

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2016

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

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

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:

Janet B. – Alt. GSR, Attitude Adjustment Group
Sandy H. – GSR, Crystal River Group
Lynn D. – Alt. GSR, Crystal River Group
Sandy H. – GSR, First Thought Wrong Group
Al M. – GSR, Holder Way of Life Group
Rich M. - GSR, No Name Group
Tammy P. – GSR, Rainbow Group
Bruce P. - Resentment Group
John H. – GSR Sober Nooners Group
Dean B. – GSR, Sober Sand Gnats Group
Paige B. –GSR, What’s The Book Say Group
Brenda R. – GSR, Women’s New Beginnings Group
P. J. O. – Alt. 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

Recognition of New GSRs: None

Roll Call: P. J. O. took roll call and Minutes.

Roll call: DCM, Alt. DCM, Treasurer and Secretary were present and 13 registered groups were represented by GSR or Alt. GSR. The Sign-In Sheet was circulated.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the April 24, 2016 meeting. At the request of the DCM, his report for April was amended to reflect the presence of Janet B., P.I. Chair, at the Area Assembly in April. Upon motion and second, the Minutes of the April 24, 2016 meeting, as amended, were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jen B.

Jen presented the final Report through April, 2016, consisting of the Income and Expense Sheet and Contribution Report; copies were distributed to everyone. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$1698.54, income from contributions and 7th Tradition collections in the amount of \$312.60, expenses \$334.40, and an ending balance of \$1676.54. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's report for April was accepted. By way of preliminary report for May, Jen noted that there had been three contributions, including one in the amount of \$2000 from the Crystal River Group. Our current balance is now \$3433.74, which brings us pretty close to our Prudent Reserve.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Committee: Denis S.

This month I spent some time sifting through and listening to some of the many cassette tapes that have been donated by various members, most recently Janet B. Some of them are very interesting and I will try to include some of them in the next Archives display. The Committee is looking forward to displaying the archives at the upcoming Founders' Day Breakfast.

Accessibilities Committee: John H.

I met with the prior Accessibilities Chair, Amanda, to be brought up to date, and go over what she had learned and discuss any pending issues. Steve suggested that one of the first priorities would be to retrieve the Accessibilities Handbook from Amanda and get it to John. Also, we need to review the Where & When listings so we can place a little "H" next to the listing for meetings that are handicap accessible, and make sure that meetings listed that way are in fact accessible. Paige volunteered that the Handbook might have already been returned to her; she will check and contact Amanda if it has not.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee: Lina R.

As service coordinator of the CPC effort in District 28 I am pleased to report the completion and delivery of our contribution to the in-service education of deputies in the Citrus County Sheriff's Department. Our online class consists of audio, video, pamphlets and local information. If you'd care to view the link it is:

aadistrict28.org/training/welcome.htm

Our team included Tracy Ober of the GSO's CPC desk, our DCM Steve Northsea, and my service sponsor and DCM of District 10 in Orlando, Vivian Fichter. Nothing could have been accomplished without each of us as well as support from Alternate DCM Paige Bauman and Area 14 CPC Coordinator Marty Coleman.

Speaking of Marty I had the chance on May 8th to participate in his first ever CPC conference call. Five of us in various CPC positions shared news, question and solutions. A very useful experience which we'll continue on June 5th.

I'm off to the wilds of Zionsville, Indiana. I'll miss my friends in District 28 a great deal. I hope you'll find a way for me to be of service when I return in November.

Love and gratitude,

Lina Ricks, CPC Service Coordinator

Public Information Committee: Janet B.

This was a short, easy month. Every place I visited had Where & When's, except SW Central Driver's Improvement. They always need refills and Jim has been asking when they are printing new ones.

The "Library Ladies" need a date for our next event, as they are planning their 2017 calendar. They suggested a Friday in February or March.

Mary C., CPC Service Coordinator for Area 14, arranged a conference call for CPC and PI chairpersons in Area 14. I did not have the necessary phone link to participate. It was held on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. (Mothers' Day).

Respectfully submitted,
Janet B.

Men's Corrections Committee: Al M.

We had one meeting this month, and went to one training session. One of our guys quit, and one was sick; the Reverend may come back to join us at some point. So presently there are only two guys left, me and Walter. We are going to start doing bi-weekly meetings, as my guys are getting tired of the same two guys leading the meetings. My replacement needs to be approved and we need to get some new guys. I have another training session line up for July. The guy who was sick this month will be there, and I have a couple of other guys lined up to attend. We just need to build the program back up.

Women's Corrections Committee: Brenda R.

In April the women were able to bring in 2 meetings into the jail averaging 15 to 21 women in attendance with 2 meetings cancelled due to movement of Officer Hubbard to other duties. Officer Hubbard calls me each week to let me know if there will be a meeting. Officer Tucker wouldn't even return my calls. In May the 5th and May 11 meetings were canceled due to Orientation meeting and staff meeting the following week. June 18, 2016 a meeting was conducted by Lina R. and Brenda R.; 23 women were in attendance. Char S. and Wendy T. are conducting the meeting on 5/25/16. Brenda will ask Officer Hubbard if they can bring in a potential recruit as a visitor to they can see what it is like.

Volunteers Brenda R., Kathy G., Lina R., and Wendy T. completed both the first and second halves of the orientation. Char S. completed the first half but was unable to attend the 2nd half due to having to work. Second orientation attendance included Jen B., Paige B., Toni T., and Sandy T. By June's write up I will have the complete information.

I have talked to both Chaplin Savage and Officer Hubbard and they are working very hard for the Women's Corrections to be on a regular schedule with a meeting being held each week. Also, Kathy G. has volunteered to help me as a chair assistant which will make the work load easier for me.

The meeting place for outside meetings may change, from St. Benedict's to St. Timothy's. They are voting on it this week, on Wednesday. When I find out what the result is I will let people know.

Thank you allowing me to serve.
Brenda J. Roberts

Grapevine Committee: Paula D.

[Paula was unable to attend the meeting due to her work schedule. Her report for May was the *Grapevine News* for June, 2016, which would be posted by the Secretary as an attachment to the May meeting minutes when they were distributed.]

Literature Committee: Lisa B.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with the Literature Committee. This month, while awaiting news of Conference actions on Literature Agenda Items, we looked at a few pieces of **service material literature** from the General Service Office.

How to Conduct a Sharing Session- First of all, the purpose of a Sharing Session is to fill a need for improved communication among Area committee, Districts, and Groups, thereby strengthening services in A.A. through cooperation. These sessions are called for a specific purpose requiring shared experience and ideas, in order to best serve Alcoholics Anonymous. Sharing Sessions are not designed to reach a conclusion as, say, at a regular A.A. business meeting. They are usually held where a problem has reached difficult proportions at the service level involved, and options to surmount the challenge need to be thought about.

Responding to Disasters – “How Can We Help?” After disasters, the General Service Office is often inundated with questions about how to help our A.A. family in distressed areas. The General Service Office is ready to support the efforts of local A.A. members in all types of disasters; hurricanes, fires, floods, earthquakes, mud slides, etc. Since it is rare for A.A. entities to own property (most local A.A. offices and groups rent their spaces), replenishing literature tends to be the main concern after a disaster. G.S.O.’s experience is that of being called upon to replace some lost literature, and the G.S.O. is happy to fulfill these requests. So as not to interfere with emergency relief efforts, G.S.O. usually waits until the local conditions are stabilized and local A.A. members have an opportunity to let us know exactly what is needed. Experience suggests that local A.A. groups and offices view the situation as a Twelfth Step opportunity and try to meet the needs of the local A.A. community before asking for help from G.S.O. or other A.A. entities.

Country-to-Country Sponsorship: Carrying the A.A. Message Worldwide is the last piece of service material literature that we looked at this month. Country-to-country sponsorship is a worldwide action of A.A.s helping to carry the message to new and developing countries. In Alcoholics Anonymous, sponsorship is about carrying the message — among individuals, groups, and countries big and small. The commitment ripples outward with many new beginnings and no endings because, as A.A.'s Legacy of Service states, "We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die." (A.A. Service Manual, page S1) This outreach includes World Service Meetings and Zonal Meetings on alternating years. Their focus is on sharing experience, strength, hope, common problems and solutions. The explosion of A.A. activity internationally has created an enormous need for basic A.A. material. A World Service Meeting recommended that all participating countries be contacted for “the specific purpose of seeking cooperation in the task of raising funds for the current problem of providing start-up literature for those countries unable to finance their own translations and acquisitions.” This fund – called the **International Literature Fund** - is used to offset expenditures for foreign literature assistance as well as to reimburse other A.A. entities for similar expenses. Countries that wish to can contribute to the fund. A.A. World Service, Inc. manages the fund, and that helps insure the consistent interpretation of the A.A. message of recovery, and supports the management of copyrighted A.A. material through licensing arrangements. This also helps to preserve the integrity of the A.A. message. Over one million U.S. dollars have been contributed to the fund, directly helping to provide A.A. literature in more than 80 languages, among them Visayan, Arabic, Tagalog, Georgian and Serbian.

Our fantastic program is matched with equally appropriate fantastic literature! Learning about it in greater depth is a perk of Service! Thank you.

Treatment Committee: Rich M.

The news is much improved on the status this month of The Centers treatment facility.

Tiffany Coffin is back at the Lecanto Centers location and wants to get a closed AA meeting started in the near future. This meeting would be for women only for now as women are

the only ones in the treatment program at this time. In the future Tiffany would like to see the open meeting come back, perhaps on Friday nights.

I let her know we have resources (books, literature, etc.) available when they finalize the time and room location for the meeting. She said she would let us know when she has a firm startup date.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich M.

NCI Liaison: Dean B.

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

Roll Call: Jen B. took roll; there were 9 groups represented and 11 members present.

There were no new representatives.

Secretary's Report: Jen B. read last month's minutes. They were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Paige B. went over April's income/expenses. They were accepted as read.

Paige B. reviewed May's report.

Trustee's Reports:

Janet B. said she had a great time at the picnic and had nothing but praise for the 'Ticket Selling Angels'.

Denis S. said the picnic was awesome.

Sandy H. was thrilled that she could make the picnic, and that everyone seemed to have had a great time.

Hotline: the Sober Sandgnats of Inglis has had the Hotline this month. In 22 days there were 37 calls. 24 were looking for meetings, 3 needing a ride to a meeting, 3 needing someone to talk to, 3 wet calls, 2 for NA, and 2 telemarketers. Those calls included a gentleman looking for the District 33 Spanish Speaking Meeting between Dunnellon and Ocala, and AA member from California concerned about his brother-in-law in the ER due to his drinking, and a wet call that resulted in a referral/eval at the Vines in Ocala.

Website: Steve N. reported 630 sessions by 493 unique visitors. Each session viewed an average of 2.9 pages. The bounce rate was 61% indicating more people are staying longer on the site. There were 28,500 total hits indicating a lot of robo-surfing. Meetings were the reason for visiting this month with 70 visits to the Meeting Homepage, 120 to Meetings by Day, 53 to Meetings by Location, 3 to About Meetings, and 127 visits to specific days with as usual Monday topping the list. After meeting information, the next most visited pages were: NCI Calendar, Resource Links, NCI Minutes, District News, Newcomer Information, Contributions, Audio AA Information, and the Young Adult page. The top downloads included the Traditions mp4, the Journal, Where and When, and various flyers. An interesting statistic this month was where our site is referred to from. 35.9% came from a direct user input, 14% from Google, 9% from aacitrus.org, 2% from Club Recovery and the rest too small to report. Numerous changes to the Where and When, Calendar, and Flyers were made this month.

Journal: Paige B. reported the new Journal will be out June 1st.

Events: Lynn reported that the Spring Fling was a success, the Founder's Day Breakfast is set to go June 4th, and the Long Timer's meeting is planned for July 14th.

Alt-chairperson Report: Steve N. shared with us his concerns one day while visiting Jacksonville looking at the finances of NCI and District 28 until surprisingly Paige B. called him with the financial reports.

Chairperson Report: Rick T. mentioned how appreciative he is of the workings of NCI and how things have gone as far as they have.

Old Business: none.

New Business: discussion on the proceeds from the Long Timer's Event was ended when it was noted that the event is a District 28 function.

Motion to close was made and accepted.

Workshop Committee:

Steve announced that although the position of Workshop Committee Chair (Service Coordinator) had been vacant for several months, we now have a volunteer. Jay B., who has long-time sobriety, an impressive resume and thorough knowledge of the Big Book, has volunteered for the position; he also has a lot of experience in putting together workshops. DCM Steve appointed Jay B. as the new Workshop Committee Service Coordinator, effective immediately.

Technology Committee: No report this month.

Website Committee: Steve N.

There were 683 sessions by 427 unique visitors this month. Each session viewed an average of 2.9 pages. The top page visited was the new training site on alcoholism designed by our CPC committee and uploaded to our site for access by Citrus County deputies. After training video the next most visited pages were meetings by day, meetings by location, Where and When, Calendar, resource links, District minutes, About AA, help, archives and mobile. The top location sought for meeting was Inglis, followed by Homosassa, Holder, Inverness, Dunnellon, Floral City, Crystal River, and Lecanto. The top sought meetings by day were Monday and Thursday. An interesting statistic this month was where our site is referred to from. 59.3% came from a direct user input, 4% from Google, 1% from NCI web site and the rest from the in site training pages. Numerous changes to Where and When, calendar and flyers were made this month. Steve also observed that some day we will put Archives photos on the website.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Steve N,

Webmaster

Alt. DCM: Paige B.

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

District 17 planned to sponsor a post-conference review. The event was postponed.

We have plenty of Where and When's. We are publishing less often and in larger quantities, in order to cut costs. A reminder that the most up to date meeting information is always available online. There seems to be no need to print again until at least July. Anyone with change information may send it to me at floridadistrict28@gmail.com.

A suggestion to add GSO issued group numbers to the Where and When has been made. This would identify which meetings were in fact registered groups. Feedback from the groups on this is encouraged. Discussion at this meeting included the question of why there should be any distinction between registered and non-registered groups. GSO will help out any group, whether or not it is registered. There are currently groups in our Where and When that are not registered. The Where and When document is cluttered with data as it is. A group is an AA group as long as it meets Bill W's definition, registered or not. However, including the registration numbers would be just a matter of giving complete information.

A format, topic and date for our next workshop needs to be set.

The next Area 14 Assembly, in Gainesville, is scheduled for July 8th, 9th and 10th. Rooms are reserved for our attendance. Please let me know if you plan to attend and need accommodations no later than Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at floridadistrict28@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Founders Day Breakfast on Saturday, June 4, 2016! Paige also confirmed, to dispel any misunderstanding, that the Founders Day Breakfast is not being catered, but there will be a cook to prepare the food. The cook is an AA member who donates her time for this and some other events. Also, there is a gentleman who works as a cook. Donations of food will still be accepted, which helps keep our costs down.

In connection with Where and When, Janet mentioned that there was a new meeting at Club Recovery. It is already on the web but won't be in the Where and When until the next printing.

DCM: Steve N.

DCM Report – May 2016

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

A special thanks to Paige B. and P.J.O. for filling in during my absence, and our service coordinators (chairs) who have put forth so much effort and produced so many good results for District 28.

I had the pleasure and honor working with the NFAC web master to develop a more modern up to date website using the current coding standards. We are also proposing a motion to the next assembly to facilitate the removal of dated material from the site. I have worked with NFAC secretary Annette D on this and appreciate her input.

I also want to thank Lina R., our CPC Service Coordinator, for developing the AA on-line training site for the Citrus County Sheriffs' Department. Lina's efforts as Service Coordinator have accomplished an "above and beyond duty" result as deputies access our site and learn more about alcoholism and how to get help for their clients.

I want to express gratitude to the groups who have stepped up financial contributions, especially the Crystal River Group who is definitely taking the mix of "spirituality and money" to heart. Without the continued support of the groups in our district, District 28 cannot continue its county wide 12th step activities, carrying the message to still suffering alcoholics. Groups are the heartbeat of AA and when members celebrate sobriety by giving time, energy and money to support all the services necessary in the A.A. fellowship, A.A works and will continue to be here when someone reaches out for help. Thanks to your contributions, District 28 will continue to carry our groups' combined group conscience to Area assemblies and serve as a link between Group Service Representatives and our Area Delegate to the General Service Conference. In addition we can continue to provide services to Citrus County alcoholics which cannot be easily done by individual groups.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve such a loving and caring organization,
Steve N., DCM

Old Business:

Jay B. is appointed Service Coordinator for the Workshop Committee. (See above under Workshop Committee.)

New Business:

1. Steve presented a slide explanation of the new website and how District 28 officers and Committee Service Coordinators can retrieve and save their aadistrict28.org email.

2. Need for candidates and service resumes for District 28 September elections. Steve reminded everyone that the end of this term is coming up quickly. Resume forms for District

officers and Committee Chair/Service Coordinator positions are available here tonight. DCM, Alt. DCM, Secretary and Treasurer positions will all be opening up, as will the 12 committee positions. District 28 is a great group to work with. We filled all of our positions in a relatively short time at the beginning of this term. This announcement will continue until we get the positions filled.

3. (Added to Agenda). Steve advised that we would like to renew a program that some groups in the District, including the Dunnellon groups, have done in the past and are doing again now. They pass a can and the money collected goes to for the purchase of AA literature for people who are incarcerated. The purpose of the can is labeled on the can and the money collected is kept separate from other funds of the group, particularly the 7th Tradition collections. Most of the groups that pass the can do it at every meeting, some with the 7th Tradition basket and some at the end of the meeting. Some people just put in their pocket change. The contributions are of course purely voluntarily, and whether to pass the can or not is a group conscience decision. It is for a good cause and is consistent with the AA purpose of carrying the message. We do urge you to take this back to your home groups and try to get this established. There is a need for the literature and it is very helpful. We want the groups to make the collection and have the GSR or other person bring the money to the monthly District 29 meeting, where all the money will be pooled and used to purchase literature. The District Treasurer is creating a line item for these collections and, for the time being, the Alt. DCM will administer the program. If it becomes too burdensome we can make some other arrangement.

Al M., Men's Corrections Service Coordinator, emphasized how important the program is and how much it means to the people in jail. He travels around the country to four different areas during the year and AA groups are making the collections wherever he goes. Other Districts are doing this. Each home group should keep track of what is purchased if they want to get credit for it.

Announcements.

Janet B. advised that the Library needs a date in February or March of 2017 for our AA presentation as we did this year. The program has to be on a Friday. Steve advised that Janet and the Library representative should pick a date; we will put it on the District 28 calendar and make any adjustments that may become necessary.

P. J. O., District Secretary, inquired of DCM Steve regarding the term "Service Coordinator" being used to replace "Chair" or "Chairperson" in reference to the District committees. Steve advised that in the future we should use the term "Service Coordinator."

Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.