

DISTRICT 28
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2018

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.

Corrections – Lina R

Grapevine Chair – Kim W.

NCI Liaison – Denis S.

Public Information Chair – Janet B

Technology Chair – Steve N.

Treatment Chair – Lynn D

Workshop Chair – Kim W

GSRs Alt GSRs and Visitors

Al M.- GSR Holder Way of Life

George H. - GSR Attitude Adjustment Group

Sandy H.- GSR Crystal River Group

James C – GSR First Thought Wrong Group

Steve N. - Freedom House Group

Paige B. - GSR Keep In Step Group

Lynn D – GSR No Name Group

Jack B – GSR Rainbow Group

Bruce P – GSR Resentment Group

Lacy E – GSR Sober Sand Gnats Group

Agnes T – GSR Won Rebos Group
Dennis F. – GSR ABC Group
P. J. O. – Alt.GSR Won Rebos Group

Visitors:

Mary F.

Welcome by DCM:

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

Serenity Prayer

Declaration of Unity

Responsibility Statement

Roll Call:

11 groups represented; 7 votes for substantial unanimity

Secretary's Report: (Position vacant)

Paige noted that since the Secretary's position was still open, and to expedite this meeting, she recommended that approval of both the April and May minutes be taken up at the next meeting. There were no objections.

The group thanked Lina for serving as temporary Secretary and all of her other work; she will be out of town until Fall.

Treasurer's Report: Shana D.

Shana submitted the District 28 Income and Expense Report, the Group Contributions and the Pink Can Reports for April.

Income and Expense Beginning Balance: \$5,399.63

Total Income: \$893.47

Expenses: \$917.91
Ending Balance: \$6293.10
Group Contributions: \$1373.50
Pink Can Contributions: \$268.88

Treasurer's Report accepted on motion and second, subject to audit.

(Reports to be attached to Minutes)

The 7th Tradition Basket was passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities Chair: No report

Archives Committee: Dean B.

Good afternoon. I'm Dean and I'm an alcoholic.

I am preparing the District Archives display for the Founder's Day brunch, hopefully including the slide show presentation of the History of AA.

In the past I have mentioned about my desire to have an Archives Workshop. Recently Paige B. and myself have gotten together with the help of Kim and her Workshop Committee to host an Archives Event, based simply on AA coming to Florida and AA in Citrus County. Tentative date is July 28th. Tomorrow morning I head to Jacksonville to attend their Intergroups Archives Committee meeting to get assistance.

The 5th Annual Florida AA Archives Workshop will be held February 23, 2019 in Winter Paerk, Florida. I do plan to attend.

Included in my minutes is a little history on the 24 Hour a Day Book after the following conversation at a recent meeting.

Recently heard before an AA meeting:

“What happened to the 24 Hour A Day book.”

“It was banned from AA.”

“AA doesn't approve of it.”

“It was deemed too religious.”

“It's not Conferenced approved.”

“AA wasn't getting the money from it. It's always about money.”

“Groups south by St Pete's has some rich F'ing meetings. They have some groups with \$60,000 in their kitties waiting for someone to steal it.”

“Those people in NY don't know anything about AA.”

The 24 Hour A Day Book

The second most popular A.A. author in total book sales, second only to Bill W. himself, was Richmond Walker. He was a man from the Boston area who managed to get sober in 1939 in the old Oxford Group. There was no AA group in Boston yet at that time. He stayed sober in the Oxford Group for two and a half years, before going back to drinking in 1941. After a year and a half of drinking, he joined the newly founded Boston AA group in May 1942, and finally found lasting sobriety there, never to drink again for the rest of his

life. Rich died on Mar. 25, 1965 (72 years old) with 22 years of sobriety in AA.

He originally wrote this material on small cards which he carried in his pocket, to aid him in his own sobriety. In 1948, he put it together in the little meditation book called "*Twenty-Four Hours a Day*," at the request of the AA group in Daytona Beach, Florida, which they printed on the printing press at the county courthouse and began distributing all over the country under the sponsorship of their A.A. group. For many years it was the basic meditation book for all A.A.'s. The book sold over 80,000 copies during the first ten years alone, which means that over 10,000 copies a year were eventually having to be packaged and shipped out year after year, just to keep up with the demand. It did not take long for Rich to become totally overwhelmed by the task. In 1953, he asked the New York A.A. office if they would take over this job, but his request was turned down.

In their defense, New York was desperately short on money, staff, and space; they also already had their hands full with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which came out in April of that same year. They only just barely managed to cobble together a financial deal to get that vital book published.

Hazelden offered to publish and distribute the book in 1954. It is still widely used by A.A. members and groups today, with over eight million copies sold.

The little book became the second most popular book in AA history (exceeded only by the Big Book). It explained how to carry out the eleventh step, how to practice the presence of

God, and how to attain soul-balance and inner calm. It explained how to practice meditation by quieting the mind and entering the Divine Silence in order to enter the divine peace and calm and restore our souls.

At the top of each page Rich lays out basic meat-and-potatoes information about how we used to behave when we were drinking, how we need to change our lives, and what we need to do in order to keep the A.A. fellowship together.

Then at the bottom of each page he tells us how to pray and meditate. This part of the book forms one of the ten greatest practical works on learning to live the spiritual life that have ever been written, in any century, including both the western world and the world of Asian religions. The eleventh step says "Sought through prayer and meditation (a) to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for (b) knowledge of His will for us and (c) the power to carry that out." Rich's little black book tells us how to actually do that.

His experience in the Oxford Group in 1939-1941 comes out strongly in "Twenty-Four Hours a Day," coming partly from Rich's own experience in the group, and coming partly from his use of an Oxford Group work on prayer and meditation, "God Calling," by Two Listeners. For those who would like to bring modern AA back closer to Oxford Group beliefs and practices, "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" is the most strongly Oxford-Group-oriented work written by an early AA author.

Information about the Printer's Copy of the Big Book

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous, known to adherents as the “Big Book,” sold at auction Saturday for \$2.4 million to billionaire and Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay.

The auction house Profiles in History announced the sale of the manuscript with handwritten notes from the group’s founding fathers.

Irsay told The Associated Press he plans to build a special display for the manuscript and display it for several months a year at Alcoholics Anonymous’ headquarters in New York. He says he attempted to buy the manuscript when it was up for auction several years ago, and he is thrilled at the opportunity to share it publicly.

Irsay said he considers himself a steward for the manuscript, which he said he may also send out on tour so it can be seen by more people. “I’ve held it. I’ve looked through it. It is absolutely mind-blowing,” he said. “It was just a miracle to see this thing live.”

Irsay, who was clearly excited about obtaining the manuscript during a telephone interview, said he considered remaining anonymous about purchasing the manuscript, but wanted to go public to try to relieve the stigma of alcoholism and addiction. “The only way we stay sober is to give it away,” Irsay said. “I think it’ll help a lot of people,” he said. “That’s the reason I’m doing it.”

He said he attended his first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting 25 years ago, and marvels at the reach of the organization and what its founders built.

It is the third time the 161-page typed document has been sold. It sold in 2007 for \$850,000 and for \$1.6 million in 2004. Saturday's auction was delayed by a dispute with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

The manuscript includes notes and scribbles from one of AA's founders, William Wilson, more commonly known as "Bill W."

Wilson's widow Lois owned the papers after his death in 1971, and she passed them on to her friend Barry Leach. Alcoholics Anonymous said Leach signed and notarized a letter in 1979 saying the manuscript would belong to the organization after his death. He died in 1985, but the manuscript did not make its way to Alcoholics Anonymous, which did not know about the notarized letter at the time. Its ownership history in the ensuing years is not entirely clear until 2004, when Sotheby's auctioned it for \$1.6 million. Then it sold to Roberts in 2007.

A website devoted to the auction describes the manuscript as a "Bible to millions" that has sold 30 million copies since 1939, been translated into 43 languages and has been ranked by the Library of Congress as a top non-fiction book that shaped America.

"We are thrilled this most historic manuscript has sold and hope it will be exhibited for the world to see the manuscript that has saved the lives of millions of people," Profiles in History founder Joe Maddalena said.

Gratefully,

Dean B.

Archives Committee Chair

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.

Meetings are continuing to go well, thanks to the commitment of all the volunteers. We had four meetings this past month with about 20 guys at each meeting.

The Assembly went well, and we got to vote on creating a pamphlet for long-term inmates who are getting out of prison, and on changes to the Corrections Kit and Workbook. We were successful in getting more volunteers badged. Next month the jail will be having an appreciation dinner for all the volunteers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Bob M.

Women's Corrections Committee: Lina R.

I'm sure Bob has reported the cancellations by the Core Civic's administrators; we however were prepared to hold every meeting. We conducted the two meetings that were held.

May 10th another orientation was held. Two ladies attended – one is badged and was fulfilling the annual requirement, the other is new to our committee, though she has corrections service experience. I'm grateful that the Reverend allowed her to come even though her background check was not completed. When that comes through she'll only need to be badged to join us in our service adventure!

Love and service

Lina Ricks

Women's Corrections Coordinator
District 28

Grapevine Committee: Kim W.

We had one meeting this month. I also attended the Grapevine Workshop at the Assembly. I will try to send in a report later. Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Kim W.

Literature Committee: Paige announced that we have a new Literature Chair, Kathy F. I will appoint her and will join us at the meeting next month. She helps Lynn out in Treatment and takes in meetings when Lynn is not available. I will introduce her next month.

Nature Coast Intergroup Liaison: Denis S.

Chair Steve opened the meeting and there were ten groups represented. Secretary Lorraines' minutes were accepted with one minor adjustment. Treasurer Paige reported a closing balance of \$5759.32. Trustees Sandy, Connie and Lynn gave favorable reports of the state of Intergroup. Webmaster Steve reported 4456 visits to the website for the month. Sue S. will prepare a new Journal for June 1st and everyone is welcome to submit articles or relevant information to news@ncintergroup.com Events Chair Mike F said plans were going well for the Founder's Brunch at The First Baptist Church, Crystal River on June 9th at 10am . Alternate Chair Dean said he will be presenting the Archives Display at the Founder's Brunch. Janet B said that Paula D had offered to assist with a Hotline workshop in October. Paula has presented a similar workshop at the Area level. A motion was passed to move the Storage

facility from Homosassa to a more central location near Lecanto on July 1st. Chair Steve said he was sad to accept the resignation of Secretary Lorraine who said that her work no longer affords her the time required. We need someone to take over. All positions are available to be filled per rotation at the end of the year.

Public Information Committee: Janet B.

Most every place that I visit needed some literature. One location was almost out of Where and Whens and had only three left. In downtown Ingliss, there is a gorgeous new visitor's center. The staff there was very friendly. The Health Center has moved to another location, they will be opening soon. I have about 200 Where and Whens left. State probation needs to be restocked.

Sincerely,
Janet Bruno

Technology Committee: Steve N.

District 28 Website Report June 3 2018 for May 2018
AAdistrict28.org received 1283 visits in the month of May 2018 by 1034 unique visitors who looked at 3418 pages for an average of 2.66 pages per visit. The most visited pages were Meetings General, Where and When, Calendar Minutes, Meetings by Day, Monday Meetings, Dunnellon Meetings, Meetings by Location, Inverness meetings, and Links. The most downloaded documents were where and when, contact us, AA+Audio+Citrus/George+M.MP3, AA+Audio+Citrus/John.MP3, aadistrict28slides.pdf, AA+Audio+Citrus/John+Stone, State Convention Flyer, AA+Audio+Citrus/Chuck+M.MP3, and Conference

Workshop Flyer. The average length of session was 1 minutes and 27 seconds. 82.8% of the visitors were new with 17.2% returning. The bounce rate was 61.22%. 36.55% of users were age 25-34, 33.3% were age 45-54, and 30.56% were 55-64. 52.8% were male and 47.2% were female. 30.84% used desktop or lap top computers, 66.3% used mobile devices and 2.8% used tablets. 25.23% directly accessed the site and 74.76% from a search engine like Google or yahoo.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Steve N.

Treatment Committee: Lynn D.

We have 13 ladies at present but that is always subject to change. I had a meeting with Steve, the head of the Centers in Lecanto. The meeting was very productive. He liked the way I was working with the ladies. The ladies can attend any AA-sponsored event; they have a nice bus so transportation is provided; the Centers will provide an employee to accompany them. We would like to add another meeting during the week. Steve is one of us, which helps a lot, as he knows what we are trying to accomplish.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Paige confirmed that people who are in treatment can attend our events without having to purchase a ticket. There was further discussion regarding this issue, and it was concluded that this position had been established pursuant to a consensus at District.

Workshop Committee: Kim W.

There Area 14 Delegate to the AA General Service Conference will be here on May 19 to make a presentation on the agenda for the annual Convergence this summer. GSRs and anyone else interested will have the chance to attend and see what is going on in AA and carry this information back to the home groups. There was a modest attendance before; we can do better. Kim could use help in doing the set-ups for workshops.

Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Structures and Guidelines:

P. J. O.

This project to revise the District 28 Structures and Guidelines has been worked on for a long time by Dean B., Janet B. and myself. Dean and Janet have my thanks for their time and assistance. The Structures document sets out what our mission is, what we do and how we do it. Apparently the document had not been thoroughly revised for quite some time, although it has been updated occasionally to reflect changes that were made as a result of district votes. P. J. gave everyone copies of the final draft of the proposed revisions to the District 28 Structures and Guidelines. The proposed revisions have already been distributed District-wide by way of email and people were requested to question or comment, but there has been no feed-back to date. The project included format changes, such as listing service committees in alphabetical order. Since this was coming from an Ad hoc Committee, it was felt that a motion and second were required. A motion was made and seconded that the proposed revisions to the Structures and Guidelines as prepared and submitted by the Ad hoc Committee be approved. A motion

was then made and seconded to table the matter until the June meeting for a vote on the motion to approve, as required by the Structures and Guidelines on matters that would amend or change that document. The motion to table until June meeting passed. Lina commented on the inability of standing committee chairs to vote, unless they were also a GSR, on matters that come before District. The Ad hoc committee had decided to continue to follow the Service Manual policy and limit the right to vote to GSRs. It was pointed out that any member of A.A. could come in and would have the right to participate and be heard at the District meeting, even if they cannot vote. This issue can be addressed when the pre-vote discussion takes place at the June meeting, and the Ad hoc Committee acknowledged that it can meet again if necessary. There was no assumption that the document as submitted would necessarily be final. The Ad hoc Committee members were thanked for their work on this enormous task.

Alt. DCM: P. J. O.

Nothing to report other than the matters covered in my report for the Ad hoc Committee regarding the revisions to the Structures and Guidelines

DCM: Paige B.

Paige deferred her report so we could get to Old and New Business.

Old Business:

Regarding the proposal that we recommendation to Area 14 that there be only two assemblies per year, instead of four, Paige asked that this matter be deferred until the June meeting. This matter was previously referred to the home

groups for response and nothing has been received yet. It will be taken up in June, we can set aside more time.

New Business:

Paige inquired regarding any necessity to re-print *Where and When* again at this time. P. J. advised that we still had 250 copies remaining from the last printing. Janet noted that she has three new entities to supply, but still has a small supply of her own. It was decided to defer the question of re-printing until the June meeting, including how many to print. We only print twice per year now, and are not into June yet.

Paige said they were hoping to move the District storage location to the middle of the county, looking for more fair location for everyone, hopefully by July 1. A motion to do so was made, seconded and allowed.

All were encouraged to attend the next Assembly, which would be in July. We had a good presence at the April Assembly and she thanked those who helped out at the Registration table.

We will need help in the Grapevine room at the October Assembly.

Announcements:

Next Assembly will be in July.

The election of District officers will be coming up in September.

We have an Archives event coming up on July 28th.

Our next Long Timers Speaker Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 19, hosted by the Freedom House Group at the River of Life Church on Rt. 488 at Dunnellon. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

The 6th annual Founders Day Brunch will be on Saturday, June 9, at the First Baptist Church of Crystal River, 700 N. Citrus Avenue.

Al M., referring back to the proposed revisions to the Structures and Guidelines, announced that he didn't think it was appropriate that "ability" be added to the suggested qualifications of trusted servants. Paige assured him that he could be heard on that point at the June meeting.

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

The next District 28 meeting will be on Sunday, June 3, at 5:45 p.m.

A.A. Traditions and Concepts

Tradition V:

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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 believe 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?

Concept V:

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

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?