

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

June 26, 2021

5pm-7pm

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and via Zoom

1. Opened with the serenity prayer

Mission: "District 72 unites AA Groups from the Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, and Park County areas of Montana. We band together to fulfill our primary purpose – to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic. As an association, it is our responsibility to provide common functions and service activities for AA members. All AA members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in monthly District 72 business meetings. We strive, as a district, to work within the spirit of the Twelve Traditions and operate from the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous."-Rick H.

2. Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions

3. Reading of Concept Six: Lisa shared her experience on this concept.

Concept VI: On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

4. Approved May 2021 meeting minutes-unanimously approved

5. Introductions/Attendance:

Visitors (attended online): Bob and Lisa

GSRs and reports:

Meghan (attended in person) **Sunday Night Hospital Group** (Bozeman)- Still online. Good attendance, lots of out of town regulars.

Gail (attended in person) **Wednesday Noon Group** (Bozeman)- July 14th will be back to in person meetings. Meeting will move to the Fellowship Hall instead of their old spot downtown because of parking issues they were running into. Closed meeting at noon on Wednesdays.

Pat (attended in person) **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman)-Both Zoom and live meetings, fully open in person for Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Seeing about 30 people in attendance in the live meetings. Zoom meetings at the same time as live meetings on Mon/Thurs/Sat and they are doing pretty good still, with 15-20 people. Sunday speaker meeting is Zoom only still.

Dennis (attended in person) **Friday Men's Group** (Bozeman)- Meets at First Baptist Church downtown Bozeman, been in person for 3 weeks, struggling with hybrid. 28 guys in the last one.

Aaron (attended in person) **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman): Monday and Wednesday in person, attempting hybrid on Wednesday. Numbers online have dwindled since people have been able to attend in person.

Katie (attended in person) **Tuesday at 8pm** (Bozeman)-Went back to in person the second week of June, mostly just home group members, pretty small group right now.

Brian (attended in person) **Big Sky Group** (Big Sky)- Things are going well. There is a **new women's meeting on Mondays at 5:30pm at the Big Sky Christian Fellowship Basecamp**. Other meetings are Tuesday at 5:30, Thursdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 7:30am. Wednesday noon meeting is at the hospital-you need to identify why you are there at the front desk before being able to enter the hospital. Thank you to everyone who came to the picnic on Tuesday.

Karon K. (attended online) **Women's Pink Cloud Group** (Bozeman)- Group will begin hybrid meetings on July 7th at Fellowship hall. The group is interested in learning about best practices for optimizing the experience for online as well as in person meeting attendees. Expect meeting attendance will increase once they are back at the Hall.

Joe (attended in person) **Vennis Over the Hill** (Virginia City/Ennis)-Meet at 7:30 Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday. Hybrid meetings are running great, have anywhere from 1-6 people on the computer and 8-10 in person. Summer visitors are picking up, group is doing really well.

Alex (attended online) **Bozeman Young People's** (Bozeman)- Meeting in person Thursdays and Sundays, online only Tuesdays at 7pm.

Jennifer (attended in person) **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman)- Started hybrid on first of June, has gone great. Numbers seemed to double and it was an amazing meeting this last Friday. Jennifer was able to accomplish setting up their hybrid meeting pretty simply and is willing to share what she did with anyone interested.

Matt W (attended in person) **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman)- about 35 people in attendance to in person meetings, 4th of July party coming up on the 4th, music and games, potluck. Everyone welcome!

Doreen (attended online) **6th Chapter** (Bozeman)- Still online with a strong following, some people from out of town attending regularly. Could be July or August that they will be back in person.

Chrissan (attended in person) **Happy Campers** (Bozeman) Meets Monday and Tuesday at noon, first Monday of July will be going to in person at the First Baptist church and still have Zoom for Tuesday.

6. Committee Reports

Treasurer-Leah T. (attended in person)

- \$523 in income from 7th tradition
- Expenses were for a large literature order that was placed to replenish our stock
- Area 40 contribution address is updated and included on the Treasurer's report as well as on the Area 40 website!!

Answering Service- Gillian

- No report.

Archives- Catherine (attended online)

- Catherine is looking to get together with the Area archivist to learn more about the position and what's out there.
- There's a group history form that the Archives committee wants to disseminate to groups and have them fill it out to document what happened during COVID. We think it might be good to document and

see what every group experienced during the pandemic.

Bridging the Gap- Phil

- No report

CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community- Steven R. (attended online)

- If anyone knows someone who would like to be the CPC chair, Steven is happy to relinquish his seat. He's unsure he can give the attention to the position that it needs.
- Rick is going to reach out to someone he knows is looking for a service position.
- **Next District meeting we will call for nominations for a new CPC chair.**

Corrections- Chris (attended in person)

- End of May opened up live meetings at Deer Lodge Prison and Gallatin County Detention Center (GCDC), had a core group of volunteers who were doing phone meetings who are now bringing them in to the in person meetings.
- **Corrections and Treatment meeting every 2nd Wednesday at 6:45pm at Fellowship hall, anyone is welcome to come.**
- Dropped off a ton of literature at GCDC.
- **Currently looking for volunteers for both the jail and the prison trips.** It is a process to get approved by filling out an application, getting approved, then doing an orientation. There's an orientation in about a month. **Contact Chris if you are interested** in starting the process.
- Chris is working on getting a flyer together to get his contact information out for anyone who is interested.
- Chris needs some help getting info on the website and will reach out to Sarah.
- Treatment and Corrections meeting uses the District Zoom account to enable it to be a hybrid meeting. They've attempted it a couple of times and it goes well when they remember to bring computers!

Grapevine-Angie (attended online)

- Updated the bulletin board at Fellowship Hall in Bozeman. Check it out! In the sponsorship room there is a box that is clearly labeled where people can donate old grapevines
- Grapevine service opportunities are available at a larger level. Vacancy for Nontrustee Director of AA Grapevine board. You can visit this website if you are interested in learning more:
<https://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources>
- Thanks to everyone who was able to donate Grapevines.

Literature- Chrissan (attended in person)

- We were pretty much out of Big Books and 12x12s so that's the reason for the large purchase order. Should be pretty well stocked now if groups need anything.

Public Information-Sarah

- No report.

Special Events-Savannah (attended in person)

- Event planning is going well, we are inviting all committee members to attend the July 11th Service Event and potluck to help educate AA members on what we do at the district level and what opportunities there are for them to get involved. Please let Meghan know if you will be able to attend!

Treatment-Mark (attended in person)

- Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) back to live meetings, had 3 brand new people a few weeks ago for the first meeting. The facility is not running at full capacity. There was about a third to a half of the folks they usually see face to face. **On July 17th there is one extra spot for a gentleman, if anyone wants to attend, reach out to Mark.**
- Mark also needs to step aside from his position. He is willing to stay in the role until we can get another person to step in. There may be a member of Reb dogs for this position. **Agenda items for July will be nominations for CPC and Treatment.**

- Catherine noted that from her experience it is helpful to have treatment co-chairs, 1 male and 1 female.

Alt. DCM-Betty (attended online)

- No report.

DCM / District Committee Member-Rick (attended in person)

- June 3rd there was a special Zoom meeting with the area chair to approve a new treasurer for Area 40. The person approved was formerly the alternate Webmaster so now Area is now looking for someone to fill that role. Get a hold of Alex, the Webmaster, if you or someone you know are interested in being considered for the Alternate Webmaster service position. His email is on the Area 40 website.
- July 9th- Unity and Service conference being held on Zoom. This requires pre-registration.
- Delegate report-Connie R. will come and give a report on what went on in the General Service Conference in New York. We need to pick a date (*see old business*).
- Rick will be going out to visit as many meetings in the District that he can, so if your group has any special meetings you'd like him to attend, let him know!

7. Old Business

- **Set Date for Delegate's Report-** Rick contacted Connie and our options were either before the July district meeting or before the August one. Discussion followed, Meghan mentioned we may not want to have this event so close to the other District event happening July 11th. Most people who shared preferred the August date. Took a sense of the group and decided on August 28th before the District Meeting for the Area Delegate's Report.
- Review/Discuss / Vote on motion drafted by HOW Group
 - i. *Quorum-21 voting members in attendance*
 - ii. *Jennifer's group wondered whether we could add the option for digital copies as well.*
 - iii. *Rick pointed out that the purpose of this motion was to have physical copies available to the still suffering alcoholic. That's hard to do with a digital copy.*
 - iv. *Gail called for question*
 - v. *Rick re-read the motion and called for a vote*
21 in favor, HOW group motion passes unanimously!
- **GSRs: What does your group suggest we do with the excess money District 72 currently has in its coffers?** Discussion followed with some ideas from the groups. No motions were put forward.
- Newcomer workshops
- Expanding Special Events budget
- Wednesday Noon meeting discussed giving money to PI for more outreach
- Catherine (as a Fellowship Hall board member): Just FYI-Fellowship hall is looking to provide infrastructure for hybrid meetings. They have had a generous donor offer to help pay for the upgrades needed and will have all rooms capable of hybrid meetings. The Fellowship Hall Board meets the 2nd Thursday of every month.

- Women's Serenity Group discussed newcomer packets that they put together and distribute in their group.
- 6th Chapter Group discussed buying Big Books to just give out to jails and newcomers-*note: books to the jails is what the Pink Can fund is for.*
- It was verified with the treasurer that we currently have \$2974.35 above our prudent reserve-*the motion we passed today will potentially bring it down to \$2500*
- Suggestion from Rick: We could push scholarships to district chairs or GSRs to attend Area Assembly

New Business:

Discussion to share group experiences with hybrid meetings-what's going well? What are the challenges?

High quality mics are vital.

Brian-Big Sky has been doing hybrid from the beginning. They run it off a laptop, sometimes just a phone. Biggest issue they've had is internet quality. They have some good mics.

Joe-Vennis has been doing it well. Whoever gets there logs in to Zoom, use a phone and pass it around the room, people keep coming back.

Jennifer set up the hybrid meetings for the Women's Serenity Group and it was simple and effective. She offered to send information to anyone with questions to show what she did.

Catherine-what are the design concepts that need to be considered when setting up hybrid meetings? Can we have a district committee to provide recommendations to groups on how to do a hybrid meeting? (this was not really discussed)

9. Closed with Responsibility Pledge

Next district meeting Saturday, July 31 @ 5:00 – 7:00pm at Fellowship Hall and on Zoom