


 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

MINUTES OF THE THIRD QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN FLORIDA AREA OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, HELD JUNE 27-28, 1981, AT HOLIDAY INN, 201 N. FIRST STREET, PALATKA, FLORIDA

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 PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:

Saturday, June 27, 1981--1:00 P.M.--Public Information Committee Meeting--Chairperson, Rhoda Mc.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--1:00 P.M.--Institutional Committee Meeting--Chairman, Perry G.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--1:00 P.M.--Secretaries & Treasurers Meeting--Chairman, Ed. B.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--2:30 P.M.--Grapevine Committee Meeting, Chairperson, Katie D.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--2:30 P.M.--Handicapped Committee Meeting, Chairman, Scotty R.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--4:00 P.M.--General Service Representatives.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--4:00 P.M.--Area Committee Officers and District Committee Members Meeting.

Area Chairman, Bob S., opened the meeting with a moment of silent meditation, followed by The Serenity Prayer.

Roll call was taken by Rhoda (acting secretary). Present were all Committee Officer or Alternates. Absent were--Corr. Sec. Pat N.; Rec. Sec, Phyllis D.; P.I. Chairperson Janice J; Sheila H., DCM#3; Leo R. DCM#9; Jim S., DCM#14; Porter B., DCM#15; Carl V., DCM#16.

Minutes of the previous Assembly were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Elise D. presented the financial statement for period ending 6-23-81. The accumulative balance is \$2481.29. The prudent reserve, \$1794.29. The report was accepted as presented.

Reports were given from the previous committee meetings (Minutes are enclosed).

Delegate Tom L. gave a brief report of his attendance at the annual General Service Conference held in April at New York. There will be no pooling of Archives material. It would present problems of fireproof vaults, etc. to preserve all the records and tapes. It is felt that each Area would have records important to that area and would like to preserve them. Jacksonville, Daytona Beach and Orlando areas have started and will continue in that vein.

It is important in electing a Service Representative to get the best person available to serve your group. Then support that person. Trust and communicate with him or her. Show some maturity. The General Service Representative is where the service structure begins, then on to the District Committee Member and on to the Delegate. The Delegate does not go to the General Conference to represent a group or an area, but is there for ALL OF AA. At this last Conference, the average length of sobriety was 12½ years. The longest, 32 years and shortest, 6 years.

Sponsorship is vastly important in our sobriety and progress. Each Delegate has a Sponsor and is at present sponsoring someone.

June 10, 1982 will be the 46th. birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous. We will be asked to join in unison at 9:00 P.M. on that date for silent medication. "Our Founders Last Drink."

The basket was passed and those who cared to, joined in The Lord's prayer.

Saturday, June 27, 1981--8:30 PM--Open Speaker's Meeting.

Peter E. of Palatka, Chairman, opened the meeting by introducing our speaker. John R. from St. Augustine told us of the difficulty of a Naval career and practicing his disease of Alcoholism. By using the Twelve Steps for tools, today, he ~~is~~ recovered Alcoholic. Thank you John for sharing.

Sunday, June 28, 1981--8:30 AM--A general sharing of experience, strength and hope for all members.

#### MAIN ASSEMBLY MEETING

Sunday, June 28, 1981, 10:30 AM--Area Chairman, Bob S. opened the meeting by suggesting our moment of silence in remembrance of Past Delegate, Bill Pr and for the rapid recover of Secretary, Phyllis D. who is in intensive care in St. Vincent's hospital, Jax.

The fourth General Assembly will be Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1981 at the Holiday Inn in Titusville.

Roll call was taken by Rhoda. Absent Committee Officers and District Committee Members were; Corr. Sec. Pat N.; Rec. Sec. Phyllis D.; Sheila H. DCM#3; Leo R. DCM#9; Jim S. DCM#14; Porter B. DCM#15. Also present were Representatives of Brevard, District #8, Jacksonville, Central(Orlando) Intergroups.

Minutes of the second quarters meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer, Elise D., reported a balance of \$2481.27 and a prudent reserve of \$1794.29. Report accepted as presented.

Reports from all meetings were presented and the meeting turned over to Delegate Tom L.

#### DELEGATE'S REPORT

Tom returned to North Florida AA, greatly impressed by the input, expertise, and experience of the Non-Alcoholic Trustees. They devote their time, day after day, to our Fellowship. If they had to be replaced from across the U.S.A, we could quickly go broke.

All problems can be resolved, if we trust the people we elect and communicate with them. Show maturity by not bitching about their appearance or work. They are but Trusted Servants.

The average length of sobriety of the 91 Delegates and 3 Alternates was 12½ years. The longest--32 yrs and shortest--6 yrs.

The problem of dual addiction will be with us as new members come into AA. The tendency to talk about that is eminent. As they grow they begin to talk less of dual and more about Alcoholism. It is felt this problem can be handled at the group level or on a one to one basis.

This Fellowship is ours. We are the Keepers and should get more into the Three Legacies and the 12 Concepts. We could improve communication with discussion and workshops. Great general interest at the area level. Our communication in North Florida Area is very good and we do have a lot of participation, also, the process of rotation. North and South Florida Areas each have 4 Assemblies per year. That is better than the majority of areas. Some, have only 1.

Our 1985 Internation Convention, at this time, favors Montreal, Canada. The 1980 Convention in New Orleans, showed a deficit of about \$200,000.00. This is not self supporting. The instant translation seemed to be the largest contributing factor plus, 35,000 attendance was projected. The numerous cancellations (economic reasons) brought the attendance to about 25,000. The theme for 1985 may be "Equal Voice--Equal Responsibility".

The pamphlet 60-30-10 is used as a guide line for our contributions. For the areas with no Central or Intergroup offices, it is suggested they

use that contribution to help the District Committee Member with travel expenses. Some districts are very large and details a lot of traveling to visit groups and attend district meetings. Do this where ever practical.

Contributions to General Service are down. 38% of the expenses of this office is taken care of by group contributions. There is a spiritual significance in giving. As we get sober and our means increase--we should increase our contributions.

Clubs will not receive the group discount for literature.

It is requested that, in areas where our T.V. tapes are being used, the area be notified first. This gives an opportunity to put the local contact number on the screen and not N.Y. or no number.

The Ask-it-basket will be discontinued. To replace it will be "What's on your Mind?"

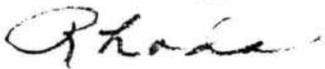
To quote--"I am available. If you would like an enlightening and sparkling Delegate report, my beautiful wife and handsome, debonair self" Write and or call; TOM L

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Bob S thanked District 6 for the work and effort put into our well organized assembly. Rhoda will write a letter of thanks to Holiday Inn. The basket was passed and the meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

KEEP COMING BACK\_\_IT REALLY WORKS\_\_IF YOU WANT IT TO

Sincerely,



Rhoda M (acting secretary)

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HANDICAPPED COMMITTEE

Scotty R , Chairman

2:30 p.m. 6/37/81

Scotty R. announced that the "Talking Pamphlets" for the handicapped readers are available from the Intergroup Office (District #8), 114 North Helme Place, Daytona Beach, FL 32014 at a initial cost of \$1,50 per copy. This charge is, of course, to other groups and intergroups. But to individuals in need, there is "no charge".

At present, there are ten newcomer's pamphlets.

In regard to the area of 'carrying the message' to the world of the handicapped alcoholic, it was agreed, as in most areas, the most effective machinery is "the Group"...the local group, familiar with it's own community. One step, which is suggested in pursuing this area of the isolated alcoholic who is handicapped from our program or our group, is to form the office within the group of "Secretary for the Handicapped".

The suggestion of Secretary for the Handicapped has been proposed in my home group, The Three Legacies Group of Daytona Beach, and is now under sincere consideration.

Scotty asked that we take this information back to our groups as well as the suggestion of a Secretary for the Handicapped.

Ed B., chairman, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Topic: Responsibility to your group and what do you do about people who won't help with group. How can we get people to be more willing?

Suggestions: Hold regular business meetings to delegate or get volunteers; discuss the responsibility on a 'one to one' basis with new people; hold a meeting on service from cleaning ashtrays to opening up as well as taking an office. It is the responsibility of members in the group with good sobriety to guide the newer members to serve on all levels.

Topic: How do you get people to take office in your group?

Suggestions: Use a hard sell to let people know the advantages of doing the job; use the appointment system; make service at any level attractive from the standpoint of AA growth; get a steering committee that coordinates and suggests ideas that the group can vote upon; use the AA manual to pull the group together; get group involvement in service outside the program so that they can grow in fellowship and sobriety together.

Topic: How often should a treasurer's report be given?

Suggestions: Each group handles this differently - some weekly, monthly or even quarterly.

Topic: Is there a conflict if husband and wife take the jobs of Secretary and Treasurer?

Suggestion: As this could be troublesome, one solution would be to let an impartial member count the collection plus initial it to avoid controversy; this can offer prepare a new person for the job later.

Topic: With a large group and small membership, how do you get a program chairman?

Suggestions: Select a member to choose person to chair; get outside group members to help as this may draw new members into the group; at close of meetings, invite people to join group; put the responsibility directly on the group members and get yourself out of the way (ego solver). It was noted you can belong to as many groups as you like but can only be registered with one group and should not vote in any group but registered one.

Topic: What does a group do with excess money?

Suggestion: There is a policy that suggests you only keep 2 - 3 months prudent reserve.

Topic: How are General Service Representative's expenses handled?

Suggestions: Group conscience can decide what they can afford varying from paying all expenses to paying only gas expenses; pay expense money and if the GSR doesn't need it, this can anonymously be put back into the group treasury. This enables good people to serve if they cannot afford it and saves embarrassment on their part.

Topic: Is it wrong for people running group not being members of the group?

Suggestion: Get new members to join as people need to be responsible and to vote with responsibility.

It was suggested that a larger room be allotted for future Secretary/Treasurer meetings due to good attendance and that the Sanka offered at the conference was most appreciated.

The chairman stated it takes four to five years devotion to get a new group going strong and when you start a new group, prepare to spend that much time.

After the basket was passed, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Perry G. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer and the Preamble. 24 were in attendance.

Perry stated they had updated a list of groups with addresses in their area who are not receiving publications and mail from General Service.

New business included the topic of the Myers Act and the Myers Act amendment where a judge can issue a warrant if a person leaves a treatment center. An updated copy of the Myers Act will be available later to those interested through Perry.

Also discussed was AA and treatment centers. Different groups reported between 10-25% coming in through treatment centers and by court order stay in the program. It was noted that most treatment centers keep tabs on people leaving their centers. It was stressed that AA tools be presented to all persons before leaving the centers.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Continued

Jack from Tallahassee opened discussion on prisons. He stated 97% of all persons entering prisons are alcohol related. For group information, listed is the head of prisons for Florida State Correctional Institutions:

Mr. Jim Iv

Discussions on halfway houses indicated there was a need for names and addresses to receive information to get a halfway house started.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

4 p.m. 6/27/81

Chairman Lou M. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Lou distributed handouts he had run off: (1) Structure of the Fellowship; (2) General Service Office of AA and World Services, Inc.; (3) Who Makes Up the Conferences and (4) Flow Chart of a Conference Advisory Action. These informational sheets furnished an excellent example of AA's structure and operational procedures. Lou stated that one of our greatest problems appears to be communication and that often a new General Service Representative (GSR) is appointed to the job but isn't given sufficient information and instruction.

Lou also give the following verbal explanations:

AA Groups: The groups keep us alive. From each group, a General Service Representative (GSR) is elected. A number of groups (10 to 12 generally) elect a District Committee Member (DCM) keeping those groups informed and receiving their in-put. Then at Assembly, all General Service Representatives (GSR) and District Committee Members (DCM) elect a Delegate to represent their district at the General Service Conference in New York.

Committees to General Services Conference: The problem - solving, motor moving cog of AA. These committee people are the ones who take the action; changes generally take about two years to become accomplished.

General Service Board Trustees: The Board consists of 21 people - 14 are AA and 7 are non-AA's. (This balance was changed from a non-AA majority. It was feared the AA ego would be a problem if they maintained a Board majority.)

General Service Conference: This year was composed of 67.4% (91) delegates, 20.7% (28) trustees and 11.9% (16) GSO Office staff and Grapevine staff.

An idea comes from a member and goes through the various steps to the General Service Board. No changes can be made without 75% written vote by GSR's of the entire membership. Lou pointed out how this set-up truly protects AA and helps our groups grow so they will be there for the suffering alcoholic. Every conference action can be changed.

Another point stressed was if your group or area officers and representatives are not doing their job, fire them! However, if they are representing you well, trust them and the safeguards of the structure and allow them to do it as they see best.

There were questions about the AA and Intergroup Charters. AA's Charter is on Page 20 of the Service Manual. Intergroups adopted charters by their members at formation time. Regarding AA directories, it was pointed out it is the responsibility of the General Service Representative (GSR) to update his group's information. The importance of studying the Service Manual was stressed.

Some local problems were discussed, primarily local police departments calling AA to take drunks to detox. It was pointed out that this is strictly an individual problem. If you want to help the police, hospitals, etc., this is an individual decision. We need to remember 'cooperation but not affiliation' with other programs or "What makes me feel good about me" or better yet, "What must I do to stay sober?"

An excellent and informative meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Margie R., Acting Secretary

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

1 p.m. 6/27/81

Rhoda M. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. She had as her guest, Jean R. from the So. Florida Area, who presented her idea of providing welcome stations in Florida with literature and lists of area meetings. She has contacted General Service Office who has advised that this will not be a violation of Tradition Eleven since they do not consider it promotion. She is in the process of getting approval from the Division of Tourism in Tallahassee. This project will be carried back to the groups to see if they would like to participate in it. For anyone interested, Jean may be contacted as follows:

Ms. Jean R:

Another topic discussed was that of contacting doctors in the various areas to see if they would like to receive subscriptions to the Grapevine. This can be handled on a group or individual basis.

The importance and role of TV and radio spots was discussed and it was revealed that most stations would be glad to provide these as public service messages. A comment was made on a spot "Have a Drink" by Art Carney which was a product of the National Institute on Alcoholism, Rockville, Maryland.

Alene S \_\_\_\_\_, Acting Secretary

GRAPEVINE MEETING

Katie Dr \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

2:30 p.m. 6/27/81

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer by Chairman, Katie, who stated she found her job exciting and fulfilling as Grapevine Chairman. New Grapevine representatives have also been registering. Katie has ordered materials on consignment and suggested that new subscriptions are good gifts, especially for new people through sponsorship.

Grapevine materials were displayed with many clever posters advertising how these materials can be used.

A new booklet is being published "The Best of the Grapevine" and twenty representatives including Katie have been asked to select the best articles. Katie invited everyone to advise her of their own favorites and she would submit them to the Grapevine Committee. She also pointed out that as AA members, we are the Grapevine writers.- we submit our experience, strength and hope to the Grapevine Board of articles to be used.

Katie reported there has been a loss of revenue of the Grapevine for the past two years. Calendar sales were lower than anticipated. Two price increases were necessary due to increased costs in housing and printing the Grapevine. New subscribers are needed to keep from having a third increase. Although the Grapevine has had to be subsidized by the General Fund these past two years, in the past the Grapevine has contributed \$117,000 to the General Fund which helped keep the Big Book price down.

In accordance with the meeting's format, Marilyn G. of Jacksonville shared her thoughts on the July Grapevine article "Being Loved is a Want". It was really an excellent presentation with good discussion.

Katie closed the meeting by explaining what a Grapevine Chairman does and asked all groups to elect a Grapevine Representative and advise her so they can be registered with New York and receive their free subscription to the Grapevine. She also advised any group can order materials on consignment up to \$99 and offered her assistance wherever needed.

Dick P., Jacksonville and Nancy, Palatka, will "bring and share" articles at the next assembly.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Margie R., Acting Secretary



*June '81*

REPLY TO: Elise Dean, Treasurer

NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING OF NORTH FLORIDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PALATKA, FLORIDA - HOLIDAY INN - JUNE 27-28, 1981

| I N C O M E   |                     |                   | E X P E N S E S    |                     |                  | B A L A N C E S      |                               |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| PERIOD ENDING | GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS | MISCELL. COLLECTS | TOTAL INCOME       | GSCONFER./ DELEGATE | ASSEMBLY (HOTEL) | OPERATIONAL EXPENSES | TOTAL PERIOD CUMULATIVE BAL.  |
| 12.31.80..... |                     |                   | B A L A N C E..... | 0                   |                  | ...H A N D.....      | \$2,661.26                    |
| 4.5.81        | \$1,704.76*         | \$ 422.46         | \$2,127.22         | \$ 600.00           | \$ 359.          | \$ 444.95            | \$1,404.55 \$722.67 \$3383.93 |
| 6.23.81       | 498.05              | 368.57            | 866.62             | 800.00              | 453.             | 515.93**             | 1,769.28 ( 902.66) 2481.27    |
|               | \$2,202.81          | \$ 791.03         | \$2,993.84         | \$1,400.00          | \$ 812.          | \$ 960.88            | 3,173.83 (\$179.99) \$2481.27 |

\*Includes \$20 donations for Institutions; \$50 donation by GSR's Dist. I; \$100 donation Dist.VIII Intergr.  
\*\* Includes \$183.05 for literature for use in Institutions + Includes small expense of host committee

| DIST | GROUP             | AMOUNT   | DIST | GROUP                        | AMOUNT    |
|------|-------------------|----------|------|------------------------------|-----------|
| I    | ARLINGTON         | \$ 50.00 | X    | MAITLAND SERENITY            | \$ 5.00   |
|      | BEACHES UNITY     | 15.00    |      | SANFORD                      | 25.00     |
|      | BRIGHTER DAYS     |          |      | TANGLEWOOD                   | 10.00     |
|      | BREAKFAST CLUB    | 10.00    |      | WOMEN'S GRATITUDE            | 5.00      |
|      | LIFE LINE (2)     | 10.00    | XI   | WOMEN'S SHARING & CARING     | 6.30      |
| III  | ARS ALUMNI        | 10.00    | XII  | NORTH PATRICK                | 10.00     |
| IV   | RIVERSIDE         | 20.00    |      | PATRICK                      | 30.00     |
| VI   | OLDEST CITY       | 20.00    | XIV  | TUESDAY NIGHT STEP STUDY (2) | 10.00     |
|      | PALATKA           | 20.00    | XV   | COCOA BEACH                  | 10.00     |
| VIII | BIG BOOK STUDY    | 20.00    |      | GATEWAY                      | 5.00      |
|      | FLAGLER           | 12.00    | XVI  | LIVE OAK                     | 20.00     |
|      | OCEAN HOLIDAY(3)  | 26.00    |      | SERENITY (LAKE CITY)         | 10.00     |
|      | PORT ORANGE       | 10.00    |      |                              |           |
| THE  | THREE LEGACIES    | 2.00     | XVII | OCALA                        | 30.00     |
|      | WAY OF LIFE (2)   | 31.75    |      | SERENITY HOUSE               | 10.00     |
| IX   | ATLANTIC DRY DOCK | 30.00    |      |                              | \$ 498.05 |
|      | PINECASTLE        |          |      |                              |           |
|      | FRIENDSHIP (2)    | 25.00    |      |                              |           |

EXPENSES  
As indicated in headings  
"Assembly" usually indicates Hotel expenses (coffee, rooms for conference when charged) and any expenses incurred by host committee.  
"Operational" covers secretaries', treasurer's, standing committee chairmen's expenses...mostly envelopes, postage, printing, supplies, etc.  
"PRUDENT RESERVE"  
12.30.80.....\$1,402.94  
State Convention 375.00 \$1,777.94  
6.23.81 \*\*1,794.29  
\*\* Does not include interest which will be declared last day of June 1981.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

*Elise R. Dean*  
ELISE R. DEAN  
TREASURER

Certain adjustments have been made on the line "4.5.81" It was discovered that certain donations received in December (and credited to last year's accounting) had been included a second time in the current year. Corrections have been made and the balances as shown are correct.