District 14 July 2018 Minutes – July 11, 2018

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *John H, DCM* | *Chad U, Secretary* | *Malcomb B, Treasurer* | *Mike C, CPC-PI* |
| *Debbie E, Alt DCM* | *Michelle M, Alt Secretary* | *Jen McM, Alt Treasurer* | *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, upstairs @ *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 [22]

AA Literature on Main, Afternoon Beginner’s Step Workshop, Camel Meeting, Canonsburg ABSI, Canonsburg Weds Daily Reflections, Canonsburg Open Discussion, Canonsburg Group, Crossroads Group, Good Orderly Direction (G.O.D.), Hill 12 & 12, In the Heat of Recovery (ITHOR), Made It Til Noon (MITN), McMurray Women’s As Bill Sees It, Peters Township 12 & 12, Prosperity Group, Renewal Group, Steps 2 Serenity Women’s 12 & 12, Sunday Morning Early Birds (SMEB), Thank God I’m Sober (TGIS), Thursday Night Trudgers (TNT), Washington Discussion, Washington Group

#### Officers/Coordinators Present [7]

DCM, Treasurer, Secretary, Alt Secretary, Alt CPC-PI Coordinator, Grapevine Coordinator, Treatment Coordinator

#### Interested Parties Present [4]

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

### Roll-Call (Secretary)

### Reading of *Tradition Three (Long Form)* (not read)

### Minutes

* June 2018 Minutes presented for approval.
	+ Corrections: Change Tradition One to Two; correct name of SCI Greene group.
	+ ***MOTION*** *(to accept June minutes with corrections): Jeff K; SECOND: Will S.* ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea.*

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

### GSR Report Highlights (Events/News/Support)

*(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.
* See **District Events** page at <http://www.district14.info/d14events.htm>
	+ **Second SUN of every month; Prosperity Potluck**
		- Starts at 6 pm; speaker at 7 pm.
	+ **MON, 7/23, Hill 12 & 12**
		- No meeting due to church function.
	+ **August 3-5, Pennsylvania State AA Convention**
		- Red Lion Hotel, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Reduced Room rate of $110 + 11% Tax will be offered until July 26, 2018. Please mention code Code PACT0803 when booking your room. Call toll free at 1-800-637-4817.
		- Website at <http://www.aapastateconvention.com/>
	+ **SAT, 8/11, District 14 Picnic**
		- Lions Club Pavilion, Washington Park, Washington, PA. Times TBD. Pool will be available. Flyer on website.
	+ **SAT, 8/18, Area 60 Third Quarterly Meeting**
		- St. John’s Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach Street, Erie, PA. 8:30 am Registration; 9 am Workshop; 10:15 am Meeting. Decides area business for all of Western PA AA. DCMs, Area Officers & Coordinators, and past Delegates vote.
	+ **MON, 8/27, Fairchance Anniversary?**
	+ **SAT, 9/1, MITN Picnic**
		- Rogersville Park, Center Township. Flyer on website.
	+ **SUN, 9/2, Propserity Bonfire**
		- Instead of usual meeting.

### 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.)*

#### Corrections (absent; report by text)

* Need more volunteers; will be out of town for the district picnic; will attempt to find someone to speak about Corrections and volunteering.

#### Treasurer

* See ***Treasurer’s Report*** sent 7/8.

#### Treatment

* **Bridging the Gap** update: Dani will present at picnic; donations of time, books, food, or money should go to Shelley S or Thomas S. Note that the picnic is the same week as the Pony League World Series.
* No much progress on the new Greenbriar facility in Greene County; starting in August.
* Picked up a commitment for a Pittsburgh Group on Saturday. Be there at 1:15 for a 1:30 meeting; she’ll pass around a sign-up sheet.

#### Grapevine

* Getting GV books from the Area GV Coordinator [Amber].
	+ Chad pointed out that Amber has an article on the two new *Grapevine* books (*Women in AA* and *AA in the Military*) in the latest *Seeds of Service*.
* Would like an increase in her budget to buy more inventory this year.
	+ **TO DO (Budget Committee): Increase GV line item?**
	+ Malcomb suggested all O/Cs use their budgets completely; Matt M pointed out that money is meant to carry the message; Steve H asked what the GV budget line was [$100].

#### Literature (absent)

* + **Literature Report** emailed 7/8.
	+ Matt suggested that all reports of damaged books go through Travis and not straight to GSO so we can help gather information about literature assets being damaged in production or shipping.

#### CPC/PI (no report)

#### Alt CPC/PI (no report)

#### Secretary (no report)

#### Alt DCM (absent)

#### DCM (no report)

### Old Business

#### Include/Help/Retain the Newcomer? (all)

* Kaitlin H brought back the idea from last time of a sponsor/sponsee mixer; invite the treatment centers, halfway, and three-quarter houses, along with people who want to sponsor.
	+ Shelley S said the other fellowship does it and has a good response.
	+ Format of one or two hours. Rent out a pavilion; have a few speakers, games, fun, food.
* Chad suggested a list of sober AAs who will sponsor and attend.
* Matt M suggested something like a “God As I Understand Him” format, or a round-robin “what sponsorship means to you”.
* Patrick A didn’t want to be negative, but people can’t wait. People sober living houses need a sponsor within two weeks. Might not be worth putting all this energy into a special event.
* Stephanie, speaking as a fairly new person, the meetings she usually goes to aren’t a good fit to get a sponsor; a meeting with people wouldn’t normally see at my usual meetings might be good.
* Ed M said a smaller, more routine effort more regularly might be better. Shelly supports a shorter time between meetings; doesn’t have to be a giant extravaganza to be cost-effective.
* Dani said at the Lighthouse, I can only pick up one woman at a time. Lots of women want to go to AA, but the house goes to NA. Maybe a group of female AAs could go out there and have a meeting for a group of girls ourselves out there.
	+ John H liked taking a meeting into the Lighthouse, and they should talk about sponsorship and Bridging the Gap.
* Keeshia agrees with Danny about going to the fellowship to find volunteers. Also, can we do something at Harmony House once a month, maybe downstairs after our regular meeting? It’s someplace easy to get to. If she knew newcomers were here looking for sponsors, she could come right here.
	+ John H suggested staying an extra hour after the district meeting for a mixer downstairs.
	+ Group meeting once a month at Harmony house talk about sponsorship an hour after the district meeting could introduce people to district service too.
* John H suggested getting a gauge on three options from the groups:
	1. Fun event.
	2. Take a meeting into the Lighthouse.
	3. Piggyback off the district meeting.
* Patrick A we might want whatever this is to be a meeting, because people in the houses might not come to something like a workshop that’s not a meeting (need to get slip signed).
* Kaitlin liked the one per month idea. If we want to do this, we have to push outside of the GSRs to other AAs in the groups.
* Ed M asked Patrick A how do people in the sober living houses find sponsors now? Just going to meetings; some people have a harder time.
* Kaitlin said from her experience, she hasn’t always gotten a sponsor, but getting one made her want to stick around. A lot of people around here get Sponsors In Name Only. Exposure would help; working on steps early and fast helps.
* Jerry suggested that maybe what about another brochure to help alcoholics navigate the sponsorship thing. His experience being surrounded by more addicts made his sobriety very fragile: going to meetings not of his own fellowship. He got into AA after getting out of the three-quarter house. Make it attractive to the drunks in the houses – “hey, this is something I can be doing.” We need to make an effort to talk to them, hold her hand, make them feel wanted.
	+ John H maybe we need a piece of literature on sponsorship based on workshop notes.
* Matt pointed out we need people willing to sponsor.
* Chad U mentioned that has a dislike of the words “temporary sponsor”; and doesn’t raise his hand.
	+ Kaitlin’s meeting changed it. Since we discussed it before, she doesn’t hear it in many more meetings. Matt M also changed it at his meeting.
* Michelle M said that if people are not getting a sponsor, or getting one unwillingly, they’re not ready to work the program. They won’t go to events to do so, and if they do, they’ll just get a Sponsor In Name Only. What’s good about that?
* John H suggests more exposure to attract or promote the idea.
* Michael P said that a guy like him, who didn’t go to treatment, he had to exchange phone numbers, but this idea might not be right for the sober living houses.
	+ Patrick A said the Camel Group has volunteers to contact the newcomer. They call and follow up with them, asking “are you coming back?” Right now, it’s Michael for men and possibly Jenna for women.
* John H suggest that after GSRs see the minutes, get some comments from your meeting about this.

### New Business

#### Day of Sharing (Nancy H, Christine N, Chad U)

* [Kaitlin H ceded time and tabled her discussion on the Yellow Card to give visitors more time to speak.]
* Nancy H is the DCM of District 7.
	+ Thanks to District 14 for inviting her to share about the Day of Sharing.
	+ October 27, Saturday, at Our Lady of Grace School, Scott Township, 9 AM.
	+ Was approved by Area 60. Gets funding from the area and from Districts 7, 14, and 21. Flyers on the Area 60 website; more will be printed soon.
	+ One committee meeting so far; next meeting is July 15. Sunset Hills United Pres Church, 900 Country Club Dr, MT LEBANON; in the library at 5 PM. After that meeting, a women’s meeting – that’s her home group.
	+ Several committees need help.
		- Nancy is doing food (rigatoni, sauce, meatballs, salad, bread).
		- Chad is doing program.
		- Volunteers to help, pairs of hands close to the day. See Nancy, her phone number is [REDACTED].
	+ Christine said that it’s a great event to bring a newcomer to; a really good fellowship thing.
* Christine N is the Day of Sharing Secretary.
	+ Feedback from last year showed communities like Washington who participate want more say in how the DoS goes.
	+ If you want to host next year, more than happy to help; we’ll share our experience, strength, and hope. No district owns this event. If you’d like to have a say, get involved now. Planning starts 12 months ahead, in order to get a time and date for the church or wherever we have it.
	+ Very thankful D14 wants to contribute and participate.
* Chad U is the DoS Program Chair.
	+ Described the featured speakers (on the Big Book and AA Meetings around the country); the three panels on Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow; and described how the Panel Moderators, Panel Speakers, and Q&A works.
* Dani asked when tickets will be available and how much will they cost?
	+ Nancy when the seed money from the districts are received, it’ll be a couple days after that – probably in the next week or two. Tickets will be six dollars. We’ll have more fliers, but please print out fliers from the area website and pass out in your groups.

#### Yellow Card Issues (Kaitlin H)

* In light of recent events in our district, we need to discuss safety in the rooms.
* In the last one and a half years, she’s been inappropriately approached/ \sexually harassed by an individual with significant time in the program, someone who’s popular in the fellowship. She never said anything about it or did anything about it. Despite being a strong woman, she was intimidated. When she did talk about it, people just said “that’s just the way he is“, so she took no further action.
	+ Then, this individual harassed a sponsee of hers. Now, she feels responsible to speak out.
* She feels this goes on all over. We have to step up. Her sponsee could’ve been drinking or dead after the incident.
* This is a home group issue, not a district issue. She suggests reading the yellow card in the GSR reports, rather than repeating the same stuff that the chair or the secretary give in their reports. There should probably be a designated person in a home group to go to. We as GSRs are guardians of the Traditions and should take this role.
	+ Ed encourage people to go to their trusted servants. Identify them, tell newcomers who they are.
* John H said this is a home group issue of responsibility. If you see something, say something.
* Steve H asked where can we get yellow cards? You can get them from Travis; they’re free.
* Dani said that this is an ongoing issue: just because you have time, it doesn’t mean you’re living a program. When women came to her, her jaw dropped in shock. What kind of predators are out there? We should be able to be safe in our rooms. Who is seeing this? Nearly everyone has heard of this.
* Patrick A mentioned inappropriate jokes from the Grapevine Rep two times in the last week. The jokes were not from the GV. They are drunk joke, but very degrading to women. The women’s faces in the meeting dropped. Chronic disrespect towards women even by leaders in AA. One said “if she shows any skin, he wants to grab it.” A dozen girls over the years have come to Patrick (because he’s gay) to tell him about a guy with time asking them to send him pictures of their breasts.
* Dani said that while the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking, you could have a child molester in a meeting with children running around. Do some research, open doors, guard our safety… but something illegal is all of our responsibilities.
* Jerry remarked that meetings are our place, not like the real world. Maybe people do this because they think it’s safer to do this sort of thing here than in the real world.
* Matt M does not read the yellow card at TNT, he paraphrases it, basically saying “inappropriate stuff should be reported to the home group members; if it’s illegal, call the police.”
* Kaitlin said we need to give newcomers who are affected a voice and old predators a warning not to act out. If she herself is acting out and no one calls her on it, she’s more likely to keep acting out.
* Shelley S as Area 60 Grapevine Coordinator at NERF wore make-up and dressed up. There’s a reason she doesn’t often dress up, because of what men say, they are disrespectful. Sickening the way women are diminished in the rooms. In a lot of people’s eyes, women are lesser, and it’s OK to treat them that way. But we are in here and we have a program to live better. That’s why she loves her group, the Grumpy Old Men. They don’t read the yellow card, but they won’t put up with that kind of shit. It’s not OK. Like Kaitlin said, I don’t want someone to go out because of these predators.
* John H said that we are sick people trying to get better. This is life and death, not a dating service. Treat women like your sister. They are someone’s possibly undiscovered treasure. Men with men women with women. Before and after meetings he’s heard some of the most sophomoric banter. Thanked Kaitlin for an important timely topic.
	+ John also believes so much of this goes on is because there’s more pornography out there, but that’s an outside issue.
* We cannot let these things go on. John H asked GSRs to take this back to the home groups to see what you’d like us to do.
	+ Patrick A also suggested take back to your Grapevine Rep that any jokes need to come from the GV. You’re representing *Grapevine*, not just the joke of the day.

#### Teen Center (John H)

* The teen center in town wants an Alateen meeting.
	+ Anyone interested in their home group supporting an Alateen meeting, reach out **Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski** or John H if you want to help.
	+ There used to be an Alateen meeting in Washington 20 years ago, but not now.
	+ Chad asked if she’s reached out to Al-Anon in town? John H said that Al-Anon is struggling here right now; we have a deeper bench.

### Anything Else?

* Drew remarked that a lot of people don’t realize how racist, sexist, anti-religious, or homophobic they are: that’s just the way they were raised. It happened to him. He got his awareness raised by coming to AA. You might want to say something to people you see in meetings being racist, sexist, etc., just to make them aware.

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

### Closed with Responsibility Statement (at 7:59 pm)

**NEXT MEETING: September 5, 2018**