

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2017

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM – Paige B.
Alt. DCM – P.J. O.
Treasurer – Shana D.
Accessibilities Chair – John H.
Archives Chair – Dean B.
Corrections Chair (Men’s) – Bob M.
NCI Liaison – Denis S.
Public Information – Janet B.
Technology Chair – Steve N.

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

Janet B. – Alt. GSR, Attitude Adjustment Group
Sandy H. – GSR, Crystal River Group
Steve N. – GSR, Freedom House Group
Al M. – GSR, Holder Way of Life Group
Bob M. – Alt.GSR, Holder Way of Life Group
Paige B. – GSR, Keep In Step Group
Bruce P. – GSR, Resentment Group
John H. – GSR. Sober Nooners Group
Lacy E. – GSR, Sober Sand Gnats Group
P. J. O. – Alt. GSR, Won Rebos Group

Visitors: No Visitors

Welcome by DCM:

Paige B., DCM, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Serenity Prayer

Declaration of Unity

Responsibility Statement

Roll Call: Alt. DCM P. J. O. took roll call and Minutes. DCM, Alt. DCM, and Treasurer were present; 9 groups were represented.

Secretary’s Report: P. J. O. (for Sandy H.) No report submitted.

Everyone present had received copies of the minutes from the previous meeting. Although not reflected in the Minutes, the Archives budget was in fact increased from \$275 to \$350, as will be shown in the budget. With that correction, the minutes of the October meeting were accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: Shana D.

Shana presented the final reports through the end of October, 2017, consisting of the Income and Expense Sheet, Contribution Report and Pink Can contributions. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$5226.72; income from contributions, 7th Tradition collections and Pink Can donations in the amount of \$1473.28; total expenses of \$729.94, and an ending balance of \$5970.06. Copies of the reports will be attached to the minutes. A typo or cell-shift in the report concerning group contributions will be corrected. The process of reconciliation of a returned check (not cashed) was discussed. With those exceptions noted, upon motion and second the Treasurer’s report for October was accepted.

The proposed budget for 2018 was presented, followed by discussion of budget procedural issues. After discussion, it was established that the GSRs will take the proposed budget to the home groups for discussion. The District will vote on the question of adoption at the December meeting. Once the budget is brought into existence by that process, motions to amend can be taken up at later meetings. Contact Paige before the December meeting if you have any questions.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities Chair: John H.

No report. John has received no complaints or inquiries and is open to having someone else serve in this position if they are interested.

Archives Committee: Dean B.

Dean thanked Paige for getting him the pamphlet *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, which is no longer in print.

Regarding the prescription form by Dr. Bob for alcoholics, Dean has contacted the Area Archivist, Scott, regarding this document and was given some advice regarding preservation techniques. Dean showed him the document at the Assembly and, while impressed, Scott did not believe the signature was an original. Dean contacted the archivist at GSO about this question and received an email in reply. The person there had never come across an original prescription form. He suggested that Dean contact an expert antiquarian. Dean will preserve the document in mylar pending further developments. He also inquired of the archivist at Akron but has not received a reply.

Men's Corrections Committee: Bob M.

Meetings are going very well. A lot of gratitude from the inmates for us being consistent in setting up meetings, they look forward to us bringing in the meetings.

Bob expressed his thanks for the Pink Can fund and for having literature to give to the inmates.

The Corrections meeting at the Area Assembly went well. We talked about forming a committee and the interior workings of a committee. Also, there was a discussion of the pre-release program and the need for more corrections people to understand the program.

Also, he extended his thanks to the AA members who carry the message into the jail.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Women's Corrections Committee: Lina R.

Paige advised that she had not received a report from Lina, but the group had gone into the jail twice and they may have an additional member. When Lina returns the meetings will probably be held on a more regular basis.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee: [Position is vacant at this time. If anyone is interested in serving, please let Paige or P. J. know and submit a service resume.]

Grapevine Committee:

Paige advised that she would cover the Grapevine Workshop in her report. P. J. noted that Kim W. had called him and advised that she would be unable to attend tonight's meeting as she was helping out with a women's meeting at the Centers.

Literature Committee: No report. Paige advised that Sue C. had resigned the position due to other obligations. If anyone is interested in serving in this position, please contact Paige or P. J.

Paige also noted that there was a large collection of literature, pamphlets and books on display at the Grapevine Workshop, all of which was given to us after the meeting. It will be on display at the Gratitude Dinner. If your group needs literature, let us know.

Nature Coast Intergroup Liaison: Denis S.

The Intergroup met prior to this meeting. Chairperson Steve opened the meeting with a prayer. Paige reported that the account balance was \$6487.76. Steve reported that there had been 5,374 visits to the Web site. Mike reported that everything was in place for the Gratitude Dinner on November 19. Steve quoted Bill W., to the effect that service to other is the key to recovery and also quoted Dr. Bob, saying that if we fail to carry the message we risk losing it. Under New Business, the budget was presented and accepted. The Resentment Group will now be meeting on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., at Calvary Chapel. It will host the Long Time Speakers meeting on December 5. On December 19, Intergroup and District 28 will host the annual Christmas Party here at the Holder facility, starting at 3:30. We are all urged to bring a newcomer.

Public Information Committee: Janet B.

The West Central Driver Improvement site was the only one needing *Where and When* pamphlets. Jim did mention we were still handing out the May printing.

All was pristine at CMH Emergency room. We still are using two holders on opposite sides of the room.

Our holder was still standing at the Highland Blvd. Laundromat, and was full.

Linda, our AA cheerleader at the Lakes Region Library, has retired. It is probable we may not be invited to repeat the adult event Understanding the Disease of Alcoholism. We have held this for two years and attendance was very poor except for our AA people.

Since our last meeting when we discussed the issue of non-alcoholics attending closed AA meetings, I have been thinking of ways that that the Public Information Committee could help to lessen the problem. I would like to address this matter under New Business.

Technology Committee: Steve N.

There were 1217 visits to the website by 829 unique users. They viewed 2800 pages averaging 2.33 minutes per session. The most visited pages included Calendar, Meetings, *Where and When*, and Hotline. The most frequently downloaded flyers included the State Conference and the Hernando Pre-Conference meeting with the Delegate. The Bounce Rate was 57.76, close to 60 but still not good. Most of the users were from desk top computers, which indicates an older user group, but the trend overall is from mobile devices. He will review ways to make our site more functional for mobile users.

Treatment Committee: No report

Workshop Committee: The Chair position for this committee is vacant at this time.

Alt. DCM: P. J. O.

P. J. advised that he and Janet had completed a working draft of the proposed revisions to the District *Structures and Guidelines*, and asked the DCM to appoint a third person to the ad hoc committee to facilitate completion of the project. Further, he had taken the liberty of talking to Dean about serving in that role, and Dean had agreed to do so.

Regarding the next reprint of *Where and When*, Janet has indicated that we still have a pretty good supply, so there is no urgency. I am collecting information regarding changes in group officers and meeting places, and understand that the Monday Night Men's Step meeting has rotated officers. David V. had been GSR and Rick T. was Alt.GSR. They have now switched positions. The Resentment Group has found a new place to meet, and has a new GSR, Bruce P. The meetings will be Monday night, 7:00 p.m at Calvary Chapel. Denis advised that the Monday

Night Men's Step meeting had moved the starting time from 8 to 7:00 p.m. Also, Sandy advised that Lynn D. is no longer the Alt. GSR at the Crystal River Group, it is Denis S.

DCM: Paige B.

My name is Paige, I am an alcoholic, honored to serve as the District 28 DCM.

I would like to thank all of the groups and their representatives for their continued support. It has been a difficult Fall all around. Also, I thank all of the group representatives who attended the recent Area Assembly, particularly the new GSR for the YPG, who stayed for the entire weekend, participated in one of the workshops and came to the Sunday Business meeting. I was really impressed, so I thank her and all of the GSRs and committee Chairs who were there.

In October we did have Grapevine Workshop. It wasn't as well attended as we would have liked, but we understand there was a lot going on in October. But, the Area Grapevine representative was there and the presentation on taking written and oral histories was excellent. We did have an impressive array of District 28 representatives there and it was a fabulous workshop. Several people were responsible for making the event happen. Dean was there to record histories. I hope that either next year or in the following Panel we can try something like that again.

There are a couple of items from the Assembly that I would like to mention. We may need to give some thought to how we approach one of these items. Alcoholics Anonymous is going to pursue the legal action to recover the printer's copy of an original of the Big Book manuscript by Bill W. with his handwritten notes on it. Page had Denis give the back-story. Bill W. dictated the Big Book to Ruth and she typed it up. He sent it out to the First Hundred and they sent it back. He made corrections in his own hand before he sent it to the printer. There is only one copy of that in the world. We lost the document and we lost the copyright a long time ago; the copyright is lost forever. The manuscript itself is going around, had made its way to the marketplace and was sold for \$1.2 million. The guy who bought it ran out of money, and he subsequently sold it for \$800,000 to a third person, but he wants it back. AA is going to investigate to see if there is anything they can do, because they came across a letter that it was to go to AA from the guy who had it, but the letter was lost and later found. The Judge in the case would not consider it, saying in effect you are 40 years too late. Another option is that AA might consider spending money and negotiating with this guy who bought it for \$800,000 and ask him if he would sell it, take a loss on it, say \$400,000. But, they don't know how much he would take; he might want to make a profit. So, AA has to make a decision on whether they want to spend maybe \$1 million on this. AA in New York has \$14 million in reserve. They will negotiate with the guy and see what can be done. If they can litigate and get it back, maybe getting the guy some compensation, but it is a big mess. Questions include whether AA should be litigating at all, and whether they should spend a million dollars to get it back. This is just being introduced, and people need to start thinking about it and get their opinions back to the Districts and Area. This will be considered next December.

Paige advised that she had a letter from the Area delegate about this matter, and an internet link which gives the back-story on the whole situation will be attached to the minutes. There is a lot of information involved. We will create a small forum of some kind so that we can bring back information to the Area Assembly in January 2018. [See attachments to Minutes.]

Another matter that came up at the Assembly was a pamphlet called *The God Word*. The fastest growing sector in AA is agnostics, atheists and free thinkers. A pamphlet was developed on this topic in the U.K., only for the U.K., and it is downloadable, 24

pgs long. AA in U.K. won't reprint or authorize reprint, or sell it because it is copyrighted. This is becoming a hot topic. We can only attach an internet link: <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Literature%20Downloads/3267%20The%20God%20Word.pdf> .We would like your feedback. This is very important, theoretically could change the face of The Fellowship.

Also from the Assembly, I ended up chairing the Finance Committee meeting because the Chair was unavailable. The new budget was approved, several amendments were made, mostly housekeeping issues. There were some hot topic motions. One, brought by the DCM from another District, was to discontinue passing the 7th Tradition basket at the Sunday meeting; another was to offer a free lunch on Saturday for people in service positions. As Chair (that day), I suggested that the lunch matter was not appropriate at this time in Finance, it should go to Site and Agenda. The motion to stop passing the basket was voted on and defeated, but it came to the floor at the Business meeting on Sunday anyway and failed.

The Gratitude Dinner is coming up, co-hosted by District 28 and NCI. They are looking for volunteers for set-up, take-down and for Groups to send food. It is the largest event on the District calendar and a lot of help is needed.

At the December meeting, District and NCI will co-host an Open House starting at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to bring a new person to might be interested in service work.

Sandy H., our Secretary, lost her father a couple of weeks ago and had been having a very difficult year even before that happened. She has resigned her Secretary position and Paige will send her a formal Thank You. We need to have that position filled.

Also, an old-timer, John T., who was kind of a character, passed away last month. He was an amazing person and carried a very special message of hope and recovery in AA.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Janet B.

1. Motion to appoint Dean to the Ad Hoc Committee that is working on the revision of the *Structures and Guidelines*. She appointed Dean and asked for a vote of approval from the group. A motion was made and passed. The committee will make a report at the next meeting.

2. Janet expressed a concern about the controversy arising from attendance at closed meetings by people who do not express a desire to stop drinking, which is a violation of our policy. Many are doing this. She noted that if we make a list of only open meetings, then we would also have to make a second list of closed meetings. To avoid having to do that, she had examined *Where and When* and found there are 12 meetings listed as closed and seven for which there is no indication, so we assume they are open meetings. Janet suggests we underline the name of the closed and have a big letter "C" next to the meeting name to indicate closed meetings, it would really stand out. The second part of her motion deals with the *Where and When* listing on the web. In the section where the code is set out, increase the size of the print to make the delineation clear, so people could see it. Maybe add some additional language. The very large number of hits on this site, as seen by the Web report, indicates that most people are getting the meeting location information from the web rather than printed version, which is why we have so many pamphlets left over. Having enough room may be an issue. She made a motion to increase the size of the "C" on the printed version and to increase the size of the delineation on the code on the web listing, so it will make it easier for people to differentiate between open and closed meetings. The motion was seconded. In discussion, P. J. expressed some concern that

adding additional information on the printed version might cause spacing problems so that there would not be enough room, and he would like to have time to try it out. Steve commented that with the Resentment Group leaving Club Recovery, that eliminates seven meeting and lot of space would become free. Steve also commented on the web version of *Where and When*, which is exactly the same as the print version, and would like an opportunity to explore putting an explanation on the web version of the difference between closed and open meetings so people who are new to the program would understand the difference. They would, hopefully, understand that if they cannot express the desire to stop drinking but have been Court ordered to attend meetings, they can only attend open meetings, not closed meetings. He felt that emphasizing the “C” for closed would help. Also, we could cut down the number of signature lines and thereby freeing up additional space for more explanation of closed meetings. John H. suggested that Groups are autonomous and they should be dealing with this also. It was thereafter moved that the matter be tabled until the next meeting to give more time for discussion. The motion to table was seconded and passed.

Announcements: None

Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

A.A. 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?