

District 33 Business Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2016

Attendees: Tom A, Lauren C, Anne A, Stanley H, Will F, Chip A, Rick H, Mark G, Jeff P, Doug B, David F, George D, Grey F, Theresa K, Merit S, Phil C, Michael D, Kevin M, Newton P, Jenny P, Leighton L, Lee

Committee Reports:

The July meeting minutes are accepted as circulated.

DCM - Tom Anderson

-Tom's items for discussion are to be covered in the Alt. DCM report and Old Business.

Alt. DCM - Lauren Cioe

-Lauren sent district GSR contact updates to our area secretary, Rhonda.

-She went to the state convention and met with Newton and Tom, the ad hoc redistricting committee. They will present a proposal at the area committee meeting on district changes in North Carolina's Central Region.

Telephone Answering Service—Anne A

-It has been a "quiet" month.

-Anne had to take one call at night when no one else was available.

CPCPI Coordinator - Geneviève Beaudry

Not present

Corrections - Rick Holopainen

-Anne, Angel, and Rick went to the Chatham County Jail, which is a new facility. Rick is waiting for officials to approve our application to bring in a meeting. He will revisit the groups in the area to raise more support. There are currently 10 men and 7 women ready to help bring meetings; however, more volunteers are needed as separate meetings will be held in each cell block, and two people are needed for each. The meeting(s) will likely be Sundays at 8pm.

-They took 50 or 60 books into Chatham County Jail. District members are urged to continue with donations to support this expanded corrections work.

-Current donations are \$361.21 cash plus a few grapevines. Year-to-date donations include \$1805.49 cash and \$1962.37 worth of books totaling \$3767.86.

Grapevine - Doug Clark

Not present

Website - Jim Horne

Not present

-He welcomes Rick or others taking over the website, as he is busy with work.

-Jim is willing to help when he can.

-Rick has the login information too, for any updates.

Treatment - Stanly Hurlston

-Stanley spent some time with the Area treatment coordinator. He also staffed the treatment table at the convention.

-The area treatment coordinator asked Stanley to put his literature order on hold.

-He was contacted by the director at ASAP (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program) at UNC. The New director wants to start a meeting in the facility. The old director "didn't want anything to do with AA."

-The detox meeting is going well; no complaints were received.

Treasurer's Report - Pam Clarke

Not present

-The treasurer's report was emailed with the minutes.

-We are making good progress on our prudent reserve.

Old Business

-Lauren is heading the subcommittee to examine a new telephone answering service.

-The GSRs of several groups expressed their interest and willingness to participate.

-Most calls com in between 8am and 10pm.

-It is recommended we get someone associated with the Triangle intergroup system to attend.

-Members of some groups wondered if participation might entail any legal ramifications.

-Tom will talk to George to see if he can come to next meeting.

-There is concern about callers from the other side of the area getting connected to help that is local.

-The intergroup answering service handbook suggests we have meeting lists accessible when answering.

-The majority of telephone service contacts concern people wanting to go their first meeting.

-Some present are more concerned when an in-person 12th step call is required.

-It is suggested that an in-person intervention will take time. Anne always asks answering operators to take the caller's number to cover this. She notes that these issues are mostly the same ones we face with the current system, just over a larger area.

-We are reminded that whoever picks up the phone will be an alcoholic.

-Concerning liability issues, some members council if you're worried about it, don't volunteer.

-Leighton is one of 30 people who respond to AA-related email inquiries. He has never had a problem finding someone a meeting nationwide.

-It is noted that, if we are looking for reasons not to change the answering service we can find them, but we should explore all options.

George S, the current head of the Raleigh Intergroup TAS, will come talk to us at our next business meeting.

-We can keep our current system intact for a 12-month period while we try the new service, if desired.

-One member is concerned some home groups won't want to commit. Can members who want to still participate? It is suggested that members from smaller groups could join forces to form an ad-hoc group to answer the phones for a month.

-It is noted our current answering service doesn't have any information outside the district, so the new system will have advantages there.

-A member from another district, which now participates in the new system, was originally skeptical, but his district had a lot of problems with their old answering service. His observation has been that the new system has worked better than anticipated.

-People get inspired whenever they're able to do actual 12-step service

-Other districts have to have a lottery because there are too many groups who want to serve.

-It is noted that even small groups have had no problem running the new service.

-Other groups have been running this system for a couple of years now.

-Even if no groups step up, our area would still be covered by existing volunteers.

-We would save at least \$3,000 per year.

-Many are impressed by the redundancy in the system.

-Some are worried about the learning curve for getting it working.

-They are urged to read the "What Does this Mean for Me?" section of the instructional pamphlet.

-Some are intimidated by the team captain responsibility.

-Others note the new system works due to simplicity; no one person is responsible for more than three others.

-We are still planning to make a proposal to host the Central Preconference in 2017.

-Jennie has volunteered to coordinate this effort.

-She has a quote from Binkley Baptist for all proposed dates: 8–5. The fee is \$375, but she doesn't know what all this includes (i.e., cleanup). They have a lot of flexibility for dates. (Churches can't typically do Sunday.)

-St. Mark's in Burlington is available April 8 for no fee except a cleanup fee of \$200. Jennie is unfamiliar with their kitchen; the Binkley kitchen is pretty big. (Saint Mark's has two kitchens and plenty of parking.)

-How many districts are in the Central region? (around a dozen) Districts usually send \$75, so this undertaking seems financially feasible.

-We needed options lined up to bid. St. Mark's will hold the date for us.

-This bid will be discussed at the committee meeting in two weeks.

-A knowledgeable source notes that we will have to be on the same weekend as either the western or eastern region, so we need to coordinate with them. One has to be on a Saturday and the other on a Sunday.

-In addition to the potluck, some food is usually provided. We are supposed to feed everyone.

New Business

-There is no new business on the agenda.

Anne presents Concept VIII.

David Foskey will present Concept IX next month.

Announcements

-New GSRs, please give all of your group and contact information to Lauren C.

-Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 11, 2016.

-Wild Bunch is holding a service talk and dinner for our area delegate Rachel M. (who is stepping down) on Wednesday, September 7. There will be a potluck at 7pm and speaker at 8pm.

-TRCYPAA (Triangle Conference of Young People in AA) is having a delayed labor day cookout at Eno River State Park's Few's Ford shelter starting at 10am with speakers at noon: Josh E. from Durham and Lauren C from Asheville. There will be hotdogs and hamburgers after the speakers (\$5); Bring anyone.

-The afternoon of Saturday, October 22, at a location TBD in downtown Raleigh, Districts 31, 34, and 35 will have a combined workshop on "what would happen if GSO disappeared." GSRs and anyone in AA are encouraged to attend.

-The National AA technology conference will be held Nov 18-20. A regional trustee is coming and staff from AA world service. How AA can use technology within our traditions to carry the message will be explored.

-Ed McCauley passed away. Sat , August 22, 4-8pm at the Hawfields group will be a celebration of life.

-Chapel Hill members, pass the word to your groups: would anyone be interested in going out to Chatham County Jail?

The meeting was closed with the AA Responsibility Statement.

Contributions:

District Contributions

District 33 GSC

PO Box 2803

Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Note: If you provide your email address, a confirmation will be sent to you.

Area 51 Contributions
NCGSC - Treasurer
PO Box 10931
Raleigh, NC 27605