

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2016

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM – Steve N.
Alt. DCM – Paige B.
Treasurer – Jen B.
Secretary – P. J. O.
Accessibilities Service Coordinator – John H.
Archives Service Coordinator – Dean B.
Corrections Service Coordinator (Men’s) – Bob M.
CPC Service Coordinator – Lina R.
Intergroup Liaison – Denis S.
Technology Service Coordinator – Rich M.
Treatment Service Coordinator – Rich M.

GSR’s, Alt. GSR’s and Visitors present at meeting:

Sue C. - GSR, Attitude Adjustment Group
Sandy H. - GSR, Crystal River Group
Steve N. - GSR, Freedom House Group
Al M. – GSR, Holder Way of Life Group
Paige B. – GSR, Keep In Step Group
Rich M. - GSR, No Name Group
Tammy P. – GSR, Rainbow Group
John M. - GSR, Resentment Group
John H. – GSR, Sober Nooners Group
Dean B. – GSR, Sober Sand Gnats Group
Lacey E. - Alt. GSR, Sober Sand Gnats Group
Charlene V. – GSR, Women to Women Group
P. J. O. – Alt. GSR, Won Rebos Group

Visitors: Shana D., Crystal River Group

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: Charlene V., GSR, Women to Women Group.

Roll Call: Secretary P. J. O. took roll call and Minutes. DCM, Alt. DCM, Treasurer and Secretary were present and 12 groups were represented.

Secretary’s Report: P. J. O.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of the October, 2016 meeting, which were approved upon motion and second.

P. J. reminded everyone that the District 28 Structures and Guidelines, District Advisory Actions, addresses for Contributions and District 28 Minutes can be found in the protected area of the District 28 Website (aadistrict28.org). The first three are links to pdf documents. For access to the protected area, the user name is “aadistrict28” and the password is “bill0610”. It

was also announced that there is a new address for contributions to Area 14 North Florida Area Conference, which will be in the updated list that will be distributed with the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jen B.

Jen presented the final report through the end of October, 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 \$2926.17; income from contributions, 7th Tradition collections and Pink Can donations in the amount of \$665.67; expenses of \$681.23, and an ending balance of \$2910.61. Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's report for October was accepted.

Jen also presented a preliminary summary of the monthly report for November. Jen remarked that there had been a few contributions and that the Pink Can collections were going very well, more than \$600 coming in so far this year.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Before proceeding, DCM Steve announced that the Service Coordinator for Archives and the NCI Liaison had agreed to switch positions, which Steve approved.

Archives Committee: Dean B.

Dean advised that he had been assisting Denis with Archives for some time now and really enjoyed it. He was happy to have the display at the Gratitude Dinner, where he was given space adjacent to the stage. Many people showed an interest and said they didn't know anything about our archives, asked questions about our history, the early groups in the District and inquired about pictures. Dean said that he was not able to answer many of the questions at this point, but it is a real pleasure to be responsible for the collection. He thanked Denis for getting him involved.

Accessibilities Committee: John H.

John had nothing new to report.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee: Lina R.

Steve welcomed Lina back to town. Lina reported that she is interested in looking into ways to interact with the professionals who deal with the elderly clientele, nursing homes and the like. She would like to do some outreach and perhaps explore this with GSO for some guidance.

Public Information Committee: No report.

Men's Corrections Committee: Bob M.

Bob reported that the meetings are going very well, with attendance of about 20 each week. They are doing well with regard to literature, thanks to the Pink Can program and members that donate Grapevines. He extended his thanks to Al, Walter and Bob K. for helping to provide services to the jail. He also reported that they were looking forward to getting information about having a new orientation program, as they have people lined up who are interested. In answer to a question from the floor, Bob advised that the Grapevines that he receives are for both men's and women's corrections. This month they had meetings every week except for one.

Women's Corrections Committee: No report. The Women's Corrections Coordinator position is vacant at this time. So, there is no one designated to run meetings in the institutions. However, we do know that Char, Kathy G. and Paula have been going in to hold meetings.

Grapevine Committee: No report. However, Steve was pleased to announce that Paula is now the Intergroup Service Coordinator for Area 14.

Literature Committee: Lisa B.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve AA as the district Literature Chairperson. There has been little activity for our Committee this month. However, from the General Service Office in New York, a new Holiday Gift Set of four books has been assembled. The books are 1. *Alcoholics Anonymous*: the commemorative facsimile of the first Edition, 1939, 2. *'Pass It On'*: the story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world, 3. *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*: a biography with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest, 4. *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*: a brief history of A.A. The shipping is free and the total price is \$30.00. That represents at least a \$13 savings and the offer is available until January 31, 2017. Group members or groups may be interested in this offer, so, "Pass it on"! As always, it is a privilege to serve as a part of our district service structure.

Treatment Committee: Rich M.

Things are going well, but there is not a lot to report. We got some new people. We are always looking for people from the outside to come in and chair a meeting, all are welcome. We still meet at The Centers on Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

NCI Liaison: Denis S.

Denis reported that Intergroup had met just prior to the District meeting. Ten groups were represented including one new representative, Terry P., from the Holder Group, and a visitor, Janine.

Jen read the minutes from the previous meeting; they were accepted.

Paige presented the Treasurer's Report. Intergroup has \$3223 in its account, which is only about \$70 below prudent reserve, so this is great.

The Hot Line phone was handled by the Monday Night Men's Step Meeting during October. They still have the phone and would be more than happy to hand it over to another group willing to take it for a month. We plan to rotate the phone to a new group each month if possible.

Steve gave the NCI Website report. There were 690 visitors and they made 1948 visits. This is awesome; we are living in an electronic age.

The Journal is up and running and will be out soon. It is all set to go; Lynn G. sent a report.

The other Lynn, Lynn D., presented an account of the Gratitude Dinner, which was well attended.

By way of New Business, Lynn also announced another upcoming event, the Long-Time Speakers Meeting and Bake Sale. There will be speakers with long periods of sobriety, the meeting is free, and it will be a lot fun. The event will take place starting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1 at the Nature Coast Church, 5113 S. Suncoast Blvd., in Homosassa. The location is also the meeting place for the Real Happy Hour Group. There is a flyer out for the event

Also under New Business, it has been agreed that NCI and District 28 intend to publish a calendar in December of each year which sets out the meetings and other events scheduled for the coming year. The intent is to avoid as many major holiday weekends as possible. The chairs of NCI and District 28 will work out the schedule.

Jen followed up by reminding that there will be a social hour before the NCI and District meetings on December 11, starting at 3:30. People are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

Workshop Committee: No report.

Technology Committee: Rich M.

Rich advised that he nothing new to report and suggested that Steve present the Website report.

Website Committee: Steve N.

District 28 Website Report for November 2016

In the past 30 days there have been 1939 visits by 1035 unique users. After the homepage, the most frequently visited pages were Where and When, the Calendar and meetings by day. Steve also gave the frequency of meeting inquiries by day and location, with Sunday being the most frequent day and Inverness being the most popular location. The top three downloads were the Gratitude Dinner flyer, How to Chair a Meeting and Where and When. 37% of the hits were from mobile devices.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Steve N., District 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 next printing of the Where and When is planned for January of 2017. We plan to print three times in 2017, a decision based on cost and use rate. The use rate actually varies during the year. Anyone with change information may send it to floridadistrict28@gmail.com. A reminder; the most up to date meeting information is always available online.

The next meeting of District 28 will be on December 11 following the NCI meeting, both to be preceded by a Holiday Open House at 3:30. The event is being co-hosted by Intergroup and District 28. Please bring someone new to service and a dish to share.

In December, from the 2nd through the 4th, the 2016 Southeast Regional Forum will take place at the Marriott in Lake Mary, which is in the Orlando area. 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. This is a great opportunity to visit personally with the trustees, former trustees and delegates who pass along our views at the national level.

Just a reminder, please submit a service resume if you are interested in appointment to a service position in District 28 panel 67. The resume can be sent to the district address or to P. J. or to me. We can give you job descriptions and answer questions. Our contact information is on the Resource Page that is sent out each month.

The next Area 14 Assembly, in Gainesville, is scheduled for January 13-15, 2017. Rooms will be reserved. Please let P. J. or me know if you plan to attend, at floridadistrict28@gmail.com. Let us know if you need a reservation or would like to have a name tag. Building 1000 at the facility is under renovation and is expected to be completed by January, but please let us know if you plan to attend so adjustments can be made if necessary.

On a sad note, Al F., a long-timer with 52 years, has passed. His story was recorded earlier this year by the District 28 Archives Committee. He will be sorely missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige B.

DCM: Steve N.

Good day, District 28. My name is Steve and I am a grateful alcoholic. My home group is the Freedom House Group in Dunnellon. I have had the honor of being your DCM for Panel 65.

We have held our elections and Panel 67 will take over in January. I am well acquainted with your new DCM, Paige B., Alt. DCM P.J.O., Secretary Sandy H., Treasurer Shanna D. and their qualifications. I am pleased that they are all willing to serve and that you will have a fine collection of trusted servants for Panel 67.

I met with your panel 65 officers (Paige, P.J. and Jen) this month and want to thank them for their input and service to the district. We looked at the budget for 2017, reviewed possible changes of meeting dates to the second Sunday of the month, amendments to the 2016 budget due to price increases and set the agenda for the November 20 meeting. I want to thank my fellow trusted servants for their awesome participation in Panel 65. I also want to thank all the service coordinators who have worked so hard during the past two years and who have accomplished so much toward carrying the message. It has been a pleasure working with them all. I also want to thank all the GSR's and Alt. GSR's who showed up each month to represent their group's consciences.

As a DCM serving on the Area 14 Website committee I have worked with the web master and with the outgoing secretary and incoming chair to get the web up to date and in line with web guidelines. I have been appointed the Web chair for Panel 67 and look forward to serving at that level.

Today I attended the Area 14 Transition meeting in Gainesville as the Panel 65 trusted servants pass on the torch at Area to the new Panel 67 officers, service coordinators and committee chairs.

One piece of bad news we have received at District 28 is that the Yana House is too damaged to continue meetings and the Yana group has become inactive. We thank Rick R. the contact person for that group for his service and we will miss the Yana group Monday night meetings.

For those interested in Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous, the 352 Bid and SERCYPAA will present an activity night on Saturday December 17th at the Triangle Club in Gainesville. The Poppin' Tags Party will feature Speaker Robert T. from Pinellas, DJ's DB Cooper and Strive, an ugly sweater contest, silent ornament auction, 50/50 raffle, and Santa will be on site.

In closing I want to tell you how much service has meant to me and make some suggestions of how you might be of service.

1. Get a sponsor and talk to him or her about being of service. By the way, at the Area Assembly in January, on the Saturday of the Assembly, at 1:30 p.m., they are having a workshop on Service Sponsorship.
2. Attend a meeting and show up 1/2 hour early. This will allow you to **help set up** chairs, set out books, make coffee, etc. Or, stay after a meeting is over to help put away chairs, put away books, clean up the coffee, etc. This is also a great way to meet people and enjoy the fellowship that happens before and after a meeting.
3. If you have a driver's license you could **give someone a ride to a meeting** who does not have driver's license. You can ask your sponsor or someone at the meetings if they know anyone who needs a ride.
4. Attend your home group's business meeting if they have one. At the business meeting you can get elected to a service position. Service positions are positions like set up committee, clean up committee, coffee committee, and depending on the group, they may also have other service positions. All groups need chairs, secretaries, GSR's, Intergroup Reps, etc.

5. Fill out a service coordinator resume and give it to Paige B. If you do not feel up to serving as a coordinator, then volunteer to be on any one of the 12 District 28 service committees.

A little bit about the service structure in AA. The most important part of the structure is the individual meetings. Meetings can elect representatives to represent their groups at intergroup and district. The elected position titles are Intergroup Rep for Intergroup and General Service Representative (GSR) for district.

The next level is the Intergroup, where Intergroup Reps from the meetings meet and discuss A. A. business. Intergroups usually elect a District Liaison who attends the district meeting, although in the Nature Coast Intergroup the Chair appoints the Liaison. Then there is the District, where GSRs, the District Liaison from Intergroup and other district committee chair people meet monthly to discuss A.A. business. We are District 28. At the district level a District Committee Chair (DCM) is elected to represent the district at the next level, which is Area 14.

At the Area level an Area Delegate is elected to represent the Area at the General Service Conference held by the General Service Office. Our Area Delegate is currently Glenn W., who will leave office on December 31, and will be replaced by Joyce C. The Area Delegate represents the Area at the General Service Conference held by the General Service Office. All of which is important because everything comes from the group. If there is a group that does not send a GSR to this table, then we don't know what that group's conscience is on any issue, so we can't pass it on to Area and our Area delegate cannot pass it on to New York. Thank all of you for being here.

Again, thanks for allowing me to serve.

Steve N.

DCM District 28

Old Business: There was nothing on the Agenda and nothing presented from the floor.

New Business: Steve presented several items.

1. The first matter is changing our meeting date. Since our meeting date is set in the Structures and Guidelines, they have to be amended to change the date. Your officers propose to amend the Structures and Guidelines to read that the District shall meet monthly "on a schedule to be published in the December meeting minutes of the previous year, unless necessity requires additional changes." Steve requested that a GSR so move, but first explained the reason for the change. The officers had looked at the calendar and found that setting the meeting on the last Sunday often causes conflict with major holidays, Assemblies and other scheduled events. We had to change meeting dates four times last year. We have looked at the calendar for 2017, and if we continued to have meeting scheduled for the last Sunday, we would have to change at least three of them, and there is no one Sunday of the month that would avoid conflicts. So, we felt it would be better if the DCM and the NCI chair got together before December of each year, looked at the calendar and picked the best dates for Sunday meetings the following year. That way the calendar could remain as published and we wouldn't have to change dates during the course of the year. As presently constituted, the Structures and Guidelines require a meeting on the last Sunday, so we need to change that. John H. asked when the December minutes generally get published. It is usually one or two weeks after the meeting, and it was noted that the schedule might not be distributed before the first meeting took place. John suggested that the schedule could be worked out at an earlier month just as easily so word could get out to the GSR's sooner. Another option would be to have the Secretary send out notice of the January earlier so everyone is timely advised. Upon further discussion, it was proposed that the previously stated suggested motion for amending the Structures and Guidelines be amended to read that the District shall

meet monthly “on a schedule to be published in the *November* meeting minutes of the previous year, unless necessity requires additional changes.” John H. so moved and it was seconded. Since the motion would amend the Structures and Guidelines, Steve directed that the motion be published in the November minutes to be voted on at the following meeting.

2. A second matter of new business was the need to amend the 2016 budget to reflect a payment of \$24 to Intergroup for our share of the rental of the storage unit we share with them. We had budgeted \$408, and we need to increase that to \$432. A motion to do so was then made and seconded. In the course of discussion, it was explained that if and when we go over budget, we have to amend the budget to reflect it. We have shared storage space with NCI, and have an agreement that they pay the storage and we reimburse them for our half. Paige explained that in this case, the rent didn’t actually increase, but two years ago we were charged tax and should not have been. When we made the 2016 budget, the projected amount in our budget for storage was based on a year-end total that included a credit for the erroneous payment of tax. The amount of rent for storage did not increase. We have paid NCI the \$24, but we need to increase our budget by that amount to reflect the change. This is not an amendment to authorize additional spending, but to conform the budget to our actual obligation. A motion to increase our budget line item for storage by \$24, from \$408 to \$432, was made, seconded and allowed.

3. Steve next addressed the proposed District 28 budget for 2017, copies of which had been distributed to everyone. The Trusted Servants met and put the proposal together. This is an attempt to put a budget together that is essentially a balanced budget. It is premised somewhat on a reasonable assumption, that not every Committee Service Coordinator will attend every Area Assembly. If all of them attended every assembly, the actual cost would then be greater than what we have budgeted. However, based on past experience, we know that does not happen. Also, some of the travel expenses have been reduced as the Assembly is located now in Gainesville instead of the Orlando area. We will reduce travel expenses from \$65 to \$35 for Chairs. Steve asked that everyone on committees look at the committee budget. Particularly, for example, the Corrections budget, as the Pink Can collections for literature will reduce the amount needed in the regular budget for literature expenses. The budget is intended as a guideline and can always be amended. We expect to collect about \$5700 and spend about \$5600, so we would go into 2017 with a budget that is nearly balanced. The first step in the budget process is to bring it into existence, to vote to accept it. Thereafter, amendments can be entertained. Upon motion and second, the group voted to approved the proposed 2017 budget submitted by the Trusted Servants. No amendments were immediately offered, and Steve suggested that everyone give it some thought and propose amendments, if any, at the next meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the cost splitting between District and NCI of the printing cost for Where and When. Printing for Where and When is separated from miscellaneous printing. The amount shown on the NCI budget is roughly twice the amount shown on the District budget, because NCI pays the full amount directly to the printer and, because it is a tax-exempt entity, pays no taxes. District then reimburses for its half. Where and When, storage and Holder rent are all split. Where and When is actually the District’s responsibility, but NCI has graciously agreed to pay the total expense up front, and only asks that District reimburse one-half of the total.

The contribution items in the Income section were also explained.

Regard costs and budgets, Paige advised that Area 14 requires that DCMs serve on a committee. As forthcoming District 28 DCM for Panel 67, she hopes to serve on the Area 14

Finance Committee. She is very strongly in favor of balanced budgets. GSO had a budget deficit in excess of \$1 million last year. A brief discussion of GSO's financial challenges ensued. Paige mentioned the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead. Steve noted that the value of \$1 put into the 7th Tradition basket now is nowhere near what it was in 1950, and encouraged everyone to be more generous if they can and contribute accordingly.

Announcements:

1. Don't forget the Holiday Open House before the meetings on December 11th at 3:30.
2. Anyone interested in serving on a District committee please send in your resume.
3. Try to get out and support the Holiday Alcothons. See the District and NCI websites and the NCI Journal for details.
4. Jen advised that, as Treasurer, she uses Excel for her printing program when printing the reports and asked that anyone if anyone has any suggestions please let her know.

Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

AA Traditions and Concepts

Tradition Eleven:

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

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

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

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