

DISTRICT 28  
Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2016

**Officers/Chairs present at meeting:**

DCM – Steve N.  
Alt. DCM - Paige B.  
Secretary - P. J. O.  
Treasurer – Jen B.  
Archives Chair - Denis S.  
C.P.C. Chair – Lina R.  
Grapevine Chair – Paula D.  
Intergroup Liaison – Dean B.  
Literature Chair – Lisa B.  
Men’s Corrections Chair – Al M.  
Public Information Chair – Janet B.  
Technology Chair – Rich M.  
Treatment Chair – Rich M.  
Women’s Corrections Chair - Brenda R.  
Workshop Chair – Wendy S.

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

Jen B. – Alt. GSR, Crystal River Group  
Janet B. – Alt. GSR, Attitude Adjustment Group  
Sandy H. – GSR, First Thought Wrong Group  
James C. – Alt. GSR, First Thought Wrong Group  
Al M. – GSR, Holder Way of Life Group  
John R. – GSR, Inverness Wednesday Night Group  
David V. – GSR, Monday Night Men’s Step 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  
Lisa B. – Alt. GSR, Won Rebos Group

**Visitors:**

James C.

**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 13 registered groups were represented by GSR or Alt. GSR.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the December 13, 2015 meeting. Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the December meeting were accepted unanimously.

The Secretary also announced that since the December meeting a new GSR, Ken L., and a new Alt. GSR, Kel E., had been elected for the Rainbow Group.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jen B., Treasurer, presented the final Report for December, 2015, being the Income and Expense Sheet and Contribution Report. Copies were distributed to everyone. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$2633.51, income of \$26.00, expenses \$135.10, and an ending balance of \$2524.41. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's Report for December was accepted as submitted. Jen also presented a preliminary report for January, 2016.

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

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Accessibilities Report:** No report this month, although Al M. reported on some accessibilities research that he had conducted. Our meeting room, he pointed out, has been approved as handicapped accessible. An inquiry to Hospice, a handicapped accessible facility, indicates that they would be willing to make a room available for a meeting. Also, the hospital may also be willing to make an accessible room available.

**Archives Report:** Denis S.

This month the History and Archives Committee of District 28 had a period of undeserved success. The North Florida Area 14 Archivist Scott B. came to our District to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first AA meeting in Florida, which meeting was held in Jacksonville in January of 1941. A large crowd enjoyed his presentation at Shepherd of The Hills Church in Lecanto. Scott inspected the District 28 archive collection and was very impressed. As if this was not enough the District 28 Archives was given a gift of a first edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are very grateful to Char S. who made this gift from the collection of deceased member Ruth M., a well known member of the Keep In Step Group, who had many years of sobriety and who died sober. We are delighted and grateful to have this 1<sup>st</sup> edition Big Book. We are fortunate that we are a part of the big picture of AA which we hope will continue to provide the unity and singleness of purpose so necessary for the future. District 28 now has copies of both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of the Big Book.

**CPC Report:** Lina R.

My main focus and love in CCP work is direct encounters with the professionals; my hope is to establish relationships and ongoing programs of education about Alcoholics Anonymous. In that vein I followed up with Ms Murphy at Citrus Memorial but was able only to leave a message. I spoke twice with Reverend Savage at CCA in Lecanto. He seems open to the possibility though slow to respond. I emailed the director of education at the Citrus County Sheriff's Department as that was the only method of contact offered. Again no response so far. My next step is to reach out further to Area and GSO sources for guidance. On a very positive note I took the opportunity to do a little networking at the District's AA in Florida Birthday celebration. I've got several willing folks for whom sacrifice of personal anonymity on a limited scale is not a problem. They're ready to help when I get "whatever" planned. Aren't service people the best!

UPDATE: I received a phone call from Lt. Vincent of the Citrus County Sheriff's Department. He requested a video which could be included with the online continuing education courses. I'm very grateful and excited. I've many ideas for useful resources, especially our local information. I'm very excited about this possibility.

**Public Information Report:** Janet B.

Last year saw an increase in the distribution of Where and When's. This was due to a lot of work by the PI Committee and the following volunteers: Lisa B., Ingrid A., Lacie E., Sheila

S., Bob G., Ernie P. and Ed A. We are highly visible not only in Citrus County, but are edging into our neighboring counties of Levy, Lake, Marion, Sumter and Hernando.

Starting the year off we are listed first under Support Groups in the publication "2016 Our Home Citrus." Cindy Connolly is the Special Section editor. She was very helpful in taking the information I have her and wrote the insert. This section can be found in the January 31 Citrus County Chronicle.

On March 4 the Lakes Region Library is holding a seminar at 2:00 p.m. to give the public an introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous. Paige B. and Dean B. will be sharing.

We also added two new Where and When placement sites to start the year: the new Visitors and Convention Bureau in Crystal River and Zona Long's Bail Bonds in Lecanto.

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

Although we had been having meetings on a fairly regular basis, we did not have too many this month. Our contact guy, Tucker, was pretty busy, and now we have learned he will be stepping down. We don't know what will happen when that occurs or who will be taking his place. Only four people have been approved for holding meetings, and it takes a while to get new people approved. We hope for a smooth transition when the new guy comes in.

**Women's Corrections Report:** Brenda R.

We had one meeting in December and one in January. We run into the same problem Al has, it is difficult to contact Tucker. He waits until the last minute to contact you and let you know that you can come in for a meeting. We had a meeting on New Year's Eve and Mr. Tucker said that we might be able to meet again this coming Wednesday. We don't know what will happen when Tucker leaves; I will contact Reverend Savage. There is an orientation session coming up in February. You must go to an orientation session before you can be approved to bring a meeting into a facility; this is mandated by CCA. If you are interested in helping, go to an orientation meeting even if you haven't filled out an application yet. The orientation meetings don't happen very often and it takes a long time to get applications approved. The orientation program is for both men and women.

**Grapevine Report:** Paula D.

It was a privilege to attend the Area 14 Assembly on January 8-10, 2016. The focus of Saturday's workshop was on how to carry the Language of the Heart within our Districts and to learn the difference between AAWS literature and Grapevine/La Viña literature. We made a display poster for a District's Grapevine Representative, to take back to District 10, to demonstrate how easy it can be accomplished. We discussed how the display can be used. Individual groups can also consider having a Grapevine display set up with subscription cards, catalogues, and/or an actual Grapevine magazine at their meetings.

Thank you to Sandy H. from District 28 for helping to load, unload the literature for the workshop and Grapevine room, passing out the quiz, and assisting with the workshop at the Area 14 Assembly. Your service is greatly appreciated.

One suggestion for the Districts is to hold a "Record Your Story" workshop.

It is a pleasure and privilege to serve District 28 as the Grapevine/ La Viña chair.

**Literature Report-** Lisa B.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. A brand-new year and the District Literature Committee has been quite active in the first month already. January 9<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Area Assembly and was offered a great deal of information at the Literature Workshop. Our Literature Catalog has new items available: **A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs** in an audio format, the **Big Book** and **Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions** are offered in an American Sign Language DVD, a new CD compilation of **Radio Public Service Announcements, Many Paths to Spirituality** (pamphlet), **A Brief History of the Big**

**Book (booklet), the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 2015-2016 A.A. Service Manual.**

Lori P, our Area 14 literature chair, shared the following listing of all free literature items that are available from A.A.W.S.:

*A.A. Guidelines - Central or Intergroup Office*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Relationship between A.A. and Clubs*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Conferences, Conventions and Roundups*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Cooperating with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Corrections Committees*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Public Information*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Relationship Between A.A. and At-Anon*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Literature Committees*  
*A.A. Guidelines - For A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Cooperation With the Professional Community*  
*A.A. Guidelines - A.A. Answering Services*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Carrying the A.A. Message to the Deaf Alcoholic*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Treatment Committees*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Finance*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Archives*  
*A.A. Guidelines - Internet*  
*A.A. Around the Globe*  
*Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Drug & Alcohol Court Professionals*  
*A.A. Fact Sheet*  
*A.A. Preamble*  
*A.A. Preamble - Background Information*  
*Anonymity Online*  
*Area Map of U.S. and Canada*  
*Concepts Checklist*

**Conference-Approved Literature**

*Country-to-Country Sponsorship: Carrying the A.A. Message Worldwide*  
*ESTIMATES OF A.A. GROUPS AND MEMBERAS OF JANUARY 1, 2015*  
*ESTIMATED WORLDWIDE A.A. INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MEMBERSHIP*  
*FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT A.A. WEBSITES*  
*FOR VOLUNTEERS STAFFING AN A.A. EXHIBIT*  
*THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE*  
*HOWTO CONDUCT A SHARING SESSION*  
*IS YOUR GROUP LINKED TO A.A. AS A WHOLE?*  
*LONERS-INTERNATIONALISTS MEETING (L1M) CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE*  
*MEMO ON PARTICIPATION OF A.A. MEMBERS IN RESEARCH AND OTHER NON-A.A. SURVEYS*  
*ORIGIN OF THE SERENITY PRAYER: A HISTORICAL PAPER*  
*ORIGIN OF THE SERENITY PRAYER: A BRIEF SUMMARY*  
*PRESENTATION: "WHAT A.A. IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT"*  
*PRESENTATION: "WHAT A.A. IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT" (TO TREATMENT FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF)*  
*PUBLIC INFORMATION*  
*RESEARCHING A.A. GROUP HISTORY*

RESPONDING TO DISASTERS - "HOW CAN WE HELP?"  
 SERVICES PROVIDED BY G.S.O./A.A.W.S.  
 SHARING EXPERIENCE ON COPING WITH INFLUX OF NEW MEMBERS  
 SHARING FROM D.C.M.S TO A NEW D.C.M  
 SPONSORSHIP -A VITAL STEPPING-STONE TO SERVICE & SOBRIETY  
 SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION MEETINGS  
 SUGGESTED WORKSHOP FORMAT  
 TRADITIONS CHECKLIST  
 THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE (LONG FORM)  
 THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE (Short Form)  
 THE TWELVE STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
 THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (LONG FORM)  
 THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (SHORT FORM)  
 TWELVE TRADITIONS PLAY  
 YOUR D.C.M. - DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER  
 YOUR A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE  
 WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?  
 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix  
 Self-Support Card  
 Problems Other than Alcohol (excerpts)  
 Message to Teenagers  
**Information on Alcoholics Anonymous**  
 General Service Offices, Central Offices, Intergroups, and Answering Services Overseas  
 Corrections Correspondence - A Special kind of A.A. Service  
 Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada  
 Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities  
 A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer - OUTSIDE  
 A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request - For A.A.s on the INSIDE  
 A.A. Literature Catalog  
 A.A. Group Treasurer  
 A.A. at a Glance  
 A.A. Archives  
 A Brief History of the Big Book  
 SELF-SUPPORT PACKAGE  
 G.S.O. CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES  
 BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES  
 PRIMARY PURPOSE CARD  
 SERVICE MATERIALS LIST

The January 11, 2016 edition of the Saturday Evening Post included the Jack Alexander article, "Alcoholics Anonymous," first published March 1, 1941. An extensive follow-up article, "The Drunkard's Best Friend," that was published in the Post on April 1, 1950, can also be seen in the on-line edition. There are numerous links to Alcoholics Anonymous and to "Read more about..." sites! Google "Making the Case for AA: The Saturday Evening Post" and take a look what proved to be a pivotal moment in A.A. history.

A member submitted, in both digital and hardcopy, "A Fourth Step Inventory Workbook." Intended for use by members with their sponsors, this workbook is a companion to pages 63-71 in our basic text, Alcoholics Anonymous. There followed a lively focused discussion as to how to introduce a motion that the Trustee's Committee on

Literature begins developing such a workbook, if we wanted to support the submitted document or if we had any interest in developing any conference approved piece of literature along these lines. At this point, we decided to get feedback from our groups regarding a workbook that would describe the actions required to journey through each of the 12 Steps. Please do this at your regular business meeting and get some feedback for me to take to our next assembly in April. Thank you.

January 16<sup>th</sup>, at the "AA in Florida Turns 75" event, we had a full literature set-up and a great time learning about some of our early local roots. Of special interest, for the Literature Committee was the Area Archivist's extensive literature collection. On display were numerous books and pamphlets from the Oxford Group as well as a number of other spiritual groups and individual authors.

It is an honor! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the service structure of A.A.

**Treatment Report:** Rich M.

As you already know from December's District discussion, The Centers AA meetings have been canceled. Both the Friday night open and the Sunday night closed discussion are not coming back in the near future. From discussions with them I believe the Lecanto facility is going to become a program for young women.

It's difficult to find anyone over there who knows what is going to happen. All the staff and all the phone numbers have changed. I'm now working with April who said she would let me know when they are up and going again, probably with younger women. Lynn and I retrieved all the Big Book's that were stored at The Centers and I'll hang onto them until we find out when we can resume meetings there.

I thought I would explore the adult outpatient program which is in another building at the Lecanto complex. In the past we've given them a few Big Books but they've not expressed much more interest. Does anyone have any contacts over there?

**NCI Liaison Report** –Dean B.

Chairperson Rick T. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Jen B. took roll call. There were 9 groups present and 15 people in attendance. There were no new representatives.

Secretary Jen B. read the minutes from the December 2015 meeting which were accepted after a correction on Events.

Treasurer Paige B. read the report for December 2015, it was accepted as read. The January draft was read, the final will be ready for the February 2016 meeting.

Trustees Report: Denis S. decided to just listen. Janet B. reported on how she loved the 75th Anniversary of AA in Florida. Sandy H. and Bill were not present.

Hotline Report: Denis S. reports that Amanda, due to work restraints, can no longer do the hotline on a full-time basis. Denis S. has had the hot-line for the past month, and as nobody stepped forward to assist, Rick T. took the hot-line.

Website Report: Webmaster Steve N. reported 1376 visits by 1059 unique (first time) visitors in January. 73% (1004.48) were new visitors and 27% (371.52) returning visitors. According to the 'bounce rate', 72.5% (997.6) more people are staying longer on the site. The top 10 pages visited were: Meetings by Day, Where and When, Minutes, Meeting by Location, Calendar, Young People, Resource, Information Links, Journal, Contact, and Newcomers.

Journal Report: In Lynn's absence Paige B. reported that she has a copy of the Journal ready to go to the printers tomorrow (February 1, 2016).

Events Report: Lynn D. reported that there was a small showing for the NYE dance. Concerns over the pricing and too many other similar events in the area may have been a factor. We were asked if maybe we should combine the NCI NYE event with another local group event in the future.

Alternate Chairperson's Report: Steve N. reported that the Archives Workshop was awesome and a "thank you" to Denis S.

Chairpersons Report: Rick T. made mention that we need to look for more group participation for events in the future.

Old Business: The proposed 2016 budget was presented and discussed, including group contributions to GSO, Area, NCI, and District. The budget was tabled for voting at the February meeting.

There was no New Business.

Motion was made to close. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**Workshop Report:** Wendy S.

The Hotline Workshop is coming up on Saturday, February 13, 1-4 p.m. at Club Recovery, which is located on Anvil Terrace in Hernando. We will have a panel to speak on their experiences in handling the Hotline. Our goal is to try and teach people how to handle hotline calls, what to do and what to say. We hope to make the workshop fun. There will be a trivia contest and also some role playing. We will need help. Volunteers please give us a call.

**Technology Report:** Rich M.

The last Technology Workshop was such a success I was thinking about getting everyone's feedback on having another one maybe geared more towards on how to use computers and smart phones in the AA world. In addition to improving computer skills, we could cover how to locate and access AA materials on line. With regard to texting, although more and more people, especially younger people, are sending text messages instead of emails, there are still a lot of people out there who do not know how to use the text messaging feature on their smart phone. I would appreciate your input.

**Webmaster Report:** Steve N., Webmaster

By way of information, Steve offered that he would be willing to teach someone to manage the website and take over the position, a good opportunity for service work.

Steve outlined the activity on the website, [aadistrict28.org](http://aadistrict28.org), which had a total of 5684 hits for January. There were 733 actual visitors. The ten most visited pages were Mobile, Zip Code Search, Meetings, Where and When, Resource Links, Legacies, About AA, Contact, Help, and Archives. In response to a question from the floor, Steve explained that "hits" were not necessarily generated by a person, as many of such contacts are automated.

**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. Here we are one month into the second year of Panel 65 and we are on fire! I am so privileged and inspired to work with such an amazing group of members.

What a month! The January Assembly was well attended. District 28 was represented by a DCM, an Alternate DCM, an Intergroup Chair, seven GSRs, six District Service Representatives and a newly elected Area 14 Grapevine Chair! Our district was asked to help host the assembly and that we did. I want to thank the members who stepped up, in particular Steve N. who presented a "killer" Traditions Workshop on Saturday morning...One of the best I have ever attended. On Friday night we were treated to an inside look at, "What goes on," at the GSO by GSO employee Rick W. On Saturday we heard Rick's personal story of recover....phenomenal!

While we are on the topic, the next Area Assembly, in Gainesville, is scheduled for April 8-10, 2016. I have a block of rooms reserved. If you need accommodations, contact me by Monday, April 4, 2016.

The January 2016 printed Where and Whens are available. We made a decision last year to print more copies; several groups ran out of the October run, and to print less often. The next Where and When is scheduled to print in April or May of 2016 depending on what we have left at that time. Many of our Where and Whens are placed out in the community in a variety of locations by our PI Committee. We go through a large number...our PI Committee; headed by Janet B. does a great job of carrying the message. You are all doing a terrific job of keeping the Where and When current by submitting additions, changes and deletions to me at [floridadistrict28@gmail.com](mailto:floridadistrict28@gmail.com).

The, "AA in Florida turns 75," event was amazing! Area 14 Archivist, Scott B., braved some rough weather to deliver a wonderful presentation on the start of AA in Jacksonville, Florida in 1941. With him he brought an archives display that featured amazing pieces of AA history. I have a Xerox copy of the first AA groups in Florida's "by-laws" and a Xerox copy of an AA group application, circa 1942, here with me today. James N., from Ocala, spoke to what it was like getting sober in Florida 30 years ago. What a story...so well told! With humor and grace he brought to life the twelve steps that saved his life. The message he carried was passionate and clear, "There is nothing that ensures immunity from a drink like intensive work with another alcoholic.

Speaking of intensive work with the alcoholic, District 28 and the Nature Coast Intergroup are co hosting a hotline workshop on Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Club Recovery in Hernando. Many aspects of working with the still suffering will be covered while having fun and enjoying fellowship. "We are not a glum lot!"

On March 12, 2016, Area Delegate, Glenn W., and his team will present a preconference agenda review here in District 28. Districts 13 and 17 are co hosting this event which will be held in Inverness at the First Assembly of God Church. This is so important! The message must be carried both ways in order to ensure our common welfare.

A special note of thanks to Char S. who; donated both a first and a second edition Big Book to District 28 Archives. Both volumes were part of a collection from her sponsor, Ruth M., who passed away last year.

Keep up the great work! Thank you for allowing me to serve,  
Paige B.

Alternate DCM

**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 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 attended the Area Assembly and worked with the Area Inventory committee. I also attended the AREA 14 web site committee where we voted to update the Area map to Districts rather than county and to have each district clickable and linked to the Where and When for that district.

District 28 hosted the Saturday traditions workshop and I chaired that meeting. Both the delegate and the representative from New York were in attendance for the beginning of

the meeting and the delegate later thanked me for the great efforts put forth by District 28 to make that workshop relevant and successful. District 28 also hosted the Saturday night Speaker meeting and I have nothing but praise for all the volunteers who handled the readings and the passing of the basket.

It should be noted that the second largest contribution from Districts to the North Florida AA Area 14 came from our District.

I want to thank the following for representing our groups at the Sunday business meeting. We were represented by 1 DCM, 7 GSR's and 1 Alt. GSR for 9 votes. GSR's in attendance were Paige B., Wendy S., Dean B., Gail W., Sandy H., Sandy H., Lisa B., Al M. and the Alt. GSR was Rick T. We also had two visitors Lina R. and Toni T. sitting with us making for a full table. All your representatives passed the basket for the meeting.

I was very impressed with the organization and attendance at the Celebration of AA's 75th birthday in Florida workshop put on this month. High praises to all who made this event possible. The speakers were super and the participation was awesome.

I attended the Workshop committee meeting for the Hotline Workshop in February. Thanks to Paige, Wendy, Rick, John, and Paula and their hard work on this project; I am looking forward to the Hotline workshop in February. I encourage you all to attend.

I urge every group to pass out the Hot Line Volunteer form and send it back to us. If you are unsure how to respond to needs of the Hotline please attend the workshop. We hope to have representatives available to respond to Hotline calls in every part of Citrus County, Dunnellon, Inglis and Wahoo. We also are floating a proposal that all groups in District 28 staff the hotline for on rotating basis, one week at a time. With approximately 50 home groups in the District, it would give us almost a full year of coverage if every group pitches in. If the proposal is approved by Nature Coast Intergroup and District 28 through their business meetings we will be approaching the groups to commit to carrying the message.

The delegate will also be visiting District 28 in March to do the pre-conference Agenda review and I urge all to attend.

As we come to the first meeting of 2016, I want you all to realize that this panel is now 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.

**Old Business:**

1, Proposed Budget for 2016. It shows projected income of \$4480.00 and projected expenses of \$5866.50. This would clearly put us below our Prudent Reserve, but we would adopt this budget as a guideline. We have commitments, but there are some categories such as Assembly, where we don't use all of the amount budgeted. A motion to increase the proposed budget for 2016 as corrected was made, seconded and passed.

2. Motion to amend the 2015 budget to reflect an increase, a donation for workshops to GSO in the amount of \$29. Motion seconded and passed.

3. Hotline Workshop. This is important because it is directed to our duty as recovering alcoholics to help those that are still suffering. Steve urged everyone to attend the Workshop and show their support.

**New Business:**

1. Audit Results. The Audit committee has completed its work, everything was in order. There were some recommendations, all procedural. The audit letter will be attached to the Minutes and sent to everyone.

2. The meeting with the Area delegate for the pre-Conference review of the agenda will take place on March 12. District 28 is hosting the meeting with the delegate. It will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. at the 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God Church in Inverness.

**Announcements:** None.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion and second at 6:53 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

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### **The Principles of AA**

**AA gives us thirty-six Principles which, when practiced in all our affairs as a way of life, will enrich our lives far beyond our fondest dreams. These thirty-six Principles are grouped into three sets of twelve each. The Twelve Steps of Recovery awaken us to a Higher Power, a higher self with the ability to both give and receive love. The Twelve Concepts of Service are guidelines and tools for our passing on this love through Service. The Twelve Traditions of Unity teach us how to relate lovingly to others, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.**

**Tradition 1 - OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON AA UNITY.**

**The willingness to forgive is the key to all healing of relationships! "So at the outset, how to live and work together as groups became the prime question. " We were created in such a way that we must share our individual lives. We may choose to share selfishly, in the illusion of separateness or choose to be closer to our true nature. God is love and so are we. Our fulfillment in this life depends on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions)**

**This Tradition goes to the root of the human problem - selfishness/self-centeredness. Unity/love is the solution of the human problem. In a long-term relationship we may find it useful to view this relationship as a third party - that is we may have to do something for the common welfare of our relationship when we are unwilling to do the same for the individuals in this relationship(s). This act will insure continuance when all else fails. There can be little or no recovery without unity.**

**Past Area 14 Delegate and current Southeastern Trustee Chet P. tells us that each tradition comes with a sacrifice: The sacrifice for Tradition 1 is:**

**"Am I willing to sacrifice my personal interests for the unity of A.A.?"**

**-Chet P.**

**We are taught in A.A. to "take inventory." Inventory questions for Tradition 1 include:**

- 1. List examples where your selfishness or self-centeredness got in the way of unity, love, or "our common welfare."**
- 2. List examples where your selflessness brought about unity, love, healing, or harmony.**
- 3. Are you a peacemaker without being an enabler? List examples in each area.**
- 4. Is there a type of personality you find yourself unable to open up around? That you tend to withdraw from or remain silent or you become aggressive toward?**

5. What are your strong points and what are your weak points in your communications?

There are also affirmations to help us follow the traditions. The affirmation for Tradition 1 is:

"Let me remember that my fulfillment, love, joy and forgiveness come through my sharing and joining with others in our common welfare."

**Concept 1: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship**

Concept 1 contains the notion of the collective conscience of our Fellowship to augment our group conscience and our common welfare. These are essential to assuming final responsibility for and ultimate authority in making support available to groups through publishing and other services necessary to passing our message on.

As DCM I was once asked "I don't know why we need an Intergroup or a District or an Area or even the General Service conference. I don't need them - I have my group."

The best answer is by the late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure. He answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting:

"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery:

- We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room.

- We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism.

- We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life."

The structure for AA is all designed to provide that the direction taken by AA is that of the group conscience of the whole fellowship, not the dictates of a few.

Individual AA members come together to form Groups. Groups are arranged in Districts, and Districts are arranged in Areas. There are generally several Areas in a State. Several states are arranged in each Region. AA in the United States and Canada is under the General Service Board. The United States and Canada send two delegates to the World Service Board that has world-wide responsibility.

Groups elect GSR's (General Service Representatives) which attend District meetings. The GSR's in a District elect a DCM (District Committee Member) to lead the District meetings and to represent the District at meetings of the Area Committees. Meetings of GSRs in an Area are called Assemblies. Area Assemblies send delegates to the AA-wide General Service Conferences that are held every two years. The General Service Conference determines matters of AA policy, and the General Service Board operates the day-to-day business of AA. (Twelve Concepts Explained)

AA is run from the bottom up. Simply stated, the final responsibility and ultimate authority resides with groups. It was, however, determined early on that a service board was needed to help reach the newcomer, be responsible for uniform publications and helping new groups get started. Concept One is rooted in Tradition Two: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." The trusted servants selected to serve must always remember

that they are entrusted with delegated responsibilities only. They should not work under their own personal agenda. This can be tricky at times, but if we pray for spiritual guidance and seek the trust of the groups we serve, there should be no issues. This is why it is important to choose trusted servants who will represent their groups and A.A. as a whole and not their own egos. Whatever service position in which we serve, there must be but one ultimate authority. Our collective conscience must be heard.

There is checklist to take inventory of the 1st Concept. The questions are:

- Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?