

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2017

Officers/Chairs present at meeting:

DCM – Paige B.
Alt. DCM – P.J. O.
Treasurer – Shana D.
Archives Chair – Dean B.
Corrections Chair (Men’s) – Bob M.
Grapevine Chair – Kim W.
NCI Liaison – Denis S.
Technology Chair – Steve N.

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

Sandy H. – GSR, Crystal River Group
Denis S. – Alt. 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
Bill M. - GSR, Old Firehouse Group
Jack B. - GSR, Rainbow Group
Bruce P. – GSR, Resentment Group
Lacy E. – GSR, Sober Sand Gnats Group
P. J. O. – Alt. GSR, Won Rebos Group
Linda A. – Alt. GSR, Women’s Friendship Group

Visitors: Chuck M., Old Firehouse Group

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. The DCM, Alt. DCM, and Treasurer were present; 10 groups were represented.

Secretary’s Report: (Position vacant)

Everyone present had received copies of the minutes from the previous meeting. No additions or corrections were suggested. Upon motion and second, the minutes of the November 5 meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Shana D.

Shana presented the final reports through the end of November 2017, consisting of the Income and Expense Sheet, the Contribution Report and the Pink Can Contributions Report. The Income and Expense Sheet showed a beginning balance of \$5970.06; income from contributions, 7th Tradition contributions and Pink Can donations in the amount of \$731.60; total expenses of \$1129.14, and an ending balance of \$5522.72. Copies of the reports will be attached to the minutes. Upon motion and second the Treasurer's report for November 2017 was accepted.

Paige noted that the proposed budget for 2018 was distributed at the November meeting and that it would be called for a vote during the New Business section of this meeting.

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities Chair: No report

Archives Committee: Dean B.

What a wonderful Gratitude Dinner it was. I am glad I got there early to get set up and requisition four tables. I sure didn't think I had that much stuff. It was a pleasure to walk those interested through the displays, explaining the early history, the District history, the slide shows, and the movie, although there didn't seem much interest in the movie due to being crowded and time constraints. But I sure enjoyed myself.

I would like to thank the anonymous donor who contributed a 50th Anniversary Founder's Day Medallion. The front says: The Birthplace of AA. Akron, Ohio, June 10, 1935, June 14, 15, 16, 1985. On the back it says: Founder's Day 50th Anniversary. This is still sealed in its original plastic sleeve.

As brought up at the Intergroup business meeting, being the District Archives Service coordinator, I also have NCI Archives even though the position is not part of our intergroup, yet we have items from people donated as Intergroup Archives. Does anyone know what is what or is District Archives also grouped as NCI/District 28 Archives?

Yours in service,

Dean B.

District 28 Archives Service Coordinator

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee: [Position is vacant at this time. If anyone is interested in serving, please let us know.]

Men's Corrections Committee: Bob M.

Our meetings are going well, with good participation from the inmates. I want to thank all the guys who volunteer to go into the jail for being responsible and consistent. They have made the meetings real and heartwarming for the inmates. They also make my responsibility easier and I appreciate that. Also, we extend thanks to the Pink Can Fund which allows us to have plenty of books to distribute. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Women's Corrections Committee: Lina R.

I'm happy to report two blessings! In November we only had to cancel one meeting due to lack of personnel, another was canceled by the jail itself, and that new volunteer, Wanda B. has joined our ranks! With my return we now have a pool of six women available to serve. I have a couple of others interested in the next orientation.

We're in good shape today and today is all we have – so yay!

Grateful to serve,

Lina Ricks

District 28 Women's Corrections Coordinator

Grapevine Committee:

I have not had a lot of time, due to my sponsor's husband's death, but I did get my display in for the Gratitude Dinner. I had a nice compliment from Steve, saying that the display looked really good.

Literature Committee: At Paige's request, Dean reported an anecdote from the Gratitude Dinner. There was a huge volume of literature there and a bunch of empty racks. A newcomer, Dawn, volunteered to put the literature into the racks and it took a really long time because there was so much of it. When asked if she wanted help, Dawn declined, saying that she was having fun. There were so many pamphlets that it took about an hour and one-half to put it all into the racks. It was very impressive and a wonderful experience to see someone so willing to help. Thank you, Dawn, for your service.

Nature Coast Intergroup Liaison: Denis S.

The Intergroup met prior to this meeting. Chairperson Steve N. opened the meeting with a prayer. There were seven of us present. Paige gave the financial report. The Gratitude Dinner was a huge success. Steve reported on the Web site activity for the month. Denis also reported that there was a stack of the newest Nature Coast Journal edition in the back of the room and invited everyone to take some back to their home group. The Events Chair reported that the next scheduled event, a chili cook-off, would be held on Saturday, February 10th in Inverness at the Calvary Chapel at 2:00pm and that Saturday, June 9th has been set as the date for the Founders Day Brunch.

Dean thanked Mike and his team for their work on the Gratitude Dinner and all the space he was allowed for his Archives display. No Old Business. Under New Business, he reported there are a couple of new people who have shown interest in being Trustees, Chuck M. from the Firehouse Group and Lynn D. from the No Name Group. The meeting schedule for 2018 was adopted. Mike F. was nominated to fill the Alternate Treasurer position.

Public Information Committee: No report.

Technology Committee: Steve N.

There were 827 visits to the website, averaging 2.54 minutes per session. The most visited pages included Meetings, Calendar, *Where and When*, Archives and Hotline. The most frequently downloaded flyers included *Where and When*, the State Conference, AA Archives, Workshops, the Gratitude Dinner and the Chili Cook-off. The Bounce Rate was 75%. Most of the users were from desk top computers, which indicates an older user group, but the trend overall is from

mobile devices. In response to some requests, he is trying to make the AAmeetingguide.org accessible from our site. The number of hits was 5248. He did some research to find out what a “hit” actually is. The bottom line is that it means the total number of files downloaded from the site, includes files of all types. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Treatment Committee: Paige B. for Lynn D.

Chairperson, Lynn D. couldn't be here tonight. She is facilitating a meeting at The Centers. We have discussed the possibility of changing the time of the meeting so she is able to attend the monthly business meeting.

Here is her report:

One of the ladies has graduated from the program at the Centers and we wish her well. Some of the ladies from the Centers had the opportunity to attend the Gratitude Dinner and it was great to see them there. They really enjoyed the event. It gave them the opportunity to learn that there is more to AA life than just meetings and that there is much fellowship to be found in events.

Paige thanked Lorraine T. for her efforts in assisting Lynn while she recuperated from injury and illness this year. She noted, “It is in my job description as DCM to communicate and educate regarding the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties particularly as they pertain to the work we do within the District.” “A need for clarification regarding the use of Conference Approved Literature in Corrections and Treatment settings has risen. As the face of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who are incarcerated or in treatment we carry the message of recovery through the use of our Conference Approved Literature. This is mandated by the *Structures and Guidelines* of District 28 and supported by the Traditions and Concepts.

Currently, *the Structures and Guidelines* of District 28 state the use of A. A. Approved Literature. Through the ongoing revision of the *Structures and Guidelines*, the language will be amended to say Conference Approved Literature.

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

Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Structures and Guidelines: P. J. O.

This committee consists of Dean B., Janet B. and I. Janet and I met several times, we have met with Dean, and we have generated a couple of drafts through the revision process among ourselves. We have now circulated a 3rd Revised Draft to Paige and Steve for their review. This document is pretty close to the final product that we will submit to the District for discussion and, hopefully, adoption, perhaps after additional revisions. So that everyone out there has a chance for input, I will send copies to everyone on my email distribution list, which would be in excess of 70 people throughout the District. I would also request that Steve post the document on the District 28 website in case anyone has trouble opening the document or would like to view it on a device with better optics. The language that Paige addressed a few minutes ago regarding Conference Approved Literature is included in the draft I will be sending. There were a lot of minor changes in language but not too many substantive changes. One substantive change in particular would be to eliminate the current position of Intergroup Liaison, as that position is appointed by the NCI Chair, and therefore should not be in our *Structures and Guidelines*. We would replace that position with a new one, the *Nature Coast Intergroup Service Chair*, which would be appointed by the District 28 Chair. The reporting duties would be the same. NCI could of course still have a liaison to District 28, who would always be welcome to attend District

meetings and participate as before. I would propose that we can submit it at the January meeting. I encourage everyone to look it over in advance of the meeting and get in touch with me or Dean or Janet if you have any questions. People who have any amendments to suggest should do so at the January meeting, so the draft can be approved then, laid over as required by the *Structures and Guidelines*, and voted on at the February meeting. Paige thanked Janet, Dean and P. J. for all their work.

Alt. DCM: P. J. O.

As you may know, the North Florida Area 14 Conference Assembly will be held January 12-14, 2018, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Gainesville. If any of you are interested in attending and want to reserve a room, please let me know by January 5th. A block of rooms is being held for District 28 and I will get a room reserved in your name. There are rooms with one king bed and rooms with two queen beds the Area 14 Assembly in January. Two of the rooms are set aside as District-paid rooms, one for men and one for women, for groups who cannot afford to pay the room expense for its GSR.

DCM: Paige B.

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

The Gratitude Dinner was a great event and a tremendous opportunity for us to gather and express our gratitude for all that we have been given and, in particular, for Alcoholics Anonymous.

The fourth and final Old Timer Speakers Meeting of 2017 is slated for this coming Tuesday night in Inglis. This event has become very popular and will continue next year.

Many thanks for the feedback regarding the distribution of the proposed 2018 budget. Today I will entertain a motion to amend our *Structures and Guidelines* regarding the budget presentation timeline. It would suggest that the proposed budget for the following year be presented to the body in October at the monthly business meeting. In November, a vote to bring the proposed budget into existence for discussion and amendment would take place. This would give the body at large a month to review it. By the time December and January roll around we will have had ample time to address and vet the new budget.

The proposed 2018 District 28 Schedule will be presented for review and acceptance today.

Some recent and significant losses in the district; Butch C., Steven M. and Paul S. have passed. They will be missed.

Several service positions are open. We are actively seeking someone to serve as Secretary, and need to fill the Workshop, Literature and CPC Chair positions. Anyone interested, please contact P. J. or myself.

I would like to thank everyone who served the district in 2017. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as your DCM and the largest part of that is working alongside all of you. A special thanks to P. J., Shana and Sandy.

At just about the half-way point of our panel and coming up on a new year, time for reflection on what we have accomplished and what we might yet do is at hand. One thing is undeniably true; there is so much to be grateful for. Wishing you very happy holidays!

Paige B.
DCM
District 28

A motion was made to amend the *Structures and Guidelines* to require that the first presentation of the proposed budget for an upcoming year be in October. The motion was seconded, and because it is a change to the *Structures and Guidelines*, was tabled for 30 days as required. It was noted that, with this amendment in place, we would have two meetings for discussion of a new budget before a vote so that the budget would be final before January. This will give us the opportunity to study and digest the budget before it is voted into existence.

Upon question from the floor regarding the Workshop Chair position, Paige explained the nature of the position and what might be expected. It was just created a couple of years ago. The person works with the DCM and the other committee members to determine topics, and then scouts around to find suitable locations. There are two workshops each year. Also, the Chair must find out which groups would host an event, make arrangements for coffee and snacks, arrange for people to set-up and take down seating arrangements for the event, and coordinate publicity. It is not really difficult. You work with the DCM and relevant committee chairs in doing these things. It is very rewarding.

Kim W. expressed an interest in serving as Workshop Chair and was duly appointed by the DCM. Chuck M. then volunteered to serve as CPC Chair. He has been sober 36 years and works well with people. He was thereupon appointed CPC Chair.

Old Business: Janet had suggested at the last meeting that certain changes be made to the *Where and When* format. She could not be here tonight this issue was set over to the next meeting.

New Business:

The proposed budget for 2018 was introduced at the last meeting and was posted in the minutes. The DCM requested a motion to adopt the budget as introduced; amendments could be made after the budget is brought into existence. The floor was open for discussion of the content, and it was clarified that once it was adopted it could then be amended as to individual committee expenses. The CPC figure is nominal because there has not been a Chair for some time. The motion to adopt was made, seconded and passed without opposition.

A motion was then made to increase the 2017 Workshop budget by \$101 to cover the additional expenses incurred by the Long Timers Speaker meetings and the annual holiday open house. This would raise the budget to \$575. The motion was seconded and passed.

The proposed calendar for 2018 was distributed. It was necessary to change the date of the April meeting to avoid a conflict with Easter. The date was changed by handwritten entry from April 1

to April 8. A motion to accept the proposed calendar as thereby changed was made, seconded and allowed.

Dean asked if District would be helping with the upcoming Long Time Speaker Meeting on Tuesday. Paige confirmed that the district would provide cake and coffee.

Announcements: None.

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

A.A. Concepts and Traditions

Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power?”

How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?

Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?

Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?

As guardians of A.A.’s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?

Are we careful to avoid public controversy?

Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Why is it good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare?

What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?

When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?

In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?

Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?

Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?

Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition-or belie it?

Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?

Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior-especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?

Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?

Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?

Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it? What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?