Expense and Contribution sheets were distributed to everyone. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$3255.28, income of \$539.00, expenses \$1056.88, and an ending balance of \$273740. Jen noted that the ending balance was again below our Prudent Reserve. Upon motion and second, the

Treasurer's Report for October was accepted as submitted. Jen also presented a preliminary report for November.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities Report: Amanda D.

November has been a great month so far. I was able to order and will be providing audio big book and 12&12 material to two AA members in need. I also was able to speak to the woman again who called the hotline with agoraphobia. I recommended to her to attend a phone AA meeting, which I have the info for if anyone else would like it, and provided that information to her and told her to contact me to let me know how it goes. I am continually seeking other AA members in need and encouraged the members of YPG to ramp up support for the meeting for the young boys at the centers. I encourage anyone who knows a member who needs special materials or services of AA to give that individual my contact information. I look forward to helping even more members the remainder of this month and in December.

In love and service,
Amanda D.

Archives Report: Denis S.

This month the Archives committee had the privilege of displaying the District 28 Archives at the annual Gratitude Dinner. Sheila S. was available to discuss the Archives with people who were interested in different aspects of the display. Many Group History forms were handed out also and members told us they would be taking them to their Home Groups with a view to providing us with a Group History.

This was the first time all three display cases were used at the same time and we got many compliments on the overall appearance of our display.

CPC Report: None

Public Information: Janet B.

We caught up on a new sites that needed checking on or a refill of Where and Whens. Among them was the Lighthouse, the Emergency Room at Citrus Memorial Hospital and the Family Visitation Center.

A new place for the "Gold" is the Florida Motel on Rt. 41-N in Inverness.

Last Sunday I went to the Wahoo meeting and left a pack of Where & Whens and Nature Coast Journals.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet B.

Women's Corrections Report: Brenda R.

So far we have not been able to get a meeting in there this month. The last meeting was on October 30. We had good attendance at that meeting, ten to thirteen women. Not only is it hard to make contact with the proper person in the facility, he doesn't always get back to me. He called last Friday at 4:15 in the afternoon, saying we could bring a meeting in then, but I was in Brooksville. We will keep trying. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Men's Corrections Report: None.

Grapevine Report: Paula D. (presented at meeting by Amanda D.)

It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve District 28 as the Grapevine Chair. I am unable to attend this meeting due to my work commitment.

The December issue of Grapevine will include the annual holiday tips on how to keep sober through the holidays. I will make copies of this section and put them in circulation as soon as it becomes available.

The Grapevine display was setup at the Gratitude Dinner.

Individuals have contacted me about how to contribute Grapevine subscriptions for the 'Grapes for Mates' kickoff for January 2016. I am waiting to hear back from the Area 14 Grapevine Service Coordinator for more details. I hope to report this information in person at the December meeting.

Also, if groups are interested in contributing Grapevine subscriptions to District 28 Committees; Corrections, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Treatment, Public Information, is there a need or a desire from the committee chairs to distribute them to carry the message?

The willingness to serve comes in many forms and we observed this at our Gratitude Dinner on November 8th.

A special thank you to Rick N., David N. James C., Jimmy M., Teddianne C., Lisa B., Renee A., and Char S. for your service at the Gratitude Dinner. Your willingness to perform in the skit was heartwarming and you all put on a fantastic performance! I cannot thank you enough for your service.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

In love and service,

Paula

Literature Report- Lisa B.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and grow as an alcoholic in the A.A. service structure. This month, the Literature Committee put together a display of pamphlets and books for the Gratitude Dinner. The break down and transportation of the display was carried out by a number of A. A. members: Paige B., Denis S., Sheila S., Dean B. and Jack B. Many thanks for pitching in at the last minute.

The committee has focused on the "attitude of gratitude" as revealed in a few pieces of A.A. Literature.

Bill's Last Message

Recently an A.A. member sent me an unusual greeting, which I would like to extend to you. He told me it was an ancient Arabian salutation. Perhaps we have no Arabian groups, but it still seems a fitting expression of how I feel for each of you. It says, "I salute you and thank you for your life."

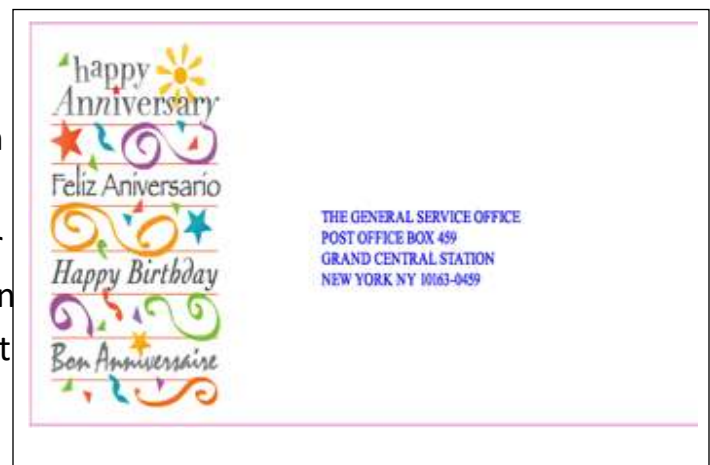
My thoughts are much occupied these days with gratitude to our Fellowship and for the myriad blessings bestowed upon us by God's Grace.

Anonymity Letter to Media

April 2014 First, let us express our deep gratitude to you. From the beginning of A.A. in 1935, its members have recognized that word-of-mouth is not sufficient by itself to carry the program's message of hope and recovery to the many people still suffering from alcoholism. The public media has been a vital part of this effort, and today we estimate that there are more than 2 million successfully recovering members of Alcoholics Anonymous in more than 180 countries.

The Birthday Plan Members

customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 for each year of sobriety—others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. Money can be dropped in the basket or even sent directly to the GSO in specially created "Gratitude Envelopes."



The story behind the Jack Alexander article on A.A. Correspondence between Jack Alexander and Bill W. from early 1941 shows the excitement felt in anticipation of the article's release. *I wish I could adequately convey to you the sense of gratitude that one of us feels towards you and the Saturday Post for what is about to take place. You can not possibly conceive the direct alleviation of so much misery as will be brought to an end through your pen and your good publishers.*

New York City to Host World Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous

(Press Release to Newspapers/Wire Services) - Much discussion at the 2008 W.S.M. (World Service Meeting) will center on the theme "Service —Gratitude in Action."

As Bill Sees It, p. 37 *I try hard to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits. When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know.*

Gratitude is thankfulness. It is expressed through a myriad of forms. We in A.A., who have been given so much, have the privilege of "practicing our manners" and saying, "Thank you" -each in our own way.

For the opportunity to serve as Literature Chair for this panel, "Many thanks!"

Lisa B.

Treatment Report: None.

NCI Liaison Report –Dean B.

I want to thank Denis S. for standing in for me last month.

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

Jen B. took Roll Call; there were 10 groups represented and 14 people in attendance.

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

Paige B. gave the final treasurer's report for October and they were accepted as read.

The Trustees Denis, Sandy, and Bill praised the turnout and feedback from the Gratitude Dinner. Janet was at Wahoo during the Gratitude Dinner passing out Where & Whens.

Amanda D. reported 30 Hotline calls: 4 wet calls, 4 detox calls, 1 PASS call (homeless shelter), and 21 calls looking for meetings.

Steve N. reported that there were 333 unique visitors so far in November (only one-half month) on the Website. There were a total of 510 visits meaning the average visitor came 1.5 times. They viewed 1311 pages or 2.6 pages each visit. The top downloads were Where and When, Gratitude Dinner Flyer, State convention Flyer, Responsibility Statement, Legacies, Chili Cook Off Flyer, Traditions, Young People 12 Questions, and the Journal. The top pages visited were Meetings Main, Meetings by Day, Calendar, Meetings by Location, Contact Information, About Meetings, District 28, NCI Information, and Links. The bounce rate set a new low at 54% meaning more people are staying and viewing more than the home page than any time in the past.

Paige B. stated they will try to have a new Journal out before the Long Timer's Speaker Meeting, probably 3rd week of November.

Lynn G. reported that there were 320 in attendance at the Gratitude Dinner and that Events is considering a larger venue for next year. She also made note of the Long Timers Speaker Meeting flyer to bring back to our groups.

Chairperson Rick T. praised the efforts of the volunteers and attendance of the Nature Coast Intergroup at the Gratitude Dinner and discussed plans for the New Year Eve dance.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business Paige B. discussed the need for the creation and implementation of an annual budget. Primarily, it would serve as a guideline. Following brief discussion, a motion to create and implement an annual budget was made, seconded and approved unanimously. Jen B. reminded us of the upcoming Open House at NCI.

A motion to close was made and accepted and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Grateful to be of service,

Dean B.

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 him know; they would be most welcome.

Technology Report: None.

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.

The Gratitude Dinner, co-sponsored by The Nature Coast Intergroup and District 28, was a phenomenal event with a record turnout. I look forward to working together on future events and value our sound relationship. A heartfelt thank you to all of those who made this event possible.

Several Items, bowls, containers and a plate, were left at the church. They will be available at the Intergroup and District Meetings in November and December.

Sunday, December 13, The Nature Coast Intergroup and District 28 will hold their annual Open House at the Holder Community Center in Holder beginning at 3:30 PM. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the fellowship with light refreshment just prior to the last meetings of 2015.

The Long Timers Speaker Meeting and Old Fashioned Bake Sale is scheduled for Thursday, Dec 3 at 7:00 PM at the Nature Coast Church in Homosassa. Anyone wishing to contribute baked items to the Old Fashioned Bake Sale may contact Lynn D at events@ncintergroup.com. There is no charge for this event.

The next Area 14 Assembly is scheduled for January the 8th, 9th and 10th of 2016. If you are planning to attend and need accommodations, please contact me at floridadistrict28@gmail.com by Monday, January 4, 2016.

The next printing of the Where and When is scheduled for January of 2016. Please submit additions, deletions and revisions to me at floridadistrict28@gmail.com. AA in Florida turns 75 in January! We are planning to celebrate with an archival presentation by Scott B., recently re-elected Area 14 Archivist. Please submit any local AA and group history you may know, we are working on developing a history of AA locally. The date to save is Saturday, January 16 the location will be announced soon.

I wish you all a happy holiday!

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 this month and want to thank them for their input and service to the district.

The following is the appeal I made to the Area chair concerning the decision to take down Nature Coast Intergroup Event flyers from the website:

"The District 28 Group Conscience meeting has unanimously asked me to formally appeal what apparently was your decision to override the Website Committee and Website Committee Chair's decision to publish event flyers from our District, because we were told they were Nature Coast Intergroup events and therefore 'not a part of AA.' We submitted these flyers under the following website guidelines:

'To carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous by providing a user friendly resource on the internet where alcoholics can get information about the activities and business of and within AA's North Florida Area.

To encourage participation of North Florida Area members, groups, districts, and committees in the Florida A.A. services and activities.

To administer the NFAC website to provide accurate, consistent, and updated information about Alcoholics Anonymous in general as well as the NFAC business information and A.A. sponsored events within the Area.'

Also the passage that clearly states 'The website shall be administered by the Administrative Committee as described in the motion passed October 2008 by the NFAC.'

This to be considered in relationship of the website committee consensus at the last business meeting that the flyer should be included.

Also the guidelines clearly state 'In keeping with AA Traditions the website shall cooperate with other AA entities by providing reference only including a non-affiliation disclaimer.'

Nature Coast Intergroup was formed by District 28 specifically to be the sponsor of A.A. events within District 28, manage the Hot Line, and manage a website. To claim that our events in our District which are sponsored by Nature Coast Intergroup are not A.A. events is a misunderstanding. Every A.A. group in District 28 is also a member of Nature Coast Intergroup. Many of us are involved with both organizations and there is extreme cooperation.

I am formally appealing your decision at this time although that may be unnecessary since you did not communicate directly with me nor was the information directly given to me, but told to one of our GSR's so there may be some misunderstanding. I would request that you call me and that we talk about this decision to see if we can resolve it before it goes further.

If you truly believe Nature Coast Intergroup is not a part of A.A., our groups would please request a careful re-examination of that position. If, however, there is something we down here in Citrus County and your Website Committee overlooked in their discussion of the website guidelines, something which specifically prohibits the publication of A.A. events sponsored by Nature Coast Intergroup, then I would like clarification directly from you as to what that wordage is.

I will tell you that as it stands my groups and members are upset because of the alleged statement that these events are not a part of A.A. They are by and for the A.A. membership in District 28; they more often than not include A.A. speakers and formats. The fellowship generated by these now almost monthly events attended by alcoholics and their families is very important to the District 28 alcoholics' sobriety. These events also have a very positive effect on newcomers leading them to believe there is a strong fellowship life after they stop drinking.

District 28 groups are very supportive of Area 14 and know that although we are a small district we often have the second largest number of voting GSR's, etc. present at Area, consistently send our service coordinators to the Area workshops, including the

Nature Coast Intergroup Chair who is funded by Nature Coast Intergroup to attend the intergroup workshops at each Assembly, and District 28 consistently is the second greatest financial contributing District to Area 14."

I hope that we can work together to help maintain and grow this great relationship between the groups in District 28 and Area 14 Conference. I am looking forward as always to hearing from you."

After receiving the message, Heather, Area 14 Chair, called and we had a long discussion of the flyer in question. First let me assure you Heather never said that Intergroup was not a part of A.A. She came into A.A. through an intergroup hot line and actions. Her concern with the flyer was twofold:

1. The flyer made no mention of what District the event was in.
2. The flyer appeared to be a fund raiser for intergroup since it contained a 50-50 raffle and an admission price.

The chair is willing to publish any and all AA events with certain pre-requisites. We will need to make the flyer more an announcement of or an invitation to an A.A. event rather than a promotional piece. We will also to note clearly the District where the event is taking place. District 28 does not need to sponsor the event but the flyer does need to indicate the District where the event is taking place. All flyers will be submitted to the web Chair and approved by him and the Area Chair. If something on the flyer does not meet guidelines then the Area chair will work with us to modify the flyer so the event invitation can be issued.

The Chair promises she will work with me on this matter to have an outcome satisfactory to both Area and District. She suggests if we are not satisfied after a trial period we might make a motion from the floor to modify Area web guidelines. I do not believe this action is necessary at this time.

I also spoke with the chair about the possibility of a District 28 floor motion concerning the District 33 concerns. An ad hoc committee has already been formed to address issues coming out of the Area inventory, of which this was one. The committee will be addressing this issue and looking for solutions. I am a member of that committee and have been invited to bring all of your ideas concerning a solution to this issue to the committee's attention. As of this time I am recommending that the District 28 tabled motion stay tabled, but will of course listen to the will of the group conscience. I would urge you to email me any suggestions you have to make this matter right for all.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as District 28 DCM,
Steve N.

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

Old Business:

1. Regarding the creation of a District 28 website, the proposed guidelines for the website were previously distributed and sent out with the Minutes. Copies were again distributed. A motion was then made to approve the proposed Area 14-District 28 website guidelines, and seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed without opposition. Steve N. noted that a webmaster would be needed, and he volunteered to serve in that capacity at least until the website was up and running. There were no other volunteers. Upon motion and second, Steve N. was appointed to serve as District 28 webmaster. Steve said he would work to get the site up and running soon.

2. No action was taken on the agenda item addressing the co-sponsorship of a Speaker Meeting featuring the Area Archivist to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Florida AA. This matter was disposed of during the Alt. DCM's report.

3. No action was taken with respect to a third Agenda item, District 33 Motion to Assembly.

New Business:

1. DCM Steve pointed out that the budget for 2016 needed to be reviewed and revised, and that we should give consideration to additional funding sources such as speaker meetings. One revision that could be made now was the expense allowance for the DCM and Alt. DCM to attend the Area Conferences. Since they will be in Gainesville the next three years, there could be some reduction. A motion was made and seconded that the expense for DCM and Alt. DCM to attend Area Conferences be reduced from \$140 to \$125 each for the four assemblies. Motion passed. A revision of the mileage allowance for Committee Chairs should also be considered. Another revision could be to have \$1000 budgeted for speaker meetings. Steve will prepare a proposal for 2016 budget revision that will be sent out with the November minutes and be voted on at the December meeting.

2. After discussion of the expenses that have been incurred by the Treatment Committee and the Literature Committee, and the current budget status of those committees, a motion was made and seconded that the Treatment budget be increased by \$110 and that the Literature budget be increased by \$25. Motion passed.

Announcements:

1. We are still planning to have a pre-Conference meeting with the Area Delegate to the General Service Conference. The date and location are still under consideration.

2. There will be an event to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of AA in Florida. It will be held on January 16 at a location yet to be announced. It will not be in the CR area we need to rotate to another area of the district. It will be a speaker meeting featuring Scott B., the Area 14 Archivist, who will present some of the Area collection. The event will be co-sponsored by District 28 and the Nature Coast Intergroup. Cake and refreshments will be served and the basket will be passed. We will want our District Archivist, Grapevine and Literature Chairs to be present.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion and second at 6:40 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Tradition Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem *unattractive*?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around—even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

Concept Eleven: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- Do we understand how the roles of non-trustee directors and non-trustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional “Right of Participation?”
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?