7/79

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA

MINUTES OF THE THIRD QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTH FLORIDA AREA OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, JULY 14-15, 1979, HOLIDAY INN EAST, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA.

AGENDA, SAT., 7/14/79: 12:00 Noon - Institutional Committee Meeting
" " Grapevine Committee Meeting
2:00-4:00 P.M.- Public Information Committee Mtg.
" " - Group Sectys'/Treas's. Workshop
" " - Handicap Committee Meeting
4:00-5:00 P.M.- Area Committee Meeting
" " - Gen'l.Serv.Reps. Sharing Session

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING: Opened by Chairman, Tom L., with moment of silence, followed by Serenity Prayer. Roll Call - 24 present. Absent-Alt.Chairman, Institutional Chairman, Grapevine Chairman, DCM#9, and DCM#16.

Minutes were accepted as printed. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Bal.onhand, 7/12/79 - $1,582.34

Delegate's Report: Lou M. advised that each DCM would receive printed copy of the Gen'l. Serv. Conference Report of April, 1979, at the fourth quarterly meeting. He touched on "high-lights" of Report. See detailed report on same, given at the Main Assembly Meeting, Sunday a.m., 7/15/79.

Reports from Institutional, Public Information, Grapevine, and Handicap Committee Chairmen: See separate reports, attached at back of minutes.

Future quarterly meetings: Tom L. advised that the present manner of holding our quarterly meetings in the different areas of N.Fla, will continue for time being.

Alternate Chairman Vacancy: Tom L. announced there is a vacancy in office of Alternate Chairman, due to Merrill T[redacted] moving out of area. Majority vote, by show of hands, will be taken at the Main Assembly Meeting on Sunday, 7/15/79, to elect a new Alternate Chairman.

Redistricting - Jacksonville: Steve Hartnett, DCM#2 reported no change at this time. A meeting on July 28, 1979, with members from District 2 groups, together with members from the other three Jax. districts, is to be held, to generate interest in District 2 groups becoming more actively involved in N. Fla. service area.

Redistricting-District #6: Peter Elks, DCM#6 requested that this district be split - a new district formed for Gainesville and nearby areas; with District #6 to consist of Palatka, Keystone Hts., Melrose, Green Cove Spgs., Marineland, and St. Augustine. After discussion, it was approved and voted that new district, #14, be formed: DCM#14 is Joan E[redacted], [redacted] Terrace, Gainesville, FL., 32607. New area maps will be made, covering total of sixteen (16) districts in N. Fla. Area.

AREA COMMITTEE MTG., cont'd: District #12 advised they had approved transfer of the Sandpiper Group, Cocoa Bch., from District #15 to District #12.

Request for funds - Public Info. Chmn., Dorothy McF., asked that the sum of $30.00 be approved and made available for the P.I. Committee to purchase "Mini-Kits", to be sent to District Committeemen - the kits to contain list of materials and guidelines; specific information on "special areas"; where such materials are available; together with covering letter from P.I. Comm. By majority vote, request for $30.00 was granted.

Fourth Quarter Meeting, scheduled for October 27th and 28th, to be held in Jacksonville, with Districts 1,2,3,& 4 responsible for handling arrangements.

Meeting adjourned, basket passed, and closing with the Lord's Prayer.

SPEAKER MEETING, 8:00 P.M., Sat., 7/15/79: Earl M. Chairman, introduced Edna W. from Cocoa Beach, whose story many of us could relate to. She serves as an inspiration to all who may have severe physical infirmities. In telling how she has learned to cope, a day at a time, with severe pain and handicap, her message of courage, strength and hope came through clearly.

SHARING SESSION, Sun.8:30 A.M., 7/15/79: Al I. chaired this well attended early bird meeting. The subject was How to Understand the Program, and How to Know about Service Work.- through the use of materials available. Al had on hand, the following materials, with a description of each: 1. - Pamphlets: a. General Service Representative - this in information you need on the general service structure-- the GSR may be the most important job in A.A.; b. The A.A. Group - information about and for the group; c. 60-30-10 (this has replaced pamphlet "A Penny a Day for Sobriety") - is an easy, simple explanation of how a group may divide its contributions - where the money goes, and why it is needed to carry out the message of A.A., which is "Carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers": 2. - Service Manual: Outlines the complete service structure of the A.A. Program: 3. - The 12 Concepts for World Service - Detailed explanation of how the A.A. Program works world wide. - Suggested for DCMs - At your monthly district meetings with your groups, read the 12 Concepts (brief form) listed at the back of the Service Manual, in place of reading the 12 Traditions. The 12 Traditions, however, should continue to be read at group meetings.

MAIN ASSEMBLY MEETING, Sun., 10:30 A.M., 7/15/79: Tom L., Chmn., opened the meeting by asking that we all join in a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rhoda McA., Rec. Secty. took Roll Call - all members present, with the exception of Alt. Delegate, Alt. Chmn., DCMs #7, 9, & 16. Minutes, as printed, approved and accepted. Treasurer's Report approved and accepted - Balance on hand, 7/12/79 - $1,582.34. Chairmen Committee Reports are attached (see back of minutes). Grp. Secty/Treas Report was made by Bill R. - he said that one area which was discussed, covered the pitfalls for a Treasurer to avoid, in being responsible for the group's money. Most important for both secretary and treasurer - do keep accurate records.

MAIN ASSEMBLY, cont'd: General Service Workshop, chaired by John VanD., was an informative sharing session on communication and responsibility between each group and all groups in a District. The Service Manual and the GSR pamphlet were used as sources of reference.

New District #14, was announced - covering Gainesville and adjacent areas. See under Area Comm. Mtg.,Sat., for name and address of new DCM#14.

New Alternate Area Chairman is Jimmy G[redacted], [redacted], Jax.,FL., 32217. Phone-904/[redacted]. He was elected at this Assembly meeting by majority vote, following Tom L's advising that Merrill Tourtelette, former Alt.Chmn., had moved from the N. Fla. Area, thus creating vacancy in this office.

Fourth Quarterly Meeting to be held Oct. 27th & 28th, 1979, in Jacksonville (Duval, Nassau and Clay Ctys.) with Dists. 1,2,3,&4, as host group responsible for making all necessary arrangements.

DELEGATE'S REPORT on April, 1979 Gen'l.Serv.Conf., New York, N.Y. - Lou M., our Delegate, advised their working sessions ran from 9:00 A.M. each day until nine, ten, and eleven o'clock at night! He said he really learned that it's going to be pretty hard for any one of us to screw up the A.A. Program - A.A. is very safe and sound, with our 12 Concepts, 12 Traditions, and 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Lou will serve as the Grapevine Committee Chairman for the 1980 Conference. Three publications of interest are now available from GSO - a. The first publication of A.A., published in 1939; b. Compilation of "ASK-IT-BASKET" Questions from 1951 thru 1978; c. The Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference, from 1951 thru 1978 (small point of interest - it was in 1958 that the phrase "honest desire" was changed to "desire" in Tradition #3.) Contact Phyllis M[redacted] at GSO, for prices and ordering.

"HIGH LIGHTS" ON FIFTEEN POINTS from Conference, as reported by Lou:

1. CORRECTIONAL, INSTITUTIONAL, & TREATMENT FACILITIES: a. Pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" was approved. Film strip to be made on this pamphlet at a future date. b. Don't resent someone who sobers up thru other means than by A.A.;(that is-an institution, or a treatment facility). c. There is a continuing need for better communication between A.A. and alcoholic rehabilitation facilities. Help for the sick alcoholic is also available thru government funded programs, private institutions with no fee for treatment, and private institutions with fees ranging from nominal to very expensive. It is not the business of A.A. to dictate how these facilities should run their programs.

2. GRAPEVINE: a. Groups may order at bulk rate and sponsor subscriptions to institutions, doctors, hospitals, etc.; b. Gift Certificates will be available in September; c. Gray pages in Grapevine are to be continued-these are in re information from the field of alcoholism; d. There may be a need to add another page in re Meeting Dates.

3. DIRECTORIES: a. Will continue reading as they are now - the Cross-Addicted Listing was unanimously voted "NO". (But we are reminded that these people are welcome at any meeting). b. Directory will be printed seasonally, and will be color coded.

4. LITERATURE COMMITTEE: a. A study of all literature - Conference Approved and Service Pamphlets - will be done, and a report made to the 1980

Conference - and, probably all service pamphlets will be Conference Approved; b. In reference to the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings", it was stressed that we use first names, only; c. "Lisa's Story" has replaced "Joe's Story" (Joe went out and got drunk).

5. Film - "A.A.-AN INSIDE VIEW": Has been approved. a. Purpose of film is to help us carry the message to the suffering alcoholic, and to the general public. With the exception of a "staged" 12-Step Call, remainder of film shows actual meetings and members. You don't "see" the voice. At present, it is difficult to understand the voice (however, the sound track and the voice will be reworked for better clarity). Also, there will be an explanation put in about the reason for the film, and the reason for the anonymity of members. Film distribution will be controlled by GSO. Film may be obtained from GSO, upon request (cost-?) Film is also to be shown in a couple of closed circuit TV areas for "feed-back". Cost to make film was $100,000.00. Final approval will be made at 1980 Conference.

6. COPYRIGHTS: a. Approval given for other programs to use our materials-Big Book, etc., and the GSO manner of handling requests by non-A.A. groups will continue in the same way as they have been doing. b. The feeling was that we borrowed everything we have and use, and the materials should be made available to others.

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: a. Will endeavor to find another phrase for "current A.A. trends or practices" - i.e. one, for example, that has become popular - the practice of holding hands at close of meeting. Let's not make these trends be "required". We should remember that many of these grow out of personal choice by individual groups, and are not part of the basic structure of Alcoholics Anonymous; b. On "Trends-Positive & Negative" - are we tending to point out differences rather than similarities? Be careful in pointing out that we are different - encourage similarities; c. Public Info. to place further emphasis on more radio and TV spots for Spanish speaking people, and for the deaf, etc.; d. Sponsor your doctor, clergyman, employer, those in the academic field, etc. - keeping them informed through means of all available P.I. materials.

8. CONFERENCE VOTING: a. 75% of General Service Represenatives will be required in any change making. b. There are 91 delegates in a total of 145 conference members - and the Conference will always be made up of at least 66-2/3% delegates.

9. CONTRIBUTIONS: a. The maximum for individual giving has been raised to $500.00 (from $300.00 formerly) - this is on an annual basis. Increase to $500.00 also applies to bequests in Wills.; b. Contributions are way ahead, reports GSO - we are now approaching the "self-supporting" stage, mainly through our group contributions - someday, perhaps, we can give our literature free of charge; at any rate, we hope to be able to reduce the prices of literature; c. Lou said that Chicago now sends contributions in to GSO!

10. GROUP AUTONOMY & A.A. UNITY: a. Each group may do anything it wishes, as long as it does not interfere with A.A., as a whole; b. Minority opinion in a group is very important, and should be listened to with an open mind.

11. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE A.A. FELLOWSHIP: a. Today, there is a breakdown in all areas of life - not only in A.A.; b. 99% of problems are

caused by lack of knowledge and lack of awareness. In A.A., we can solve problems by keeping open all lines of communication - from between two individuals, or one member and the group, or the group and the district, or the district and the area, and finally between the area and the conference; c. Rural areas have poorest communication, while metropolitan areas have very good communication.; d. Our service structure improves communications - Central, or Intergroup Offices are of help; The N. Fla. Area sends copies of all meetings and minutes of same, to each group in the assembly districts; Newsletters are a good form of communication.

12. RALLYS, CRUISES, ETC.: a. How do these fit into A.A. Traditions? - If they operate "to carry the message" - they they are O.K.; b. Registration fees are considered as coming under the heading "paying own way"; c. GSO has one (1) paid employee for every 439 groups - the portion of a group contribution which goes towards salaries is certainly not an exorbitant amount.

13. CONCEPTS: Several meetings were held on the Concepts in regard to Rotation and Class Distinction in A.A. - the feeling was that rotation should eliminate any so-called class distinction; b. On the subject of Name Tags - by discussion (not action) it was suggested that titles not be designated.

14. 1980 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION: a. Will be held at Superdome, New Orleans, LA., July, 1980 - Convention information and registration cards should be out sometime in September, 1979; b. 30,000 members are expected to attend - and they will be able to feed 6,000 at a sitting, at the Superdome, itself; c. We are advised to beware of booking agents who are already booking plane and hotel reservations, collecting money for same, and then disappearing!

15. NORTH FLORIDA CONTRIBUTIONS TO GSO, 1978-1979: 56.7% of total groups contributed in amount of $7,549.85. There are listed 2,596 members, 199 groups, with 113 groups contributing, making per capita contribution of $2.91 each member.

Lou M. concluded the well-presented High Lights report by advising that each DCM will receive a complete copy, after he gets the one from GSO.

REMINDER #1: DCMs remember to hold monthly District meetings!

REMINDER #2: Do let your groups know that ALL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME at these area meetings - especially all group secretaries and treasurers!

MEETING ADJOURNED 11:15 A.M. Basket was passed. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis D.

Phyllis G. Dickenson
Corresponding Secretary

8/6/79

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA

TREASURER'S REPORT PRESENTED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUARTERLY MEETING JULY 14-15, 1979. HOLIDAY INN EAST, MELBOURNE, FLA.

Period Covered	RECEIPTS: GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS: General Use	Insti. Comm.	Total Group	OTHER RECEIPTS Misc.Col.	TOTAL RECEIPTS	EXPENSE: TOTAL EXPENSE	BALANCES: PERIOD BALANCE	CUMULATIVE BALANCE
I.1.79	$ 872.95	$	$ 872.95	$	$ 872.95	$	$ 872.95	$ 872.95
I.1-3.21	1394.54	70.00	1464.54	272.61	1737.15	* 507.55	1229.60	2102.55
3.22-7.12	630.41	10.00	640.41	229.41	869.82	**1390.03	(520.21)	1582.34
TOTALS	$2897.90	80.00	$2977.90	$ 502.02	$ 3479.92	$1897.58	$ -----	$ 1582.34

EXPENSES * Includes $300 to General Service Conference for Delegate's expenses at Conference.
** $1,000 to Delegate for year's expenses; $226.69 Holiday Inn for Coffee; $148.84 other operational.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CERTAIN DISTRICT GSR'S AS A GROUP MARCH 22 - JULY 12.

DIST.	General		Instit.
I	BEACHES UNITY	$ 15.00	
	Central (4)	20.00	
	Life Line (2)	10.00	
II	CABOOSE	$ 20.00	$ 5.00
III	Friday NightORTEGA	$ 25.00	
	Westside	50.00	
IV	RIVERSIDE	$ 15.00	
VI	OLDEST CITY (4)	$ 40.00	
VII	EUSTIS	$ 60.00	
VIII	BIG BOOK STUDY(H,H)	$40.00	
	Brighter Days Bfst	25.00	
	Ocean Holiday (3)	14.35	
	Ormond-by-the-Sea	2.50	
	Port Orange (2)	15.00	
	Way of Life (4)	30.86	
	Winners Way (2)	44.70	
X	MAITLAND	40.00	$ 5.00
XI	MARVIN R	13.00	

DIST		
XII	EAU GALLIE	$ 20.00
	North Patrick	10.00
XV	GATEWAY	10.00
	Sandpiper	20.00
XVI	BRADFORD	25.00
	Lake City Serenity	10.00
	Live Oak Fri.Even.	10.00
DISTRICT I GSR'S		35.00
DISTRICT IV GSR'S		10.00
	TOTAL GENERAL	630.41
	TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL	10.00
	TOTAL GROUPS	640.41

25 Groups plus 2 Dist. GSR's made a total of 44 contributions during period. (THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!)

Contributions may be sent to your treasurer.

Checks may be made out to the treasurer or to NORTH FLORIDA COMMITTEE AA.

Mail to:
Elise R. D[redacted]
[redacted]
Sanford, Fla 32771

PRUDENT RESERVE

10/77	$ 500.00
12/30/77	506.03
12/30/78	531.82
7/11/79	545.09

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Elise R. D[redacted]
Treasurer

Unity Service Recovery AA

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA

Institutional Committee Minutes
Area Assembly Meeting
July 14 - 15, 1979

The meeting was opened with a moment of silent meditation, Serenity Prayer and Preamble.

Forty-three persons attended. The theme of the meeting was "Bridging the Gap between the Institution and the local A.A. Group."

Reports from the sixteen districts were received. The largest growth was reported by Jack E., Chairman of Institutional District Number 8. A few problems were reported by different areas and Perry, the Committee's laison with Tallahassee, was asked to assist in one district. It was noted that many different districts still do not have Chairmen, and it was suggested that in the four areas of the State that have Intergroups, i.e. Orlando, Jacksonville, Daytona, and Melbourne, that the Intergroup Institutions Chairman be appointed as I.D.S.R. The Chair reminded the group that request for up-dated group lists have only been received from three districts, and reminded the Committee that the literature requests would be turned into North Florida General Service at the end of July.

In keeping with the theme of the meeting, Al and Jim, both members of the Brevard County Correctional Group, gave a presentation of their group and personal feelings on A.A. and "Bridging the Gap." The group extended their sincere thanks not only to Al and Jim, but also to Father Mark and Mr. Ronald L. Holmes for arranging for Al and Jim to be with us.

The basket was passed and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

An Institutional Committee Report was made at the main Assembly meeting on Sunday morning, summarizing briefly the Institutional Committee meeting on Saturday.

Bill R[redacted], Chairman
North Florida Institutional Committee

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA

Handicap Committee Report

Assembly Meeting
July 14-15, 1979

The committee's service assignment is to carry the message of recovery to the handicapped alcoholic as well as to the A.A. member who thinks he or she cannot actively participate in this twelve-step action because of a physical disability.

The latter need to enter the A.A. mainstream and learn to rely on the whole membership for help-then they may carry the message more effectively to other handicapped alcoholics. The person who accepts the fact that the real disability is alcoholism and by a course of sober living will probably be able to communicate better with other handicapped than those members who do not have a physical disability.

As the result of personal contact and P.I. articles, we have received support from handicapped A.A. members who are willing to serve on this committee ranging from paraplegic, muscular dystrophy, emphysema , blind and laryngectomy. Also, non handicapped A.A.'s in the nursing and rehabilitation professions.

We are pleased to announce that the "Grapevine" is actively interested in our program and are willing to do a complete section on the Handicapped Alcoholic. The first in the series of such, appears in the August issue.

It is estimated that there are about 50,000 potential A.A. members in the country and it is through the act of communication and then education that we may reach these suffering handicapped alcoholics.

The General Service Office has supplied us with information on tapes and braille material for the blind; listings of deaf groups; "Loners"- who are unable to attend meetings for medical reasons and other information to assist us in this service work.

For those who "Dare to Care" please contact the Handicap Committee Chairman.

Bob K[redacted]

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA

Public Information Committee Meeting Report Assembly Meeting
July 14-15, 1979

Dorothy McF., Chairwoman, opened the meeting by introducing "Del" E. to share the experience he had with Public Information dissemination and growth in a metropolitan area, working through the Intergroup Office. He stressed the "Anonymity Principal" in all public information sharing. On TV or radio he becomes "Bill", or some pseudo-name, and no easily identifiable camera shots are allowed. He also suggested we use the "one to one" method with our personal doctors, lawyers, ministers, etc.

The single, most important piece of Public Information given at this meeting was the announcement of a new kit, now available from General Service Office in New York, on Public Information Guidelines.

The meeting was then thrown open to sharing by all those present of their experiences with P.I. in their hometowns, cities, or rural communities. Rhoda McA. emphasized that "Public Speaking" is only one phase of P.I. Other phases are in volunteering for the answering service at the Intergroup office, writing "blurbs" for newspapers, radio, etc., the leaving of A.A. booklets and pamphlets in waiting rooms of persons serving the community, etc. She concluded by saying "much talent and leg work is needed."

Alice G. shared her efforts in public information inserts in the local newspapers. She asked if articles from other sources can be reprinted in a local paper? The answer was "yes" - if it does not say it cannot. Each paper does print the origin of the original article, and where it was first published.

Porter B. reminded us of the "public service" time available on TV and radio, due to FEC Communications Licensing policies. Howard S. told us that his county paper lists, under "Calendar of Local Events", the meetings of A.A., Alanon, and Alateen in his area.

The chairwoman then said that this, and other P.I. meetings, were to show us "How to Ask", so that we could take our responsibility in giving suggestions on "How to Share" to the other members of A.A. in our area. She also said she would ask permission at the Area Committee Meeting, for funds to get out the new Public Information Kits, available now from New York, as a start on how to share by mailing the kits to all N. Fla. Committeemen. She reminded us again that Public Information is three-phased: 1-Informing Ourselves; 2-Informing Our Own Membership; 3-Answering The Questions of Those "Out There", Who Need to Know and Want to Know about A.A.

The meeting was then closed, with Dorothy promising her availability, and asking for suggestions from the fellowship.

Approval was given by the Area Committee, and it was voted to fund the P.I. project in the amount of $30.00

Secretary - "Katie" D. P.I. Chairman - Dorothy McF.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA

Grapevine Committee Meeting Report

Assembly Meeting
July 14-15, 1979

There were eight members present at this meeting. Bob K. of St. Augustine related his experience of writing an article for the Grapevine (see July, 1979 issue of Grapevine for his story).

It was announced that the Gift Certificates for subscriptions to the Grapevine are now ready.

Calendars are ready for ordering. If a group orders in bulk of 25 or more, there is a savings of $.50 ($2.00 instead of $2.50 ea.) An Intergroup Office can take care of these orders, or a group may order direct from GSO.

Grapevine Representatives - Each group should send the name and address of its GVR direct to New York to: A.A. Grapevine, Inc., Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, New York, 10017. All important information and literature will be mailed directly to the representative.

The Grapevine Committee has thought that a News Letter about Grapevine matters would be of value and of interest to all the North Fla. area members. Perhaps, in the near future, such a plan might be put into effect.

There are two very good sources available on the history of the Grapevine, in the form of Reprints: 1 - History of the Grapevine; 2 - Questions and Answers about the Grapevine.

Groups are finding that articles appearing monthly in the Grapevine are excellent subject material for group discussion meetings.

The Grapevine Committee is very pleased with its Bulletin Board which makes an attractive visual method of showing what the publication is all about.

Dick P[redacted], Chairman
North Florida Grapevine Committee