District 14 August 2017 Minutes – August 2, 2017

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| *John H, DCM* | *Chad U, Secretary* | *Malcomb B, Treasurer* | *Asa W, CPC-PI* |
| *Debbie E, Alt DCM* | *Michelle M, Alt Secretary* |  | *Linda B, Alt CPC-PI* |
| *Corey C, Corrections* | *Shelley S, Grapevine* | *Travis K, Literature* | *Dani M, Treatment* |
| District 14 meetings are the first WED of each month, 6:30 pm, downstairs @ *Harmony House Café*, 47 N. Main Street, Washington.***District 14 Events***available at: [**http://www.district14.info/d14events.htm**](http://www.district14.info/d14events.htm)***District 14 GSR Handbook***PDF available at: [**http://www.district14.info**](http://www.district14.info)***Send group contributions to***: *District 14 Treasurer*, 104 River Road, Rices Landing, PA 15357 |

#### Groups Represented (by GSR Reports turned in)

Crossroads, **Literature on Main**, MITN, **Primary Purpose**, *Prosperity*, SMEB, Washington Group.

[**NOTE**: Other GSRs were in attendance, but did not provide a written Report Form for these minutes: ABSI Canonsburg, Canonsburg Tuesday Night, G.O.D., Hill 12&12, State Line, Step Sisters, TNT.]

*Italics: GSR Report by email.*

**Bold red: needs support.**

#### Officers/Coordinators Present

DCM, Alt DCM, Treasurer, Secretary, Alt Secretary, Corrections, Alt CPC-PI, Grapevine, Literature.

### Welcome, Call to Order, & Open Meeting *with Serenity Prayer* (DCM) at 6:30 pm

### Reading of *Concept V* from AA Service Manual

### Minutes

* July 2017 Minutes presented for approval.
	+ ***MOTION*** *(to accept July minutes): Jan F; SECOND: Malcomb B.* ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea.*

### Pass the Basket (district 7th Tradition)

### GSR Report Highlights

*(If you are a GSR and not able to make the district meeting, make sure you give your report to your alternate to present, or email it to the Secretary.)*

* See *Groups Represented* above.
* **Step Sisters** is now closed because it never got the support; its collected 7th Tradition has been sent to the District 14 Treasurer.
* See District Events page at <http://www.district14.info/d14events.htm>
	+ **SUN, 9/3; Prosperity Bonfire Meeting**
		- *Old Concord, PA.*
		- Anytime in the afternoon; bonfire meeting at 7; Bring a Covered Dish.
	+ **SUN, 9/17; Made It Till Noon Picnic**
		- *Center Township Park, Rodgersville, PA.*
		- Noon to 5; Al-Anon Speaker 1:30 PM; AA Speaker 2:30 PM; Main Course & Drinks Provided; Bring a Covered Dish; 50/50, Cornhole, & Playground.
* ***NEEDS SUPPORT***
	+ ***Canonsburg Tuesday Night*: Needs literature, talking to Lit Coordinator; HG members.**
	+ ***Lit on Main*: attendance, HG members.**
	+ ***Primary Purpose*: HG members with good sobriety.**
	+ ***TNT*: HG members.**

### Officer & Coordinator Reports

*(If you are an officer or coordinator and not able to make the district meeting, make sure you give your report to your alternate or someone else to present, or email it to the Secretary.)*

#### DCM

* No report; just listening.

#### Treatment (absent)

* Absent due to motorcycle accident; our thoughts and prayers are with you, Dani!
* Do we need an Alt for Treatment to meet our commitments while Dani is laid up? John H will get in touch with her.

#### Corrections

* Need men and women to volunteer for Washington County jail; 2 years sobriety, 2 years off paper.
* **GUEST SPEAKER (Sue H)**
	+ Asked to do corrections with around one year of sobriety, and she was never in prison… and has been doing it for 20 years.
	+ Started at SCI Fayette (men), did 20 years, stepped down… and got asked to start same thing up at SCI Greene (women).
	+ GCCF (men’s) needs support; looking for people to come in and share their story.
	+ 2,000 inmates in jail; meetings get up to 20 people, which is considered a crowd.
	+ Meetings in the jails are structured the same way as most AA meetings.
	+ You must have 2 years of sobriety, and 2 years off paper to volunteer. HOWEVER, you don’t need 2 years to volunteer for **Bridging the Gap**, in which case you might be responsible for helping an inmate making the transition from the jail to the public AA program.
	+ First week of the month in GCCF jail is a discussion meeting, 2nd week is a big book study, 3rd week is a discussion, and the 4th week is a big book study; inmates chair this meeting.
	+ Just like any other AA meeting, just inside the walls. Try it out. This is the first time some of these people have ever talked about feelings.
	+ It takes a little time to get cleared for correctional facilities, anywhere from 4 to 6 weeks, so volunteer now.
	+ Helps show how AA can help us with what’s going on in our lives, whether we’re inside or outside the walls.
	+ **KCB** = Keep Coming Back
	+ If not off-paper, get involved with **Bridging the Gap**, to help people coming out when they come you your home group.
	+ Also, corrections correspondence can be helpful; Corey interjected that some guys in the **BtG** program are mailing guys in SCI Green.

#### CPC/PI (absent)

* Absent on a service commitment.
* Still looking for a replacement*.*
* Thomas S reports the Washington Care Center needs lit.

#### Alt CPC/PI

* Unable to step up to be CPC/PI.
* Went to magistrates’ office and gave pamphlets for Waynesburg Rain Day and for the Oxford House.
* Pamphlets on sponsorship were passed around for GSRs to bring back to their home groups.
* CPC/PI left literature at Waynesburg churches that they deemed inappropriate, so returned it to Alt.

#### Literature

* + **Literature Report** emailed 8/1.
	+ Literature was available for sale, but there were zero new orders in July.
		- The “Yellow Card” on Safety in AA not yet available; Chad U reports that a slide of it will appear in the Summer *Seeds of Service*.
	+ Does anyone want to order Literature to pick up at the District 14 Picnic on 8/20? Needs to get to his order minimum ASA to get literature in before the picnic

#### Treasurer

* See ***Treasurer’s Report*** sent 7/30.
* One question: who and when are we supposed to pay for the Central Office answering service? Answer: call the Pittsburgh Central Office during business hours.
* Treasurer won’t be at the September district meeting because of Cook Forest, and will not be at the picnic because of a Steps Inside spiritual retreat.
* If you have money to donate, mail Malcolm the check with your address and he will send you a receipt.

#### Alt DCM

* It’s important to announce district activities, the district meeting, service opportunities in our GSR reports each week; many AAs unaware this level of service exists.
* Some of the meetings she’s attended that seemed to be in trouble and not well-attended, some of these are increasing in attendance; there seems to be an ebb and flow.
* Passed a card to sign for Dani M.

#### Grapevine

* + Nobody/no group asked to see her in the past month.
		- Lynda asked her to come to McMurray Women’s ABSI when available; probably in September.
	+ Will bring poster board and subscriptions info to picnic.
	+ Subscriptions to get *Grapevines* into facilities have been received.
	+ Corrections inmates can get free subscriptions for *Grapevine* with a certain card (per Sue H); *GV* changed the way it is bound (no staples), so it can be sent into prisons now.

#### Secretary (no report)

### Old Business

#### District Picnic (Shelley, et al.)

* Picnic will be Sunday, August 20, noon to 6 pm, at Washington Park at the Lions Pavilion near the pool.
* Passed around flyers and sign-up sheet.
* The pool is now closed for the picnic because of flooding.
* There will be cornhole, volleyball, and badminton.
* Raffles every half-hour for literature; each officer/coordinator will speak on their service position (3-5 minutes); Drew will represent GSRs.
	+ We need someone to talk about Treasurer, CPC/PI, and Alt CC/PI, since they won’t be there.
* Jan F will fill-in for Dani on **Bridging the Gap**.
* Please volunteer literature, time, and money needed for picnic. Go back to your home groups to see if they will get involved.

#### Day of Sharing: Mount Lebanon (guests Nancy P & Keeshia M)

* The theme is “We Stood at the Turning Point”.
* The next meeting is August 13 at 4pm right after the Bridgeville meeting at Holy Child Parish.
	+ Rotating planning meetings between the districts hasn’t worked.
* Need volunteers to speak for 3 panels (3-4 people per panel); all about “standing at the turning point” for each of these stages of sobriety. These will not be full leads, just sharing how you overcame each of these turning points in recovery! Each is associated with a story in the Big Book, and one of our Three Legacies:
	+ **Early** (0 - 5 years): Crossing the River of Denial, p.328 [SERVICE]
	+ **Middle** (5 – 10 years): Keys of the Kingdom, p. 268 [UNITY]
	+ **Long-Term** (15+ years): Freedom from Bondage, p. 544 [RECOVERY]
	+ Contact Keeshia M if you would like to share.
* The Day of Sharing will be on September 23, 9am-3pm, at Our Lady of Grace in Scott Township.
* Can each GSR purchase a set of DVDs from Fred & George? They are $25 each.
* There are 200 tickets available for Day of Sharing; the priest may allow 250 people. You can buy these tickets ahead of time at the meeting on August 13 at 4pm at Holy Child in Bridgeville.
* Raffle baskets: please donate; we cannot solicit because of our 7th tradition!

### New Business

* To save time, GSRs do not need to read where every event is and what time; the date should be sufficient. Just let the meeting know that if they want to find out more information, they can visit [www.district14.info](http://www.district14.info)!

### District Discussion: *Group Consciences* (all)

* Alt DCM had mentioned last month that a few of the group consciences for various groups in the district seemed “sloppy.”
	+ Everybody wants to leave right away and nothing important is discussed.
* It’s not “group conscious” – it’s **group conscience**. Words mean things, and spelling counts.
* When people – even long-timers – talk about things that need to change, they don’t realize that it should be discussed at the group conscience.
	+ Situations can get complicated. John H told a story about a long-timer who wanted to get his 7 year coin, but had gotten high on meds after surgery. Group conscience decided that there should be no coin, and that AA has never come back to that group… but is still sober today.
* If we share our stories about our home group’s group conscience, people will see that things can change.
* Are group consciences necessary or important for groups that are already “solid”?
	+ Several “solid groups” in district don’t.
	+ Chad U asked if they had separate business meetings for paying the usual rent and expenses, with saving the group conscience for more complicated situation. Feeling was that these “solid groups” did not have regular business meetings either. (Why would they need them if they were “solid”?)
* “Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.”
* Is there anything in the literature that states how the group conscience should be run?
	+ Nancy P said that the AA Group pamphlet does.
	+ Groups should follow some sort of format or rules so it’s not a free-for-all.
	+ One AA’s opinion was that the most important thing is everyone sits down and says the serenity prayer at the beginning of the group conscience. Another suggested the Responsibility Statement. One AA’s opinion was that home groups should say the Responsibility Statement at the ***end*** of each group conscience.
* Does the GSR chair/run group conscience?
	+ Just when the meeting has something to do with outside of the group?
	+ Under Tradition 4, all groups are autonomous, and can do what they want as they decide in their group conscience.
	+ Nancy P said that the AA Group pamphlet points to the group secretary to run the group conscience.
	+ Opinion of the district meeting was split on whether a GSR or the group secretary should run a group conscience. ***Nearly 50-50 split on those in attendance who had an opinion.***
* Do groups have a regular treasurer’s report?
	+ One AA said that their meeting has a sign-in sheet, and at the bottom of the page is the total of the group’s 7th Tradition collection, so it’s transparent to everyone.
	+ Shawn G said the Primary Purpose AA group has a treasurer’s report after their 7th Tradition collection.

### Anything Else?

* Nancy P asked about our district’s “education fund” – by which she apparently meant reimbursement to officers and coordinators for registration, travel, and lodging for various conferences and AA service events. The district guidelines are from 2012 and out of date, and are still being reviewed/updated based on motions made this year (***officers and coordinators, this is a reminder to give the District Secretary your comments on the description of your service position, or any other comments for the guidelines!***). The current guidelines are available for download from [www.district14.info](http://www.district14.info)

***MOTION*** *(to close): Malcomb B; SECOND: Brad B.* ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea.*

### Close with Responsibility Statement (at 7:45 pm)

**NEXT MEETING: September 6, 2017**

August *GSR Report Form* Totals

| **Group** | **Avg Attendance** | **Active HG Members** | **% HG Members of Attendance** | **HG Member Avg Sobriety** | **Regular Group Conscience?** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crossroads | 36 | 10 | 28% | 15 | Y |
| **Literature on Main** | **15** | **6** | **40%** | **3** | **Y** |
| MITN | 13 | 8 | 62% | 20 | Y |
| **Primary Purpose** | **65** | **4** | **6%** | **1** | **Y** |
| Prosperity | 21 | 14 | 67% | 9 | N |
| SMEB | 37 | 10 | 27% | **“yes”** | Y |
| Washington Group | 35 | 5 | 14% | 12 | Y |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTALS** | **222** | **57** | **244%** | **60** | **Y = 6****N = 1** |
| ***Average Attendance (7 groups)*** | ***31*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***Active HG Members (7 groups)*** |  | ***8*** |  |  |  |
| ***Average % HG of Attendance(7 groups)*** |  |  | ***35%*** |  |  |
| ***HG Member Avg Sobriety (7 groups)*** |  |  |  | ***9*** |  |
| ***Regular Group Conscience %(7 groups)*** |  |  |  |  | ***86%*** |

**Bold red: needs support.**