

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2016

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM – Steve N.
Alt. DCM – Paige B.
Treasurer – Jen B.
Accessibilities Service Coordinator – John H.
Archives Service Coordinator - Denis S.
Grapevine Service Coordinator – Paula D.
Intergroup Liaison – Dean B.
Literature Service Coordinator– Lisa B.
Men’s Corrections Service Coordinator– Al M.
Women’s Corrections Service Coordinator– Brenda R.

GSRs/Alt. GSRs and Visitors present at meeting:

Sandy H. – GSR, Crystal River 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
Tammy P. – GSR, Rainbow Group
David B. – GSR, Real Happy Hour Group
Bruce P. – GSR, 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
Gail Koeslag – GSR, Won Rebos

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: Alt. DCM Paige B. took roll call and Minutes.

Roll call: DCM, Alt. DCM, and Secretary were present and 12 registered groups were represented.

Secretary’s Report:

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the June 26, 2016 meeting, which were approved without amendment.

Treasurer’s Report: Jen B.

Jen presented the final Report through the end of June, 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 \$3566.74; income from contributions, 7th

Tradition collections and Pink Can donations in the amount of \$434.61, expenses \$233.00, and an ending balance of \$3768.35. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's report for June was accepted. Expenses in July included the Assembly and storage.

Jen announced there had been a change to the May report regarding the source of a donation, which should have been attributed to the Firehouse Group.

Jen also presented a preliminary summary of the monthly report for July, which had a beginning balance of \$3768.35 and was now at \$3487.63. There had been some Pink Can donations and she had written some checks for the Assembly expenses. Jen thanked everyone for the contributions. Since this is the 31st, the preliminary is essentially the same as the final report.

A question was raised by Paula regarding Pink Can contributions, and whether donations could be earmarked for a special purpose. It was asserted that there was a State statute which provided that we could not do this. The DCM observed that since District 28 was not a corporation, he questioned that it would be subject to Florida statutory limitations. Jen noted that we could simply increase the budget to reflect those donations if this were really an issue. Paula was not able to advise of the specific statute. DCM stated he would welcome any research on the subject, and ruled that no action will be taken unless and until someone could identify a specific statute addressing our situation; we will continue to handle the matter as we initially intended.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives Committee: Denis S.

Denis announced that District 28 has been invited to present its history at the next Area Assembly in Gainesville. As of now the presentation is scheduled for Saturday October 1st at 10am. DCM Steve N. is putting together a PowerPoint slide show and long-timers Dick M. and Gus B. will speak. Relevant history and pictures of the insides and outsides of meeting places can be sent to archives@aadistrict28.org. Members' faces should be away from the camera. Hope you can all be there.

Accessibilities Committee: No report.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee: No report.

DCM Steve advised that the Training Program put together by our CPC Committee is accessed on a regular basis and still available for viewing on the web at aadistrict28.org/training.html.

Public Information Committee: No report.

Men's Corrections Committee: Al M.

We had a couple of meetings this month. The Grapevine donation was very helpful. I have a couple of new guys lined up to come on our crew. We have developed a good rapport with Mr. Hubbard, who is in charge. He is a great guy. It is a whole new world with him there. We are doing okay now and hopefully will do much better in the future.

Women's Corrections Committee: Brenda R.

There were several women's meetings this month. The average attendance was 15-20. Overall, things are going well. There will be another training session, this time it will be a one-day session rather than two days as before. It will start at 9:00 a.m. and end about 3:00 p.m. The communication system is better than it used to be but still could use some improvement.

Thank you allowing me to serve.

Brenda R.

Grapevine Committee: Paula D.

Good evening everyone. My name is Paula, and I am an alcoholic. My home group is the First Thought Wrong Group. It is truly a privilege to serve District 28 as the Grapevine/ La Viña Chair for Panel 65.

Please take the Grapevine/ La Viña literature packets back to your home group. They can be a possible discussion during your business meeting about obtaining Grapevine/ La Viña literature for your group.

At the July 2016 Area 14 Assembly, the key focus of the Grapevine/ La Viña workshop was on the decision about the distribution of the Grapevine and La Viña gift certificates received from ICYPAA (International Convention of Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous).

The final decision was made to distribute the 138 subscriptions among the 34 Districts. Each District will receive 4 gift certificates. District 28 opted to receive 3 gift certificates of the Grapevine and 1 La Viña.

I will be placing a Grapevine/ La Viña literature order for the October 2016 Assembly. Included in this order will be the 2017 Trilingual Calendars. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact me before August 20, 2017.

The following prices include taxes and shipping: Wall Calendar \$10.00, Pocket Calendar \$5.00.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve District 28.

Paula

Literature Committee: Lisa B.

Thank you for the opportunity to grow and serve Alcoholics Anonymous through District 28's Literature Committee. I was unable to attend the July Area Assembly in Gainesville. However, I spoke with Lori Pauley, who is the Literature Service Coordinator for Area 14. She was able to give me a good rundown on what happened at our Area 14 literature Committee Meeting. The first order of business was to review Pertinent Literature Convention information from Glen. Then Newcomers to the Assembly were brought up to speed on our Literature Committee's current focus, which is a Workbook to accompany Step Four. A member who wishes to remain anonymous submitted the Workbook. At first the comments seemed to indicate that there was no need. "After all, it's in the Big Book already" and "Isn't that why we have sponsors?" A number of heartfelt appeals in support of having a Workbook - for those unable to connect with a sponsor and as a piece of conference approved literature to serve as an aid. A number of "salty old-timers" switched from "no" to "yes". A few realized that what they had thought was from A.A. was really from Hazelton. A vote was taken and it was right down the middle! Nothing was brought to the floor from the Literature Committee on Sunday. An individual group or an individual could always bring a request for this literature to go to conference but there was nothing definitive from the Literature Committee! What a process - we can revel in it...it works!

We received the requested complimentary literature display. It is an exhaustive collection of all our literature and book jackets for every hard cover book that comes with a jacket.

It is a privilege to serve with District 28's Literature Committee. Thank you.

NCI Liaison: Dean B.

Dean presented the NCI meeting for July:

Alternate Chairperson Steve N. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Jen B. took roll. There were 10 groups present and 14 people in attendance. There were no new representatives, but we did have 2 visitors present.

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

Treasurer's report: Paige B. went through expenses and income for June 2016, with a balance of \$3,229.42, report was accepted. Paige then went over the draft for July.

Trustees' reports: Janet B. was absent. Sandy H. had nothing to report. Denis S. reported about how impressed he was with the event; the speakers, the volunteers, etc. Bill chuckled that he had nothing to complain about.

Hotline: Dean B. reported that from July 1-31 the Sober Sand Gnats of Inglis fielded 59 calls. 41 looking for meetings, 3 looking for rides to meetings, 4 wet calls with 1 going to detox, 4 looking for Al-anon, 3 for NA, and 1 for a domestic violence situation who refused to call 911. I gave her a local DV phone number and called 911 and gave them her phone number.

In Contacts on the Hotline phone I put in most of the Hotline numbers for Florida as we were getting calls from Daytona, Tallahassee, and Miami. I included numbers for Al-anon, NA, Club Recovery, Detoxes, and the local DV number.

The meeting lists and 12th Step call lists could be updated in the guide book with maybe a larger book to hold full page information.

Website: Steve N. reported that in the past month there have been 355 users in 501 different sessions with 1,666 page views and the average pages viewed per session was 3.33. The bounce rate is 50%. The most viewed pages beyond the home page were meetings by day (Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, Tuesday, Friday, Monday, Thursday), meetings by location, general meeting information, journal, calendar, AA links, hotline number, newcomer, young AA, AA for you, audio, and contribution information.

We have updated the Where and When and Group pages, we have uploaded flyers and minutes and blacked out last names on old minutes. We have updated calendars and meetings by day and meetings by location information. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Steve N.

Journal: Paige B. reporting for Lynn. The August/September Journal should be out this week.

Events: Lynn reported the Long-Timers Speaker Meeting was a success. The Picnic in the Park event will be on September 17, 2016 at Rainbow Springs Park in Dunnellon.

Alternate Chairperson's report: Steve N. reported that the search for another meeting location for NCI/District 28 has only led to locations further away from our current location. Steve is heading a committee to continue the search and explore options.

Old business: We were reminded that on even years, elections of service positions will be in October with nominations must be in September, and the nominations must be published.

New business: Question was asked about the When and Where printings. They are being printed as needed. At present it is every six months. The NCI website has the most updated.

Motion was made to have the Alternate Treasurer be an officer position, to at least have someone up and running to fill in as/if needed. The matter was tabled until next month's meeting in accordance with the Structures and Guidelines.

Denis S. explained how District 28 will be doing the Archives workshop

at the October Area Assembly. Anyone with a group history, pictures, etc. please let him know. All are welcome to see us shine at Area.

Question was asked if we could post a flyer on the website for the 17th Annual Serenity Weekend Women's Fall Conference 2016 presentation of "The Girlstock of AA". The answer was Yes.

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

Grateful to be trusted with this position,

Dean B.

Workshop Committee: Jay B.

Jay reported that he had checked with Our Lady of Fatima Church in Inverness to see if their meeting facility was available on either October 22nd or October 29th. He would like to present the workshop of the Fourth Step on either of those dates. He will await District approval before proceeding to confirm a date with the Church.

Technology Committee: No report.

Treatment Committee: No report.

Website Committee: Steve N.

In the past month there have been 355 users in 1044 different sessions with 2473 page views and the average pages viewed per session is 2.4. The most visited pages beyond the home page are meetings, Help (hotline number), Training Page, link to NFAC, Where and When, calendar, flyers, AA links, legacies, Link to Nature Coast Intergroup, Link to AA.org, Link to Grapevine, and archives. The most downloaded documents were Where and When, Long Timer Flyer, State Convention Flyer, Training Auditory, Training Video, District Minutes, legacies, and Picnic in Park Flyer.

We have updated Where and When and group pages, we have uploaded flyers and minutes and blacked out multiple last names in old minutes. We have updated calendars and meeting by day and meeting by location information.

Steve also addressed the question of using last names in reports. The District minutes are in a password protected section of the webpage, but NCI are not. He requested, as the better practice, that people use their last name initial when making submissions

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Steve N, District 28 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 and its Where and When Chair.

The updated Where and When will be available for distribution this week. The next printing is planned for January 2017. Anyone with change information may send it to floridadistrict28@gmail.com. A reminder; the most up to date meeting information is always available online.

I want to acknowledge and thank all of those who attended the July assembly from District 28; Janet B., Dean B., Paula D., Sandy H 1, Sandy H 2, Gina, Al M., Brenda R., Jay B. and Denis S. We carried 7 votes on Sunday.

District 28 has been invited to present its history at the next Area Assembly Archives Workshop on Saturday at 10:00 am.

The next Area 14 Assembly, in Gainesville, is scheduled for September 30th, October 1st and 2nd. Rooms are reserved. Please let me know if you plan to attend and need accommodations no later than Wednesday, September 28th, 2016 at

floridadistrict28@gmail.com. For more information, an agenda, area news, a map and minutes, visit aanorthflorida.org. Area 14 Panel 67 elections will take place on Sunday the 2nd of October at the assembly. The third legacy in action is amazing to witness and even more amazing to take part in. Often it is a lengthy process. Please plan to stay later on Sunday the 2nd, perhaps to 3:00pm. The 60th Annual Florida State Convention, scheduled for August 3-7, 2016, is here! The website is scheduled to close to registrations on Monday, August 1, 2016. This year it will be held in the Innisbrook Golf and Spa Resort in Palm Harbor. There is still time to register to attend this amazing event and you can register on site. Enjoy meetings, outings and fellowship in this fabulous location. For further information visit 60flstateconvention.com. See you there!

I received flyers containing information on the Florida Unity Roundup taking place in September on the 23rd, 24th and 25th in Jacksonville. For further information please contact www.floridaunityroundup.com.

In December, from the 2nd through the 4th, the 2016 Southeast Regional Forum will take place in Orlando at the Marriott in Lake Mary, FL. There is no charge to attend regional forums. You can always register on-site. To register on-line go to www.aa.org, click on, "For AA Members." All who register will receive a Final Forum Report. GSO requests pre-registration where possible to support event preparation. Meals and lodging are "On your own." The Lake Mary Marriott is offering a special group rate of \$129.00 per night. The group code is SERF. The deadline to take advantage of the group rate is November 14, 2016. For more information including a tentative schedule of events, a flyer will be available at the monthly service meetings and on our district and intergroup websites.

I have copies of the World Service Conference Highlights for anyone interested. Joyce C., Area 14 Alternate Delegate, will present highlights in Brooksville in the first week of August.

Me Plus One, a flyer from District 11, was distributed at the Assembly outlining the Me Plus One initiative. Please take a copy to your group for consideration.

Elections for District 28 Officers, DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary and Treasurer, to serve on panel 67 for the years 2017 and 2018 will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

District 28 Officer Service Resumes may be submitted either at the monthly business meeting or to Steve or me at floridadistrict28@gmail.com, Service resumes for those seeking to serve in District 28 Committee Chair positions may also be submitted at the monthly meeting or online.

District 28 Committee Chair positions include: Accessibilities Chair, Archives Chair, Corrections Chair-Men, Corrections Chair-Women, CPC Chair, Grapevine Chair, Literature Chair, Nature Coast Intergroup Liaison, Public Information Chair, Technology Chair, Treatment Chair and Workshop Chair. Please consider joining us...No one need be an expert or have prior experience. One day at a time we serve, we learn and we grow.

It is my intention to stand for District 28 DCM. I thank you for your consideration. It is an honor and a privilege to serve.

On a sad note, we have lost two great friends. At the Area level, Kay, our Treasurer, passed away just prior to the July assembly. Marilyn B. has stepped in to fill the remainder of her term. Locally, Paul, "Paulie B.," from Inverness has died. He will be fondly remembered for his willingness to serve and the joy and laughter he brought to everything he did!

Paige B.

DCM: Steve N.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. As I travel around the county attending meetings it reminds me of how grateful I am that AA is alive and well.

Elections for District offices for the next panel will be held at the September 25th meeting. Resumes will be read at the August Meeting. I encourage everyone to participate in service activity.

I want to once again thank Alt. DCM Paige for her assistance during the times that I have been out of town and for attending the Area Assembly and taking the lead in District 28 representation. She has been especially helpful in keeping District 28 matters running smoothly on the occasions when I have been busy with Website issues.

I can't thank all of you enough for all that you have done during my service as DCM.

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

Steve N., DCM

Old Business:

The only matter pending was the question of whether District 28 would continue to meet at the Holder Community Center. Steve advised that an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of people from District 28 and the Nature Coast Intergroup would explore the feasibility of meeting at some other location.

New Business:

There was no new business.

In response to a question from the floor regarding the receipt and record of Pink Can collections, Jen advised that the July Treasurer's Report would itemize those monies.

Announcements.

Registration forms for attendance at the AA Southeast Conference Regional Form at the Marriott Lake Mary are available. Please let him know.

Tradition 7 and Concept 7 will be sent out with the July Minutes.

Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Tradition Seven – long form

"The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."

Tradition 7 short form- "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

By being self-supporting and declining outside contributions, alcoholics protect the fellowship structure and basic spiritual foundations of AA as a whole.

The first part of Tradition 7 makes it clear that responsibility extends to the members of each local group as it passes the basket for contributions to pay the rent and maintain its literature

library. And as the group collects more than is necessary to meet its expenses, the group can contribute to intergroup, district and GSO, all of which also follow this tradition by accepting no outside contributions.

The second part of this tradition addresses the issue of the fellowship not becoming involved with outside issues or conflicts that could arise by accepting "outside contributions." This is a tradition that asks us to take responsibility and the dignity of supporting ourselves. Our co-founders came to realize that this program must be a program where every member accepts responsibility for their own sobriety and that the program must be protected from outside help so we will not have to lean on others. How else can we show that the once socially irresponsible alcoholic came to be responsible through the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous? How else can we avoid the conflicts that would arise if we accept outside money. As Chet R. so succinctly puts it by following Tradition 7 we sacrifice anybody else other than myself and other alcoholics to financially support AA and AA services. The benefits of this sacrifice are many - both to the individual alcoholic and to the organization as a whole. AA is not endangered from outside influences and we gain a life where we take care of ourselves, many for the first time assuming responsibility for ourselves.

Tradition 7 Questions - These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion:

Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?

Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?

If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?

Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?

Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?

How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

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Concept 7 - short form

"The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness."

This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the trustees. In order for this to happen we must ask ourselves these questions:

Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse?"

Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?