

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

January 29, 2021

5pm-7pm

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and via Zoom
11 online attendees 18 in person attendees

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."- Betty M.

2. Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions- Lila

3. Reading of Concept One: Catherine

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

4. Establish quorum- 22 voting members

5. **Approved December 2021 meeting minutes-** Savannah moved to approve minutes. No dissenting opinions. Motion passes.

6. Introductions/Attendance:

Visitors (attended online): Amy
(attended in person): Bradley

GSRs and reports:

Stephen (attended online) **Sunday Night Hospital Group** (Bozeman)- 6pm Sundays on Zoom, going through the 12x12

Gail (attended online) **Wednesday Noon Group** (Bozeman)-Having about 10-12 people in person, hybrid meetings, varying from no people online to about 5. Wear masks in person. Everything's going well.

Pat (attended in person) **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman)- Meet 4 times a week, all meetings are both in person and on Zoom (not hybrid), Monday Book Study at 7pm, Thursday discussion meeting at 7pm, Saturday discussion meeting at 8:30am, Sunday speaker meeting at 7:30pm (in person only), Sunday discussion meeting at 7:30pm (online only), business meetings are hybrid meetings.

Katie (attended in person) **Tuesday at 8pm** (Bozeman)- meeting on Zoom and in person (not hybrid, but happening concurrently)

Karon (attended online) **Women's Pink Cloud** (Bozeman) Wednesdays at 6pm, Steps and Traditions, last Wednesday of the month is hybrid. Continuing a review about a group inventory they completed and excited to participate in the Archives group history project.

Heather (attended in person) **Early Risers** (Bozeman) 11th step meditation meeting, hybrid group, grateful to have some awesome equipment that they share with other groups. Attendance is about 12 in person and 8 on Zoom.

Aaron (attended online) **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) Attendance is going down a little bit. Monday/Wednesday at 8pm, hybrid on Wednesday night. February 12th speaker event at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman 4pm-8:30pm.

Lila (attended in person) **Bozeman Young People's** (Bozeman) Doing a group inventory in February. Attendance is good.

Dennis (attended online) **Friday Men's Noon Meeting** (Bozeman) 1st Baptist church, attendance is up

Joe (attended online) **Vennis over the Hill** (Virginia City and Ennis)- Monday and Friday are hybrid, Wednesday in Jeffers is doing well, Sunday meeting in VC. Everything's doing good, come visit!

Jerry (in person) **Stacey's Alumni Group** (Gallatin Gateway) Friday Stacey's Group, 12 members at 7pm. Meets in the basement, topic discussion group.

Jennifer (in person) **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman)- Tuesday noon 12x12, last Friday is birthday meeting, had a training for cost-share people involved in using the hybrid technology so they could be sure they were splitting the costs accurately

Kietra (online) **There is a Solution** (Bozeman) 5-15 in person, Zoom is 27-35, lots of newcomers. Saturday is Book Study, Sundays are a speaker meeting.

Sarah (online) **Livingston Women's Noon** (Livingston) Doing well, had a few visitors come through, 10-15 people per meeting

Reyes (in person) **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman) recently had a new orientation for service positions within their group. Made some contributions to the AA service structure.

Jeff (attended in person) **Big Sky Group** (Big Sky) meets 3 days a week in the Big Sky Chapel. Have a lot of visitors probably 10-12 regulars. Recently elected new members to new service positions.

Leah (attended in person) **6th Chapter Group** (Bozeman) 11am meeting on Sunday is hybrid now. Successfully able to use the equipment that different groups are sharing.

7. Committee Reports

Treasurer-Leah T. (attended in person)

- Huge month for group contributions, over \$2000
- GSO address changed, please see the Treasurer's report for current address
- Also got some good contributions to Pink Can
- Updates to the Treasurer's Report spreadsheet-added bank account balance

Answering Service- Gillian (attended online)

- Had about 7 phone calls altogether this month. We have 2 people who are reliably answering calls now and are completely available when they receive calls.
- If someone does not answer, the answering service contacts the Area chair who then texts Gillian directly. Gillian has several people she can call to get in touch with that person so the system has been working very effectively.

Archives- Catherine (attended online)

- Been in touch with the Archivist and he does a workshop with GSRs or other group members. Catherine is trying to gauge interest in whether anyone would be interested in a workshop. Please contact Catherine if you are willing to learn more
- Rick suggested maybe working with the Special Events chair to plan a District sponsored Archives workshop.

Bridging the Gap- Phil (attended in person)

- 2 requests through the detention center before it shut down due to Covid. It is reopening next week.

CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community- Neil (attended in person)

- There were anonymity concerns about Treatment Court and verifying attendance at online meetings, people thought they had to use their personal e-mail addresses to verify. There is a suggestion that groups can choose to create an e-mail address specifically for their group so no individual has to use a personal one to communicate about attendance at meetings with the Treatment Court. If you are verifying someone's attendance at an online meeting for Treatment Court, you can send an e-mail from your group address to Erik.Peterson@mt.gov It's important to make sure we keep the lines of communication open to Treatment Court so members of Treatment Court can continue to attend meetings

Corrections- Chris (attended in person)

- Quite a few volunteers came through but then the jail was shut down due to staffing and Covid. Corrections would like to use the P.O. Box for correspondence with inmates. Chris is asking whether that would be okay (Leah and Chris and Rick will talk about this, but it should be fine).
- Established a corrections cabinet at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman to keep a back stock of literature in order to provide that for people when the jails shut down, also to keep the mail if they do get the letter writing going.
- Prison meetings are still happening. Need more men volunteers, contact Chris if you are interested or get the application from the district 72 mini-site.
- Pre-release center (Pat shared) 7pm on Wednesdays, have to be a certified volunteer so you have to go through an orientation before you can attend. 4-5 AA members have been regularly attending.

Grapevine-Angie (not in attendance)

- No report

Literature- Chrissan (not in attendance)

- No report

Public Information-Sarah (not in attendance)

- Great success with the holiday ads, ran in 10 periodicals
- Chris wanted to know how many schedules we are printing, over the holidays we printed 500, for January we printed 250 because she had some leftover.

Special Events-Savannah (attended in person)

- Nothing to report this month
- Will be in touch with Catherine to help with Archives event

Treatment-Alex (attended in person)

- Things at MCDC are going well, last month was hard to round up women (maybe because there was a women's retreat that weekend?)
- Need updated schedules up there
- Making flyers so groups can have information to share about MCDC

Alt. DCM-Betty (attended in person)

- If any GSRs would like Betty to attend any specific meeting of theirs, she'd love to come. Please just let

her know.

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

- Helena-Pockets of Enthusiasm will be held virtually, March 18th and 19th
- Area 40 Spring Assembly April 8th, 9th, 10th, live in person in Great Falls, no information currently whether it's hybrid. Discount code for Holiday Inn is "AA4" Sunday March 20th virtual pre-assembly 1pm-5pm to go over agenda items at the WCRAASC
- Area 40 Roundup May 13th and 14th
- All can be found on Area 40 website <https://www.aa-montana.org/calendar.php>
- West Central Regional AA Service Conference 4th, 5th, 6th in Minneapolis, MN. Anyone attending and interesting in performing service at the conference
- From GSO: new AA website, should be easier to navigate. There has been a supply chain issue and unable to get hardcover big books, will be back in stock in February
- 7th annual Unity and Service conference will be held in July, it's in CA. If anyone is interested Rick will forward the e-mail
- June 10th, 11th, 12th in Missoula there's the WACYPA (Young People's Conference)

7. Old Business

- None

8. New Business

- a. We need to elect a District Roundup Chair for the Fall 2023 Roundup. Please take the description back to your groups. We will hold elections for that position next month. Anyone interested in standing for the position should plan on attending the February District 72 Business Meeting
- b. Hybrid meeting tech alternatives for District 72-Bradley will be stepping down after the March meeting.
 - i. Cost \$500 to get Women's Serenity Group technology-Jennifer will find out more about what exactly the equipment is
 - ii. Reyes currently has all of the equipment that we may need if we do want to use it
 - iii. The equipment we are currently renting from Bradley would cost between \$1500-\$1600 to buy new
 - iv. Reyes and Jennifer will come back next month with more information about what options they have. We will also discuss any additional ideas groups might have about how to conduct hybrid meetings next month.
- c. Stephen wanted to suggest potentially shortening or shifting the meeting time earlier
 - i. Discussion followed, Catherine mentioned that if we decide to do this, we need to amend the agreement with the hall to 4pm-7pm (unsure whether our current agreement runs 4:30pm-7pm or something different)
 - ii. Dennis chimed in-historically what has happened is that the District runs into conflict when there are extracurricular activities at the hall. If we moved to 4:30pm-6:30pm we wouldn't run into conflict with Friends of Bill W. when they have events
 - iii. Dennis made a motion to amend the District Meeting time to 4:30pm-6:30pm instead of 5pm-7pm, Gail seconded. Voted-2 no (Minority opinion-some people are unable to come at that time) Motion passes.
 - iv. Motion made by Jeff to make this effective March meeting, Reyes seconded. Motion passes unanimously

- v. Could potentially be a challenge for Answering Service and PI chairs to attend the meetings if we change them. It's possible they may need to step down if it runs into conflict with work schedules
- d. Friday night's Stacey's Alumni's Group had discussions about some changes and decisions made at the General Service Conference. Their group conscience is to not contribute to GSO because they don't agree with some things that were decided. They are looking for information on what exactly the 5th Edition of the Big Book will include as far as changes.
 - i. Proposed developments and potential changes to the Big Book
 - ii. Plain english translation is proposed-this is a translation in order to make the big book more accessible and not a new edition
 - iii. Area 40 Literature chair may be best to talk to about any changes
literature@aa-montana.org
 - iv. It is the group's understanding that all literature must be conference approved and is copyrighted. The group contributes money to G.S.O. and what they do with that is in accordance with what the groups want, Stacey's group wants some clarity about who is in charge of purchasing the literature and disseminating that to the groups. Group wants clarity on what and who is approving the literature. They would also like to see specifics about who is paid at the G.S.O. level, what their position is, and what their salary is
 - v. Pre assembly and Area assembly is where groups have the opportunity to weigh in on some of these items that the Stacey's group is currently concerned about. All of the areas of concern are topics that have been in discussion for several years and have come up at every pre assembly and assembly during that time.
 - vi. For some context, last years General Service Conference had about 1300 pages of information to review that was discussed, the section concerning literature alone was at least 400, at Area Assembly each GSR had the opportunity to participate in the literature and Grapevine groups to voice their opinions about any changes being made to the Big Book or any other conference approved literature.
 - vii. Rick will follow up with the delegate about whether there will be another discussion about any of these things before final publication

Some resources:

- <https://www.aa.org/quarterly-reports-from-gso>
- <https://ct-aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Area-11-Spring-Assembly-Presentation-May-2021-English-PDF.pdf>
- <https://www.aa.org/box-459>

9. Closed with Responsibility Pledge

Next district meeting Saturday, February 26 @ 5pm – 7pm at Bozeman Fellowship Hall and on Zoom