

**North Florida Area Assembly Minutes
First Quarter, January 14, 2007**

2007 Theme: Our 12th Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length?

Area Chair: Tina C-L called the meeting to order, asking for a moment of silence and for everyone to join in the Serenity Prayer. Jocelyn J was asked to read the Anonymity statement. The short form of the twelve concepts was also read.

Registrar: The roll was called by Area Registrar Glenn W. As the District number was called, the DCM was asked to answer with those present as follows: DCM, Alternate DCM and the number of GSRs present from their District (see attached)

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Secretary: Ann P. The minutes were mailed out and extra copies were available. Structures and Guidelines, and Advisory Actions were also available. There were no changes to the October 2006 minutes. Chair asked for motion to accept the October minutes. So moved, seconded. The minutes for October 13 and 14, 2006 were approved as submitted

Treasurer: Marilyn B. The annual 2006 Financial Reports were presented to the Assembly. They included: Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss actual vs. budget, Group Contribution reports, Cash Flow Summary and the 2007 Budget approved at the October 2006 Assembly. The Treasurer announced that the Sale Tax obligation for the July 1 to December 31, 2006 period has been paid. Also the Annual Corporate Report has been filed. Treasurer will be moving \$10,000 from checking to an interest bearing account(s) this coming week. (See attached report)

Southeast Regional Trustee: Howard L Past Delegate, Panel 43, and currently our Southeast Regional Trustee began his report, by thanking NFAA for the pleasure of being with us this weekend. His message for us from GSO was "Things are doing okay, but things could be better and it looks like they're going to be okay". Yes group contributions are up, and that means we are able to carry message to more areas of the world. This weekend has exceeded my expectations.

Delegate: Fred H – Recognized the Past Delegates seated in the audience: Tom D, Panel 43; Dan E, Panel 45; Dick G, Panel 47, also Past Southeast Region Trustee; Kathy P, Panel 49; Tom G, Panel 51; Corliss G, Panel 53; and Michael S, Panel 55.

I attended the Southeast Regional Forum from December 1st through December 3rd, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Forum was hosted by Howard L, our current Class "B" Southeast Regional Trustee. Representatives from our General Service Office Staff, The Grapevine/LaVina were in attendance. Leonard Blumenthal, Class "A" Trustee and Chairman of the General Service Board also was present. The weekend sessions were very well attended. Tina L., Area Chair also attended the forum and will be reporting on the status of the new GSO database "Fellowship New Vision".

During the Forum sessions a request was made from the GSO Corrections Desk for male volunteers willing to submit their names to write letters to male prison inmates. There is a GSO pamphlet available along with a registration form for those interested in participating. Please see our Corrections Service Coordinator, Jim F. if you are willing to volunteer for this effort.

AA Literature is now available in over 70 languages. AAWS Publishing hires writers to translate our literature, Big Book, pamphlets, etc into these languages. The original wording is not changed, but translated into a format understood by persons who speak a language other than English.

The Grapevine will incur a loss for the 2006 fiscal year. During a recent survey the majority of respondents surveyed indicated that they were very satisfied with the overall content of the Grapevine. If your District does not have a Grapevine Representative we suggest that you consider asking someone to fill the position. The Grapevine is a wonderful AA publication and a gift that can be shared by passing on your copy to other members or those that you sponsor. Correctional Committees are always looking for old copies of The Grapevine to carry behind the walls. LaVina is still requesting Spanish stories for their publication.

A request had been made for staple free Grapevines to be used in Corrections, but the cost would be an additional \$36,000. and the cost cannot be justified at this time.

In November of 2006, I received a letter from Greg M., General Manager of the General Service Office, stating that GSO would not be able to publish the AA Directories at the end of 2006, due to a costly license renewal and the inability of the GSO software to integrate with that of the publishers who print the directories. The current 2005/2006 directories are still available from GSO. The AA website, WWW.AA.Org will continually be updated with current group information for those who may be planning to travel outside of their home area and would like contact information relating to meetings.

The General Service Board held its quarterly meeting in New York City on December 15, 2006. The following is a brief summary of several items that were discussed.

A report was made on the "Fellowship New Vision" database and as I mentions above Tina L will be covering that in her report.

Electronic Delivery of AA Publications (EDAP) is now available to all Conference members. "About AA" and "Markings" will soon be available to be delivered via e-mail in digital format.

ICYPAA recently donated a portion of their archives to GSO and they will be place on display at the GSO Archives.

Voluntary contributions through October 2006 are 10% ahead of budget and 12% greater than 2005. This increase helps to make a significant difference in the services that can be offered by the GSO Office to members and groups. 44% of the groups in the North Florida Area contributed to GSO in 2006 verses 43% for the 2005 year. This represents a 2.3% increase in contributions from our area.

I have received the group contribution forms from GSO through September 30, 2006, and have been distributing them to each DCM. Please see me if you have not received your district report.

I will be attending the Southeast Region Delegates-Get-Together in Atlanta, GA. from February 2 – 4, 2007. This meeting is held each year to allow the delegates from the Southeast Region to meet with our Southeast Region Trustee, Howard L prior to the April General Service Conference.

As you delegate I will then be attending the 57th General Service Conference in New York City, from April 21st through April 28th. The theme for the 2007 Conference is "Our 12th Step Responsibility- Are We Going To Any Length?". I am also pleased to tell you that I have been assigned to the Panel 57 Conference Grapevine Committee for the next 2 years.

In approximately 30 days I will be receiving a CD of the background information for the agenda items that will be discussed at the conference. This CD will also contain all of the background information for the respective committees. I will be duplicating this CD and distributing a copy to all of the area officers, service coordinators, administrative committee chairs and DCMs. If you are not able to work with a CD and would prefer paper copies of your background information, please let me know. You should receive this information in the later part of February to allow you enough time to review the information and take it back to your districts and then be able to discuss it at our March 24, 2007, Saturday night meeting.

Shortly after the conference in April I will be available to come to your districts and to give my Delegate report. Please see me personally, telephone or e-mail to schedule a visit. I look forward to serving as your delegate during the next 2 years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and blessings that you have entrusted to me.

Alternate Delegate: Chet P. – I am looking forward to attending the Southeast Regional Delegates' Get Together in Atlanta in February. Fred is providing me with the Conference background material as he receives it so I can have a head start on the Conference agenda items when they are received.

Chair: Tina C-L. Welcome to all the visitors and new GSRs and DCMs. Administrative Committee assignments for DCMs is laminated and kept at the registration table. Please check your assignment and attend your committee meeting Saturdays at 9:00 am. I have the privilege of attending the SE Regional Forum last month in Atlanta. I learned quite a bit and thank you for sending me to do so. Of particular interest was the Website workshop conducted by Greg M. It began with a tour of aa.org, the GSO website. We looked at Service for Members which included literature available online consisting of many pamphlets, the service manual and the Big Book. Greg gave us information about Fellowship New Vision. This is the new online, real time database being rolled out to for Registrars. They will access real-time updates so our information will be passed on to GSO immediately. Additionally, we were told of a new program called EDAP – Electronic Delivery of AA Publications in which professionals who sign up will be automatically sent the About AA newsletter monthly via email. This will later include the archives newsletter, Markings, for AA members.

Alternate Chair Report: Connie was not in attendance this weekend due to a death in the family so the Chair, Tina C-L., gave the report. Thank you to host districts of this assembly, 9,10,13,32 for a great job. Thank you in advance to districts 3, 12, 18A, 18B, and 28 for agreeing to host the March Assembly. Please see Melanie E. out at the registration tables immediately following today's business meeting. The assembly dates for 2007 are March 23, 24 and 25, July 13, 14, and 15, and October 12, 13, and 14. Make your reservations ASAP and at least 30 days prior to the Assembly. Our block of rooms are 75 for Friday and 150 for Saturday. Be sure to ask for the North Florida Area block when making reservations.

Special Reports:

51st Florida State Convention. Kelly J, chairperson for the 51st Florida State Convention. This year the convention will be held August 8, through 12, at the beautiful Caribe Royale an all-suites resort and convention center in Orlando. We are in one location, under one roof. The Caribbean Ballroom holds 2,800 people. We have a great program planned with 10 AA speakers and 2 Al-Anon speakers with full Al-Anon participation. The queen double \$109.00 a night has a pull out sleeper sofa IN THE LIVING ROOM. The villas are \$234.00 a night, have two bedrooms, full kitchen and whirlpool tub in the master suite. The hotel does not charge your credit card in

advance. There are no resort fees. Our room block is filling up fast. We have 800 room nights already booked. Flyers have been translated into Spanish and given to the South Florida Area 15. The golf tournament is being held at the Celebration Golf Course a 4 ½ star course and one of the top 100 courses. What can you do to help? 1. Register for the convention early. 2. Call the hotel to make your room reservations. 3. Mark announcements at meetings about the convention. 4. Sign up to volunteer. The convention committee is striving to bring alive the convention theme, “great events will come to pass”. Thank you. Kelly J.

NFAA Florida State Convention Advisory Committee: - Chet P., chair. We received a report from the 23007 Convention Committee. They have been very responsive and open. There is a projected shortfall from the banquets as a result of the previous committee’s contract with the hotel, but they are making provisions to keep the shortfall to a minimum. The projected revenues are still in the black, if they reach 1800 in attendance. The 2007 committee asked our assistance in obtaining the mailing list from the 2006 convention committee. We also received a proposal from Jacksonville for the 2009 convention and we are reviewing that proposal.

Service Coordinators Reports:

Accessibilities: Kathy S. Alt. Coordinator, Vickie K. Number in Attendance: 15
Note Taker: Janis T.

The Accessibilities Workshop was comprised of several district Accessibility Chairs and those interested Accessibilities. I appreciate everyone’s participation and presence. And, thank you to Janis in District 5 for taking notes.

I began by reading our statement of purpose according to the North Florida Conference of A.A. Structure and Guidelines, which led into the first section of a three-part topic, the first part being, “What is Accessibilities?” In our workshops we cover how to carry the message to those who have problems which limit their attendance at regular A.A. meetings and we help A.A. members and groups identify these special needs. Many participants gave examples of situations that fall under the Accessibilities umbrella, those being, but not limited to, the blind, the deaf, the illiterate, those who are wheelchair bound or homebound, those who are hospitalized, members who cannot attend meetings due to the lack of childcare, and people with language barriers. To answer the second question, “Does our district need an Accessibilities committee?”, participants shared about their district’s local needs. A survey is available to help identify special needs in a district. We then focused on our third section, “How does a district get started?” Many talked about the grassroots work being done in their districts. Accessibilities chairs are welcome to check out Accessibilities material from our literature inventory, such as videos, cassettes and some books available in Braille. Again, thanks for all workshop participants and I offer my service to do workshops in your district. I appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Archives: Rob K Coordinator, Dave W. Alt Coordinator. Attendance 25. Note Taker: Cecelia R

Opening, introductions, area archives display overview. District 5 archives overview. Question and answer period: Most questions were about preservation of archival documents and availability, price and where to shop for 1st edition Big Books.

Archivist Cecelia R, brought updates for archive maps from the past and an updated photo index – notebooks can also be updated. She also shared some gems uncovered in our own area archives – some hand written budget ledgers, dating back to the 50’s (The Area had \$30.00 in the bank).

Rob K reviewed an article about events that predated the AA's formation and the many twists of fate that placed Bill W, Dr Bob, and the Oxford Group together in New York and Akron.

Rob K confirmed appointment of Dave W – District 32, as the Alternate Archives Service Coordinator for Panel 57.

Next area assembly workshop will include archive presentation techniques and demo.

Other districts were asked to bring archives to the next workshop. District 14 will bring there archives in March.

In loving service, Rob K

Cooperation with the Professional Community: Vivian F., Alt. Coordinator: Jimmy Steward

Number in Attendance: 20, Note Taker: Jimmy Steward Main Topic Workbook, Literature, Exhibiting

We had an energetic time in our workshop as we discussed the CPC Workbook and variety of literature available for educating the professional community.

We discussed reaching out through mail, personal contact and always remembering to follow up with a thank you note.

Our workshop was highly interactive as we discussed ways to enhance our exhibit to be creative, professional and inviting to the community and how we can be a resource for helping them.

There was a highly interactive discussion on the 11th Tradition and our own perceptions and also on how Districts utilize the PI/CPC position either together or separately.

We discussed our plans for our next exhibition in April and continuing to be in contact between assemblies.

Thank you for your participation and the privilege to serve.

Corrections: Jim F, Coordinator. Jim E. Alternate Coordinator, Lou T, not taker.
Opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

We had an introduction to Corrections Facilities Workbook, and a brief overview of history of AA in Corrections. Jill Brown Received the 25th million copy of the Big Book, she is the warden at San Quentin, where AA behind the walls started.

Men and women in prison need to learn how to live sober. We need people to carry the message to them. The Florida Department of Corrections are anxious for citizen volunteers to bring meetings to the prisons.

We should not forget the basics – honesty (their word is good) and show up and one you are in – keep showing up. You can obtain a badge that is good for all state correctional institutions.

We discussed problems getting into jails/prisons and the solutions other have used.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

March assembly we will go over the “Corrections Facilities Workbook.

Grape Vine: Mary F., Alt. Coordinator: Wendy M. Number in Attendance: 17. Note Taker: Jocelyn J. Theme or Main Topic: General Information

We read the news letters from AA Grapevine Inc Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec.

There was a discussion on what is going on in your district with the Grapevine, how to:

1. Get others interested and involved in GVR at all levels.
2. Bringing young AA'er into the Grapevine
3. Drop a Grapevine. (Doctor's) offices example

We discussed the Grapevine online. Also Digital Archives.

Fred H. Our Delegate is assigned to the Grapevine committee. Fred gave us information on the conference's agenda on April 21.

The Grapevine's money from books \$120.00, Raffle \$228.00, Mystery Basket \$92.00. We gave away 12 subscriptions in the raffle.

Mary Floyd
Grapevine Coordinator

Intergroup: Lori S: Service Coordinator, Melinda G, Alternate Coordinator. 35 people in attendance

Topic: Question and answers on Intergroup experiences

We discussed answering phones for Intergroup. Volunteers answering the phones verses answering services.

We discussed office managers for central offices, their pay, the benefits of AA's verses non AA's as office managers.

We went over the AA guidelines from GSO concerning this matter and discussed in detail.

We also had discussion on the spirit of rotation for standing committees at the Intergroup level and fundraising ideas for groups to use, such as cake raffle, gratitude dinner, picnics and silent auctions.

We also went over the suggested breakdown for donations from districts and groups according to AA pamphlets.

Next Assembly we will be have our area archivist Cecelia Reid give a presentation on the history of Intergroup.

Literature: Steve R - Coordinator; Ruth - Alt, Coordinator

A. Opened 3:15 with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

B. Passed list to gain contact info

C. Introductions

D. AA Guidelines for literature were distributed

E. Member of District 18 requested support from the workshop to present republishing of the perpetual Daily Reflections calendar, originally published in 1990 and 2000 at the business meeting.

1. Discussion followed
2. Consensus passed to support the presentation at the business meeting

- F. Too Young pamphlet being updated
- G. 2007 Literature Catalog was distributed
- H. Q&A
 - 1. What pamphlets are included in the beginner's packet?
 - 2. How does a change occur in a piece of literature?
 - 3. Can GSO Guidelines, literature and reports be available at assemblies?
- I. Future project for Literature Workshop was to review all pamphlets and see if any need to be withdrawn from publication.
- J. Discussion on having the Daily Reflections reprinted with room for notes followed.
 - 1. A mock up will be brought to the March Workshop
- K. Motion made by Jay that a complete set of AA Workshop Guidelines be available for review at the Literature Workshop. Motion seconded by Bill. Motion passed.
- L. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 4:15.

Public Information: Service Coordinator: Carolina T. Alternate: Randy J. Attendance: 21
Note taker: Randy J.

This report was given by Randy J.

Topic: Public Information Workbook / District Efforts

Distributed Public Information Workbooks to the members in attendance. Read the description of what a PI committee is and discussed how to form a committee.

Listed a number of goals that a committee should have, such as visiting schools, hospitals, hotels, contacting attorneys, judges, teachers and other professionals. Explained the importance of inviting professionals to AA workshops, and participating in events organized by professionals.

Opened the meeting up to the people attending. They shared what they are doing in the community. They asked questions regarding how to start a committee, what literature to offer, and who to talk to at different institutions they visit.

We had an excellent workshop, and I would like to remind you that I am available to visit the districts and participate in workshops and events.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Carolina T

Treatment: David R, Service Coordinator. John K, Alternate Service Coordinator. Attendance 55. Cindy H, Note Taker.

We discussed the why and how to bring AA meetings into treatment centers. The format was based on the materials in the Treatment Facilities Workbook. We shared our Experience, strength and hope in all areas of treatment. Group participation was excellent and attention was given to "Bridging the Gap" program.

Web Site: Coordinator: Jeff P. Alt. Coordinator: Mike P. Number in Attendance: approx 15.
Note Taker: Scott B

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer and had approximately 15 in attendance.

Our web site, aanorthflorida.org, has had a facelift and rebuild as of January 2nd. The current site is built using ASP, is CSS based, and meets XHTML 1.0 Transitional standards. Although not required, our site would also meet ADA web site standards for the sight impaired, being accessible to those viewing the site using a screen reader.

Announcements of AA events happening within Area 14 can be placed on the 'Schedule of Activities' page. Just email the flyer to the webmaster. A question was asked about what kind of file would be best emailed. The best thing would be a link to a flyer already on the internet. The next best would be a .pdf file or a Word document. If all else fails you can mail a flyer to Jeff via U.S. post and he will take care of it. Our first order of business was to find someone to stand as Alternate Web Site Service Coordinator. Mike P of district 17 promptly stepped right up and volunteered for the position. Thank you Mike! There as a discussion on finding someone to help with translations for the Spanish language portion of our web site. Jeff reported that Carolina T, our PI Service Coordinator and Maria M from district 33 have both agreed to help out.

Changing the content of our web site was discussed. While the webmaster may occasionally need to use his/her 'Right of Decision' to make small or minor changes, Jeff stated that he would make no significant changes to the content of aanorthflorida.org without an informed group conscience of the Area Assembly. In this vein, placing Structures and Guidelines on our site was brought up. Fred H, our Delegate, reported that though this had been discussed over the past year, no motion could be found to have been made or passed during that time. Jeff reported that he had also looked through the minutes of the last 5 Assemblies and could not find where the Assembly had passed any motion to include Structures and Guidelines on our web site. We discussed whether or not it was a good idea to place our S&G on our site. Tina C-L, Area Chair, had been to a web site workshop at the Southeast Regional Forum, where there had been discussion that AA web sites should be careful about what kind of information is posted on the internet. It was also brought up that the entire Service Manual is available for download from the G.S.O. site. The workshop agreed that our S&G didn't contain any kind of information that the general public shouldn't be able to see. Therefore we agreed upon a motion to be made to the Assembly:

Place the current, published Structures & Guidelines on the Area web site.*

*Note: Cecilia R, Area Archivist, later pointed out that in April 2000; a motion was made and passed to place the Structures and Guidelines on the Area web site. Therefore the motion did not need to be made again.

Jeff stated that the Group Change Form had been posted to aanorthflorida.org, and would also soon be placing the DCM Information Change Form on the site.

Hap A from district 25 had contacted Jeff via email about placing a link to their district's web site on the links page of aanorthflorida.org. There should be no problem with this. Any other district with a web site please contact Jeff and he will see about placing a link to your site on the Area's site.

The workshop was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Finance: Chair, Melanie E. Alternate Chair, Laura McC. Attendance 8 voting DCMs out of 12 assigned to the Committee.

The committee members and those present introduce themselves. Melanie distributed the AA Guidelines, and self-support materials.

NFA Archivist, Cecelia R showed old treasurer's books with reports written by hand. The first typed report was done in 1987.

Marilyn B, NFA Treasurer handed out folders to DCMs on the committee, which included the Area 2006 profit and loss statement and a budget worksheet. There were questions, answers and discussion.

The status of NFA computers that are used by the Area secretary, registrar, treasurer and webmaster were discussed.

The committee is continuing to investigate options of increasing compensation for officers and service coordinators. The previous Area Chair brought a proposal in October to increase mileage that was rejected.

Growth: Chet P, Chair. . Attendance 8 voting DCMs out of 12 assigned to the Committee. We discussed the motion "That Area 14 continues to participate on the advisory committee of the Florida State Convention, instead of withdrawing on December 31, 2006." After much discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Site and Agenda: Chair, Connie K (absent), Alternate chair, Jim K. Attendance: voting DCMs out of 10 assigned to the Committee.

Area Chair Tina L opened the meeting in the absence of Connie who had a death in the family.

Hotel bidding process guidelines were passed out. Tina explained why we chose the Paramount Hotel.

Committee members were asked to get proposals from hotels in their areas for 2009-2010 and return them at the next assembly.

We had a question and answer period.

We also asked to look into the possibility of getting a microphone for the Friday night meeting.

Report by Jim K, Alternate Chair, Sight and Agenda

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion from the Growth Committee: Move that Area 14 continues to participate on the advisory committee of the Florida State Convention, instead of withdrawing on December 31, 2006.

Motion will go to the Growth Committee. MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion brought to the floor by Bonnie C, GSR, District 18, Literature Chair.

Move to reprint and make available for sale the "Daily Reflections" perpetual calendar that was originally printed in 1990 and reprinted in 2000. Motion seconded.

After much discussion a Motion was made to table this motion. Seconded. 2/3rds vote required. Motion to table failed to pass.

A motion to amend the original motion – to put on agenda at GSO Conference to ask If available for reprint, the “Daily Reflections” perpetual calendar that was originally printed in 1990 and reprinted in 2000. Motion to amend seconded. MOTION TO AMEND PASSED. MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED. Minority opinion given.

Motion made by Richard McG., GSR, New Life Group.

I move that we propose to the New York Central office to add the word “patient” to the “how it works” section of the Big Book. To now read “remember that we deal with alcohol cunning, baffling, powerful “patient”. Motion seconded. MOTION FAILED. Minority opinion given.

Motion from Scott B, GSR, St Cloud Group. District 31.

I would like to propose a motion: regarding the formatting of the reference book BM – 31 “The AA Service Manual combined with twelve Concepts for World Service” by Bill W.

- A. The index should be moved to the rear of the book; where it would be readily available.
- B. The fact that the manual and concepts have been combined into one book of equal importance. The (Index) should be expanded to also include the concepts portion.
- C. There should also be a “glossary” of terms used in these two books at the preceding the index.

There is a portion called conference language but it is also just thrown in the middle – pg S18 and if you try to locate it from the current index; it isn’t listed under glossary or conference language. Motion seconded. There was a lot of discussion. MOTION PASSED.

From the Finance Committee: Motion to Allocate \$850. for the purchase of a laptop computer and necessary software, including upgrading Quick Books and Excel for the Area Treasurer. Motion seconded. MOTION PASSED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned with the Lords Prayer.

