

Minutes of the Third Quarterly Assembly July 1996
North Florida Area Conference
Alcoholics Anonymous

1996 Theme " I Am Responsible"

July 14, 1996

Area Chair - Corrinne F opened with the Serenity Prayer. The Short Form of The Concepts as found in the Service Manual was read from the floor. All past delegates that are active and have given their permission, will have their names and address/phone listed on the back of the Resource Page. Past Delegates Dick P , Jimmy G and Tom D were recognized.

Registrar - Tom G took Roll Tom reminded DCMs and GSRs to make sure you send all group information and group change forms to him at his new address on the Resource Page. All GSR changes need to be in to him no later than 4 weeks after the Assembly.

Secretary - Cecilia L asked for any changes to the April minutes. It was noted that the Treasurer's report was not in the minutes. This was a oversight by the Secretary. Motion made to accept minutes, and seconded, PASSED

Treasurers Report - Judy P gave out the 2nd Quarter Treasurer's report. See Finance Committee Report. Proposed 1997 Budget was given out as well. Motion was made to accept and seconded. PASSED

Delegates Report - Dan E -We were not included in the final four for hosting the 2005 International Convention. The stadium concept is more widely accepted vs the Convention Center and Orlando was felt to have too many distractions (Disney, Universal, Sea World) to keep people at the Convention. However, the North Florida Area was selected to host the "98 Regional Forum" to be held in Daytona Beach. The report of the week long April Conference is in the April minutes, should you want further information or have any questions, I will be happy to help. I am available for multi-district meetings as well. Dan discussed what the week is like during conference. I serve on the Policy and Admissions Committee and we were asked to approve a recommendation that GSO video tape various sessions of the conference to be included in a Service Structure video (anonymity would be observed). The committee voted 8-1 to approve this recommendation. I was the member that voted against it. The reason was it was my sense that we were truly violating that Tradition of Anonymity even though we would not show full face. It was discussed further and the final vote was 6-3 against it. So we turned it over to the body for them to decide. When it went to the floor only 15 voted against it. Minority opinion was heard and when it was voted again it was 120 against and

14 for. Once again AA's anonymity and singleness of purpose was preserved. It is a reminder of how the minority opinion is heard in New York and here alike. Another discussion was held about the Internet. Web Sites and on-line use was discussed. The problem that was how to communicate on the Web Sites within the A.A. structure. What is the role of the Traditions in the computerized meeting. Face to Face is the term being used for non computer meeting. This was before the Grapevine came out with the Article on Face to Face meetings. The conference decided to the person that this is an area that we really have to move very slowly on. Meetings in cyperspace 800-100 member meetings looking into getting their own delegate, DCMs, we all the same whether we talk or type.

Another area was growth of conference. The world of A.A. now is not unlike the US and Canada 40 years ago. Thousands of letters on how/where/why/ what. Over time those service functions are now being done by the Areas in the US/Canada, but , where there are new groups and conferences starting in the world they are looking to GSO for help. Looking at our own growth in Area 14, we publish our own pamphlets, PI, Accessibilities, CPC. Our archives is equal to and surpasses any in the United States and Canada. Where a few years ago there were no presentations and only boxes of papers to show. Our contributions such as the 12 Step Workshops are being used and taken to other areas.

Contributions seem to be going to the Areas more than GSO, with the Areas doing more of the work. It is projected that in 20 years the largest areas of AA will be in the Middle East and Asia and the religion background will not be Christian but Muslin/Hindu and we will be the minority as we know it in the world wide community.

Went to the Stepping Stones and sat at the desk that Bill did alot of this writing. Quite a spiritual experience.

At the October Assembly there will be elections for Trustee at Large and Class B Trustee. Any past Delegate is eligible to stand for these positions, I will send a letter to all past Delegates who are eligible for this.

Alternate Delegate - Fred W -in interest of time had no report.

Standing Committees

Archives - Kevin B -"Good Old Time A.A". Please again to all of our Districts to share your archival information with the Area. If you need any basic information to begin your archives we wish to be of help. We want to visit your Area. The measure of man's character is not measured by what he receives from his ancestors, but what he leaves his descendants. Newcomer classes were offered in A.A. in Rochester New York, Minneapolis, Little Rock, and Miami. Some classes were linked to membership requirements. For the most part the classes were presented as 4 hour presentations. This time frame had few if any treatment centers. The essential elements of the "12 Step" were there. Older members working with newcomers. One of the phenomenon's of this

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time frame, was a recovery rate of 70% or better of those who tried. (yes they kept records).

The "Miami" effort was attended by Clifford G, Panel 1 Delegate. All had some similar goals; primarily "Carrying the Message", allowing an environment for the older member to fulfill their 12 Step.

These classes are being revived. The "Wilson House" in Vermont. Archivist in Arizona and Oklahoma are working within the format. They are calling this "Back to Basics". We have an enormous inheritance - What will be left for our descendants.

Accessibilities - Kenny T. - We opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by newcomer orientation on special needs committees presented by Azubba Williams; Alt Chair.

Not much new news from GSO. They have reduced some literature prices, the Big Book in large print, new same price as standard Big Books, Big Book on tape greatly reduced.

Nice to see several new faces and good sharing session on old and new ideas for carrying the message to those of us with special needs.

We were honored to have been asked to help put on 2 workshops since last Assembly. We were asked to participate in one still in the planning stages in Melbourne sometime in late October. Looking forward to that. Thanks to everyone and Azubba for an excellent workshop. Closed with the Lords Prayer.

Cooperation with Professional Community - Joe C. - We discussed what C.P.C. is and the different ways to make contacts with professionals. We discussed the difference between one on one and panel presentation/professional exhibits. There will be a C.P.C. workshop in Volusia County August 10 1:30-4:00pm. Also we turned another professional exhibit to South Florida since the last Assembly, that makes 3 so far this year turned over to South Florida. The rest of the workshop was turned over to the sharing of what's going on in other districts area wide. Districts 8, 14 & 17 will be doing several presentations in the next several weeks.

Corrections - Roger J. - Discussed the DOC chain of command, diagram was passed out. Need updated list of local corrections chairpersons. Pink Cans - Fundraising idea to raise money for corrections to purchase literature, etc. to carry the message. State and County problems: State corrections system undergoing change. Old guard resistant to change, many DOC people don't want us there. Clearance - working on a single, statewide application.

Questions & Answers - Adopt a meeting idea was discussed. Trying to obtain clearance for people on probation and parole. Currently no uniform statewide policy. Pre-release programs - contacts will be discussed at upcoming workshop.

Corrections workshop September 28, 1996, McIntosh, Fl. Subject will be temporary sponsor volunteers for people being released from DOC. Emphasis on "temporary".

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"Temporary" sponsors will be defined by us not DOC. We are supplying guidelines, length of time will be discussed at workshop.

Can you sponsor people who get sentenced and go to prison? Yes, but cannot visit and sponsor at same time, but up to individual facility. Emphasize sponsorship on the inside. Progress on statewide application - mandate was been type to implement. Will be done soon, Counties to follow suit.

Banquet in Marion CI, 21 years of AA in Marion at end of July.

Roger wants each district to supply a list of each meeting, facility, etc along the lines of Tallahassee. Get more organized.

Concerns - minimum security prisons being "upgraded" to become more secure. Will result in less civilians carrying in meetings.

DOC making new rule requiring inmates to have 5 years off of "paper " in order to get back in to carry the meetings. Reduction in federal funds in impacting us. But, they want to use us to save dollars. More treatment going on inside prisons because treatment centers closing.

Grapevine - Charlotte B . Theme "What the Grapevine has been responsible for brining to A.A." 24 people in attendance. 1939 - Serenity Prayer, 1946 - The Traditions, 1947 - The Preamble by our 1st editor who was a volunteer, 1955 - Man at the Bed, 1965 - I Am Responsible Pledge.

There was discussion on how the Grapevine has effected our Sobriety. In a recent article the Grapevine presented "A.A. on line", one member spoke how this has been very helpful to his sobriety. Many A.A. controversies as well the latest helps to A.A.'s can always be found in the Grapevine.

As usual I urge DCMs to have District Grapevine Reps. There still are many of our 31 districts without one. A mailing of the New York computer readout will be going to each district to update there if there isn't a rep the DCMs will need to do this. Subscription are still well over 6,000, 6,322 this is great.

Intergroup - Don B . - 33 people attended with 5 Intergroups represented. An A.A. member from each represented (7 of 12 Intergroups in NF Area represented) Intergroups described the services they provide and how the A.A. phone is answered.

Don reported that a statewide gathering of Intergroups was held in Orlando on June 29th. A listing of all the Central Offices and Intergroups in North America (Pamphlet F-25) is available from the GSO for free, and can be very useful information for phone volunteers. We closed by reading from page 598 of the Service Manual "Working Together - General Services and local Intergroup Services. So these two separate but vital service structures coexist in many areas in mutual cooperation and harmony, to the benefit of the entire fellowship.

Literature - Dennis C . Alt chair Debbie W. Theme "Availability of Literature", 21 people in attendance. Input of groups to update literature. Free literature available to order display booklet catalog conference approved literature lets people know what's available. Conference approved literature vs non-conference approved literature is up to individual group conscience when displaying literature. A.A. produces alot of material that is not

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conference approved. This material has to be requested (service material). Non-conference approved does not mean conference disapproved, just that they are separate.

Public Information - Fred H - Theme "Doing what we do best". 22 people in attendance discussion was held explaining the Preamble of A.A. and how it relates to PI work.

We must remind ourselves of our primary purpose. It was pointed out what A.A. does and does not do and why we must follow the Traditions and maintain personal anonymity at the public level.

The GSO video "Hope" was shown. The chair pointed out that the "A.A." fact file is available on the Internet. The address on the world wide web is <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>.

District 16 workshop Lake City, September 1996.

Treatment Facilities - Jeff H: Alt Chair - 24 in attendance. Discussed the temporary contact program and some problems involved with Confidentially/Release of Information and making contact with clients before their release from treatment. We discussed starting new meetings in Correctional Facilities and hospitals and the problems associated with getting them started.

I suggested the possibility that the Internet AA web page could be useful in carrying the message and information about temporary contacts and our work in the NF Area.

Have been asked to attend N/S Fla Corrections workshop Sept 28 in the Ocala area for helping with getting the contact program started in the DOC.

Administrative Committees

Finance Committee - Meeting July 13, 1996. 9 DCM committee members present, Alt Committee Chair, Judy Petersen chaired in Dave Webb's absence. Groups that have outstanding checks are a concern. Please check the quarterly report to make sure checks have not been credited to another group. A list of group contributions received for 1996 was posted in the lobby for review.

Expenses are down for this quarter. Standing chairpersons submitting expenses at this Assembly, which explains why some have been listed without any expenses as of this date.

Dick G. will present a report at the business meeting that expenses are not correct as stated in the 1995 financial report, but in reality income and expenses balance as reflected in the final balance information in the 1995 final report (this is a Lotus problem). We are putting the Area on the Quick Books accounting program (cost of \$100 to \$150 already in computer budget) to resolve the problem of working with spreadsheets.

Delegate Dan El discussed expenses for the Delegate (which are itemized for 1995 in the Proposed 1997 budget handout)

1997 Proposed budget was given out. The Secretary recommended that expenses be increased to \$3000.00 for duplication because current costs indicate that is appropriate

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(approx. \$700.00 per quarter). PASSED 7-1. Motion to accept Budget PASSED as amended 8 to 0.

The bulk mail issue of the yearly fee not being credited properly is being handled by Cecilia, who has been in contact with the Post Office and they are researching this. This was found to be an entry problem at the Post Office. The fee has been credited to us.

Growth - Steve W opened with the Serenity Prayer with 25 people in attendance. 7 committee members. Old Business: motion from minutes on multiple DCMs. New business- Fred W stated that letter from GSO designates Corresponding Secretary as Registrar. Also dropping the word recording from Secretary title. No changes to job. Motion to change title from Corresponding Secretary to Registrar PASSED. Motion to drop Recording from Secretary title PASSED.

Structure and Guidelines re: election of Trustee at large and SE Trustee page 13 section 14 "The Area Committee may select the candidate at a meeting of the Area Committee" should we take this option from the Area Committee? Motion to table this PASSED.

Want pages dated when updated in Structure and Guidelines.

Need procedure for DCMs to approach Growth Committee to petition Assembly for multiple DCMs. "Approval of District involved/at least 30 groups registered at Area".

Site Kathy P - Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer. Debbie Starr District 19 reported on the voting procedures for the October Assembly. She had two charts (voting and non-voting) volunteers to host the October Assembly. Please help District 19 at this important assembly. Discussion followed that the DCM be responsible for making sure all their GSRs have their dots and be seated at roll call.

Kathy reported that Structure and Guidelines will be printed annually with changes made that year. Individual pages will be distributed in the minutes with revision date so each person is responsible for changing their copy of the Structure and Guidelines. Also each DCM should be reminded at the beginning of their term to copy the Structure and Guidelines for new GSRs. Current copies are available in the lobby for \$1.50.

Because it was requested that Site consider this, a discussion followed of whether we should be known as Site/Agenda, rather than just Site? Historically since Site started as Site/Agenda, Site feels the full name was just omitted. Site does handle the agenda items that are sent for consideration and has brought various motions to the floor, we will remain just Site.

Motion was made within the Site Committee to have all bidders prices placed in the Site minutes. All were in favor. We did publish this in the October 1995 minutes.

Questions to consider for next meeting - Should the Site Chair be the Alternate Chair of NFAA or should it be a funded position like Growth and Finance? Do we need an Alternate Site Chair or would this be too much responsibility on a DCM who is already a trusted servant on a committee?

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Our Host Districts for future are:

October 11, 12, 13 1996 District 19, Debbe Starr needs volunteers (407-860-2010)

January 10, 11, 12 1997 Districts 9, 10, 11 & 18

April 4, 5, 6 1997 Districts 12, 23 & 15 is pending approval by 1997 term for District 15.

July 11, 12, 13 1997

October 10, 11, 12 1997

Thanks to Districts 6, 8 & 32 for this assembly and all the extra volunteers who assisted.

Old Business

Motion: It shall be the policy of the North Florida Area Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to discontinue the practice of dividing districts and handle growth within the districts by allowing districts with thirty (30) or more groups to elect multiple DCMs (one for each fifteen groups). The multiple DCMs would perform all the duties of a DCM and would have a vote at the Area Assembly. PASSED. No minority opinion (See Section 17 of Structures and Guidelines for new wording).

Motion: The DCM then petitions the Growth Committee of the Assembly in the Growth Committee business meeting. If this is approved, the petition will be taken to the Assembly business meeting during the same quarter for a final vote. PASSED. No minority opinion (See Section 17 of Structures and Guidelines for new wording).

Motion: Any eligible voter who is not in attendance for the Roll Call prior to the Assembly shall have their voting privileges suspended for that Assembly. Discussion was held. Amend the motion to make it for Elections Assemblies only, seconded. Discussion was held. NOT PASSED. No minority opinion. Original motion PASSED. Minority opinion given.

New Business

Motion from Growth Committee to have Corresponding Secretary title changed to Registrar. PASSED. Minority opinion given.

Motion from Growth Committee to have Recording Secretary title changed to Secretary. PASSED. No minority opinion.

Debbe Starr District 19 asked what was the procedure to have function on Friday night, pool meeting and night owl meeting. Discussion was held. This would go to Site Committee to have social function added to the agenda. There would not be time to take this to the Committee as this is for the next assembly. It was stressed that this is a working assembly. Motion to have a pool meeting on Friday night at the next Assembly by the hosting committee. Seconded. Discussion was held. Motion was made to have this sent to the Site Committee. Seconded. PASSED. This will go to the committee and will not be the agenda for the next Assembly. Original motion was withdrawn this will not go to Site Committee.

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All interested in standing for the following Officer positions (See Structures and Guidelines for position qualifications and procedures for standing).

Delegate

Fred W -8/20/79. group officer, DCM, Past North Florida Area Corresponding Secretary, North Florida Area Chair. Currently serving as Alt Delegate.

Dick G -6/15/74. group officer, LCM, area officer, Currently serving as Alt Chair Growth Committee and DCM. District 18(See resume).

Alt Delegate

Judy P -5/13/84. group officer, area officer. Currently serving as North Florida Area Treasurer.

Chair

Kathy P -10/4/71, group officer, GSR, DCM. North Florida Area Recording Secretary. Currently serving as North Florida Area Alt Chair.

Alt Chair

Tom G -2/12/89. group officer, GSR, DCM, Volusia & Flagler County Intergroup. Currently serving as North Florida Area Registrar.

Chris M -4/15/81. group officer, GSR, District officer. Currently serving as DCM District 12.

Treasurer

Sharon R -5/20/81. group officer, GSR, District officer, DCM. Currently Alt Chair Grapevine Committee.

Secretary

Cecilia L -11/28/90 group officer, GSR, District officer. Currently serving as interim North Florida Area Secretary.

Registrar

Jacquelin C -6/12/85. group officer. Central Florida Intergroup. Currently DCM District 11(See resume).

Officers Interim Meeting

No interim officers meeting held due to lack of location.

Area Chairperson

In keeping with the theme for the 1996 assembly year "I AM RESPONSIBLE", I would like to salute all of the DCMs who have been diligent in getting to the assemblies this year. Also the GSRs who have made great efforts to show up and gather information that the groups could not get without your participation. I know that sometimes these are not responsibilities that gain instant gratification. Also, sometimes we become irritants to some people that would rather not hear our announcements. Nevertheless, these positions are part of the backbone of Alcoholics Anonymous, a great link to the whole for many who can only see a small part. I personally want Alcoholics Anonymous to be here for my children and their children, and for that I must work hard to preserve the traditions and live the principles. For that "I AM RESPONSIBLE".

Delegates Corner

This will be my last reflection as your delegate. The past 10 years of service at the area level have been the most gratifying of my life. You have allowed me to grow in my sobriety with patience, tolerance and tough love.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of great change in the way we carry out our A.A. business at the area level. We have enthusiastic committee participation focused on carrying the message. Dedicated area officers and committee chairs that are rotating out should be inspiration for more of the fellowship to get involved. I encourage all of you to stand for positions of service and fulfill the service legacy of our great fellowship.

My greatest pleasure is seeing how our area has been a national leader in twelfth step work by initiating "Carrying the Message to the Wet Drunk Workshops". This is our primary purpose and you all have met the challenge.

In the spirit of rotation I leave as your delegate. I am humbled and eternally grateful to all of you for the experience.

"IT WORKS IF YOU WORK IT".

Assembly

Attendance

Sun July 14th, 1996

Officers

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|---|
| Area Chair | Corrinne F | X |
| Alternate Chair/site | Kathy P... | X |
| Delegate | Dan E | X |
| Alt. Delegate | Fred W | X |
| Corresponding Sec'y | Tom G | X |
| Treasurer | Judy P | X |
| Recording Sec'y | Cecilia L | X |

Standing Committees

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---|
| Archives | Kevin B | X |
| Accessibilities | Kenny T | X |
| Coop w Prof Comm, | Joe C | X |
| Corrections | Roger J | X |
| Grapevine | Charlotte B | X |
| Intergroup | Don B | X |
| Literature | Dennis C | X |
| Public Information | Fred H | X |
| Treatment | Jeff H, Alt | X |

Administrative

| | | |
|---------|---------------|---|
| Growth | Steve W | X |
| Finance | David W | |
| Site | See Alt. Chr. | |

ALT.

| District | DCM | DCM | GSR's |
|----------|-----|-----|-------|
| 1 | X | X | 6 |
| 3 | | X | 1 |
| 4 | X | | 2 |
| 5 | X | | 5 |
| 6 | X | | 3 |
| 7 | X | X | 5 |
| 8 | X | X | 6 |
| 9 | X | | 8 |
| 10 | X | | 4 |
| 11 | X | | 4 |
| 12 | X | | 9 |
| 13 | | X | 2 |
| 14 | X | | 10 |
| 15 | X | X | 4 |
| 16 | | X | 2 |
| 17 | X | | 9 |
| 18 | X | | 10 |
| 19 | X | X | 8 |
| 20 | X | X | 6 |
| 21 | X | | 2 |
| 22 | X | | 0 |
| 23 | X | X | 6 |
| 24 | | | 2 |
| 25 | X | X | 4 |
| 26 | | | |
| 27 | X | X | 1 |
| 28 | | X | 6 |
| 29 | | X | 4 |
| 30 | X | | 2 |
| 31 | X | X | 5 |
| 32 | X | | 7 |