



## GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

### FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE NORTHERN AREA

March 29, 1971.

The second quarterly meeting of the Northern Florida Committee of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous was held in Gainesville, Fla., at 2:00 p. m. on Sunday, March 28, 1971.

Present was chairman Earl M. [redacted]. Committee members present were Dave C. [redacted], Bert L. [redacted], Bill B. [redacted], Buck R. [redacted], Marie T. [redacted] and Lamar P. [redacted]. Absent were Jess P. [redacted] and delegate, Sam I. [redacted].

The meeting was opened by the chairman. The minutes of the first quarterly meeting (Jan. 31, 1971) were read and accepted. The treasurer's report was then read and accepted.

As Sam I. [redacted] was absent due to illness, the chairman continued the meeting. The need for an alternate delegate was stated and Dave C. [redacted] of St. Augustine was unanimously elected.

The following conference agenda topics were discussed:

1. Should GSO and AA service offices accept contributions from clubs formed by AA's for AA's?  
The answer was no. It was felt that we must adhere strictly to our preamble and our traditions.
2. What can young people contribute to older members?  
It was felt that we need to forget age; that we are all the same as sober alcoholics and have the same need for the twelve steps.
3. Is there a generation gap in AA? It was noted that there were young people's groups in some communities, but also noted that separate groups away from the main body of AA do not last too long. Reference was made to our pamphlet Young People in AA. Again, with strict adherence to our steps and traditions, age difference (generation gap) should pose no problem.
4. It was asked if sponsorship were declining. Some felt that it was not; that it was stressed in their district, while others felt that it may give the appearance of declining simply because it was spread out more widely, and because of the rapid growth in group membership. Still others felt that much less stress has been laid on sponsorship today than it was twenty years ago in AA; that twenty years ago new members were very definitely informed about the need for sponsorship.

This question was summed up in the need for our individual inventories - in how well we as individuals are getting the message across to the newcomer of his need for sponsorship, and in the need for group discussions on sponsorship.

5. The value of Traditions: It was strongly felt that with the death of our co-founder and with so many outside agencies interested in the illness of alcoholism we may be going into a new age in AA. It was pointed out that what the steps are to the individual alcoholic the traditions are to the group. That they grew out of our experience with group problems and are still the basis on which we solve our problems today. It was felt that we need more group meetings on the traditions and on the history of AA.
6. The topic of cooperation but not affiliation was summed up by Earl: "AA is compatible. If you fail, we will help." It was stressed that AA needs no prestige; that we stand on the record of our own recovery. More important, that we cannot allow outside agencies to tell us what to say at our meetings. We are effective because we are laymen. We can tell our stories as victims, not as experts.
7. Questions about future international conventions were raised. It was felt that the cost of tapes and panoramic photos was too high and should be greatly reduced.

Brief reports were heard from the chairmen of the public information committee and the institutional committee. Velma H. [redacted] pointed out that the State Convention is not paying for the transportation and lodging of inmates this year and that Louie W. [redacted] states that the inmates will not be able to leave the prisons unless and until the money is in hand. As a personal venture on Velma's part, a contribution was collected after the meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. No date or place has yet been set for the next quarterly meeting, but we will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

*Barbara*

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Barbara S-N.,  
Secretary.