

## District 33 Business Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2017

Attendees: Tom A, Will F, Lauren C, Rick H, Chip A., Anne A., Jeff P., Tim Z., Grant K., George D., Doug. B., George S., Allie, Caroline L. Merritt S., Rob G., Robert W., Jessie? Y., Mark G., Jim H., Paul M., Jeff S., Charles D., Sam H.

### **Committee Reports:**

Please contact Tom if you have any questions about the August District 33 business meeting minutes.

#### **DCM – Tom Anderson**

George and Allie are visiting from the Raleigh helpline.

Tom visited Late Bloomers and the Mebane Group. He worked with George and Allie on the new answering service. For the redistricting subcommittee, he made trips around the state, visiting different district meetings. Tom went to the committee meeting August 17 in Greensboro, Saturday and Sunday. We have a new archivist Keith M. Tom will send out a summary of the meeting. There is a new group in District 33, in Burlington, the Reason to Live Group. And there's a new spinoff of the Graham Group called the History Club. Tom has reached out to their GSR.

#### **Alt. DCM – Lauren Cioe**

Lauren has just a few notes from the committee meeting. Keith M, our new archivist, is working on oral histories of NC AA members with 35 plus years. The state convention this year was a huge success, with just under 1,000 registrants. We also voted for NC to host SSAASA Southern States AA Service Assembly, November 8–10, 2019, where all things related to AA service are discussed. Lauren also has the area budget, etc., if you want to see it. Lauren has conference reports from the General Service Conference, so please take one back to your group. Lauren will not run for DCM for next year.

#### **Telephone Answering Service – Anne A.**

We decided to stop the old answering service June 30. They claimed to have been instructed to continue our service, and there is a new line being forwarded to the Raleigh helpline. We took care of all the bills from AT&T and Century Link. Anne A. will find out more about this.

#### **CPCPI Coordinator – (Jeff P.)**

At the last meeting, Lauren asked Jeff to produce an address and phone number list for treatment centers, etc., and he brought it. He also visited the liver transplant center at Duke, for the third time. They are going through the literature Jeff has given them. We received a request to go to the detox center at UNC, and Jeff went to their alcohol treatment center, and their liver transplant center, and brought them literature, as well. Jeff also went to RAHA healthcare systems, a rehab center in Burlington. He had gotten a call from them requesting literature and that he attend their meeting and talk about AA for an hour, which he did. Jeff also will go to their graduation tomorrow morning. Their main therapist is very supportive of AA work. Jeff went to six homeless centers in Burlington, Carrboro, and Chapel Hill. He also had a visit at the VA in Durham, which has a liver transplant center. (They give free meds to vets who have had transplants.) Jeff gave them literature, etc. He will also attend a community health fair at the Reformed United Church of Christ in Burlington on Tuesday.

#### **Corrections – Rick Holopainen**

Corrections donations (book and monetary) total a value of \$3,952, to date, this year. Rick has ordered a new batch of tubes to collect donations. His book levels are getting lower (we were getting a lot of book donations last year). He is ordering a lot of books. He'll get 1000 Big Books from Anonymous Press for \$0.89 apiece. That way, there will be a substantial library of literature when his replacement takes over.

**Grapevine** – George D

Last month was slow. This month George is speaking at one group to help people understand the purpose of grapevines. He will also attend the Basic Text anniversary meeting.

**Website** – Jim Horne

He thought the website was fixed, but there are still a couple of places where the old phone number is published. We get 150 to 200 hits a day. The meeting list are being used a lot.

**Treatment** – Stanly Hurlston

Not present

**Treasurer's Report** – Pam Clarke

Pam is not present, but she did send Anne an invoice

**Old Business**

George and Allie from the Raleigh helpline came to tell the members of District 33 what has happened, and how it has gone since our number has been transferred. Surprisingly, they got just over 90 calls from our district. Most of them came from Mebane, Burlington, Elon, and the north. George was also surprised at how many people called asking for rides to meetings. (Most of them didn't actually need rides.) AA does not run a cab service. George says that, on the rare occasions he does arrange a ride for someone, he lets them know to open their mouths when they do get to meetings, to ask for further help. Primary Purpose has taken three days staffing the helpline. George reminds us: the job is not to give meeting information, but to make callers feel welcome to a meeting and tell them what to expect. George says, "all you have to do is show up and take a seat." They don't have to call ahead, don't have to pay. He also tells them not to put money in the basket. He doesn't necessarily give them meeting information in the initial call, and usually calls them back with meeting information when he gets the chance, within a couple of hours. One of the most important things is to get someone to call them back. Every once and a while, you'll get someone who needs to talk to someone. We need a list of men and women who can call these people back. George always manages the expectations and tells them it may be a couple of hours, or even the next day. For groups wishing to take a day answering calls, six volunteers are ideal, but three are all that are required. The helpline administrators do have people to fill in shifts. Most groups have different volunteers for different months. Note: the lottery from tonight won't come into play until November, so any groups who haven't signed up yet still have time. Allie, the current helpline chair, will email everyone an information packet. Give three weeks' advance notice of who is going to take each shift, if possible. (At the very least, give notice before 8am!) Eight groups in District 33 would like to take days. The Gram Group will take the 31<sup>st</sup>; Chapel Hill Carrboro will take the 7<sup>th</sup>; Mebane group, the 16<sup>th</sup>; Basic Text Group, the 1<sup>st</sup>; Rule 62, 18<sup>th</sup>; Burlington Group, 15<sup>th</sup>; Primary Purpose, 10<sup>th</sup>; and Parlor Group, 17<sup>th</sup>. They also need a 12<sup>th</sup> step list: people who will be willing to have an extended conversation with, or meet up with an alcoholic. Allie says she's on the Holly Springs list, and she has been contacted three or four times a year. Every 18 months to two years, helpline volunteers contact everyone on the twelfth step list to make sure the numbers are still good, and the people are still able/willing.

## **New Business**

Many of our district committee positions will come open at the end of the year. We will vote on those at the November meeting.

We have some general guidelines for a DCM. It is suggested that they have been sober for two years and have spent six months holding a district-level service position (including GSR). A DCM has usually served as a GSR. DCM should have enough sobriety, usually 4 or 5 years, for election as delegate. These guidelines are in the service manual. George will likely stand for corrections, and Rick will stand for website coordinator.

We have been asked (this is an old topic that had been tabled) about making our meeting information accessible to a new web-based application called "meeting guide." All of the meeting information in District 33 may need to be entered manually by someone. Will volunteered to do this, if necessary, but Rick and Jim believe there is a more efficient way. Rick will talk to Will about this.

Tom is passing around a report about the redistricting committee that Tom and Lauren stand on. The latest proposal splits our district in half. If this proposal is accepted, Alamance and Caswell will be split from District 33 into a new District 36. Orange and Chatham will comprise what remains of District 33. In August, our area formed a committee to investigate the problem of whole districts that aren't able to participate. There are DCMs that pay out of their own pocket to participate in the service structure. Caswell County is dark, and it is far enough away that it is hard for us to get there. The area formed the districts 30 or 40 years ago, and a lot has changed since then. Across the state, about 20 percent of the groups are changing districts. The area and the redistricting subcommittee want to try to make each district self-supporting. There are currently only three groups in Chatham County. In the new District 36, Reidsville is a population center. This makes nearby groups more likely to have representation. The committee is going around and giving presentations explaining the rationale. At the request of the Tom and the committee, Sam H. has talked to other districts to investigate. He's talked to groups in Rockingham, Northern Guilford County, and Alamance. The groups in Burlington and Graham would need to step up in terms of supporting the district financially. Alamance provides a majority of the funding and participation. Orange County is going to have to step up, as well. District 33 is currently one of the strongest district, financially, in the state. Divisions in Raleigh (which was broken up into three districts) were contentious, at first, but they have grown a lot since. The districts are a creation of the area, but Tom wants this decision to come from the ground up, as much as possible; we will have a vote on this. If anyone has a better idea, please approach Tom and Lauren. Tom notes that this change wouldn't be comfortable, but he thinks it's for the best of AA and the area as a whole. This wouldn't go into effect until 2018. We should take this information back to our groups, and bring any information to Tom.

Robbie W discusses concept 9.

Anne A. will do Concept 10 next month.

## **Announcements**

- Basic Text Group's 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting (Flier attached) will be Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Food and fellowship at 7 p.m., Speaker (Sarah H.) at 8 p.m. North Chapel Hill Baptist Church
- Our next District 33 meeting will be October 8.

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

P.O. Box 1181

Burlington NC 27216