District 14 May 2018 Minutes – May 2, 2018

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| *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 [18]

AA Literature on Main, Camel Meeting, Canonsburg As Bill Sees It, Canonsburg Daily Reflections, Canonsburg Group, Canonsburg Open Discussion, Carmichaels Big Book Study, Crossroads Group, Hill 12 & 12, Made It Til Noon (MITN), McMurray Women’s As Bill Sees It, Peters Township 12 & 12, Prosperity Group, Sunday Morning Early Birds (SMEB), Thank God I’m Sober (TGIS), Thursday Night Trudgers (TNT), Washington Discussion, Wednesday Night Daily Reflections

#### Officers/Coordinators Present [10]

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

#### Interested Parties Present [2]

### Welcome, Call to Order, & Open Meeting *with Serenity Prayer* (DCM) at 6:29 pm

### Roll-Call (Secretary)

### Reading of *Tradition One (Long Form)* (Billy Joe)

### Minutes

* April 2018 Minutes presented for approval.
	+ ***MOTION*** *(to accept April minutes): Will S; SECOND: Jen Mc.* ***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.
* **TO DO (Secretary): Update meeting list PDF with new meeting; upload to website.**
* See **District Events** page at <http://www.district14.info/d14events.htm>
	+ **Carmichaels Big Book, Tues at 7:30, in *desperate* need of home group members and attendees!**
	+ **Second SUN of every month; Prosperity Potluck**
		- Starts at 6 pm; speaker at 7 pm.
	+ **Washington Group (Cookie Church) now at MON at 7:30 pm.**
		- Faith Presbyterian Church, 900 E. Beau St., Washington.
	+ **NEW MEETING: Afternoon Beginner’s Step Study**
		- Fridays, 1:30 pm, STEP, Harmony Life Center, 47 North Main Street, Washington.
	+ **SUN, 5/6; Area 60 Second Quarterly Meeting**
		- Comfort Inn, 699 Rodi Road, Penn Hills. 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.
	+ **FRI, 5/25; Canonsburg ABSI Memorial Day Cookout**
		- Food at 5:30 pm; meeting at 7:30 pm.
	+ **SAT, 6/2; Growth Through Sponsorship Workshop**
		- Sunlight Club, 234 East Maiden St., Washington. 2 to 4 pm. Speakers and panel discussions. What's sponsorship, and what's its importance? (Dani M); Sponsorship & the "Spiritual Side" (Jon C); Do's & Don't's of Sponsorship (Jackie B); How should you choose a sponsor? (Glenn C). Come with experience, questions, or comments! Free coffee; donations of snacks and desserts welcome. Call Debbie E (412.969.0126) with any questions.
	+ **SAT, 6/9, SMEB Day of Sobriety**
		- Stone Pavilion, Washington Park, Washington. 10 am - 5 pm. 10 am start; 11 am God as I Understand Him; lunch at noon; 1"30 pm Sponsorship panel; 2:30 pm Sobriety Countdown; 3 pm AA Speaker. Covered dishes, desserts, and vegetable trays appreciated. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and water provided free. Pop is 50 cents a can.
	+ **SAT, 6/9, District 7 Service Workshop**
		- 11 am to 3 pm, Our Lady of Grace School, 1734 Bower Hill Road, Pgh 15243. Come hear panels on "Love and Service: How to Grow Spirituality through General Service Work."
	+ **TUES, 6/12; Lit on Main First Anniversary**
		- Food at 530; meeting at 630.
	+ **SUN, 6/24; Area 60 Post-Conference Assembly**
		- Comfort Inn, 699 Rodi Road, Penn Hills. 8:30 am Registration; 9 am Workshop; 10:15 am Meeting.
		- Come hear the Delegate's post-Conference report. GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers & Coordinators, and past Delegates vote.
	+ **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.
	+ **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.

### 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.)*

#### Treasurer

* See ***Treasurer’s Report*** sent 4/29.

#### Literature (absent)

* + **Literature Report** emailed 4/28.
	+ *Attached you'll find the most currently literature inventory. I will be unable to attend Wednesday's meeting due to work, however I just finished up my spring semester so I'm available more often, and my work schedule should be changing this month, giving me more freedom to make it to meet with folks and attend the district meetings. There were no meeting in a pocket sales in April, so I have no money to give to the treasurer on Wednesday. I'll follow up with the treasurer next month about reimbursement for meeting lists.*

*If there's anything you need, reach out to me and I'll get you set up!*

#### Treatment

* Chris with the Greene County Hospital behavioral unit said they are going to convert it to a treatment facility; Danny doing the research.
* Patrick A pointed out there is an *Observer-Reporter* article about it today; 28 beds, long-term (up to 100 days).
* A couple successful stories from **Bridging the Gap**:
	+ Received a request from Fort Lauderdale, FL, for someone who saw the District 14 *Meeting in a Pocket* in Ireland; Dani pointed to the files on our website.
	+ Dani suggests a GV subscription for SCI Greene from Bridging the Gap’s budget.
	+ Ben’s daughter is ill, so there he won’t be in the area for a time; therefore, we are light on volunteers for SCI Greene.

#### Grapevine (absent)

* Keeshia spoke about Shelley coming to McMurray Women’s ABSI meeting with the GV display and presentation; urged other groups to check it out.
* Former GV Coordinator Josh from Canonsburg passed away from cancer. Memorial 5/28 at Trinity Methodist Church in McMurray at 3 pm.
* John H mentioned that Ed L, 53 years sobriety, also passed away recently. Memorial at Tsaro’s in Bloomfield 5/12, noon to 3.

#### CPC/PI (no report)

* WJPA will not use prerecorded PSAs; their radio personalities read their own.
	+ John H suggested maybe we should all pray about it.
	+ Chad suggested Mike to contact GSO and see if they have a script for this situation.
	+ Patrick A and Matt M asked what if they don’t have a script do we write one? In that case, Keisha suggested should we pressure GSO to write one.

#### Alt CPC/PI

* Put brochures at three magistrates in Greene County, but those don’t seem to be a really great place.
* Put brochures at Greene County airport.
* Talked to a judge who said he doesn’t ask people to go to AA, because it’s hard to track them. Suggested requiring slips to be signed like CARE or drug court.
	+ John H pointed out this illustrates different thoughts around here about AA, tracking offenders versus a life-saving program for people. Maybe we do need to talk to magistrates, telling them of success stories and so forth. If anyone else wants to help, see Mike.

#### Secretary

* Chad mentioned the Area 60 elections are in October, and suggested we have district elections in October as well. This will give the newly elected O/Cs time to shadow the current O/Cs and learn how they do what they do. Will raise this as a motion under New Business.

#### Corrections

* Same as always, we need more volunteers for going into WCCF.
	+ Have a volunteer who went into WCCF every week who now has a schedule conflict, so we need people to step up.
	+ WCCF has a new clearance form coming soon.
	+ We’re having as many as three meetings for men, one for women (we need two women for one meeting).
	+ Distributing Big Books, but they’re only the first 164, without the stories in the back. Can we get those to Corrections? What about GV, or *Inmate-to-Inmate*?
* John H asked what percentage of the jail population is coming to these meetings?
	+ With 75 in a pod, about five people (6.67%).
		- Dani said at SCI Greene, there’s a waiting list to go to the AA meeting (!).
	+ What about a meeting in the jail run entirely by inmates for inmates?
		- Corey says they don’t have access to multipurpose room on their pod.
		- Chad mentioned that historically there was a corrections group inside WCCF called Brothers Behind the Walls, but it hasn’t been active for 10+ years, possibly because of changes in jail rules.
		- Patrick A asked if inmates know the meeting is coming in? Corey said there’s a sign-up sheet.
	+ John H says he thinks there’s a need and doing not enough. Corey C agreed that that is the point. He thinks that the warden is on our side, but not enough volunteers are going in. More volunteers, more meetings.
		- Are our GSRs making corrections service attractive? Dani remarked that it’s the most satisfying service work she’s done.
		- John H suggested making it into a regular part of a GSR report; that if you could talk to inmates, you’d see how life-changing it is for those hungry guys.
		- Keeshia suggested a sign-up sheet for corrections like we have for treatment.
		- Someone suggested Debbie go to Greene County meetings to see if anyone’s mentioning SCI Greene. Dani said if you go into Greene, there’s only seven people from Greene County doing this service work; we have a bunch more coming from Washington County.
			* Bonnie has been going into the Greene County jail (GCCF) for 20 years. She said we flat-out have a smaller population in the county, and we have the same problems Washington County has with being off paper and having the sobriety time..
	+ Patrick A would attend a workshop on how to prepare to go into Corrections; he’s hesitant to do so, because he’s never been in jail. What do I wear? What can I expect? He would attend that kind of workshop.
		- The volunteer/contractor orientation for WCCF talks about a lot of that, maybe the person there could give a presentation on it for people thinking about volunteering?
	+ Stacey F said that when he was in jail, they had AA meetings on their own, along the lines of a Bible study.
		- Chad suggested Corey ask Smitty from Area 60 about a lot of these same problems in Corrections service; maybe he could do a workshop.
		- Dani mentioned he’s an ex-inmate with 27 years of sobriety, he does the work, but some places he can’t go into because he’s a felon. Met him at PCAW.
		- Women’s jail seems different. When in getting together doing daily readings, everything is okay, but women get harassed when going to a meeting brought in from the outside.
			* Kisha asked can we give them a DVD or a movie or something? Chad mentioned the new corrections PSA movie from the last Area 60 Post-Conference Assembly.
			* Can Corey purchase the prison video? Stacey F asked if it could be put on the closed captioned TV in federal prison? *[Editor - It’s available online; link below.]*
				+ <http://unikron.http.internapcdn.net/unikron/aa/correctional_facilities/New_Freedom/New_Freedom_EN_Master.mp4>
			* Dani and Debbie asked about downloading or buying leads on CD?
			* What about a movie night?
		- Corey thinks that the warden may be receptive to some of these ideas. The reception desk holds all our materials (DVDs, books, etc.) until we come in; they’re not on the pod.
		- John H don’t just settle for that see what can be done Cory will ask
		- Kaitlyn said that when she was in, there was no separate multipurpose room in the women’s pod. She also suggested we focus on and stress needing more volunteers at the next home group conscience of our groups. ***It starts with us.*** It’s honestly going to have to be people who have been here a while, because she and many of her younger friends don’t yet qualify to go into the jails with having the amount of sobriety time and being off-paper.
* Chad mentioned AA has been around for 80 years, and many of these thins have been talked about before. He suggested looking at the website at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for resources for just about everything.

#### Alt DCM

* **PCAW**: Debbie offered a thank you to Keeshia for making copies of PCAW CDs. Deb, Chad, and Shelly appear on them.
	+ There are three copies of the five-CD set. Any GSR or group can borrow for a month. John H said to circulate them
* **Workshops**: Because we sit around and talk, but never do one, Debbie is doing a workshop herself. She provided a flyer.
	+ It’s about sponsorship, because she’s heard real horror stories about it around here.

#### DCM (no report)

### Old Business

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

***How do we Include, Help, and Retain the newcomer?* (all; permanent Old Business)**

* Kaitlin liked what Debbie is talking about. Some sort of sponsorship workshop. Maybe a get-together with treatment center clients. A gathering of those willing to be sponsors and those looking for sponsors.
	+ John H suggested color-coded nametags.
	+ Patrick A suggested “sponsor speed-dating.”
	+ Matt M suggested “sponsorship from the hat” like the AA Third Legacy voting procedure.
	+ Ed pointed out two issues:
		1. Sponsors not knowing the dos and don’ts.
		2. Actually matching people up.
	+ Stacey F said that part of the problem is reaching out; Michelle M agrees.
	+ Michelle M said that a big part of being sober is being willing to be responsible, and being a sponsor is being responsible.
	+ Carol K stresses to her group to always make the newcomer feel welcome; they pass on women’s phone numbers to women, men’s number to men.

#### Additional District Meetings (all)

* Second/additional district meeting would be supplemental and not required. Alt DCM decides and chairs.
* ***MOTION*** *(District 14 can have additional district-wide open meetings to invite visitors to speak on AA topics – like general service, archives, Days of Sharing planning, etc. – and with the agenda and chairing duties falling to the Alt DCM): John H;* ***SECOND****: Kaitlin H.*
	+ **Discussion**: Kaitlin discussion it’s a great idea if we’re going to do this what’s the agenda would be interested in it as long as it’s not another business meeting.
	+ Debbie likes this idea: not a business meeting, but a service-oriented speaker meeting or workshop. Lots of people at the Area level (like the Archivist, or Grapevine, or Website Coordinator) could come in and talk about AA and general service at the next bigger level. Maybe bring some artifacts or we could have the area grapevine come in.
	+ John H plays Devil’s Advocate: we have a good vibrant discussion here, but not every district meeting has a thick agenda. Maybe officers & coordinators could bring in speakers for light-agenda months? We don’t want meeting fatigue for our trusted servants.
	+ ***FRIENDLY AMENDMENT*** *(supplemental meeting should be quarterly, not monthly): Chad U; SECOND: Debbie E. VOTE: Unanimous Yea.*
	+ Ed asks if we can use this room [Harmony House Café]; Matt M responds that he had it added to the rental agreement last month.
	+ Patrick A suggests bringing your whole homegroup (unless it meets on Wednesday nights!).
	+ Where does the funding for this meeting (room rent, coffee, etc.) come from? Alt DCM’s budget, aka the Administration line.
	+ ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea*.
	+ **TO DO (Secretary): This probably involves a change/addition to the district guidelines for the Alt DCM’s duties.**

### New Business

#### Second Monthly District Meeting? (all)

* ***MOTION*** *(District 14 will hold elections in October, allowing a two month overlap between rotating-out people and elected people): John H;* ***SECOND****: Malcomb B.*
	+ ***Discussion:*** Carol K thinks it will help people learn the job.
	+ Daniwas thinking because of the process with some positions (like Treatment or Corrections) building rapport with their facilities, maybe some positions should have more than a two-year term. Or maybe they should have staggered terms, so there’s a year overlap.
		- Kaitlyn asked which O/Cs are willing to stand another year to set the cycle? No answer.
		- Malcolm B said if staggering the cycles means rewriting the guidelines, he says no.
	+ Will S wanted to know are we asking people to stand for re-election?
		- Chad mentioned that in AA’s spirit of rotation, we should serve our term and step aside to give another person a chance to serve.
	+ Steve H do the Treatment and Corrections Coordinators have alternates? Answer: no.
		- Kisha which O/C positions benefit from having an alternate? Answer: all of them. (Treatment and Corrections especially.)
		- Also, who is willing to stand for up for two years as the Alt to then stand another two years as the O/C? “Looks like no one is rushing to raise their hand.”
	+ Dani wanted to know if **Bridging the Gap** should be a whole Coordinator position.
	+ Someone said that if we act like adults, the problem will be solved.
	+ Ed called the vote.
	+ ***VOTE****: Unanimous except for one (1) nay, Steve H.*
		- ***MINORITY OPINION****: Steve passed. No one changed their vote.*
		- ***Motion passes.***
	+ Kaitlyn asked what happens if nobody stands for a position? John H say then they are open for the year and we try to fill it; that’s why we recruit and train a replacement.
* **MOTION** (no meeting on Fourth of July): Dani M; SECOND: Keeshia M.
	+ ***FRIENDLY AMENDMENT*** *(meet on 7/11 instead): Will S; SECOND: Carol K. VOTE: Unanimous Yea.*
	+ ***VOTE****: Unanimous Yea.*

### Anything Else?

* Patrick A mentioned that the Camel Group purposely schedules their group conscience for after the district meeting (thus, the following Saturday) so that he can bring back information to group. He offers it as a suggestion to other GSRs and their groups. Also, since we don’t have people willing to step up for O/C positions, it’s probably a good idea to bring more of our group members and expose them to district.
	+ **CONSENSUS**: Exposing more group members to what district does and how district works is a good idea.

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

### Closed with Responsibility Statement (at 8: 19 pm)

**NEXT MEETING: June 6, 2018**