

CENTRAL SERVICE MEETING MINUTES

Central Office and Central Service Representatives Meeting Report

Date: October 10, 2023

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

Board members present: Cheryl H., Bill E., Patrick A., Sara S., David G., Carol Ann G. Absent: none

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

12 Traditions: Cody

Minutes of last meeting: Reviewed by all. Cody moved to approve, motion seconded by Bill. Vote: all in favor, none against.

Report of August Board meeting: Meeting called to order September 12th at 9:00 PM by Bill Evans. Five of six board members were present; Cheryl had told us last month that she would be absent this month and Bill would chair the Board meeting. Vice-President's Report: Bill stated that he's not eligible to run again; his term ends in December. The minutes for the Board meeting incorrectly stated that the upcoming election would be for positions of President and Vice-President: no, the election is only for Board membership. After the election, the five board members decide among themselves who will fill which position. Cheryl gave a history of the Bridging The Gap (BTG), Public Information (PI), and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) positions and which service structure they were within over the years (Central Service versus General Service). We also talked about the office being closed on bank holidays. Old business: We did sell the unused sound equipment for \$200. New business: We talked about asking the CSRs to ask their groups about putting their CSR reports in the Meeting Guide app. We discussed the increasing cost of literature from AAWS, but tabled any action to next month. We discussed the last five months of being open on the last Saturday of the month; a motion was made and passed to extend this through December. George asked how it worked out financially: expenses exceeded income by \$225, and we had had four visitors over the five Saturdays. On average (over ten months), we get three visitors a day, Monday through Friday. Page 5 of the newsletter listed the Office Contacts numbers for September. The meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Treasurer and Office report: Carol Ann provided the report.

Treasurer / Office Report and Financial Report

8/21/2023 through 9/20/2023

October 10th, 2023

Good evening!

In June we purchased a new Eco Printer for \$380.00. I should have included that info in the office report for that accounting period. Sorry I didn't include that info previously. Rumor has that we will be able to use 32 reams of paper with the black ink we have on hand! That will be very cost effective! We also have the ability to email right to print so, call me if you have the need to use this function.

Central Office had an income of \$3,086.10 and expenses of \$3,476.90 for a loss of \$390.80.

Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$206.62 and no one donated to our Birthday Club! Thank you Grateful Givers for your much appreciated contributions.

We had \$437.68 in gross sales in 17 transactions for credit and debit cards, 1 transaction in PayPal for \$20.00, and \$220.00 in gross sales in 2 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.

Spectrum had a phone and internet service outage on September 29th for 45 minutes from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

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 3 visitors the last Saturday in September. Two of them were the mailman; he came back a second time with a package for us.

Please announce to other members and your groups that Central Office will be open the last Saturday of the month for the remainder of the year.

Carol Ann Gable

Office Manager/Treasurer

(Bill): What did the postman bring? (Carol Ann): It was a package of chips. (Sheryl): Sounds like Venmo sales are great. (Carol Ann): Yes, it's wonderful. (Cheryl): When Spectrum went down, was that a surprise outage or was that planned? And did they call you? (Carol Ann): It was a surprise outage, but they did call us. (Cheryl): What's our checking account and cash balance? (Carol Ann): We have a total of \$19,978.22 and all of our payroll taxes and everything are all current. (Cheryl): For everyone's information, our prudent reserve is \$19,000 and we will be going under our prudent reserve to fund our New Year's event. We're quite confident that our New Year's party will generate enough

revenue to put us back above our prudent reserve. Toward Christmas time members come in and purchase books and gift items for Christmas and that helps a lot. This is the first time in Central Office's history that we have reached our prudent reserve. We've been above it for several months. I'm quite happy with that. (Cheryl): Do we have any questions for Carol Ann? (Cody): Why is the prudent reserve \$19,000? That seems pretty high. (Cheryl): Well, it is high. But what we do is take our operating expenses for six months: salary, rent, utilities, taxes, everything. It was \$17,000 for probably 15 years and we never reached that. Last year we did some research on it and raised it to \$19,000. That gives us six months.

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 would like to say thank you to David and Ali for helping out the health fair that we just had. I was not able to be there and they both were there for the entire duration. I would like to hear from them a little bit about the event.

(Ali): It was truly an honor to be of service. I got a bit emotional beforehand, realizing that in my journey of sobriety, I never imagined standing up in front of people and representing something that played a pivotal role in saving my life. It was an exciting experience. Both David and I went through our pamphlets, engaging with many individuals. Some were pointing out their friends as possibly struggling with alcoholism, and they took pamphlets. Our location was fantastic, with flu shots attracting a lot of foot traffic. I highly recommend doing it again next year. David did an excellent job encouraging people, suggesting that even if A.A. didn't resonate with them, connecting with Al-Anon could be beneficial. We even sold a Big Book and distributed numerous pamphlets. Overall, it was a great event.

(Bill): Who were all of the volunteers?

(Ali): Myself and David, Rae Ann, Nika, Melanie, Sherry, and Tracy Jo.

(Patrick): Thank you so much to all of you. I got a lot of the pictures of how you decked out our booth. We are a program of attraction and it was a very attractive booth and you got absolutely nothing but positive feedback.

Unfortunately, with the Rawhide event coming up on Saturday, I was not able to get to it. So I owe you an amends, George, because you did give me the information and plenty of time to get that taken care of.

(Secretary summary follows) George and Patrick will work together to get registration and volunteers for the Visalia Pride Event on October 14th from 11 AM to 4 PM at the Visalia Rawhide Stadium. George will take the tote tonight, with the P.I. stuff in it. Carol Ann can fill out paperwork if registration forms need to be filled out. Ali commented that it was surprising

how many professionals thought you had to have insurance to go to A.A. or pay to go: she got many questions asking how much it costs to go. Carol Ann added that yes, she gets a lot of telephone calls asking how much it costs to sign up for our classes.

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

We had a meeting at the Central Office last Saturday with three of us: me, David, and another member, Mike S. We accomplished a lot. I talked with Brad E. from up north, and he gave us a template to fix our blue cards with the right address. Mike S. is updating the envelope template. Bridging The Gap helps connect people just released with the local A.A. community. I've been getting people interested, and though not everyone shows up, I now have a couple of committed members wanting to join the committee. Our goal is to use blue cards to meet people at meetings, introduce them to A.A., and explain how it works. The next meeting is on November 4th via Zoom, and already on the website. This way, people can join without driving to Exeter at 11 on a Saturday morning. Our next task is to finalize envelopes and templates and share information with recovery homes, prisons, and Bob Wiley.

Sara.

(Cheryl): Any questions for Sara? (Cody): What is the blue card? (Sara): A blue card is a tool we use to help people coming out of homes, prisons, and jails who might not know what to do next. They fill out their information on the blue card, send it to us, and then one of our committee members contacts them. We arrange to meet them at a meeting, introduce them to A.A., and explain that it's a free (volunteer) Twelve Step support program to help them get sober if they're willing.

(Cheryl) (*paraphrased by secretary*): I wanted Sara to give her report after Patrick because I'd like to clarify the roles of P.I./C.P.C. and Bridging The Gap in our area. Initially, Bridging The Gap was managed by Central Office, with Bob Hinton as the chairperson for Tulare County. When the Area got a consistent chairperson, they felt either General Service or Central Office should handle it. Central Office offered to continue, and a board member took on the role. Regarding P.I./C.P.C., a joint meeting with District 47 led to an arrangement where each entity managed one aspect. Later, due to challenges in District 47, Central Office took on both. If District 47 wishes to split responsibilities again, we are open to that. Central Office wanted board members to be active, not just attend monthly meetings without a role. Our board members are active in these roles to ensure engagement and contribution.

Volunteers to write Step and Tradition articles for Central News

Send your articles to CentralintergroupNews@gmail.com

Step for newsletter

Issue	Step	Member	Due date
November	11	Nick V.	October 20
December	12	Ali A.	November 20

Tradition for newsletter

Issue	Tradition	Member	Due date
November	11	Glenda V.	October 20
December	12	Sheryl E.	November 20

Newsletter report: none at this time.

Website report: David G. provided the report.

Carol Ann added a new meeting: the Joe and Charlie Big Book Study at Bridge Street Drunks Only on Sundays at 6 PM.

David updated the Friday night women's meeting in Porterville: there are now officially Loose Women in Porterville.

David updated the Keep It Simple Sunday meeting in Visalia: on November 5th, they will switch to Winter schedule (10 AM).

I added six announcements:

New Year's Eve Party planning meeting

Soberfest 2023 wrap up meeting

Primary Purpose Group 12 Step Workshop – Starting on Monday the 9th

Bridging The Gap meeting Saturday October 7, 2023

New Meeting: Joe and Charlie Big Book study at Bridge Street Drunks Only

NCCAA Conference 2023 Fresno pre-registration discounts end soon

Carol Ann added the event:

New Year's Eve Party Planning Committee Meeting

I added two events:

Primary Purpose Group 12 Step Workshop – Mondays

CNIA Bridging the Gap Monthly Meeting

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? (none)

GSO liaison report: provided by David G.

GSR Liaison meeting minutes 2023-10-04

Thirteen people attended; two in-person and eleven via Zoom.

Finances: Balance forward was \$1,987.30.

Income of \$907.60 was from seven contributions:¹

Unity Through Traditions	\$100.00
Visalia Friday Freedom Fellowship	\$20.00
Crossroads, Tulare	\$15.00
Group # 723620	\$68.00
Springville Gut Level Group	\$60.00
Keep It Simple Sunday	\$42.60
Springville Breakfast Speaker Mtg	\$600.00

Zero expenses leaves us with a current balance of \$2,894.90.

DCM report: Allen attended the September Area Committee Meeting.

Discussions on the 2024 Spending plan. The current plan spends \$16,500 more than will likely bring in.

Proposal to create a funded AV technician to store, maintain & transport AV equipment to assemblies and ACMs

Highlights from Delegate's Report:

1. Grapevine app is now available.
2. New "Young People in AA" pamphlet is now available.
3. Daily Reflection is now available as an audiobook.

¹ Attributions corrected, since the GSR meeting

4. The 2023 Conference Report will be available at the Election Assembly (or at the October ACM if you want it earlier) and will also be available online in PDF format.

5. Preliminary Agenda Items will be available in late October. Final Agenda Items and background materials will be available between Feb 16th and 23rd 2024.

Election Assembly 2023: three of us are attending and carpooling up to Placerville; with perhaps a fourth.

No old business.

No new business.

Announcements:

Nominations for the District 47 officers will be held November 1st. Nominations will also be accepted in December; voting will be December 6th.

(Cheryl): What is the date of the Election Assembly? (David): November 10th, 11th, and 12th.

(Cheryl): Any questions about the GSR meeting? (Cody): The \$600 was from the Sunday Springville Breakfast Speaker meeting. That's our group number, and we did that contribution. The \$60 contribution was from the Springville Gut Level group.

H & I report: Joyce R. provided the report, read by Carol Ann.

Tulare County Hospitals and Institution Committee

October, 2023 H&I Report

This month, we have had a couple of facilities cancel and/or reschedule H&I meetings due to Covid outbreaks. We seem to have moved past this and are back on track. We were able to hold 8 facility meetings, utilize 24 volunteers and distribute over 60 AA books to our inside members in September. The Tulare County Jail is now allowing us to add volunteers and we hope to have several more cleared and ready to go by the end of November. These volunteers will include 2 Spanish Speaking volunteers allowing us to reach more inside members. We are in need of more volunteers in order to expand to more facilities and encourage all interested to contact Joyce or attend our next meeting.

At this time, NorCal's financial position is **poor**. Year to Date our literature expense has increased 63.1% over last year while our contributions increased only 11.3%. This has now left us utilizing prudent reserve funds. Please encourage all groups to pass the Pink Can to ensure that literature is available for our inside members. If your group does not have a Pink Can, they are available at Central Office. 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 tradition funds. The Pink Can is 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.

October 22, 2023 is the next NorCal Committee Meeting. We will be reviewing our proposed budget which has been submitted by our Finance Committee, electing our next Finance Committee Member and will review our new General Chair's, Julio B., appointments for Committee Chair Positions. This is an exciting time at the Committee level as rotation of service always bring with it new ideas and growth potential.

Next H&I Orientation: November 11, 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

(Bill): I have a question: Did we get the Pink Cans from her? (Carol Ann): Yes we did! Would you like one? (Bill): I don't need one, but if GSRs and CSRs need one, I wanted to make sure they knew. (Sara): I might be stepping out of line, but there's a new meeting on Saturday nights: The Friends of Bill at the Quaker Church: they don't have a Pink Can. (Cheryl): You need to get a group conscious decision before you pass a Pink Can. So for all the CSRs whose groups don't have a Pink Can: bring it up at your business meeting to have your group pass a Pink Can. There's been a little bit of issues in the Porterville area about a Pink Can and it got straightened out. (*further discussion for 4 ½ minutes*).

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.

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 to Bridge Drive, and then 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 steady. We have cake whether anyone is celebrating a birthday or not. It's a great meeting and we would love to have visitors.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Cody.

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.

I did talk with my group about AA fellowship events. My group came up with Chili Cook Off, Dance, Bingo, karaoke, bunko and games.

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 AM 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.

Our next meeting is November 12th, 2023 and the speaker is Mike H. from Ventura, CA.

Robert has stepped down from setting up and mopping up at the end. We desperately need people committed to being of service. It's only one day a month and not very hard. Hopefully, you and a sponsee or a friend can do that. Maybe we can get a couple of people to step up and different ones to sweep and mop. Be proactive, don't assume someone else is going to do it; otherwise people like Cheryl H. and Marcy get stuck with it.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sheryl.

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

Bridge Street Drunks is located at 526 N. Bridge St. in Visalia. We welcome all who have a desire to stop drinking. Our business meetings are the last Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM, directly following our noon meeting. Our birthday meetings are held the last Saturday of the month at the noon meeting – we offer chips for various lengths of sobriety, hugs, cake and balloons. We have coffee, snacks and candy at every meeting. We have a total of 19 meetings.

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 (book study)

Wednesday evening 6 to 7 PM (book study)

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

Saturday evening 7 to 8 PM (open topic meeting)

Sunday evening 6 to 7 PM (Joe and Charlie Big Book study)

I did talk with the group about AA events that we're wanting to have, and I've gotten quite a bit of feedback. They came up with pizza, bowling, camp out, hiking, potluck, and game nights.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sara.

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.

AA Loose Women Meeting, Presented by Glenda V., CSR.

We meet every Friday night at 6:30 PM at the Twelve Step Recovery Club at 186 South D Street in Porterville. We are an Open discussion meeting for Women only. The reason we call it a loose meeting is because it doesn't follow the typical AA format. It's a discussion meeting: somebody picks a topic

and people talk about the topic. *Cross-talk is welcome.* We average about nine to ten girls, including the girls from PAAR who might have a couple of days of sobriety, to women with up to 43 years of sobriety, proving the program works.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Glenda V.

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.

Tuesday Women’s Amity Group, Presented by Ally A., CSR.

We are a Closed meeting for women who meet for one hour on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at Trinity United Reformed Church located at 6400 W. Walnut Avenue in Visalia. We celebrate various lengths of sobriety weekly and our annual birthdays are the last Tuesday of the month with sobriety chips and dessert. Attendance averages between 25 and 35 women.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Ally.

Rainbow Group, Presented by George J., CSR.

I'm the grateful CSR for the Rainbow Group. Rainbow Group meets every Saturday for an hour 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. The Zoom ID and passcode are on the website and in the Meeting Guide app. 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.

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 (90 minutes). 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. We meet no matter what: if it's raining, bring an umbrella. We will be switching to winter schedule on Sunday November 4th, 2023 (the same weekend Daylight Saving Time kicks in). On winter schedule, the meeting starts at 10 AM and goes to 11:30.

Thank you for letting me of service,

David.

Old business:

1. Service opportunities on the website and newsletter
 1. Carol Ann brought the topic up at her monthly Central Office Managers meeting, and it was a controversial topic. The consensus was that Central Office (and by extension our newsletter and web site) should focus on Tradition 5: primary purpose, and Tradition 6: no endorsement of outside enterprises (affiliation).
 2. (*Discussion for eleven minutes*): Mostly about co-operating without affiliating and what does affiliation look like? Is publishing the name of a church where a meeting is held an act of affiliation? Is having a link to a non-AA web site (Al-Anon or Narcotics Anonymous) an act of affiliation?
 3. Regarding volunteer opportunities *inside* AA, putting them in the newsletter or on the web site should be fine.
2. Fellowship Activities
 1. Sara's group and Sheryl E's group brought up good ideas.
 2. CSRs, please go back to your group and discuss. We're looking for ideas and venues.
 3. Cody suggests we pick one of the activities and run with it.
3. CSR Reports put into the Meeting Guide app
 1. If a group wants additional information put in the Meeting Guide listing, email or telephone Carol Ann or David with what your group wants.

New business:

1. Elections for new members of the board

1. Two previous members are no longer eligible.

2. A CSR gets a single vote

1. If a person is a Central Service Representative for more than one group, they do not get additional votes: just the one vote.

Seventh Tradition: \$45.00

Announcements:

- George and Debbie have been going to the Tulare Homeless Encampment every Friday at 4:00 PM. Volunteers to also go are needed; it is a great place to do outreach.
- George is willing to give people rides to and from (within reason: Springville is a tad too far).

Meeting adjourned: 8:36 PM.