

District 33 Business Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2016

Attendees: Tom A, Lauren C, Anne A, Will F, Rick H, Mark G, Jeff P, Thomas B, George S, Amy L, Jennifer C, Terry S, Bud L, Scott P, Theresa K, David G, Sam H, Jeff P, Kevin M, George S, James W, Doug B, Pam C, Merit S, Chip A, Doug C, Jim H, Amy H

Committee Reports:

The August meeting minutes are accepted as circulated.

DCM - Tom Anderson

All of the information on the work of the Area 51 redistricting subcommittee is available the area website.

- Caswell County would go to District 22. The only meeting in Caswell County is at the correctional center. The subcommittee is still in the information-gathering stage, so if you have any issues you'd like to raise, please give your input now. Forms containing input can be given to Tom or Lauren or completed on line.

Alt. DCM - Lauren Cioe

- Let Lauren know if you have any updates to the district contact list—if you are an new GSR, etc.
- At the recent summer committee meeting, she got to be the timekeeper.
- The redistricting results were presented to the whole area. It was received well.

Telephone Answering Service—Anne A

- It has been a quiet month
- One volunteer complained that they signed up 2 years ago and hadn't received a call
- One caller wanted to know if there were activities for Labor Day.

CPCPI Coordinator - Geneviève Beaudry

- Not present - There have been some snags getting the CPCPI chair position filled. One member explains that job responsibilities have prevented her from attending.

Corrections - Rick Holopainen

- Rick updated the Chatham and Alamance Co. applications; Rick has quite a few volunteers lined up.
- He held a Ed McCall's celebration of life fundraiser. Since last district meeting, including the fundraiser, we received 217 books valued at \$599.11 and \$406.57 in cash, totaling \$1005.68. For the year, we have received corrections donations totaling 782 books valued at \$2234.62 and \$2579.48 cash, totaling \$4814.10. For expenditures, Rick bought 100 12 & 12s for \$572.82 and spent \$81.48 on supplies for meetings, totaling \$654.28.

Grapevine - Doug Clark

Not present

Website - Jim Horne

- The website is functioning OK, but Jim just got an email that WordPress has been updated. The District 33 site gets an average of 170 hits per day and just passed a 250,000 overall.

Treatment - Stanly Hurlston

No present

He told Tom to say that everything is going well in treatment.

Treasurer's Report - Pam Clarke

- Tom sent out August financial reports.
- We only had one contribution last month, from the 11th Step Prayer and Meditation group
- We have raised 71% of projected annual funds and have only passed 66% of days. We have spent 56% of expenses. We have \$4,237 in bank, which is \$,1284 over our prudent reserve.
- We were talking about how to show "coins for cons" contributions on paper.
 - We could add income and expense lines to the group budget so it would all be on one paper.
 - Rick would like some type of auditing in place, for peace of mind and for transferring this position. He notes, we're talking about a lot of money.
 - He worries that, if contributions were rolled into the district, they might be subsumed.
 - Tom notes that people wonder why this doesn't show up on paper.
 - Lauren notes we could email Rick's spreadsheet out to the district. He has records of contributions broken down by group.
 - Rick will distribute a report to the district.

Old Business

George Shanko-Raleigh Intergroup Chair Addresses District Meeting:

He has been the chair or been involved since the inception of the new service in his area, and he is here to share his experience.

His expectation of what the caller wants has changed since he began. He started out as an order taker. He then realized that people really wanted to know "am I welcome" as well as what to expect. Since then, he has really found out the value of the traditions. He lets callers know there are no dues or fees etc., how a meeting goes (they don't have to share), and lets them know NOT to put money into the basket: we ask only members contribute. He notes that, though he used to find traditions meetings boring, he has a renewed appreciation. He senses relief, and people are more likely to open up, after a discussion of the traditions. People are used to dealing with professional customer service which can be more like sales.

If you receive a call from someone looking for a meeting in another area, what do you do? For them to actually speak to a sober alcoholic is the first thing. He has never had a hard time finding someone a meeting no matter where they're from (including other states). What if you receive 12-step calls? We have a packet. This packet contains a list of people who have volunteered to do 12-step calls (organized by geographic area) - this doesn't happen that often, perhaps a handful of calls a year. 99% of calls are people going to their first meeting.

Just because someone asks for something, doesn't mean we need to do that. One woman asked for us to bring a meeting to her son who had been drinking rubbing alcohol: call 911.

Maybe someone doesn't need a ride; they need to go to a meeting tomorrow.

What if someone gets someone on the phone who is suicidal? We're not trained for that. Neither is the person on the answering service. Don't think of the calls we receive as emergencies. It has never happened yet. Those people typically call someone else. The people who call the answering service are usually dry alcoholics. If it did happen, say, ma'am/sir you need to call someone else. It's the same as if they'd called a veterinarian. There is a suicide hotline number in the booklet, but it has yet to be used.

What kind of phone number would it be? Dial *72 plus the number and that number will be automatically forwarded to that number. You can have the hotline be number whatever you want it to be.

Do many groups want to serve? So far, they have had no problem filling the calendar. Two groups could trade off and do odd-even (alternating months of the year). He notes that it is a big responsibility.

Why do they want us to join? He sees this a good for unity. It is not a big deal one way or the other. They already get a lot of calls from our district.

Tom notes, that there have been cases of people not getting a response from our helpline. The Raleigh Intergroup is running PSAs and we're in the same media market. Callers are talking to an AA. We'd save around \$3,000. The service now costs them \$55 per month.

When you do get complaints, where do they come from? Call captains/forwarders have people who don't show up for their shifts. He checks in with people a day in advance. Sometimes the call forwarder isn't available. The only complaint from the group side is "we signed up and nobody contacted us." The meeting's coordinator may never send a call list in, etc. Sometimes people at meetings get their feelings hurt because they aren't selected to field calls. The only things that ever really go wrong are technical. Someone had the call forwarding phone and lost the phone, and a volunteer couldn't be transferred. (This happened 2 or 3 times in 5 years.) It is noted that numbers should be able to be switched on the back end through a website. One time the call forwarder got drunk. One time the phone's charger got lost. The intergroup service uses a prepaid phone that gets unlimited calls for 55\$ per month.

They have rotated the answering service chair every two years. We'd have to request from the Raleigh Intergroup to join. District 32 in Durham is doing the same.

One member gets the feeling that we'd be outsourcing our calls to the Raleigh Intergroup. The question is why don't we build our own system that's the same?

Only 4% of calls were going to alcoholics under their old answering service.

The majority of calls come between 8-5; next, 5-10; and a few calls come over night. Most callers are not drunk when they call (except between 7-8 am).

We could keep our old service simultaneously with the new service and check back in in six months. Our contract terminates in January.

***Motion: We ask to participate in Raleigh Intergroup's service and keep our old service for a period of four months, or until the contract is up, at which time we will decide on a course of action moving forward.**

The motion passes.

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George S will be discussing the Intergroup Helpline with District 32 this week. Then a motion will be brought before the Intergroup to add Districts 32 and 33 to the helpline. Final approval and implementation is not expected before January 1, 2017.

We were successful in our bid to host the Central Pre - Conference in 2017. It will be held in Burlington at Saint Mark's.

New Business

Tom reads Concept IX.
James will present Concept X next month.

Announcements

- Our next meeting will be Oct 9.
- The AA Technology conference is upcoming.
- The Midwinter conference is coming up.
- Scott J will be speaking on the 29th at 6:30 at the Hoffields Group

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