

## CENTRAL SERVICE MEETING MINUTES

### Central Office and Central Service Representatives Meeting Report

Date: December 12, 2023

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

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

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

12 Traditions (long form): Glenda.

Minutes of last meeting: Reviewed by all. One correction: CSR report for Tuesday Women's Amity Group is missing the word "meet" in the first sentence. Cody moved to approve, motion seconded by Bret. Vote: all in favor, none against.

Report of November Board meeting: Meeting called to order November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 PM by Cheryl Hinton. Four of five board members were present; Patrick was absent with notice. During the board meeting, Cheryl, the President, reported that she had nothing specific to share but expressed her pride in serving as the president for the past four years. She highlighted the accomplishment of her set goals and emphasized the importance of each board member having specific objectives for office improvement. Bill, the Vice President, echoed a similar sentiment, trusting in the leadership and noting the positive financial position. He mentioned his two years as secretary and expressed a bit of sadness about leaving due to a personal situation but left open the possibility of returning in two years. David, the Secretary, apologized for being late with the minutes and expressed optimism about improving in the coming month. Sara, the Member At Large, shared her learning experience and outlined her goal of establishing a foundation for Bridging The Gap. She expressed joy in being part of the team and sadness about leaving. Carol Ann, the Office Manager, reassured the board about financial stability and expressed excitement about the future, despite some nervousness about the upcoming transition with the new board. During the discussion of old business, the board addressed current price changes, particularly the Big Book, which presently costs \$11.28 while the catalog price is \$12. Due to inflation, the decision was made to delay ordering until January and then adjust prices accordingly. The topic of changing pamphlet prices was also revisited, with all pamphlets experiencing a 30% increase, some even reaching 50%, due to challenges faced during the COVID pandemic. Ultimately, the board agreed to raise the price of the older alcoholic pamphlet to \$1 and change other pamphlet prices to 25 cents. The importance of maintaining the website's content within the scope of AA traditions and concepts was emphasized, particularly in regards to events without a direct affiliation. Nominations and elections for new board members were on the agenda, with a reminder for the new board to be in place for the January meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Treasurer and Office report: Carol Ann provided the report.

## Treasurer / Office Report and Financial Report

10/21/2023 through 11/20/2023

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Good evening!

On November 17<sup>th</sup> I had a dentist appointment, Claudia covered the office for me. Claudia will be covering the office on December 19<sup>th</sup> for my doctor's appointment. Thank you Claudia! Central Office will be closed on Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day in honor of the holidays. The Central Office will be open the last Saturday of the month which is December 30<sup>th</sup> 2023!

I had to notify Deluxe (the company that we bought our sales books from) to notify them that we had a duplicate invoice number in one of our sales booklets, in the sales registry we have 2 invoice number 9920 listed. A member suggested we use Porterville Sheltered Workshop; I got a quote; we switched printing companies for a savings of over \$200!

As per our rental contract with our landlord, our rent goes up \$35 effective Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 bringing it up to \$685.00 per month effective until the end of 2027.

Central Office had an income of \$2,771.86 and expenses of \$4,987.56 for a loss of \$2,215.70

Our Grateful Givers Club brought in \$160.00 and our Birthday Club brought in \$24.00 in much appreciated contributions.

We had \$630.29 in 18 gross sales in transactions for credit and debit cards, \$20 in 1 transaction in PayPal, and 0 VENMO transactions this accounting period.

Traffic and calls have been average.

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 holiday stuff here at the Central Office to help you share the message of recovery, come and see what's new!

I would like to thank all of the groups and individuals who contributed to Central Office to make 2023 an awesome year!

Grateful to be here!

Carol Ann Gable

Office Manager/Treasurer

(Cheryl): Are there any questions for Carol Ann? (Sheryl): Off the top of your head, is Venmo in general making money? (Carol Ann): Yes. (Cody): If I'm selling New Year's party tickets, and someone has asked me if they want to use Venmo, can they? Would they just use that QR code and send the money to the office? How does that work? (Carol Ann): Yes, they can. It does make my bookkeeping more difficult, but yes, they can use the QR code and put a memo in for New Years Eve Party. (Bill): What was Special Items for \$885? (Carol Ann): Chips or anything not literature (but is purchased for inventory) is put in Special Items.

Public Information report: Patrick A. provided the report.

I was absent last week, so I want to express my gratitude to those who filled in for me, namely David and George. I appreciate George providing his report and representing us at the Pride event at Rawhide Stadium, even though it was a last-minute and less-than-ideal situation. You made the most of it, and I'm thankful for the representation. Thank you for your service. David, thank you for presenting my CSR report as well. Currently, I don't have any new updates, but I'm looking forward to the New Year and what we can achieve, especially if we have a full board with positions sorted out. Thank you for your commitment. Love you all, and let's continue being of service.

Volunteers to write Step and Tradition articles for Central News

Send your articles to [CentralIntergroupNews@gmail.com](mailto:CentralIntergroupNews@gmail.com)

Cheryl notes that there was a problem with the December newsletter not having the Step Twelve and Tradition Twelve. Carol Ann called the publisher. Sheryl E. apologized for not getting her article in due to a family emergency.

Step for newsletter

Issue	Step	Member	Due date
January	1	Glenda V.	December 20
February	2	George J.	January 20

Tradition for newsletter

Issue	Tradition	Member	Due date
January	1	Cody R.	December 20
February	2	Cheryl H.	January 20

Newsletter report: none at this time.

Website report: David G. provided the report.

Report covers the time since the previous CSR Meeting, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Carol Ann added a new meeting: Sunday mornings at the Visalia Alano Club: 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM.

Carol Ann added several announcements:

New Year's Eve event planning committee meeting

New Year's Eve event tickets

The Saturday 5:30 PM Friends of Bill W meeting needs support!

Central Office will be open Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 9:00-1:00

Bake Items Needed for New Year's Eve Event Bake Auction

The New Year's Eve event was added.

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

For an unknown reason, three times the website was down Sunday and Monday (December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>).

Thank you for letting me be of service.

H & I report: Joyce R. provided the report.

Tulare County Hospitals and Institution Committee

December, 2023 H&I Report

In November, we conducted 10 H & I facility meetings. Unfortunately, one facility had to cancel both of their meetings due to Thanksgiving. However, we successfully held ten meetings and had two additional ones at the Tulare County Jail. Our efforts involved 33 volunteers, and we distributed 89 AA books.

In December, we are excited to announce the initiation of our monthly meetings at the Visalia Recovery Center. This will bring our total facility meetings to 13 per month, marking a positive growth for the year.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a voluntary appreciation luncheon to express gratitude to our dedicated volunteers. We value their commitment in spreading the message of AA and contributing to our continuous growth. As one speaker noted during the luncheon, the significance lies not only in what we do but in who we do it with. Over the past year, we've been fortunate to have around 35 steadfast volunteers consistently supporting and conducting meetings.

In terms of finances, NorCal has achieved a neutral position. This month, we experienced higher-than-average income and lower literature expenses, resulting in a reserve slightly above the recommended six months of operating expenses. However, we are mindful of a 42% increase in literature expenses compared to last year, with only a 16.8% increase in income. While it's an improvement from last month, we urge everyone to continue passing the pink cans to ensure a steady revenue stream, which would help bridge the gap comfortably.

For those interested in contributing, Carol Ann has pink cans, and you can contact her directly for more information. We also need more volunteers to support our initiatives. Several requests are pending, but we're hesitant to proceed until we have additional support. Our next volunteer orientation is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM, followed by a business meeting at 10. The location is Bridge Street Drunks at 526 North Bridge Street in Visalia.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be of service. Thank you all for your continued support.

Joyce R.

Area 93 Chair

(Cheryl): Are there any questions for Joyce? (Cody): For the pink cans after they passed through, how often does the money get turned in? (Joyce): Each group can decide for themselves how to handle things because they're autonomous. At Bridge Street, we send money every month, but some groups do it every three months. It depends on what your group decides. (Cody): Does the money come directly to you? (Joyce): No, it goes to a P.O. Box in San Francisco. Then we contact the literature chair and they send us the literature. That's how that works. Thank you.

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

We had our Bridging The Gap meeting, December 2<sup>nd</sup> via Zoom. There were three attendees: myself, David G. and Mike S. We've developed a plan, or as we like to call it, "the plan." The idea is to establish a foundation and create a committee, bringing people on board and providing training for when we receive a blue card. If you're wondering what "Bridging The Gap" (BTG) is, it's all about connecting members who are transitioning out of facilities or incarceration with their AA community. Our committee members meet them at meetings, introducing them to the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.

To make this happen, we're working on building a committee and organizing a training session. We want everyone to understand the do's and don'ts of Bridging The Gap. Recently, we nominated David G to be our facility coordinator. His role involves presenting information about BTG to various facilities, making sure they understand what we're all about and ensuring the availability of our resources for individuals who are incarcerated or in facilities.

We're thrilled about the prospect of expanding our committee and spreading awareness about BTG. Our meetings are currently held on Zoom, providing a convenient way for people to join

in. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 11 AM via Zoom. You can find the Zoom link on our website. Thanks for allowing me to be of service.

GSO liaison report: provided by David G.

GSR meeting was December 6th, 2023

Ten people attended; five in-person and five via Zoom.

Finances: Two month's report

Balance Forward	\$2,894.90
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Income

Valley Group	\$40.00
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Unidentified Group	\$100.00
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Sat. AM Women's 12x12	\$24.09
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Unity Through Traditions	\$75.00
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Valley Speaker Series	\$115.68
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Tuesday Women Amity	\$22.60
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Tuesday Men's Stag	\$75.00
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Monday Men's Stag	\$60.00
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Total Income	\$512.37
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Expenses

DCM Reimbursement	\$264.47
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Total Expense	\$264.47
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Current Balance	\$3,142.80
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DCM report:

Election Assembly 2023: three of us went to Placerville.

The spending plan was approved.

The new position of A/V Technician was approved.

The position of Oral Translation Chair was not eliminated.

The bylaws were amended to send both the Chair and Alternate Chair of Archives to the national Archives Conference.

#### Old business

Mike C. was elected DCM (District Committee Member)

Courtney R. was elected Treasurer

David G. was elected Recording Secretary

Keith A. was elected Alternate DCM

Josh F. was elected Registrar

#### New business

Greg G. is no longer the official representative for the District 47 Post Office Box. Josh F. is no longer the official Treasurer. The district will need to update its signature card with Chase Bank to reflect the new official signers, and notify the Post Office of the change for the P.O. Box.

Discussion was held for changing the ownership of the Zoom account for putting this meeting on from Allen L. It was discussed that we would request the use of the Central Office Zoom account.

Copies of the final report from the General Service Conference from last year were distributed to members to take to their groups.

#### Announcements:

Mike C. – New Years Eve Dance at St Paul's Church. We need baked goods. Dinner is \$20 pre-sale, \$25 at the door.

(David): Are there any questions for stuff going on in the District? (Cheryl): The Final Conference Reports – are they available? (David): Yes, we brought back twenty of them in paper form. (Carol Ann): We have two here at Central Office. (Bill): Do you have a ballpark price of what going to Placerville will actually cost? (David): The three of us went for \$264; that included half of the lodging, plus registration and meals for the DCM. My half of the lodging was paid for by my group. Gasoline for everyone was in there too. (Bill): I'm trying to get a feel of what the cost would be for these type of events. (David): My group just budgeted for the January Winter Assembly in Merced, and we budgeted \$175. If the expenses turn out to be less than that, the GSR gives back the surplus to the group.

## 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 down to about the last 70 pages. 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.

### AA Loose Women's 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. It's a discussion meeting: somebody picks a topic and people talk about the topic. Cross-talk is welcome. We average about five to ten people. Ladies from PAAR attend our meeting, 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.

### Rainbow Group, Presented by George J., CSR.

The Rainbow Group meets every Saturday for an hour at 5:30 PM at The Source in Visalia, 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.

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 East Prosperity Avenue 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 meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at Trinity United Reformed Church located at 6400 West Walnut Avenue in Visalia. We begin each meeting with a 10 minute individual sharing her experience, strength and hope, followed by group participation. Weekly we celebrate various lengths of sobriety and annual birthdays the last Tuesday of the month. This is a closed meeting reserved for those women who have a desire to stop drinking.

Thank you for allowing me be of service,  
Ally.

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

We are a large group of fun drunks located at 526 North Bridge Street in Visalia. We have a total of 19 meetings. Our business meetings are held the last Saturday of the month at 1 PM directly following the noon meeting. We have our birthday meeting the last Saturday of the month at the noon meeting. We have cake and chips for one year or more of sobriety; we give hugs and balloons (although that might change because people are changing positions). We encourage anyone with a desire to stop drinking to join us.

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 (Twelve and Twelve 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)

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

We are looking for a few positions to be filled. If you would like to be of service, join us at our Business meeting Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sara.

Monday Men's Meeting at PPAV, Presented by Jason S., (new) CSR

We meet on Mondays at 7:30 PM and go to 9 PM. We meet at the PPAV Hall at Burke and Main in Visalia. This is a closed men's meeting. There are on average 30 to 40 men in attendance. Weekly, we celebrate various lengths of sobriety and annual birthdays the last Monday of the month.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Jason.

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. Most meetings get fifteen to twenty or more attendees.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Brett.

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 South 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 each month at the Veterans Memorial Building, 35994 Highway 190 in Springville. 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 to enjoy 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 the readings, 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 had our elections on Sunday. Dusty remains secretary, Cody remains treasurer, Ken is still cooking, and I'm still selling tickets at the door.

We really need a couple of strong, young people to stay after the meeting to sweep and mop the floor. It only takes a few minutes and is an easy way to be of service. So please help.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Sheryl.

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 winter schedule, which means we meet at 10:00 AM instead of 9:00 AM. We meet down in the detention basin until 11:30 AM: it is a 90 minute meeting. 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.** You might want to bring a blanket too, if the weather is cold. 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. Our meeting has gotten a little bit

smaller recently: now we're in the fifteen to twenty person range, whereas before we would get up to 40 people.

Thank you for letting me of service,

David.

Ally attended the new Sunday morning meeting at the Visalia Alano club. She's not the CSR, but had this: The Alano Club holds a meeting every Sunday from 8 to 9, and while they're still refining the format, I want to share an interesting aspect from last Sunday. They took a unique approach by randomly selecting someone from the group, having them choose a favorite part from the big book, and then creating a topic based on that selection. The group engaged in a discussion, much like a book study, but with a refreshing departure from chronological order. If anybody is looking for a Sunday morning meeting, it was really good.

Old business:

1. Elections for two (three) new members of the board.
  1. Sara nominated Ally. Ally accepted the nomination.
  2. The three new board members are Ally A., Cody R., and George J.
2. New Year's Eve Party
  1. We had a planning meeting will be December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 6:55 PM, immediately prior to the CSR meeting. Both were available on Zoom; one member joined via Zoom.
  2. Setup for the event will begin at noon.

New business:

1. Board member election – Sara has to step down due to scheduling conflicts beginning in February. This changed the number of new board members from two to three.

Seventh Tradition: \$57.00

Meeting adjourned: 8:07 PM.