



NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF THE SECOND QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTH FLA. AREA OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, APRIL 12-13, 1980, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS HOLIDAY INN, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA.

AGENDA, SAT., 4/12/80:

- 12:00 NOON Public Information Committee Meeting
" " Grapevine Committee Meeting
" " Handicapped Committee Meeting
2:00 P.M. Institutional Committee Meeting
" " Group Secretaries and Treasurers Meeting
4:00 P.M. General Service Representatives Meeting
" " Area Committee Meeting
8:00 P.M. Open Speaker Meeting

AGENDA, SUN., 4/13/80:

- 8:30 A.M. GSR SHARING SESSION
10:30 A.M. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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AREA COMMITTEE MEETING: Chairman, Tom L. opened meeting with meditation and Serenity Prayer. Roll Call - 24 present. Absent - 4: Alt.Chmn.; DCM#2, DCM#14; DCM#16. Minutes approved as written. Treasurer's Report adopted as read: Bal. 4/12/80 \$2,131.41. "Prudent Savings" Bal., 1/1/80 - \$559.61.

Delegate's Report: Lou M. advised that he was asked to submit four names, from those registered for the International Convention, as possible speakers in the Florida Alkathon, at the Convention.

The following subjects will be coming up for discussion and/or approval at the April New York Conference: 1. Literature - all service literature to be Conference approved; 2. Film - final approval on new film "Alcoholics Anonymous - An Inside View". Lou said that the response to the questionnaires about the film indicated more than fifty percent favorable replies. Also, the film may now be shown to outside groups - i.e., school, church, etc. However, only an A.A. member can show the film and explain it; 3. Guideline on video taping; 4. Delegate's term to be extended from two to three years.

Committee Reports, by Chairmen of P.I., Instit., Grapevine, Handicap, GSRs, and Secty./Treas., are attached, following Minutes.

State Convention and International Convention Reports: See details in Assembly Minutes.

Reminder: Be thinking of new members to serve the next two years. October, 1980 will be elections quarterly meeting (to be held at Crystal River, Oct.18-19).

Reminder: To all DCMs - your monthly meetings are aids to stability, and to keeping the lines of communication open.



Public Information Meeting  
Saturday, April 12, 1980.

Chairman, Del E. opened the meeting with a moment of silent meditation followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting, January 19, 1980 were read by Ray M.

New area maps and copies of the pamphlets, " Speaking at Non-AA meetings and 44 questions, " were distributed.

The Chairman, in discussing the pamphlet, "Speaking at Non-AA meetings," stated that when asked to speak at a Non-AA group , care should be used in determining the type of group requesting the speaker. He also emphasized that when speaking the speaker should not forget his or her amateur standing.

Several of the questions from the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-AA meetings" were asked by the chairman and answered from the floor.

In sharing, there was a discussion concerning the use of "Recovered" or "Recovering Alcoholic" when speaking. It was determined that each speaker should use his or her own personal discretion. The questions most frequently asked at NON-AA meetings, as found in the pamphlet "44 Questions", were asked by the Chairman, and answered from the floor.

Emphasis was stressed on getting advice before speaking if any doubt arises.

After a brief review of the new P.I. Kit, the basket was passed and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Del E. Chairman

Chris U. Acting Secretary.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
NORTH FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 12, 1980

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The meeting opened at 2:00 p.m. by Perry G., St. Augustine, with a moment of silent meditation followed by the serenity prayer. 39 people were present.

Two speakers from the New Horizon Group, Daytona Beach Community Correctional Center; Scott J. and Donald C. related their experiences and shared their strength and hope concerning their alcohol abuse, incarceration and ultimate association with A.A. and steps to recovery while incarcerated.

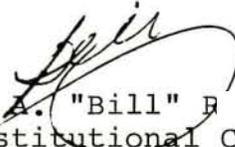
Perry called on Bob K. who talked about his experience with the Renaissance Group at Raeford Prison which he said just recently had died (disbanded). He stressed the need to rotate the outside sponsorship so the group remains vibrant. Bob S. spoke of his experiences as the outside sponsor at the Lake County Correctional Institute. The need to share and care was stressed and that A.A. must comply with Institutional rules.

Comments about death, rebirth, death again and rebirth of the group at Sumter Correctional Institute. Overriding theme was the personalities of the Institutional leaders will either make or break the group. Comments from Alachua area concerning 3 Institutions in District 14. Attendance at these groups from 10 - 30% of the inmate population.

A question was raised about how we handle inmates who are released from Institutions. Comments made about following up on an inmate released and assisting where possible, provided inmate stays in the Florida area. Comment made that it is difficult to get outside sponsors for Institutional groups from the Co-chairman for District 8. Released inmates can be provided with meetings and names of groups in the area wherein they will reside by using the World Directory.

The inside sponsor at Daytona Beach Community Correctional Center made comments about his belief in the A.A. program and the efforts at that Center. Since it is a work release program, the need for a rotating outside sponsor doesn't exist because work release centers tend to have a rotation of inmates. D.B.C.C.C. has rules with regard to who can go to meetings and the need of inmate cooperation on the part of those who attend. Coffee and cake attendees are excluded because of their lack of interest in the A.A. program.

Perry adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

  
W. A. "Bill" B  
Institutional Chairman



## GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE  
NORTHERN AREA

Handicap Committee Report

Area Assembly Conference  
Altamonte Springs  
April 12-13-1980

The fifth area conference meeting of the Handicap Committee was attended by nine service members. This number represents a normal ratio of handicapped members compared to the total attendance at the conference.

One of the major points of discussion was the problem of the deaf or hard of hearing alcoholic. Not only the deaf alcoholic who is still suffering but also, that of the A.A. member who has a hearing handicap.

During the meeting, it was brought home the trauma of the suffering alcoholic who cannot hear and lives in an isolated world and isolates himself still further through alcohol.

Equally important is the condition of the deaf A.A. member who realizes that his real disability (handicap) is alcoholism, but through the lack of communication cannot fully enter the world of sobriety in the fellowship.

Some of the solutions recommended were:

1. The need of A.A. members who work with the deaf. The combination of a sober alcoholic and deaf counselor is rare so it would be necessary to ask for the aid of non A.A.'s fluent in sign language to act as interpreters. However, this gives rise to the confidentiality question. But with goodwill, it could probably be worked out.
2. The use of a hand microphone being passed at discussion meetings with loud speakers appropriately located would help those with impaired hearing.
3. Not all deaf people read lips so at a speaker's meeting, those who are sharing should be prompted to speak clearly and loudly.

Conclusion:

As it was so aptly put by the G.S.O., "Let us hope that a smile, a handshake, and a cup of coffee help carry A.A.'s 'language of the heart' even to those minus the sense of hearing."

Bob I )

*Bob*  
Handicap Chairman

# NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY



Grapevine Committee Meeting  
Saturday, April 12, 1980

Meeting opened in the usual manner, with the Serenity Prayer. There was a brief review of the Grapevine Workshop questions, and also of the various items available from the Grapevine Office, in addition to Grapevine subscriptions. The "AA Today" book, which is a reprint from the 1960 publication put out on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the AA program, is available from the Grapevine Office. This chairman recommends it for excellent reading.

Our main program was planned for two GVRs to report on the best article of their choosing from the 1980 January, February, or March issues. Ellen T., Port Orange Grp., reported on "The Luckiest People in Town", from the Mch. issue. Basically, the article carries the message that we are fortunate to have experienced all of our pain, remorse, and unhappiness, in order that we find the peace and serenity, and happiness and rebirth through the AA program. As the article states, "we opened the door called Grateful Acceptance".: Mac MacD., Hangin' Loose Grp., reported on "Easier, Softer Way", also from the Mch. issue. This article aimed at the heart of the program - the Twelve Steps. As Mac pointed out - he was told "if you want what we have, you do what we did - work the 12 Steps, and the promises will come true." Further on the Steps, Mac said that putting the principles to work in your own life will make life easier to handle, and you will experience your higher power as a happy result. Discussion of each report was held, and it was agreed to continue this same format next meeting. Curtis, Pine Hills Grp., and Greta J., Daytona Beach, will report on their selections from the April, May, or June issues. (Note: If our next meeting is held in early June, the reports should be based on April or May issues. Our thanks to Ellen and Mac for their reports and participation, which made for an interesting meeting.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Gratefully submitted,  
Dick P. , Chairman

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Secretary-Treasurer Workshop      Saturday, April 12, 1980      Report by Pat N.

Meeting opened with question "How Important is a Secretary?": There was a good response by many, as well as shared views as to duties of the secretary, and the treasurer. Comments were made on lack of help for these positions, plus the problem of one person having to fill too many positions.: Lack of communication was discussed - the DCM/GSR meetings could be helpful overcoming problems, especially if the local area has no Intergroup.: Group business meetings- might be held possibly the month after a local Intergroup meeting; would be good for group participation in setting up guidelines for opening up, making coffee, appointing a chairman for specified length of time to be responsible in obtaining speakers, and to discuss upcoming events, and for problem solving. For large groups, suggestion was made that a steering committee could be appointed, who would act on the group conscience.: What is a "prudent" amount of money for a group to hold in reserve? It is hoped there will be a suggestion or guideline from N.Y. on this.: Dispersing of group monies - 60-30-10 plan to Intergroup, GSO, and Area was reviewed.: Election of new GSRs discussed, with possibility of group elections coinciding with the GSR terms beginning in January. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat N. , Acting Secretary

## NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

**AA**  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

General Service Representative Workshop  
Saturday, April 12, 1980

The following are some of the opinions, ideas and suggestions made by various GSRs.: The job as GSR was discussed as linking his/her group as a whole and representing the voice of the group conscious and passing this along to the delegate who passes it on to GSR. Groups who do not have a GSR do not have a link between their group and AA as a whole.: We should impress upon individuals who attain sobriety that with the rights they have as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous, certain responsibilities go along with these rights. In getting people interested in service work, they should be told that they are doing it for themselves and that they will get a lot of personal growth from serving. Responsibility is a personal development type thing. People in the early days of sobriety should not be held responsible for service work, but can be broken in by being made familiar with the rewards it has to offer, and by familiarizing them with the various aspects of it, and the satisfaction derived from being a part of the "big team".

GSRs need more recognition by their groups, and should be given more exposure in order that newcomers and some of the members who are not informed as to the duties and responsibilities, may know more about AA structure and the GSR's role in it.

Service work is not for everyone, but for most of those who are in it, they have found it to be very rewarding. A lot of people come into the group, get their sobriety, but do not want to assume any responsibility. You should try to get them interested in service work by showing your enthusiasm. Rotation is very important - the more people who are involved, the more interest there will be - let them know that the only way we can make AA work is by all of us working as a team, together. Reports to your home groups of meetings you attend make them aware of the GSR's function - invite them to attend meetings with you - make them serve as alternates. If we show how happy we are to serve as a GSR, it will make them want to get into the act.

A district committee member can get a lot of things done - can have monthly meetings with the GSRs, and keep interest growing by exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences.

"Service members are the dedicated members of AA." Credit should always be given to those people who, although they are not interested in service work, support and back their fellow members who are active in service work. Let the members know what is expected of them - let them know they are responsible.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a living, pulsating fellowship, because of service work. We should be enthusiastic about our sobriety, our group, our service work, and we should take this enthusiasm back to our groups.

Workshop Chairman - M. R. J

Alene S [redacted], Acting Secretary



# NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES'

SHARING SESSION

8:30 A.M., Sunday, April 13, 1980

Chairman - Frances B., Altamonte Springs Group

The meeting was well attended with interested participation by a cross-section of GSRs and DCMs. The topic was "Sponsorship" - with it's varied facets, types and individual application.

Frances opened by saying that sponsoring, to her, meant two things - 1. That she was responsible to all in need; 2. That the longer she was sober, the more she helped herself and others by showing gratitude through sponsorship.

The discussion continued from the floor, with various thoughts and observations, on the following questions: 1. Is the 12-Stepper automatically the sponsor, or does he/she act as a temporary guide to the program, the steps, and choice of a sponsor? 2. Can we spread ourselves too thin by sponsoring too many people? 3. Isn't being in service work a type of sponsorship for the group? 4. Are there any set ways of sponsoring, or is a certain rapport and "just being there" solid foundations?

It was suggested that perhaps it would be good for GSRs to recommend "Sponsorship" as the subject of a meeting regularly enough for newcomers to ask questions.

Over all, the feelings of the participants in the discussion were as follows: A sponsor is not stereotyped, but very individual, depending on personality and need. Some people have more time, and empathy, and therefore can sponsor several people at once. The willingness to love and be there, to guide from experience, strength and hope, are important factors. The 12-Stepper possibly knows more of the newcomer's story from his first visit, and can offer to be a temporary sponsor. When a newcomer is taken to, or arrives through a rehabilitation facility, we, as AA members, should follow through with the basic AA indoctrination. We are the link from the facility to the fellowship of A.A.

The sponsor is like a greeter at the door of Alcoholics Anonymous, at a time when entering is the most frightening experience to the newcomer. The sponsor shows that love and welcome wait inside.

Marilyn G \_\_\_\_\_ ,

Acting Secretary

# NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT TO NO.FLA. GENERAL SERVICE APRIL 12 & 13, 1980  
 CONFERENCE AREA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HOLIDAY INN, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS



Period Covered	Income:			OTHER- Misc. Collect.	TOTAL INCOME	Expenses			TOTAL EXPENSES
	General Use	Design. Institu.	TOTAL GROUP			GENERAL SERVICE	ASSEMBLY (HOTELS)	OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	
1.1-4.3, 1980	\$1,153.04	\$ 10.00	\$1,163.04	\$ 427.98	\$1,566.17	\$300.00	\$627.40	\$ 290.38	\$1,217.78
	PERIOD BALANCE \$ 373.24			BALANCE ON HAND 1.1.80		\$1,758.17	BALANCE 4.2.80		\$2,131.41

*Collect is \$1,591.02*

## GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS BY DISTRICTS

Dist.	Group	Amount
I.	BEACHES UNITY	\$ 15.00
	BETTER DAYS WOMEN	25.00
	CENTRAL (3)	15.00
	LIFE LINE (3)	20.00
II.	CABOOSE	10.00
	EUREKA	10.00
III.	ARS ALUMNI	13.00
	HANGIN' LOOSE	5.40
	ORTEGA	25.00 \$5.00
IV.	RIVERVIEW STUDY	10.00
	YULEE	15.00
V.	CARRABELLE	30.00
	LLOYD'S NEW HOPE	50.00
	QUINCY	28.00
	SOUTHSIDE	30.00
	YOUNG PEOPLE (Talla.)	20.00
VI.	PALATKA	15.00
VII.	FAIRWEATHER	5.00
	TRANSITION	5.00
	You Are Not Alone (YANA)	10.00
VIII.	ALOHA	25.00
	BIG BOOK STUDY (2)	20.00
	BOULEVARD	30.00
	BRIGHTER DAYS BREAK-FAST (3)	40.00
	BUNNELL WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP	5.10 \$5.00
	OCEAN HOLIDAY (3)	20.00
	PORT ORANGE (3)	19.00
	WAY OF LIFE (4)	42.58
	WINNER'S WAY	24.96

Dist.	Group	Amount
IX.	FAIRBANKS	15.00
	MAGNOLIA	10.00
X.	ALTAMONTE SPRINGS	60.00
	CASSELBERRY	15.00
	SANFORD WOMEN	2.00
	TANGLEWOOD	20.00
XI.	ATLANTIC DRY DOCK	30.00
	LAKE UNDERHILL	25.00
	MARVIN R (2)	23.00
	TODAY'S WOMEN STUDY	10.00
XII.	CANOVA BEACH	10.00
	EAU GALLIE	20.00
	MELBOURNE BEACH	25.00
	SANDPIPER	20.00
XIII.	BROOKSVILLE THURSNITE	15.00
	CITRA WOMEN	29.00
	SPRING HILL	10.00
XIV.	ALACHUA OPEN DISCUS.	6.00
	DOWNTOWN (GAINESVILLE)	50.00
XV.	CENTRAL BREVARD	30.00
	PRIMARY PURPOSE	5.00
XVI.	TWELVE STEP (LK CITY)	10.00
XVII.	OCALA	25.00
	OPEN DOOR	5.00
	OXFORD	50.00

NOTES: Half of Altamonte Springs contribution should be credited to 1979. ... One of MARVIN R's contributions was sent as a memorial to a member of the group, Jack B. Citra Women has been suspended but voted to send it treasury to North Florida. Thanks to each and every one of you.

## EXPENSES

\$300 for General Service covers expenses for our delegate's week attending the Conference in April. \$627.40 includes amount paid for coffee in January to Treasure Island Inn and an advance payment of \$315.00 to Holiday Inn for coffee. Operational Expenses cover all other expenses, primarily cost of printing and mailing, but also other miscellaneous expenses involved in the work of the committees and those putting on the Assemblies.

SUMMARY A total of 56 groups made 70 contributions to be used for general use (Delegate's expenses, ~~and~~ operational). Two groups made contributions especially designated for Institutional Committee use.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
*Elise R. Dean*  
 Elise R. Dean  
 TREASURER