District 14 July 2017 Minutes – July 5, 2017

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *John H, DCM* | *Chad U, Secretary* | *Malcolm 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

Camel, **Canonsburg Group**, Canonsburg Daily Reflections, Crossroads, GOD, Hill 12&12, McMurray Women’s ABSI, MITN, Renewal, SMEB, The First 164, Washington Group, Washington Sun Night Discussion, **Wed Night Daily Reflections**

**Bold red: needs support.**

**Name Change:** Canonsburg Big Book is now Canonsburg Daily Reflections.

**Format Change:** G.O.D. is now a Step meeting.

#### Officers/Coordinators Present

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

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

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

### Minutes

* June 2017 Minutes presented for approval.
  + ***MOTION*** *(to accept June minutes): Shelley S; SECOND: John H.* ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea.*

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

### GSR Report Highlights

* See *Groups Represented* above.
* See District Events page at <http://www.district14.info/d14events.htm>

### Officer & Coordinator Reports

*(If you are an officer and not able to make one of the district meetings, make sure you give your report to your alternate or someone else to present.)*

#### DCM

**Recap of North East Regional Forum, June 2-4, Cranberry Township**

|  | **2016** | **2015** | **2014** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership is FLAT** | 1,362,402 | 1,348,072 | 1,373,497 |
| **Cost of Services per member is rising** | $7.27 | $7.14 | $7.08 |
| **7th Step Contributions to GSO** | $5.82 | $5.24 | $5.02 |
| **Number of Groups** | 66,336 | 65,741 | 65,222 |
| **7th Step Contributions per group** | 119.62 | 108.82 | 105.76 |
| **Percentage of groups contributing** | 41.5% | 40.3% | 41.6% |
| **Big Books sold** | 861k | 780k | 1130k |
| **Reserve Fund (Prudent Reserve)** | n/a | 10.3 months | 10.2 months |
| **Special Challenges Addressed** | Pension Obligation | | |
| **Staff** | 90 | | |
| **DAILY Activities Sample:** | 13,600 booklets & pamphlets shipped daily, 4,900 Big Books & other books shipped, 230 emails, 65 phone calls, 300 contributions processed & acknowledged, 200 Grapevine & LaVina mailed, 6 information requests from Archives answered | | |

**Area 60 - Post Conference Assembly Report, June 25, Penn Hills**

This was panel 67 comprised of 93 delegates from the US and addressed. Theme was “Supporting our Future”.

* **General Service Board -**  Focus last year has been on current & future financial position as a spiritual fellowship. “Our resolve to communicate effectively with each other and to bring forward what is best for the future of AA should be our guidepost and our measure of success this week”
* **AAWS -** 73 full time, 2-PT & 1 temp, shepherding 62 translations across 44 different languages, release of new Safety in AA- Our common welfare (yellow card) to be released July
* **Grapevine & LaVina -** circulation now flat rather than declining, App was launched in May with Kindle & Microsoft 10 coming soon. Considering podcasts, blog, regionally focused pages, short videos. Download the app to your phone.
* **Financials -** Publishing income covered shortfall between 7th Tradition and costs. Suggestion that breakeven was $7.27 per member. (Maybe GSRs can offer this guidance to their groups for what GSO needs to maintain programs.)

**Delegate Conclusion**

## What’s love got to do with it? Everything! …in 3 ways:

1. *Trust* - We should trust each other because that is what people who love each other do.
2. *Unity* - We should always do things that build unity, because that is what people who love each other do.
3. *Diversity* - We should always embrace our shared uniqueness and love each other because God loves us equally, so who am I to do anything different.

**Possible Trip to GSO in the Fall, if there is any interest from the groups.**

#### Treatment

* 25 contacts made for Bridging the Gap program; several successful contacts with newcomers already.
* Dedicated BtG phone number is **412.296.1349**.
* Dedicated BtG email address is [district14BTG@gmail.com](mailto:district14BTG@gmail.com).
* Has made BtG brochures with our contact information.
  + **(Secretary) Add BtG phone and email to back of agenda!**
* Need Big Books for hospital (hospital is encouraging patients to take Big Books home); may need a budget increase to cover. (See *Literature* and *Treasurer* sections.)
* Would like to make a stamp with the BtG name and contact info made. **Can do as a trusted servant using Treatment budget.**

#### Corrections

* Need men to volunteer for Washington County jail; 2 years sobriety, 2 years off paper.
* As long as one is not a volunteer for Corrections, one ***can*** sponsor someone in the jails and serve as a BtG contact.
* Greene County (GCCF) warden is very supportive of recovery.

#### CPC/PI

* Will get information on the Pittsburg Recovery Walk (9/16).
* Literature Coordinator emailed the D14 list the PDF of F-13: *Bringing Up the Touchy Subject of a Patient's Drinking.*

#### Literature (absent)

* + **Literature Report** emailed 6/28.
  + (Emailed report) *I've used the overage to load up on various pamphlets. I was told the yellow card we discussed last month should be available in July. As always, reach out to me by phone or e-mail if you need anything from my current on-hand inventory or any questions*.
  + Canonsburg Daily Reflections GSR mentioned her group would like to sell their Big Books. (See *Treatment* section.)

#### Treasurer

* See ***Treasurer’s Report*** sent 7/4.
* Who do we make the check out to for the Day of Sharing? (Dani M will find out; answer: “District 7.”)
* Shelley S needs $375 check for picnic; picnic supplies deferred to picnic discussion.
* *Possible budget increases mentioned during meeting*: Treatment, Grapevine, Grapevine subscriptions as gifts/prizes (event fund or subscriptions for treatment budget line?).

#### Alt DCM

* **Highlights from the Post-Conference Assembly**
  + Meeting accessibility is a big topic.
  + Follow-up after corrections is poor with potential newcomers.
  + Area GV coordinator suggested a district GV coordinator could invite district GVRs to a special meeting, and there’s lots of GV material available.
  + The new Area 60 website is interesting.
  + The yellow card service piece (on safety) will be available by August.

#### Grapevine

* Poster/display ready; putting together GV books and CDs for the picnic.
* May need a budget increase for GV materials.

#### 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. Flyers are now available.
  + **(Secretary) Add Picnic Flyer to website events page.**
* Picnic should both be fun and an introduction to service.
  + Giving away a dozen Big Books or other literature for raffle; each officer/coordinator can give their spiel before picking the ticket for the prize. This will help put faces to names.
    - Officers/coordinators should give a little 3-5 minute spiel on what they do, because people outside this room don’t know what we do.
    - That’s how area does it; makes it real.
  + This district is where we live; service commitments are our backyard – WCCF, GCCF, Greenbriar, Gateway, etc.
  + Service work is still fun.
    - Instill the passion in other people: this program saved our lives and we gotta give back.
    - See the passion we have; we have one primary purpose even if we butt heads.
  + What does a GSR do? (select someone to talk about it; ask either Debbie E or Drew M)
  + Many sponsors are afraid of service and service positions because they don’t know what’s going on.
  + How much time does service work require? (All told, not much at group level, a couple hours a month at the district level, a day or two at the area level.)
  + Volunteering for the picnic (set-up, cooking, service, tear-down/clean-up) ***is*** service work.
  + Should we have a donation can for picnic? Can groups or individuals donate supplies or money?
    - What about a GV subscription?
    - **Shelley will create a donations sign-up sheet for covered dishes; you can email her at medic4800@gmail.com.**
  + Make service personal by showing “scheduled” service time and “unscheduled” service time. (?) (Linda B?)
  + Gotta change “I’m not gonna get involved…” mindset.
* We will be having a sobriety countdown.

### New Business

* GV needs help across the board – get a subscription, buy gift subscriptions for Corrections, Treatment, other AAs, etc.
* A Budget Committee needs to be set up to talk about the district’s 2018 budget to be presented December/January (?).
* Kaitlin H brought up the Day of Sharing in Mt Lebo will need volunteers, literature donations, and money donations/ticket sales. Each GSR should talk to their home group about pre-ordering speaker/panel CD set to make it worthwhile for George & Freddie’s Tapes to come and record.

### District Discussion: Paying Attention (DCM; all)

* See p. 8.
* John H brought up a list of attendance for meetings for a group in Franklin he saw in the archives – a 20 year record of attendance, with the high and low for each year, as well as some commentary on noticeable trends (example: an increase in attendance in the 1980s).
* We should pay attention as GSRs and trusted servants to who’s not there? Who is slipping away from AA? Have we seen newcomers coming back? Are our home group phone lists updated?
* Instead of guesstimating, take snapshots over time.
* Are we sure we’re contributing? How many of us think our groups contribute to district, and it never gets here? Area? GSO? How many checks over how many months have gone to the old treasurer’s address?
* Part of maintaining the unity of a group is paying attention to what’s missing.
* Malcomb asked what do we expect to accomplish by tracking this information.
* Steve H has asked his group treasurer to give a report with little luck.
* What are you saying (or accusing people of) when you ask about how they’re contributing? People don’t take it well to be asked what they’re giving. Questioning some home groups makes them mad.
* Thomas S stated that he’s only responsible to his home group, not district; he brings group issues to district and district issues to group; he’s guardian of the Traditions, and is responsible to tell anyone from GSRs, officers/coordinators, the DCM, all the way up, if they’re violating Traditions; it’s an anonymous program, so we don’t have to tell anyone anything; it’s a courtesy to be able to tell how much we’re contributing. Note that the group conscience of his home group was that our contributions were “none of your damn business.”
* Shelley S noted that Area 60 doesn’t ask for or track individual group contributions (by group number) like GSO does.
* Dani M mentioned that our home groups tell district what to do, not the other way around: the upside-down triangle of service.
* ***MOTION*** *(to remove 7th Tradition contribution reporting from the GSR Report Form): Dani M; SECOND: Carol K.* 
  + ***DISCUSSION:***
  + *Deb E can see both sides, but the 4th Tradition means we’re autonomous: each group can determine where contributions go and how they’re reported.*
  + *Steve H offered apologies because of the personal issue within his home group; he didn’t want it to become a big deal.*
  + *Ed M said that the home groups don’t owe the district anything under the 4th Tradition; as a home group treasurer, I wouldn’t want any questions about handling the money; group treasurers should report to their groups.*
  + *Shelley S said that part of our job is to bring information from district and area back to the groups; ultimately, district doesn’t tell groups what to do. Many AAs, even old-timers, have no idea about how contributions are distributed – they thought it got spread out down the upside-down triangle, when it doesn’t. Also, we have to hold people accountable (but in a polite manner; it’s all in the presentation): for example, her group has a treasurer who isn’t really attending many meetings but won’t relinquish the group checkbook. It’s a delicate situation.*
  + *John H said that GSRs could fill out or not fill out the GSR Report Forms as they see fit. But are we (as a district) self-supporting or not? Some think we are, but are we? It’s out obligation to get them the information. THIS is paying attention. Every month, GSRs say they’re donating to district, but are we seeing the checks. If you say you donate money to district and we don’t see it, and you don’t see the receipts or on the district Treasurer’s Report, what does that mean? When there’s no rotation of group treasurers or secretaries, strange stuff starts to happen in groups. We end up with a cesspool on our hands.*
  + *Thomas S said that the matters of group rotation and holding people accountable is for the group members, and no one else. His group treasurer is a trusted servant; it’s not my job as GSR to check up on him.*
  + *Chad U pointed out that if my group treasurer tells me my group donated, and I report that to district, and district never gets the check, I just* ***lied****. Dishonesty of any sort will kill me; I don’t have to live like that today. So I feel I can hold my trusted servants accountable for what I’m telling other people. Also noted it’s within the purview of the district Treasurer to note or reach out to (or not!) groups that haven’t contributed to district in his role as a trusted servant.*
  + *Debbie E mentioned that once a year, GSRs get a report from GSO listing their group’s contributions (by group number); why not sit down with the group treasurer to verify they numbers. Also, group consciences in this district are sloppy – people just want to leave and don’t really participate. Like it’s a burden to participate in the administration of their own home group.*
  + *John H asked “if I donate $5 and only $1 gets there, is my 7th Tradition good?” Collecting this information is not an attempt to control, but just asking to pay attention. Where’s Joe? He hasn’t been to our meeting in a month? Are our phone numbers good? Is our money going where we say it’s going? In terms of AA unity, think about what you want to report. Also, to let the group know we are supposed to be self-supporting on every level – we need to contribute to district for all this stuff we do like Treatment, Corrections, Literature, the picnic, and so forth.*
  + ***VOTE****: 10 Yea; 2 Nay; 1 Abstention.*
  + ***7th Tradition reporting about contributions to district, area, Pittsburgh central office, and GSO dropped from GSR Report Form****.*
* Shelley S noted biggest problem in AA today is not keeping people accountable because we’re afraid they won’t like us and/or we’re afraid of their reaction.
* John H suggested we see how it all shakes out over next couple months, but wanted to point out that without hard numbers, characterizing something as “good” is meaningless. What makes our contribution level “good”? What makes our attendance “good”? Is even asking for information on what group attendance like a “good” thing? What does it mean? What are our metrics?

### Anything Else?

* Nope.

***MOTION*** *(to close): Dani M; SECOND: Shelley S.* ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea.*

### Close with Responsibility Statement (at 8:30 pm)

**NEXT MEETING: August 2, 2017**

# PAYING ATTENTION- METRICS FOR SUCCESS

## June 2017

| **Day** | **Time** | **Groups** | **Average Attendance** | **Active HG Members** | **Average Sobriety** | **7th Tradition Contributions GSO** | **7th Tradition Contributions District 14** | **7th Tradition Contributions Area 60** | **7th Tradition Contributions Pgh CO** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SUN | 9 am | SMEB | 40 | 10 | 7 |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | Serenity Afternoon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7pm | Grumpy Old Men |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | Burgettstown in Recovery |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | ITHOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | Prosperity Sun Night |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MON | Noon | TGIS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *Serenity Afternoon* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | Primary Purpose AA |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 830 pm | Hill 12 & 12 | 30 | 13 |  |  |  |  |  |
| TUES | Noon | *TGIS* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | Made It Til Noon | 20 | 6 | 15 |  |  |  |  |
| 6:30 pm | AA Literature on Main | 10 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6:30 pm | McMurray Big Book MTG |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | Beginner’s Big Book Study |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7:30 pm | Carmichaels Big Book |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7:30 pm | Canonsburg Open Discussion | 53 | 9 | 5 |  |  |  |  |
| WED | Noon | *TGIS* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *Serenity Afternoon* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | McMurray Big Book SG |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 pm | State Line |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | Daily Reflections | 17 | 3 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 7:30 pm | Canonsburg Big Book |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 pm | How We Feel Today | 20 | 8 | 5 |  |  |  |  |
| 8:30 pm | Washington Group | 30 | 5 | 14 |  | √ |  |  |
| THURS | Noon | *TGIS* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *Serenity Afternoon* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | TNT | 35 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | McMurray Women’s ABSI | 25 | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8:30 pm | Peters 12 & 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FRI | 10 am | Crossroads | 43 | 15 | 14 |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *TGIS* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *Made It Til Noon* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6:30 pm | G.O.D. | 20 | 3 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 7:30 pm | Canonsburg ABSI | 45 | 10 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 8 pm | *How We Feel Today* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SAT | 8 am | Spiritual Foundation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 am | The First 164 | 50 | 7 | 13 |  |  |  |  |
| 10 am | Step Sisters |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10:30 am | Renewal | 27 | 12 | 8.5 |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *TGIS* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Noon | *Serenity Afternoon* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 pm | Camel | 40 | 12 | 1.5 |  |  |  |  |
| 7:30 pm | Waynesburg Saturday Night |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8:30 pm | Canonsburg Group |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 16 groups | 505 | 138 | 86 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

July *GSR Report Form* Totals

| **Group** | **Avg Attendance** | **Active HG Members** | **% HG Members of Attendance** | **HG Member Avg Sobriety** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Camel | 30 | 8 | 27% | 1.5 |
| **Canonsburg Group** | **22** | **7** | **32%** | **10** |
| Canonsburg Daily Reflections | 20 | 11 | 55% | 4 |
| Crossroads | 38 | 15 | 39% | 12 |
| GOD | 15 | 4 | 27% | 2 |
| Hill 12&12 | 30 | 15 | 50% |  |
| McMurray Women’s ABSI | 23 | 15 | 65% |  |
| MITN | 20 | 6 | 30% | 15 |
| Renewal | 27 | 10 | 37% | 8 |
| SMEB | 35 |  |  |  |
| The First 164 | 45 | 9 | 20% | 20 |
| Washington Group | 40 | 4 | 10% | 8 |
| Washington Sun Night Discussion | 47 | 6 | 13% | 23 |
| **Wed Night Daily Reflections** | **17** | **3** | **18%** | **1.5** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTALS** | **409** | **113** |  | **105** |
| ***Average Attendance  (14 groups)*** | ***29*** |  |  |  |
| ***Active HG Members  (13 groups)*** |  | ***9*** |  |  |
| ***Average % HG of Attendance (13 groups)*** |  |  | ***30%*** |  |
| ***HG Member Avg Sobriety  (11 groups)*** |  |  |  | ***9.5*** |

**Bold red: needs support.**