

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2015

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM – Steve N.
Alt. DCM - Paige B.
Secretary - P. J. O.
Treasurer – Jen B.
Archives Chair - Denis S.
Grapevine Chair – Paula D.
Intergroup Liaison – Dean B.
Technology Chair – Rich M.
Treatment Chair – Rich M.
Women’s Corrections- Brenda R.

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:

Sandy H. - GSR, Crystal River Group
Sandy H. – GSR. First Thought Wrong Group
Jimmy F. – GSR (Temp.) Holder Way of Life Group
John R. – GSR, Inverness Wednesday Night Group
Rich M. – GSR No Name Group
Wendy S. – GSR Real Happy Hour
Bruce P. – GSR Resentment Group
John H. – GSR Sober Nooners Group
Dean B. – GSR Sober Sand Gnats
Paige B. - GSR, What’s The Book Say Group
Brenda R. – GSR, Women’s New Beginnings Group
Gail K. – GSR, Won Rebos Group

Visitors:

None

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

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the November 15, 2015 meeting. Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the November meeting were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jen B., Treasurer, presented the final Report for November, 2015. Copies of the Income and Expense and Contribution sheets were distributed to everyone. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$2737.40, income of \$71.47, expenses \$175.36, and an ending balance of \$2633.51. Jen noted that the ending balance was again below our Prudent Reserve. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer’s Report for November was accepted as submitted. Jen also presented a preliminary report for December.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities Report: Amanda D.

Since we last met I have been able to provide 3 AA members with audio material. Two members were sight impaired and one has literacy struggles. I look forward to providing more next month/year. I was able to obtain employment for the first time in 3.5 years. My first sober job! I ask for patience and understanding while I adjust to my new schedule.

In love and service,
Amanda D.

Archives Report: Denis S.

Sheila S. has been helping me work on the Archives collection. She has been doing some preservation work on various items. We look forward to improving the Archives display for events during 2016. I would like to extend our thanks to the several speakers who assisted us at the Long Timers Speakers Meeting and Old Fashioned Bake Sale event, some of whom had more than 40 years sobriety.

CPC Report: Lina R.

I have recently spoken by phone with Victoria Murphy, director of corporate education for Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness. She took my number and said she would be open to discussing a presentation by and about AA for the staff at the hospital. I don't expect to hear anything from her during the holidays and plan to reach out again in January.

Public Information Report: None.

Men's Corrections Report: Al M

We have had 2 meetings in December and this brings our total for the last 3 months to 7. All have been well attended, well received and had excellent participation. We have plans for more meetings in January. Corrections meetings have become very difficult, because there are only four people approved. Eddie H. has had health problems. Walter R. has been away and also has back problems; Richard B. has to come a long way from work and has to be notified early in order to make the meeting. We need more people to be approved. This is not easy because of CCA policy. I have been chair far too long and have done it too many terms. Have offered to the others but no one wants to do it. I have someone lined up but they have to be approved. Hoping this happens soon but I don't think it will.

Women's Corrections Report: Brenda R.

So far we have only been able to get the women together for one meeting this month, and that was on December 4th. Scheduling is still difficult but we keep trying.

Grapevine Report: Paula D.

It is a pleasure and privilege to serve as the Grapevine representative for District 28. As we approach a new year in District 28, I seized the opportunity to look back at where Grapevine has come over the past 11 and a half months. From *thinking* I knew something about Grapevine to actually putting the footwork into the process and applying new information to serve District 28. It was also an opportunity to plan for the second half of Panel 65 in 2016.

In this first year of my service commitment, I registered with the General Service Office as the Grapevine/ La Viña Representative / Chair for District 28, renewed my subscription for the Grapevine, planned and carried out some learning activities, and put together a Grapevine display for District events.

Some plans for 2016 are to continue to encourage groups to PASS IT ON, and Grapes for Mates:

PASS IT ON (Benefits of the Grapevine)

1. Sign up to receive the free Daily Quote; PASS IT ON.
2. Subscribe to the Grapevine (online, in print, or both); PASS IT ON.
3. Become a Grapevine Rep; PASS IT ON.
4. Start a Grapevine Meeting; PASS IT ON.
5. Contribute to the Grapevine with stories, photos, polls, etc. PASS IT ON.

Grapes for Mates:

Grapevine / La Viña is the number one piece of AA literature requested by inmates! We can contribute new or used Grapevine / La Viña literature for Corrections chairs to take into inmates. Please contact me for information about this process at grapevine@aadistrict28.org.

I wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

In love and service,
Paula D.

After Paula's report, DCM Steve announced that Paula had been appointed to serve as Grapevine Representative for Area 14, for which she received everyone's congratulations.

Literature Report- Lisa B.

It is an honor to serve as Literature Chair. For December, Literature (books, pamphlets and service material) and various hardware display items, that we have on hand, were inventoried.

Big Book: Fourth Edition -2 soft cover and 1 hard cover, First Edition- 75th Anniversary Commemorative 1 hard cover

Twelve Steps And Twelve Traditions: 2 soft cover and 1 hard cover

Experience, Strength & Hope, Stories from the first three editions of Alcoholics

Anonymous: 1 hard cover

Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers: 1 hard cover

Daily Reflections: Large-print Edition – 1 soft cover

The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service: 2014-2015 Edition -1 soft cover

A Brief History of the Big Book: 1 soft cover

Pamphlets

2- Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.

2- A.A. Traditions — How It Developed

5- The A.A. Group

2- A.A. Membership Survey

1- A.A. As a Resource for the Health Care Professional

6- Is A.A. For You?

2- This is A.A.

1- Questions and Answers on Sponsorship

1- A.A. for the Woman

11- The Jack Alexander Article

1- Young People and A.A.

1- The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs

1- Do You Think You're Different?

1- A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic

- 1- Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?
- 3- G.S.R.
- 3- The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
- 2- The Twelve Concepts Illustrated
- 1- A.A. for the Older Alcoholic — Never Too Late
- 1- A Newcomer Asks
- 1- Problems Other Than Alcohol
- 12-Understanding Anonymity
- 11- The Co-Founders of Alcoholics Anonymous
- 1- What Happened to Joe
- 1- It Happened to Alice
- 3- Circles of Love and Service

1-If You Are a Professional...

- 1- A.A. in Your Community
- 2- A.A. Grapevine and La Vina

Flyers and Fact Sheets

- 4- Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix
- 2- The A.A. Group Treasurer
- 1- Corrections Correspondence
- 1- Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs
- 3- Your General Service Office
- 1- Your General Service Office, The Grapevine and the General Service Structure

Hardware

- 1- Display Rack and Extensions Set

Ready to go and looking forward to the challenges of the New Year! Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Treatment Report: Rich M.

Until very recently the meetings continued to go well although we could have used more volunteers. I don't think the age really mattered to the boys. We had received 6 Big Books and 6 12 and 12's from New York and planned to give them out to anyone who wanted one. We were down to only have 3 boys but were expecting to get a couple more this month. Then, suddenly, there were no more kids left in the Lecanto facility. We do not know where they were sent or what the facility will be used for. We will go to an adult facility for resources.

NCI Liaison Report –Dean B.

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

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Rick T. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer at 4:30 pm.

Secretary Jen B. took roll. Ten (10) groups represented and seventeen (17) people in attendance.

There were no new representatives. One (1) new visitor in attendance.

Secretary Jen B. read last month's meeting minutes and they were accepted as read.

Treasurer Paige B. read the final financial report for November and it was accepted as read. Paige B. read the tentative financial report for December, and discussed the proposed 2016 budget to be voted on at the January 2016 Business Meeting. (It was noted that NCI is \$900.00 under our prudent reserve).

Trustees Report:

- Janet B. was absent
- Denis S. commented on the Long Timer's Meeting being a great success. He also stated that we may need a person to keep information flowing to all groups for ongoing and upcoming events.

- Sandy H. reported that the feedback she received on the Long Timer's Meeting was positive; people loved the bake sale and the speakers.

- Bill enjoyed the Long Timer's Meeting and regretted that he had to leave early. Bill asked NCI if maybe we are printing the Where and Whens too often as he has noticed some meeting lists being disposed of. It was mentioned that we print Where and Whens as we run out.

Standing Committee Reports:

- Hot Line: no report.

- Web Site: Steve N., Webmaster, reported that up until December 12th there have been 1,751 visits to the website this month. There were 239 unique visitors with the others making multiple visits. The average visitor viewed 2.23 pages per visit. 79.6% of the visitors were new with 20.4% being return visitors. The number of average daily hits for December was 1,449. The bounce rate for the site's first page is 80%, meaning more people who visited this month left the site after seeing the first page, although the average session in December was just under 1 (one) minute on average.

The ten most downloaded pages were: WhenandWhere.pdf, Journal0112.pdf, Legacies.pdf, Workshop_topics.pdf, Long_TimersDec2015.pdf, Responsibility Statement, Journal11-2015.pdf, Young AA page. The ten most frequently visited were the Information Links, Meeting page, Meeting By Day page, Meeting By Location page, Calendar page, Long Timers Meeting flyer, By-Laws (revised), Journal page, FAQ page, and District 28 page.

- Journal: no report.

- Events: Lynn D. reported that the Long Timers Meeting was a great success and will probably do two speakers instead of four the next time, and that the volunteers were wonderful. The next event is the New Year's Eve event at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Inverness, December 31, 2015, 9 pm until 1 am. Lynn also reported that she needs to purchase repair parts for the 100 cup coffee maker. Approval was given.

Alternate Chairperson Report:

- Steve N. passed around Where and Whens which were revised/updated to include Zip Codes for accurate GPS directions be checked and approved by the groups in attendance. Steve also complimented the efforts for the success of the Long Timers Meeting.

Old Business : none.

New Business:

- Following up on the suggestion of Trustee Denis S., he has graciously volunteered to be our first NCI Information Coordinator.

Motion was made to close at 5:30 pm.

Grateful to be of service,

Dean B.

Workshop Report: Steve noted that we had been without a Workshop Chair for some time and he was pleased to announce that Wendy S. had volunteered to serve in that capacity. Upon motion and second, Wendy S. was appointed to serve as District 28 Workshop Chair.

Technology Report: Rich M.

Rich advised that he did not have a formal report to submit this month. He will be happy to assist Steve N. with the District 28 website in whatever way he can. Steve noted that he and Rich constituted the entire Technology Committee and that the website is up and running but needs some fine tuning. Steve encouraged everyone to review the site and make suggestions for improvement.

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.

I hope your holidays have been filled with abundance, joy and love!

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

The printed Where and When is scheduled for publication in the first week of January. It will reflect changes to include zip code and more specific street address information to improve our ability to get people to the meetings they are seeking and to facilitate GPS.

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.

The Long Timer's Speaker Meeting and Old Fashioned Bake Sale was a tremendous success! We look forward to working with The Nature Coast Intergroup and doing this again.

A Tentative 2016 Schedule of Events is out and will appear in the next Journal. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

We are excited to roll out the new District 28 Website aadistrict28.org. Mailboxes for district officers and chairpersons have been created in conjunction with the new website.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Paige B.

DCM Report: Steve N.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this past year as your DCM for District 28. As I travel the district I am so grateful that A.A. is alive and well in Citrus County - thanks to the efforts of so many of you. I visited 15 different groups/meetings this month and you guys are carrying the message.

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 would not have been able to be your trusted servant without them at my side.

I am working with the Area Inventory committee and have been accumulating input and suggestions for improvement in areas noted in the inventory. I also have been in touch with the web chair for Area and have some suggestions I am going to present at Area conference in January.

I have nothing but praise for all the volunteers who have made events and meetings happen this month. I was very impressed with the organization and attendance at the Long Timer's Speaker Meeting and Old Fashioned Bake Sale this month. The speakers were super and the participation was awesome. I am looking forward to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of AA in Florida event on January 16th. I encourage you all to attend. There will be a District Hotline workshop on February 29. I urge every group to pass out the Hot Line Volunteer form and send it to Amanda. If you are unsure how to respond to needs of the Hotline please attend the workshop. We hope to have at least one representative available to respond to Hotline calls in every part of Citrus County, Dunnellon, Inglis and Wahoo.

I am also pleased to see the District28 website up and running and I urge you to take a look at aadistrict28.org and send input to the web master at webmaster@aadistrict28.org.

As a result of input from some newcomers and out of state visitors to Citrus County we will be updating the Where and When to include more accurate addresses and zip codes so that meetings can be more easily found with today's technology. We will discuss today some of the impacts on local groups by these address changes.

As we come to the end of 2015 I want you all to realize that this panel is half way through their terms and others need to think about the future of District 28. You need to be seriously considering your future role as a trusted servant and what future service position you would like to grow into.

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

Home phone 352-489-0404

Cell Phone 352-586-8751

Email address DCM@aadistrict28.org (note this address replaces 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

After his report, Steve advised that District 28 had recently been asked to host the Saturday night Speaker meeting at the Area 14 Assembly in January. He will need assistance in handling the readings and passing the bucket. Our services might also be needed at the Sunday meeting. Dean B. and Sandy H. (II) volunteered to serve as needed.

Before turning to Old Business, Steve circulated the proposed revised Where and Whens that would contain Zip Codes. He acknowledged that the Holder Way of Life Group objected to any change in its listing, and Steve would be asking for a motion to approve the new Where and Whens, with Zip Code orientation, except there would be no change as to the Holder Group.

Webmaster Report: Steve N.

I am pleased to report that the site is up at aadistrict28.org. Please visit and look around, reporting to webmaster@aadistrict28.org any problems such as broken links or any suggestions for improvements or additions to the site. I have to give a big shout of thanks to those of you have already visited the site and sent awesome suggestions for improvement. We have tried to create updates as soon as the suggestion comes into us.

The site includes a landing page with 12 picture links as well as 12 button links and a zip code/city, state meeting locator for all meetings in Citrus County, Dunnellon, Inglis, Wahoo and the closest District 33 meeting in Ocala. there are also multiple sib=pages including For Mobile devices, Get help Now with Hotline information, Where and When, Meeting by Day and Meetings by Location, Calendar with Events, Contact Us, About Us (which includes the Preamble), AA Links and resources, The Legacies including the Three Twelves, a password protected area for minutes and links on all pages to nature Coast Intergroup, Area 14, AA World Services, and Grapevine.

The site has not yet been set up for Google analytics nor are the keywords and search terms added to optimize search engine results. As the site is finalized we hope to get that done on every page and begin to be very searchable.

Email addresses have been set up for trusted servants in District 28. They include:

District 28 web site -

web@aadistrict28.org, Webmaster - webmaster@aadistrict28.org, DCM -

DCM@aadistrict28.org, Alternate DCM - AltDCM@aadistrict28.org, Secretary -

Secretary@aadistrict28.org, Treasurer - Treasurer@aadistrict28.org, Accessibility Chair -

Accessibility@aadistrict28.org, Archives Chair - Archives@aadistrict28.org, Men's Corrections - ChairMensCorrections@aadistrict28.org, Women's Corrections Chair - WomensCorrections@aadistrict28.org, Cooperation with Professional Community Chair - CPC@aadistrict28.org, Grapevine Chair - Grapevine@aadistrict28.org, Nature Coast Intergroup Liaison - IntergroupLiaison@aadistrict28.org, Literature Chair - Literature@aadistrict28.org, Public Information Chair - PublicInformation@aadistrict28.org, Technology Chair -Technology@aadistrict28.org, Treatment Chair - Treatment@aadistrict28.org, Where and When Information - WherandWhen@aadistrict28.org, and Workshop Chair - Workshop@aadistrict28.org .

Thank you for allowing me to serve as District 28 webmaster
Steve N, webmaster

Old Business:

Steve directed the Group's attention to the District 28 proposed budget for 2016, which he had in hand, and which it was believed had been previously circulated to everyone. On motion and second, the proposed District 28 budget for 2016 was accepted. Any proposed amendments would be taken up at the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Steve directed the group's attention to the proposal to modify the current Where and When format to include zip codes with the addresses of meeting locations. Steve urged that the change in listing be made for all home groups in District 28. A motion to that effect was made and seconded. An objection was interposed on behalf of the Holder Way of Life Group. It was explained that the Holder group had already had a vote on this issue and was opposed to any change, as no one had ever had trouble finding the meeting. Steve responded that there had been reports to the contrary.

The original motion was then rescinded, and a revised motion was made to update the Where and When publication to include the zip code in the listing for every group that wants it. A discussion followed in which the value of having the zip code listing to facilitate GPS location was pointed out, and it was questioned that the current address listing for Holder was adequate. It was also questioned whether an individual Group preference should control in a situation involving a District approved publication. This is a matter that affects AA as a whole as well as the individual groups.

In compromise, the revised motion was withdrawn and a new motion was made, whereby zip codes would be included in the address of each group meeting listed in the District 28 Where and When publication except when a group believes it would be detrimental to the attendance at that group's meeting; nothing will change in a group's listing, as is the case with the Holder Group, if the group conscience for that group does not want it. This motion was the seconded and passed without objection.

Other groups will have to advise Paige, the Alt. DCM, if they do not want the change in their listing.

2. Paula inquired about the possible use of the District 28 post office box as a return address for correspondence sent to prison inmates in facilities where AA meetings were not allowed. Questions and concerns were raised about alternative means of communication that might be available, and whether it would be appropriate to use the District box for personal correspondence, as the intended purpose of the box is for District financial and business purposes. The matter was tabled pending the gathering of additional information.

Announcements:

1. Acknowledgement was made of the "thank you" card sent by P. J.'s wife in appreciation of the flowers that were sent during her recuperation from surgery.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion and second at 6:50 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million AAs?

Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating

funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

- How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power?”
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of A.A.'s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?