

CENTRAL SERVICE MEETING MINUTES

Central Office and Central Service Representatives Meeting Report

Date: August 8, 2023

Meeting called to order: Cheryl H. Time: 7:00 PM

Board members present: Cheryl H., William (Bill) E., Patrick A., Sara S., David G. Absent: none

Serenity Prayer: Lead by Cheryl, said by all who wish.

12 Traditions: Sheryl E.

Minutes of last meeting: Reviewed by all, no additions or corrections; Matt moved to approve, motion seconded by Brett. Vote: all in favor, none against.

Report of July Board meeting: Meeting called to order at 8:12 PM by Cheryl Hinton. All of the board members were present and none of the board members had any reports. Carol Ann has been attending the monthly meeting of Central Offices Managers on Zoom. They average around 40 attendees per meeting and she's been getting a lot out of that. Under old business, the New Year's Party was tabled to this month. We discussed the sound equipment we no longer need. Under new business, we discussed potential unity events: Softball and volleyball tournaments, barbecues, meals, speaker or sponsor events, and potential gatherings at lakes and parks. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Treasurer and Office report: Carol Ann provided the report.

Treasurer / Office Report and Financial Report

6/21/2023 through 7/20/2023

August 8th, 2023

Good evening!

Central Office had an income of \$3,792.15 and expenses of \$6,777.26 for a loss of \$2,985.11.

During this accounting period we filed and paid the annual sales tax report, and our quarterly payroll taxes. I also placed another big book order because we were down to less than 2 cases of Big Books. We now have five cases.

Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$353.28 and our Birthday Club brought in \$95 in much appreciated contributions.

We had \$159.91 in gross sales in 3 transactions for credit and debit cards, 0 transactions in PayPal., and \$166.10 in gross sales in 3 VENMO transactions this accounting period.

Traffic and calls have been average.

We want to thank all the groups and individuals who contributed to show their support for Central Office.

Office operations are going well and we are still fulfilling our primary purpose of carrying the AA message of recovery.

We have lots a great stuff here at the Central Office to help you share the message of recovery, come and see what's new!

The office will be open 9 to 1 the last Saturday of the month, again, this is only for the last Saturday of the month. We had three visitors the last Saturday in July. Please announce to other members and your groups that Central Office will be open the last Saturday in August.

Carol Ann Gable

Office Manager/Treasurer

(Cheryl): Are there any questions for Carol Ann? (David): The sales tax paid - is that quarterly? (Carol Ann): No, that is a year, from July to July.

Public Information report: Patrick A. provided the report.

Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community (P.I./C.P.C.). We inform professionals and future professionals about A.A. – What we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. We attempt to establish better communication between A.A. and professionals, to establish simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating.

I do not have anything new to report at this time. As always, I am looking for volunteers who are open and willing to go to local businesses where it might be good to have pamphlets, questionnaires and meeting guides.

Thank you for letting me be a service.

Patrick.

Any questions for Patrick? (David): I heard of the upcoming County of Tulare Health Fair, but I am pretty sure they *charge* people to have a booth there. (Patrick): Not a problem, that is typical. P.I./C.P.C. has a budget for that; we do pay entry fees, as long as they are reasonable. (George): Pride Visalia is going to be October 14th all day at the Rawhide stadium. The registration fee is \$178 or \$188 for non-vendors. (Patrick): We do need to ask them about vendor status, because we do sell books at cost at our booth. When was the Health Fair? (David): October 4th, which is a Wednesday, middle of the week, because they let county employees go there during work. (Patrick): It would be a great opportunity for me to create a committee and get people who are available to be able to go and represent P.I./C.P.C. (Cheryl): So great, talk about this in your groups that there are two events coming

up in October. And if anybody would like to volunteer to help man the P.I./C.P.C. booth to carry the message, Patrick would be most happy to have a committee. (Patrick): I thought about this and I think an ideal amount of volunteers will be six: three for an early shift and three for an afternoon shift. Please give anyone my telephone number if they want to volunteer, or they can call Central Office and Carol Ann will give them my number.

Volunteers to write Step and Tradition for Central News

Step for newsletter

Issue	Step	Member	Due date	Send to
September	9	Jerri T.	August 20	CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com
October	10	George J.	September 20	

Tradition for newsletter

Issue	Tradition	Member	Due date	Send to
September	9	Diana R.	August 20	CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com
October	10	Vicki Porterville	September 20	

Newsletter report: none at this time.

Website report: David G. provided the report.

Carol Ann updated the Exeter Sunday Afternoon Group - they went from 60 minutes to 90 minutes.

I added a new meeting: Young People on Fire, a part of the Valley Group on Wednesdays, 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM at St. Paul Episcopal in Visalia.

I deleted a meeting: Tulare Church of Christ Monday 7:00 PM, this was from someone who reported that there is never anyone there. (Blackstone and Cross, where the once a month Friday Speaker Meeting used to be).

I added three announcements:

Business Meeting / Group Conscience for the "2nd Sunday Breakfast Speaker Group"

New Years Eve 2023 Party planning meeting

New meeting: Young People on Fire

I added two events:

Business Meeting / Group Conscience - Springville Second Sunday Breakfast Speaker Group (August 5)

New Years Eve 2023 party planning meeting August 8)

I updated the NorCal AA event in October with their new flyer

Carol Ann and I did the normal monthly edits of the CSR meeting, GSR meeting, Springville Sunday Breakfast meeting, and Valley Group meetings.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

(Cheryl): Are there any questions for David? (Cody): When you update the web site, do they automatically go to the Meeting Guide app? (David): Yes, but with (up to) a twelve hour delay. Our website immediately shows the new information, but GSO in New York only retrieves our website every twelve hours. Your app on your phone immediately pulls new data from New York when it's there.

H & I report: Joyce R. provided the report, read by Paul B.

Tulare County Hospitals and Institution Committee

August, 2023 H&I Report

We are pleased to add an additional H&I meeting this month at TLC (Transitional Living Center) which brings us to 12 monthly facility meetings in 6 different facilities. This is triple the monthly H&I facility meetings since 2019 when we began to expand. In addition, we bring AA H&I meetings into Tulare County Jail, SATF, Corcoran and Avenal Prisons, when possible, as cleared volunteers are minimal. In July, 2023 we held 11 H&I meetings, utilized 26 H&I volunteers and delivered a total of 71 AA Books to the facilities we serve. We bring AA Big Books, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, Daily Reflections and Living Sober in English and Spanish when we hold facility and Jail meetings. Inside members are encouraged to take the books they would like to have as a gift from our fellowship.

At our July 8, 2023 H&I Business Meeting, Joyce R. stepped down as Regional Chair to take the Area Chair position. We voted to create a co-chair position which will allow for a healthier rotation of service. We also discussed our new designated meeting format being used to run our H&I meetings in facilities and Tulare County Jail. It was the consensus that all is being well received with active participation from our volunteers and inside members.

The IVSS (Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service) is coming to CCWF Chowchilla. This is our opportunity to be involved in H&I's ground breaking program offering outside sponsorship to inmates. We are looking for women with five years' sobriety, solid sponsorship experience, knowledge & practice of AA's Steps and Traditions with a willingness to visit the prison at least once a month. Attached is a flyer with additional information. We are hopeful to expand IVSS to SATF at Corcoran in the near future. The contact information of the flyer can be used for any questions regarding this program.

At the July 23rd, NorCal Committee Meeting we reviewed and approved the policy changes. Julio B. was elected as our new General Chair. At this time, our financial position is neutral as literature purchases are increasing while income remains steady. Currently, we are \$30,000.00 less than our budget loss which was the target to expend our beginning of the year prudent reserve overage. We encourage all groups to continue to pass the pink cans to ensure literature is available for those in need. Please ensure that groups are passing the pink can separately from the 7th tradition and it is noted that money from the Pink Can is distributed separately from the 7th traditions fund and not meant to detract from the group's 7th tradition responsibilities. When funds from the Pink Can are sent to NorCal, please indicate that the contribution is coming from Area 93.

We are in need of additional volunteers in order to expand our services here in Tulare County. There is a need for AA H&I meetings in additional facilities. If any AA member is interested in this type of service work, please contact Joyce R. or attend our next orientation and business meeting.

Next H&I Orientation: September 9, 2023, 9:00 am followed by the Area H&I Business Meeting at 10:00 am. The meeting is held at Bridge Street Drunks Only, 526 N. Bridge St., Visalia, CA 93291.

In service,

Joyce R.

Area 93 Chair

(Cheryl): Are there any questions for Paul? (David): Joyce stepped down from Regional chair to Area chair: what did the Region cover versus the Area? (Paul) Area 93 is Kings county and Tulare county; the Region was larger than that.

GSO liaison report: provided by David G.

GSR Liaison meeting minutes 2023-08-02

Nine people attended; four in-person and five via Zoom.

Finances:

Balance Forward: \$1,776.20

Income: \$211.10 from four groups: Womens Amity Group, Valley Group, Women's Changes Discussion Group, and Keep It Simple Sunday

Outgo: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$1,987.30

DCM report: Allen attended the July Area Committee Meeting.

Election Assembly 2023: hosting by District 22 (El Dorado County) will be held in Placerville, November 10 – 12.

Proposal to hire a bookkeeper to assist the treasurer and provide continuity; the proposal passed.

Job opportunity: Non- trustee director for AA Grapevine - resumes are being accepted through Sept. 15th.

The book Daily Reflections is now available as an audiobook.

Jenn is still available district Conference Delegate Reports.

Old business: Laura had some questions regarding updating the Native American in AA pamphlet. Her group has interest in bringing our delegate Jenn in to do a Post Conference Delegate's Report. Normally this is a District-wide event. Jenn is doing one in District 17 on August 12th.

New business: Mike C. Gave us info on Valley Group finances and that there is a new meeting called Young People on Fire.

(*Paraphrased by secretary*) (Cheryl): The Springville Book Study Group felt that it was very important to have the delegate come down and give us a conference report. If Laura was one of the only GSRs who expressed interest for their group, it concerns me. Our area is based in Sacramento: the area seems so far away. I just really think it's important for AA members to understand what this conference is all about and what the AA business is all about. (David): I think the biggest concern was around the cost and travel to host an in-person event as opposed to an online event which is zero cost and travel. If other groups are interested, we'd like to know that.

(Sheryl): Are the GSR meetings on the web site? On Zoom? (David): Yes they are.

Bridging The Gap (BTG): provided by Sara S.

No report at this time.

Sara.

CSR reports

If you have a change in your meeting please notify Carol Ann here at the office so she can update the meeting schedule and get that information to David for the website.

Civic Center Group, Presented by Brett R., CSR.

We meet every Tuesday night at the Christ Lutheran church near Tulare and Demaree in Visalia. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM and goes to 8:00 PM. It is an open meeting, and newcomers are welcome. We have coffee and candy, and literature every week. Books are for sale at cost, and pamphlets are free. Our business meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at 8:10 PM, immediately after the meeting. We give out chips every week for sobriety under one year; we have a birthday meeting on the last Tuesday of the month, with cupcakes. Attendance is lower now than it has been in the past, but most meetings get twenty or more attendees.

Springville Monday Night Book Study Group, Presented by Cody R., CSR.

We are located at the Lighthouse Chapel in Springville. We meet Monday nights from 7 to 8 PM. It is an open group book study. We rotate the books that we study. We're currently reading *Language of the Heart*. We're about three quarters of the way through the book. Turnout is about average. We have coffee and dessert every Monday. We would love to have more visitors. The Lighthouse Chapel is located off the 190, turn on Bridge Drive south to Rio Vista.

Gut-Level Group, Presented by Cody R., CSR.

The Thursday Night Gut Level open meeting is also located at the Lighthouse Chapel in Springville. We meet Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 PM. It is an open meeting with people sharing their experience, strength, and hope. Our birthday meeting is the last Thursday of the month, and we celebrate with cake and coffee. Turnout is pretty steady. It's a great meeting and we would love to have visitors.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Cody.

Monday Night Men's Meeting, Presented by Paul B., CSR.

We're also known as the Monday Night Men's Stag meeting. We meet at the P.P.A.V. Hall in Visalia. We are a closed men's meeting. We start at 7:30, and go to 9:00 PM. We celebrate sobriety milestones under a year each week with chips and a hug and cheers. On the last Monday of the month we celebrate annual birthdays with chips and a hug and dessert and cheers. Our business meeting is the first Monday of the month. Each week, we ask men who have completed the steps and have the time and energy to sponsor to stand up so that newcomers know who to talk to.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Paul.

Bridge Street Drunks, Presented by Sara S., CSR.

Bridge Street Drunks is located at 526 N. Bridge St. in Visalia. We have a total of 18 meetings. Our birthday meetings are held the last Saturday of the month at the noon meeting - we give chips and hugs and have cake and balloons. We have literature available and books at cost. Our business meetings are the last Saturday of the month at 1:10 PM. We have coffee, candy and pastries available. All who have a desire to quit drinking are welcome. I did bring up the unity events to the group and they all seemed pretty excited about it. They threw out a bunch of ideas, so they're on board for it. I did hear a member on Saturday discussing possibly starting another meeting on Sunday; we'll see if that comes up during the business meeting.

Our meeting schedule is:

Monday through Sunday 7 AM to 8 AM

Monday through Sunday 12 noon to 1 PM

Tuesday evening 6 to 7 PM (12 x 12 book study)

Wednesday evening 6 to 7 PM (Literature study)

Thursday evening 7 to 8:30 PM (Big Book study)

Saturday evening 7 to 8 PM (open topic meeting)

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sara.

Women's Changes Meeting, Presented by Sheryl E., CSR.

We meet every Tuesday from 6 to 7 PM. at the 12 Step Recovery Club, 186 S D Street in Porterville. We are an open women's meeting. We each pick a stick from a jar and share on that topic. We average about 20 girls including the girls from PAAR who might have a couple of days to women with up to a whopping 43 years of continued sobriety, proving this program works.

The last Tuesday of each month we have a potluck that starts at 5:30 with good food and birthday cake. We pass around a card for everyone to sign for those who are celebrating that month.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sheryl.

Springville Breakfast Speaker Meeting, Presented by Sheryl E., CSR.

We meet the second Sunday of every month at the Springville Veterans Memorial Building, 35994 Hwy 190. Breakfast is \$8.00 a plate per adult and \$1.00 per child under 12. The speaker part of the meeting is always free, so you don't have to eat breakfast to listen to an excellent speaker.

We open at 8:00 with fresh hot coffee. Breakfast is served from 8:30 until 10:00. The speaker meeting begins at 10:15 with a 10 minute speaker, a 15 minute break then the main speaker until 11:45. 50/50 tickets are sold from 8:30 until the main speaker begins.

We have done some restructuring again with PAAR guys helping to set up tables and PAAR girls serving food. Cody is our new treasurer and Marcie sells 50/50 tickets. We recently made a donation of \$3,000 with \$1,000 of it going here to Central Office.

Next months speaker is Ruben L. from Van Nuys Ca. Dusty is doing a great job finding speakers outside of Tulare County.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sheryl.

Tuesday Night "Friends Of Bill W. and Doctor Bob", Presented by Patrick A., CSR.

This is a Tuesday Night, Open meeting held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1701 E Prosperity Ave in Tulare from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We are a fellowship of men and women sharing our experience, strength, and hope. This is an indoor meeting, averaging about ten to fifteen people every week. We give out chips for various lengths of continuous sobriety and celebrate birthdays at the end of each month with cake and ice cream. We have cake and ice cream *regardless* if anyone is celebrating a birthday. It's a great little meeting. Anyone may attend. Newcomers are welcome. There are many wonderful people there with quality sobriety that are open and willing to sponsor.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Patrick.

Rainbow Group, Presented by George J., CSR.

I'm the grateful CSR for the Rainbow Group. Rainbow Group meets every Saturday at 5:30 PM at The Source in Visalia. We are located at 109 Northwest Second Avenue, which is on the south side of the oval park. We meet for one hour and we are an open hybrid group that meets on Zoom as well. If you are interested in getting the Zoom ID and passcode, please speak to me after this meeting and I can put it in the meeting notes. We offer a five o'clock meditation if you're interested in arriving early to prepare for a meeting. We have a speaker at the beginning of each meeting who speaks for 10 minutes after which the group is open. We give out chips at every session and celebrate birthdays at the end of the month with cake (no ice cream). We also have our business meeting on the second Saturday of the month.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

George.

Friday Freedom Fellowship, Presented by Matt H., CSR.

We meet Friday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. at 3830 West Tulare Avenue, Visalia. We are a closed meeting. We celebrate incremental amounts of sobriety with chips and hugs. We celebrate birthdays on the last Friday of the month with cake (and sometimes) ice cream (well, we have that option open to us). We have an average attendance of between 35 and 40; this fluctuated with COVID; we went down to two members during COVID and the meeting survived. So we're ever so grateful that we can weather that storm. We promote sponsorship and we are a closed meeting except for the birthday meeting once a month.

Thank you for letting me be a service,

Matt.

Keep It Simple Sunday, Presented by David G., secretary (we don't have a CSR).

Keep It Simple Sunday (K.I.S.S.) is an outdoor meeting in Blain Park at 3101 South Court Street in Visalia. We are currently on summer schedule, which means we meet at 9:00 AM. We meet down in the detention basin until 10:30 AM. It's a pet friendly group. We form a circle and someone reads the Daily Reflections: that's the topic for the meeting. Our group has a lot of good long term sobriety in it. Newcomers are welcome. **Bring a lawn chair.** We give out chips every Sunday for all sobriety milestones. Our business meeting is the first Sunday of the month, immediately after the meeting.

Thank you for letting me of service,

David.

(Cheryl) Thank you for bringing up the reminder that if you know of a group that does not have a CSR, then the secretary of that meeting is the CSR. When Central Office started there was a great shortage of CSRs. It was discussed that the group secretary can be a CSR until the group elects one. So just put that out there.

Old business:

1. New Year's Eve party

1. The chairperson missed the planning meeting this afternoon. The chairperson later texted Cheryl to let her know he resigned from the position.

New Business:

1. Service Linkage

1. George presented ideas about getting information out about opportunities for volunteer service.

2. We could start with opportunities for service within A.A.: Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Bridging The Gap, Hospitals & Institutions.
3. Two channels for communication could be the Central News newsletter, and the Tulare County AA web site.
4. Later, we could expand to letting our membership know of opportunities for service outside of A.A. Ideas like volunteering at the SPCA or hospital (Hospital Guild) or other organizations could be presented.
5. We don't want our membership to say anything along the lines of "AA sent me" because AA doesn't send people to do volunteer work.

2. Fellowship Activities

1. There is a need for additional fellowship activities. Fellowship activities fall squarely in the Unity category of Recovery, Unity, and Service.
2. Newcomers to AA would be helped by learning that life sober does not have to be boring.
3. Discussion of different potential activities:
 1. Sports
 1. Softball is popular, but requires a league to join. Some softball leagues have people who drink a lot, which isn't necessarily enjoyable for who don't drink.
 2. Volleyball. Central Office had a tournament years ago, and even has a trophy that was won and passed around.
 3. Bowling and golf are enjoyable but may be too expensive for people on a limited budget.
 2. Barbecue / picnics
 1. This could include a sports activity for those who want, but also be a venue for non-sports activities like playing cards or games.
 3. In Porterville, they have done events like Game Night, Ice Cream competition and Karaoke night. A chili cook-off could be an event.
4. How to get information out?
 1. The web site does have an events calendar, although we don't have anything for sign-ups or mass communication.
 2. CSRs are pretty effective at getting information to and from their groups.
 3. Carol Ann will check with other Central Offices to see how they do events.
 4. Cody suggested we have an events coordinator. He may even have been volunteered.
 5. CSRs, please go back to your group and discuss. We're looking for ideas and venues.

Seventh Tradition: \$37.00

Announcements:

- None at this time.

Meeting adjourned: 8:31 PM.