

# NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

## THIRD QUARTERLY MINUTES OF THE NORTH FLORIDA AREA OF ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS

October 31 - November 1, 1981 - Titusville, FL

AGENDA Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Public Information Committee Meeting
		Grapevine Committee Meeting
		Handicapped Committee Meeting
	2:30 p.m.	Institutional Committee Meeting
		Secretary/Treasurers' Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	General Service Representatives Meeting
		Area Committee Officers' & DCM's Meeting
	8:30 p.m.	Open Speaker Meeting
Agenda Sunday	8:30 a.m.	GSR's Sharing Session
	10:30 a.m.	General Assembly

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING: Chairman Bob S. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Bob stated that Phyllis D., secretary, would be unable to continue her duties as secretary due to illness at the present time and asked everyone to keep her in their prayers. Rhoda M. has agreed to take over for Phyllis.

ROLL CALL: Present - 22; Absent - Alt. Chmn. Jimmy G., Handicapped Chmn. Scotty R., DCM #3 Shiela H., DCM #8 Dick M., DCM #14 Jim S., DCM #16 Carl V.

The minutes of the previous assembly meeting were approved.

The treasurer, Elise D., presented the financial statement from 1/1/81 thru 10/30/81. The culmative balance is \$3,487.03; prudent reserve is \$1,841.15. There is a correction under the heading General Service Conference/Delegate from \$900 to \$800. Elise also reported receiving a check for \$750 from the 25th Florida State Convention in Palm Beach. The treasurer's report was approved as given.

Each DCM was given group print outs from General Service reflecting group information GSO has available regarding group name, GSR's name, address, mailing address, etc. These print outs are to be returned by the DCM to General Service Office for the 1982 Directory. The deadline is January 15, 1982 for all up-dated information.

Any changes sent to General Service needs to be sent to the North Florida Area secretaries for their roster changes. Please mail to Rhoda M., Society Park, Apt. 323F, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937 and Pat Newton, 1401 Canberra Avenue, Orlando, FL 32806.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - See individual reports attached.

DELEGATE'S REPORT - See Assembly Minutes.

The next Assembly meeting is January 9 - 10, 1982 at the Treasure Island Inn in Daytona Shores with District #6 as hosts. Districts #9, #10 and #11 will host the spring meeting in Orlando on April 3 - 4, which is Palm Sunday weekend. This date seems the only available date due to Easter and the General Service Conference for Tom April 18-24. Tallahassee is set for July but with open dates as yet. Howard S. of District #13 reported he has contacted the River Haven Village & Marina in Homahassa Springs for next October since the Plantation Inn in Crystal River is too high priced. The River Haven rates are \$36 for a double room (one or two) and has a separate pavilion for hospitality between meetings. Howard hopes to get lower prices next year and will let us know.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING Cont.

Howard stated that several sessions back in a Public Information meeting, there was a consensus of opinion that the outside sponsor for correctional institutions, road farms, etc. be considered as a GSR. This was voted affirmatively in the previous PI meeting. Some of the people who are outside sponsors in the PI meeting today commented that they never knew when the Assembly meeting would be held since they never received any correspondence about it. Therefore, it was decided there was no objection to the outside sponsors to be GSR's for their institutions and they be placed on the mailing list for all future correspondence.

There was discussion in clarifying whether an institution group was registered with New York was an AA group and the difference between hospitals or rehab centers which are institutional AA and not a group registered with New York.

It was explained that a group meeting in an institution that is self-supporting and does not use the institution as the name of their group can be listed as a group. However, the ones that meet and are supported by the institution (furnish coffee, etc.) are not listed in the directory.

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

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SPEAKER MEETING: The speaker meeting was opened by Mitch M., who introduced the speaker Heie S. who shared to a large crowd his experience, strength and hopes. Thank you Heie for sharing with us.

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ASSEMBLY MEETING: Bob S. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

ROLL CALL: Absent: Alt. Chmn., Jimmy G., Handicapped Chmn., Scott R., DCM #3 Shiela H., DCM #14 Jim S., DCM #16 Carl V.

The minutes of the previous assembly were approved.

The treasurer, Elise D., gave the financial report of \$3,487.03 for the quarter ending 10/30/81 with a listing of all groups who contributed. In the next treasurer's report, a summary of all group contributions will be given. Our Prudent Reserve is \$1,841.15. The State Convention from south Florida just presented us with a check for \$750. The treasurer's report was approved as given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - see individual reports attached.

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Tom L. commented he had the pleasure of sharing a weekend with the South Florida Area assembly meeting and was very impressed. At this time, Tom introduced the Delegate from South Fkorida, Lenore T and Jo C , Chairman of the South Florida area.

Lenore commented she enjoyed the New York Conference with Tom and also having him as a guest at their South Florida assembly a few weeks ago. Lenore added she was particularly interested in the meetings here to see how North Florida handled things which she could take back to South Florida some of these ideas. She also enjoyed seeing so many old friends and thanked us for our hospitality.

Jo agreed with Lenore that this had been a most rewarding weekend. Jo stated she would be taking home the message to South Florida that North Florida does things a little differently but it gets done just as well!

Tom commented he hoped everyone had received their copy of the 1981 - 31st Annual Meeting of the Service Conference. Write New York if you didn't get a copy.

DELEGATE'S REPORT Cont.

In the Area Committee meeting, a vote was taken that the Assembly purchase 13 ratio cassettes of \$5 each and that a check be sent to the PI Chairman in New York for us to underwrite this contribution to expand the fellowship in the North Florida. This motion was seconded and passed.

Tom stated that the S. W. Regional Trustee, LaBelle Cl had died October 14. She also attended the Regional forum last December in Atlanta and will be greatly missed. Remember her in your prayers.

Box 459 has a new look and there will be some suggestions and comments by Dr. Bob and the old timers. Watch for this in the mail. Also in Box 549 is the new listing of the rotation of GS office staff which is changed every two years but with the same great service.

The General Service Conference will be April 18 through April 24, 1982.

The International will be in Montreal on the July 4th weekend in 1985.

This is an interium period as far as GSO goes since they are preparing for the Conference in April, 1982. So, as a result of this, there isn't alot of communication to transfer to the Assembly.

Tom wanted to thank the anonymous person who donated the floral pieces for the Assembly. Tom commented this was a first - as far as he knew!

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The Chairman commented that as a result of Perry's Institutional report yesterday, Rhoda, secretary, will have all outside sponsors for the institutions in the North Florida area on the mailing list. This will include naturally all GSR's but will also include those outside sponsors who will be taking meetings into their organizations. If they attend our meetings here, it is understood they will not have a vote but the GSR's for in-house institutions will.

The Green House, a local florist, generously donated the three floral arrangements and a thank you will be sent.

The next Assembly is January 9 - 10 at the Treasure Island Inn in Daytona Beach Shores with District #8 as hosts.

The meeting closed after passing the basket with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat N

P. S. Bob thanked Porter B. and his committee from District #15 and #12 for all their help in preparing for this assembly with their great hospitality and great service of the motel.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Mitch M., Chairman

1 p.m. 10/31/81

Bob Sc , Chairman of the North Florida Area, introduced our new chairman, Duane , from Indialantic.

Mitch opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Rhoda was asked to report on the project of Welcome Station and rest areas with our literature. South Florida Area's committee had contacted the Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism. We were refused permission. "AA is not tourism oriented entertainment." The plan now is to contact the Department of Safety.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING Cont.

District #15 of the Cocoa area has contacted all the radio stations in the central and north area of Brevard County. They have agreed to run our tapes on their public service spots. District #14 of the Gainesville area is funding the cost of the tapes for use in their area. These tapes are available from GSO. District #12, Melbourne area, has been very active in schools of south Brevard County. They provide speakers through Intergroup Services. The speakers follow the guidelines "Speaking at Non-AA Meetings". The TODAY newspaper, provides a column "DATE BOOK". In the "Self Help" column, all AA, Ala-non and Alateen meetings are listed on a daily basis. Naomi S. of District #15 and Rhoda Mc. of District #12, PI Chairpersons of their respective Districts, keep these lists current.

Suggestions of locations for our "When & Where" list were doctor's waiting rooms, police stations, fire and first aid stations and the area Chamber of Commerce.

We are cooperating with Mental Health and the Court Programs and try to help with all of their referrals.

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

Rhoda Mc. , Acting Secretary

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE MEETING

Katie D., Chairman

1 p.m. 10/31/81

Katie D. gave her report that they had a good meeting with a small attendance. The meeting consisted of two persons discussing GV articles and discussion afterward.

Katie brought up three topics from Aretha of New York:

1. In November the GV subscription price is going up to 80¢ a single copy, \$8 per year or \$15 for two years.
2. There is a great push for GV subscriptions now and if the representatives could get two additional subscriptions to their doctor or others in service, we might avoid a further increase in the GV price.
3. Katie also mentioned at this time of the year the calendars and pocket reminders are available. The calendars are \$2.50 each and \$2 for the pocket reminder. There is a 25% discount when ordering 25 or more of each (not combined). Katie also reminded us that these make good holiday gifts, especially newcomers.

Katie also stated she wished to apologize to those GV representatives when she announced they would get a free year's subscription. This was an error through misinformation - there are too many representatives for this!

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SECRETARY/TREASURE MEETING

2:30 p.m. 10/31/81

Noami S. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Group membership was discussed and the importance of belonging to a home group. Members need to identify with a home group and participate in decisions by being responsible.

Also discussed was the difficulty of have group conscience meetings or business meeting. A suggestion was to have these meetings at least once a month.

There was discussion regarding an overflow of money and it was suggested that all money should be allocated in the 60/30/10 plan - after group expenses 60% goes to Intergroup or local service, 30% goes to New York (GSO) and 10% to the North Florida Area. The treasurer, Elise, explained how the money was used for the North Florida Area. The only member of the committee who has expense money provided is our Delegate, Tom. As he attends the General Service Conference in New York once a year, his expenses are provided by the Area. The Delegate is also the only member who attends other meetings out-of-state and other commitments in Florida when called upon. In recent years, the the North FL area has developed different committees, such as, Institutions. For example, we supply the money to pay for boods, pamphlets and literature to use in jails,

SECRETARY/TREASURER MEETING Cont.

prisons, etc. When radio and TV spots are needed, we provide the money for the Public Information Committee. Whenever there is a need, as the various committees develop and local intergroups cannot cover these expenses, we provide this from the North Florida finances. The treasury also cover all general expenses, such as postage and mailings.

There was discussion of length of sobriety before chairing or speaking at a meeting. Most agreed, three months at least or up to group decision.

How different groups handle non-alcoholics at closed meetings who walk in was mentioned. One solution would be informing the group and possibly having an "open meeting", if the group agrees. Also, talk to one's sponsor if this presents a problem for the alcoholic.

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

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INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Perry, G. Chairman

2:30 p.m. 10/31/81

Perry G. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. It was announced that Perry will be completing the term as Institution Chairman.

Sal & Bobby, inmates from Brevard Correctional Institution were introduced and Bobby made a few remarks about what his AA group has meant to him. He explained his life "before" and that through AA and the people, he has learned to see what life can be in a free world living without alcohol.

"Carrying the Message Inside the Walls", an AA pamphlet, was discussed. This is a message to institutions of not trying to change them and abiding by their rules.

It was stated that there was trouble getting inside and outside sponsors.

There was discussion about alternatives when you don't get cooperation from some of the staff in the institutions. We suggested you start with the superintendent and go down the line and if nothing works, we have a contact in Tallahassee, Jim Ivey.

It was suggested that administrative and employees be made more aware of what the AA program is about and the importance of it to them and the inmates. Also discussed was alcohol in the institution - as they do get it there and why we need to carry the AA message there.

The growth of groups in institutions is four times what it was a year ago. "One on one" sponsorship was talked about and the general concensus was that this wasn't a good idea unless working with those who are about ready to leave. It was also pointed out that 75 - 80% of all inmates serving today are as a result of alcohol related offenses.

Security levels were discussed and the question was asked how to get into an institution with all the various security levels and procedures of institutions. Persons on the federal level were also brought up.

It was suggested that the Grapevines be provided to institutions and our delegate, Tom L. indicated he thought the No. FL area could afford to bear this expense.

Tapes of inmates with a considerable amount of sobriety are available for use on a discussion basis.

It was stated the need of county jail AA meetings and the need to carry the message especially to those sentenced for a short time.

The question was raised in reference to institutional AA groups being registered with General Service. It is important to note that some of the institutions have AA meetings and others have AA groups. There is a big distinction. The AA "group" is registered with General Service but the AA "meeting" is not.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Chairman Bob W. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports on items discussed at the previous Assembly in June and discuss other ways to reach the handicapped alcoholic.

Bob announced the Daytona Beach group has taped a quantity of AA literature called "talking pamphlets" for use by blind or other handicapped persons. Listed are the tapes @\$1.50 each: AA for the Woman Alcoholic; A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous; Questions & Answers on Sponsorship; A Newcomer Asks; A Brief Guide to AA; This is AA; 44 Questions and Do You Think You're Different. Tapes are available from the Daytona Beach Intergroup Office, 114 N. Helms Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32014

Helen, Tallahassee is interested in setting up procedures for arranging transportation to meetings for those unable to drive including elderly as well as handicapped. Brad S. announced that his group runs an ad in their county newspaper three times per week listing phone numbers for people to call for rides to meetings which is very effective.

Bob G. Daytona announced that his Intergroup publication, "High & Dry" was available to publish information concerning handicapped programs and have printed articles on the subject and have received some requests for copies to be mailed to other groups.

Bill C. asked if AA has published anything about architectural barriers to the handicapped. Discussion followed regarding entry ways, stairways relating to wheelchairs, walkers, etc. There seemed to be little or no formal guidance available and up to group discretion.

Bob G. stated each group needs a person appointed to handle handicapped matters as previously agreed by PI and this needs re-emphasizing.

All agreed the need for special arrangements for handicapped alcoholics. We are responsible to "get the word out" through publicity channels, such as, intergroup newsletters, newspaper ads or public appearances to let the handicapped know "We Care".

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ed F., Acting Secretary

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

4 p.m. 10/31/81

Chairman Ed F. opened the meeting in the usual manner with a standing room crown.

Betty W. asked "How do we deal with trusted servants who run groups (too long & opinionated). Various opinions were given such as: thru group conscience, call a business meeting and hold an election; hold more meetings on the AA legacies, especially on service; discussions on tradition-keep the group aware of responsibilities. The greater the group interest in service, the less likelihood that a single member will predominate. Take group inventory to get individuals who are willing to accept responsibility for making decisions Try HOW - honesty - openmindedness - willingness.

The problem of dealing with dual or poly-addition was raised. Example, members or visitors who want to discuss a problem with drugs other than alcohol. There was some lively discussion with opinions ranging from one extreme (that only alcohol be discussed) to the more liberal (any drug could be discussed as long as alcohol was involved). A letter from GSO was mentioned with different interpretations. Also mentioned was an article in the October Grapevine which might clarify the AA point of view. The Chairman closed the discussion stating groups need to set their own policy on this subject for their meetings. If alcohol is the stated reason for attending AA meetings, the dual or poly-addicted person should be allowed to discuss the other drugs as being part of an overall problem of alcoholism. We all need to assure ourselves that our own program of recovery is not hampered by non-alcoholic related problems or opinion. It was generally felt that this subject needs further exploration from the group level to the GSO level.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Betty W., Acting Secretary



REPLY TO: Elise Dean.

NORTH FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY

TREASURER'S REPORT TO FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING OF NORTH FLORIDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, 1981. Holiday Inn, Titusville, Fl.

PERIOD ENDING	I N C O M E			E X P E N S E S			BALANCES		
	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	MISCELLANEOUS	TOTAL INCOME	DELEGATE	ASSEMBLY**	OPERATIONAL	TOTAL EXPENSES	PERIOD	CUMULATIVE
12.31.80	..... B A L A N C E O N H A N D .....								\$ 2661.26
4.5.81	\$1,704.76*	\$ 422.46	\$2,127.22	\$ 600.00	\$ 359.60	\$ 444.05	\$1,404.55	\$722.67	\$3383.93
6.23.81	498.05	368.57	866.62	900.00	453.35	515.93	1,769.28	(902.66)	2481.27
10.30.81	1,378.19*+	347.32	1,725.51	400.00	115.60	204.15	719.75	1005.76	3487.03
TOTALS	\$3,581.00	\$1138.35	\$4,719.35	\$1800.00	\$ 928.58	\$1165.03	\$3,893.58	\$825.77	\$3487.03

\*Includes \$20.00 marked for Institutions; \$50 donation by Dist #1 GSR's; \$100 donation Dist. VIII Inter group. \*+ Includes \$300 donation by Dist. VIII Intergroup. \*\* Assembly expenses include hotel charges for coffee (sometimes use of rooms) and other expenses incurred by hosts in putting these on.

G R O U P D O N A T I O N S

DIST.	GROUP	AMOUNT	DIST.	AMOUNT	DIST.	GROUP	AMOUNT	
I.	BEACHES UNITY (2)	\$ 40.00	VIII.	STORMY SEAS	\$ 45.00	XVI.	BRADFORD	25.00
	BRIGHTER DAYS BFST (2)	40.00		THREE LEGACIES (3)	16.00		LIVE OAK	20.00
	LIFE LINE (3)	20.00		WAY OF LIFE (4)	54.21	NOTE: Figures in ( ) indicate number of contributions during quarter		
	T H E Group	30.00		WINNERS WAY (2)	139.08			
II.	CABOOSE	20.00	IX.	FRIENDSHIP (4)	52.00			
	FOUR OAKS	10.00		MARVIN R.	13.00			
III.	EUREKA	30.00	X.	FAIRBANKS	15.00			
	HANGING LOOSE	5.00		SANFORD BIG BOOK	10.00			
IV.	RIVERSIDE	20.00		TANGLEWOOD	10.00			
VI.	PALATKA (2)	45.00	XI.	SHARING & CARING	4.90			
VIII.	INTERGROUP	300.00	XII.	CANOVA BEACH	10.00			
	TUES.NITE-BIG BOOK (2)	36.00		EAU GALLIE (2)	100.00			
	HALIFAX	5.00		SERENITY (Melbourne)	60.00			
	HAPPY WANDERERS	15.00		YOUNG PEOPLE (Melb)	12.00			
	NEW HOPE	25.00	XIII.	Crystal River	40.00			
	NEW SMYRNA	25.00	XIV.	J&G	40.00			
	OCEAN HOLIDAY (4)	21.00		TUES NITE STEP STUDY(2)	10.00			
	PORT ORANGE (2)	25.00						

E X P E N S E S  
 DELEGATE \$ 400.00  
 ASSEMBLY  
 Palatka Gr expenses: \$100.00  
 Flowers for Phyllis 15.60  
 OPERATIONAL Primarily for printing, envelopes, postage, etc.  
 Expenses incurred by Secretaries and treasurer.

"PRUDENT RESERVE" - SAVINGS ACCOUNT

12.30.80 -- Balance on Hand	\$1,402.94
3.31.81 -----	1,421.58
4. 81 Deposited from St.Conv.	375.00...1,777.94
6.23.81.....	1,794.29
7.10.81.....	1,817.45
10.28.81.....	1,841.15

Respectfully submitted,

*Elise*  
 Elise R. Dean  
 Treasurer