



## GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

### FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE NORTHERN AREA

June 1, 1972.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE MEETING HELD MAY 21, 1972 AT ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.

The third quarterly meeting of the General Service Conference, Northern Florida Area, Alcoholics Anonymous, was opened by the chairman with the serenity prayer.

Present were delegate, Sam In chairman, Earl R committee members Marie To , Bert L, Buck R, Barbara Sc , Jesse P and Dave C. Absent were Joe L and Lamar P.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted after some discussion of the part dealing with a committee member being considered "resigned" after failure to attend two consecutive meetings without sending a substitute or representative. The committee as such does not "fire" anyone, but the GSRs can and should select a new committee member to represent them if their present committee member is not attending the meetings. This is the responsibility of the GSRs from any given district. If a committee member cannot attend his meetings he should either let us know or arrange for a substitute.

The treasurer gave her report and our bank balance stands at \$609.69 with all bills paid. Forty-four groups responded to requests for contributions for our delegate's trip to the New York Conference and other incidental expenses of the committee.

Sam then gave his report of the April Conference. He pointed out that the Conference is not designed for and does not settle disputes at the group level, nor does the Area Committee. Disputes are to be worked out within and among the groups at that level. Each group is autonomous but it is suggested that they operate within the guidelines of the twelve traditions. There are no judges or juries in AA.

With reference to the discussions we have had on "clubs" Sam noted that the delegates at the Conference approved a motion that no club listed in the World Directory, or known as such, whether or not solely composed of AA members, be allowed to contribute to GSO. Individual groups meeting in these clubs could send in funds as long as it is in the name of the group. So if your checks bear the imprint "---- Club" please either send a cashier's check or money order instead when making your contribution to GSO. Also, should the check have imprinted on it the name of an individual, please use a money order or cashier's check instead. We are self-supporting and accept no outside contributions.

The Finance Committee, recognizing the effect of inflation, recommended that the limit on individual gifts and bequests be increased from \$200.00 to \$300.00 per year.

He spoke of Dr. Norris' trip to Germany, Italy and England earlier this year. Alcoholism, rather than drugs, is still the number one problem in the armed forces. Dr. Norris made suggestions to the base personnel as to how they could work with AA, how they could start groups, and what AA literature was available to them.

Sam spoke of the workshop on the World Directory. The decision was made not to give out the World Directory upon request to doctors or prisons. Delegates may give out information for their particular area but only that. Otherwise, the Directory is to be kept only for the use of AA members and to be confidential. Any person who puts his name in the World Directory should be willing to have his name used with discretion. Before you use anyone's name as a reference ask him first. The Directory is used mainly by members visiting one area or another to enable them to contact AA.

In order to get our Directory more accurate and up to date the GSRs have been requested to send their group cards to their delegate and make it his responsibility to correct and verify them before sending them on to GSO.

A decision was made that all delegates and trustees, past and present, would be on the General Service Office's mailing list for life to receive Box 4-5-9, the World Directory, the Conference Report and other AA publications.

Sam pointed out that there is a large assortment of guidelines available to AA members upon request from GSO, on almost any given subject.....clubs, industry, armed services, public information, institutional committees, rehabilitation centers, court programs.....the list is endless.

In reference to the Bill Wilson Memorial Fund, the \$36,000.00 donated by AA members is still being held while the delegates discuss its use further with their groups. Suggestions have been made to use it for a film, historical or for public information. The delegates will return to the 1973 Conference with either more suggestions for the money's use or prepared to make a decision on one of the films.

It was voted not to accept Stepping Stones property in joint ownership with Al-Anon.

"Family" Groups: A number of "Family" groups have requested listing in our World Directory. Both AAs and Al-Anons feel that the word "family" should not be used in the name of an AA group. As for listing in our World Directory, we feel that these groups are not in keeping with our primary purpose nor do they meet membership requirements and it was suggested that they be considered meetings which AAs attend rather than AA groups. Only those with a desire to stop drinking may be considered as members of an AA group. If members and their nonalcoholic spouses wish to meet together on a regular basis it is suggested they consider these gatherings "meetings" and not AA groups.

After Sam ended his report we discussed how to make our General Service Meetings better. Some suggested that each GSR drive his own car and bring guests. It was emphasized that each one of us has an educational job to do in his own home group. There are some groups which lack knowledge of what a general service representative is, how he functions and the General Service structure

of AA as a whole. Besides our selves and the sharing of our own learning and experience, we have available literature to help in educating the members of our groups.

Members were again advised to keep the work and offices of intergroup and general service separate from one another. Intergroup is essentially a public service instrument and office.

The 1975 International Convention will be held in Denver, Colorado. There will be a World Service meeting in New York in October of this year.

We will advise you at a later date of our next quarterly meeting.

Any committee members who have not yet sent our delegate a selection of two or three dates for him to visit their district and present his Conference report, please do so. His address is as follows:

Sam I

Sincerely,

*Barbara*

TREASURERS REPORT ---NORTH FLORIDA COMMITTEE A. A.

MAY 21ST, 1972

On Hand April 25, 1972

\$514.58

RECEIVED:

5/4/72 Friendship Group - Jacksonville (Dep. 5/8/72)

10.00

524.58

PAID OUT:

5/15/72 Ck # 125 B. Scharla-Nelson Post. & Mailing

9.65

On Hand May 21st, 1972

\$515.93