

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting
March 25, 2023
4:30pm-6:30pm
Hybrid meeting held in person at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and via Zoom

1. **Opened with the serenity prayer:** Lenore M.
2. **Read the District 72 Safety Statement:** Lenore M.
3. **Raise your hand if you are a voting member for District 72** (district officers, district committee chairs, GSRs, and Alt GSRs - only if your group's GSR is not here)
 - *Explain quorum process: we need $\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members present at the beginning of the meeting still in the room when we get to any voting items on the agenda in order to be able to vote at all.*
 - Quorum: In Person - 9
Zoom - 18
Quorum - 27
4. **Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions:** Ashley H.
5. **Reading of Concept Three:** Lenore M.

“To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. — the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives — with a traditional “Right of Decision.””

6. **Questions about last month's minutes? Can I have a motion to approve the February 2023 minutes? (meeting held 2/25/2023)** Motion 1st & 2nd.

Motion to accept: passed

7. **Introductions of GSRs & Visitors:**

Melinda W, **Tuesday @ 8pm Group** (Bozeman) - now meeting at St. James Church Education Center, 111 S Tracy. We have new people showing up.

Lila H, **Bozeman Young People's Group** (Bozeman) - will vote on a facilitator soon for our group inventory, having good discussions.

Kristi D, **6th Chapter** (Bozeman) - attendance is steady, getting new members.

Bob C, **Belgrade Common Solution** (Belgrade) - pleased the group is growing.

Megan P, **Pink Cloud** (Bozeman) - hybrid meeting, lower #'s 3-10 in person, 4-12 on Zoom.

Celia H, **On Awakening** (Bozeman) - Zoom only, 6-10 people attending.

Kietra N, **There is a Solution** (Bozeman) - in person Mon-Sat, attendance 10-15.
Zoom only 7 days a week averaging 25-30 people.

Nicki , **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman) - Alt GSR - Our GSR has stepped down and currently looking for a new one. Meeting attendance is good 40-60 on average.
In the process of a group conscience.

Jennifer M, **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman) - has stepped down as GSR but transitional, no new GSR at this point.

Ellen C, **Livingston Friday Noon Women's Group** (Livingston) - group is growing, young blood, strong group.

Catherine J, **Hospital Group** (Bozeman) - still on Zoom, lots of people attending from all over.

Susan H, **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman) - settling into new home, attendance is good, will be holding a group conscience to review Assembly items next Tuesday.

Ashley H, **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) - meet Mon & Wed @ Pilgrim Congregational Church, attendance 12-24, book study.

Maurice W, **Friday Noon Men's Group** (Bozeman) - averaging 20-24 people.

Connie **The Fellowship Group** (Bozeman) - meet Thurs. PM, lots of participation.

Joe D, **Venice Over The Hill Group** (Ennis) Alt GSR – gained a few new people in the winter, have a handful of new people, we celebrated lots of birthdays.

Kendall, **Not a Glum Lot** (Bozeman) - meet 7 days a week @ 9pm on Zoom, Thursday is Big Book Study.

Mike J, **Joy of Living** (Three Forks) - meet Tues & Sat, average around 16 people.

David W, **Early Risers** (Bozeman) - hybrid meeting, average 16-24 people, attending Assembly.

Deborah KR, **Great Fact Group** (Bozeman) - Hybrid meeting Thursday @ 7pm.

Jerry D, **Stacy Alumni Group** (Gallatin Gateway) - Steady attendance, over 20 on Fridays.

Visitors: Rick H, Dan, Jill, Doreen M. (Alt GSR), Rebekah P. (Alt GSR)

8. Introductions and Committee Reports:

(Reminder to send any reports or information to district72.secretary@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Meghan R. -

- *(see email attachment for March 2023 budget report, or on Area 40 website: Area Committee, District Mini Sites, District 72 - Bozeman, Documents, 2023 Treasures Report, after meeting minutes are posted)*
- Reviewed report finances, income & expenses
- The Finance Committee will be meeting in April (first ¼ of the year) to check District 72 books and how treasurer duties are being carried out.
- DCM expenses still to come in after the upcoming Area 40 Assembly.

Answering Service: Emily Y. -

- Met with Area 40 Answering Service Chair and sent a report.
- We are a busy district, in February we had 27 calls (14 in our district), a few missed calls but all returned within 24 hours.
- I want to say thank you to all our volunteers for helping!

Archives: Gail M. -

- I received the keys to the Archives cabinets at the Fellowship Hall.
- I still do not have all of the materials, but I am hoping to get the contact information for the committee members and to have a meeting within the next 10 days..
- Savannah from the Fall Round-up committee contacted me to ask if we would make a display for the Round-up in October. So I, or we will get that done and it will be at the Round-up.

Thank you for letting me serve,
Gail

CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community): Karon K. -

- Committee members commented on the draft needs assessment document which we'll use to interview key contacts in various fields. Doreen M. has made initial contacts to Behavioral Health at Bozeman Deaconess and Big Sky but none have been interviewed yet.
- We will be updating the database of contacts in various professional fields. It hasn't been updated since 2020 and many position changes have taken place since then. Eleanor W.

mentioned that a group in Livingston is compiling a list of mental health professional organizations that can be used to update the database, and Nora D. will begin updating the medical section of the database.

- We discussed scripting a presentation that can be used as a “dry run” to primary care physicians in Livingston—getting on the agenda of one of their regular meetings. We’ll investigate what material from past committee work and from AA GSO can be used for that. Katie M. passed on a large box of CPC materials from past years and Karon is reviewing for relevant materials for our work.
- Karon is attending PI Committee meetings to be informed about their activities, eliminate or reduce any possible duplication of efforts and be aware of any opportunities for collaboration.
- We had a lengthy conversation about Item D on the GSC agenda for the upcoming spring assembly. Kacie, our area delegate has specifically asked for input from districts on Item D. Consider retiring the pamphlet “A Member’s Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous.” Several members of the committee liked the pamphlet, thought it was an accurate reflection as a member of AA but admitted it might be too long to be used for CPC outreach. From the WCRAASC and Pre-Assembly there were comments about the usefulness of the pamphlet in AA study groups. Nevertheless, it might not be as effective now for use in CPC work. We discussed some alternatives to strict retirement/archiving of the document. These questions seem pertinent:
 - Has the pamphlet been reviewed by non-alcoholic professionals, the targeted user communities? What, if any, are their comments on the pamphlet?
 - What are the alternatives to retiring? Is there an option for the pamphlet to remain accessible in pdf form but not printed or included in CPC workbook as recommended literature?
 - We did not recommend editing the current document. Instead, can a new pamphlet be developed, perhaps with excerpts from this one? Can a development process be used similar to what’s being used to develop a pamphlet of mental health professionals as described in Item C of the agenda? That process includes interviewing non-alcoholic professionals to better understand what is most useful to them, in other words, is it outward facing?
- I will not be able to attend the spring assembly so ask that Betty M who serves as the District 72 liaison to the Area 40 CPC committee pass on our comments, questions and suggestions. Thanks to committee members* (Bozeman unless otherwise indicated):
Bob E. – Ennis/Virginia City
Dennis S.
Doreen M.
Eleanor W. – Livingston
Neil B.
Nora D.
Sarah H.
Sharon S.
Sue W.

* Efforts to reach out to contacts in West Yellowstone have not yet yielded a committee member from there. Betty M. is our liaison to the Area 40 CPC committee and Lisa C. serves as an advisor
Thanks for entrusting me to serve,
Karon

Grapevine/Structure: Savannah D. -

- I've updated the bulletin board at the Fellowship Hall
- Talked with Corrections Chairs about taking subscriptions into the jail and treatment centers. Where will the money for the subscriptions come from? Will talk to CPC and PI Chairs also.

Literature: Amy K. -

- Only sold a few things, it's been a quiet month.
- Large print Big Books are popular.
- Contacted about having a Literature table at the 2023 Fall Roundup. Have lots of questions: order special items or use what's on hand, cash box, people to help run the table?
- Suggested to contact the Roundup Literature Chair for guidance.

PI (Public Information): Katie M. -

- Committee updates:
 - We gained two new committee members this month, yay! We now have a member who lives in Livingston and is going to begin delivering schedules to Park County locations. (double yay!!)
 - Next committee meeting is Tuesday 4/25 at 5:45pm at the hall or on zoom. GSR's - please announce! The committee is open to everyone!
- We ordered 700 schedules this month. They are in the drawer for GSR's to take.
- The committee delivered schedules to 25 locations and mailed schedules to 7 groups in our district.
- Schedule updates:
 - The committee voted to add "www" in front of the web address on the schedule
 - The committee noticed the schedule says "Full listing of online and in person meetings", this will be changed. We will add "hybrid" to the meeting schedule key + denote which meetings are hybrid.
- The newspaper
 - Just this week we realized that the Bozeman Chronicle is running a free ad for AA. I was unaware of this. I am fairly certain this falls under PI, but I have no idea who put the ad there or how long it has been there. I will do some research over the coming month and make sure if I am supposed to be in charge of this that I get it sorted. If anyone has any info on the mystery ad please let me know!
- Warming Center
 - In February I reported that we were asked if an AA member could share their story at the center's recovery meeting, which is not an AA meeting.
 - This month we have organized how to do this.
 - We met with the Warming Center staff to understand what they needed.
 - We formed a sub-committee + are working to find volunteers.
 - We have made an orientation for all volunteers. We feel that speaking at a non-AA event requires an orientation as it is not a common service commitment.
 - The meetings are the 1st + 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon.
 - We will have flyers for GSR's next month, but would like to ask all GSR's to announce this at their homegroups please! Direct anyone interested to me, my number is on the meeting schedule.
- New Business?
 - Should we add Bradley/ Technology chair on the meeting schedule?
 - What should it say? 'Technology' or 'Technology Chair'?

Special Events: Gillian S. -

- Dear District 72,

Regretfully, I am writing to resign from my position as Special Events Chair for District 72. As some of you know, I have had health issues over the past few months. This week, I was sternly cautioned by my doctors to really take it easy until my next surgery in the summer.

I am so sorry to do this. I had recently been feeling much better and had begun to put together some thoughts for events that might be enjoyable for our sober community here - a Founder's Day picnic in the summer, a Gratitude Dinner in November, Back to Basics workshops etc. However, I feel I must pay attention to the instructions I've been given and step down from this position. I'll be happy to talk to the next chair about these ideas.

I also want to make amends to the group: at the end of last year, as Answering Service chair, I feel I wasn't as diligent in attending District Meetings as I could have been. While any calls coming in were *always* answered and passed on to volunteers, I missed a couple of meetings and for that I apologize.

I wish everyone in service positions in District 72 the very best for this rotation. Alcoholics Anonymous and my sobriety are the most important things in my life and I am grateful to each and every one of you for doing what is necessary to keep AA alive and well in Park & Gallatin counties. I look forward to serving with you again.

Gillian Swanson

Bridging the Gap: Tony B. -

- Only 2 requests in District 72 this month. Did receive a call for an alcohol related incident in the Butte area. Helped get them connected with BTG in that area.
- Have 10-20 male & female volunteers
- Save the date: Bridging the Gap Outreach Workshop,
Shelby MT, Saturday May 16, 2023 @ 12pm
(see email attachment for flyer)

Corrections: Jennifer M. -

- MSP - Next orientation is in July, Gary E. will have applications @ Area 40 Assembly
- GCD - Women's meeting 1st Saturday of the month @ 7pm, next orientation is May 11
- Want to highlight the importance of the Pink Can contributions from groups.

Treatment: Chris O. -

- MCDC went well this month
- Volunteers - always picking up new people but can always use more

Roundup Chair: Bruce W. - (absent- report emailed in)

- Roundup posters are on the bench in the av room at the hall.
Most information is on there but here is more:
 - Plug the QR code as that is the easiest doorway to the site.
 - The Fall Roundup will be Oct. 27-29th at the Grantree Inn Best Western, Bozeman MT.
 - 1800-685-8353, or 406-203-4874
 - Room Block Rates are 139. plus tax Under AA convention
 - The Speakers for the event are Sterling for Sunday Spiritual AA
Astrid for the Main speaker

- The Alanon Speakers are on the poster. I do not have the names in front of me.
- The Theme of the event is "WE ARE NOT SAINTS"
- This will be heavy in the 6th and 7th step concept
- The idea of the masks we live in
Or Our ignorance that needs to be revealed
- There will be panels
- Old timers longer version meeting. More on the challenges of our program today.
- We will be having a Masquerade Ball on Friday night
- We will have contest and snacks
- There will also be a halloween party on Saturday Night at the Fellowship hall
- We will be having a 50/50 raffle and prize raffle.
- We are looking to have a silent auction and also a live auction for a couple of items.
Some of the items are:
2nd edition first print big book value \$200
1st edition 1947 Big book Valued at \$750
The Big one for auction is a Signed with personal inscription from Bill W in a clean 1969
2nd edition big book. This will be a live auction and has significant value.
- Other items like electronics and donations will make up the other raffle and auction items.
- The cost for early registration is \$40 up until July, Then it will be \$45 after that.
- The food for dinner is 27\$ this includes tip and is a Italy buffet types of pasta and bread
- Breakfast will also be buffet and will be 17\$ tip included
- We anticipate that this event will sell out we are limited in capacity to about 450 people
- We have Many scholarships available for folks that cannot afford registration.
- We will have child care available

This is all I can think of at the moment.

Regards, Bruce W.

- Still in need of volunteers to chair a few committees

Technology: Bradley G. -

- Committee has had its 1st meeting, lots to do....how can we be useful to the district?
- Flushing out possibilities, and looking at hardware purchases
- Immediate business motion to follow

Alt. DCM: Lenore M. -

- Not much to report but will be bringing information soon about District 72 Guidelines.

DCM: Betty M. -

- Hi everybody! My name is Betty & I'm an alcoholic. March was an incredibly busy month for me. I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Omaha earlier this month, Pre-Assembly the following weekend, and will be attending Spring Assembly in person next weekend. BTW, Pat P (formerly of Bozeman) has a room at the hotel and would be happy to share his room if someone needs it. Susan H is also offering to drive and share a room with another woman. Call/text me at 406-600-9595, or just put a chat on Zoom if you need contact information for them.

Let me tell you a little about the West Central Regional AA Service Conference.

There were 442 people attending from all levels of the AA service structure... GSRs, DCMs, some alternates, Delegates, current and former Regional Trustees from the 7 states that make up our Region - a pretty diverse group.

The event flyer said that the purpose of the Conference was "to develop greater unity among members, groups and areas of the WCR, to encourage the exchange of ideas & experiences... That Recovery, Unity and Service should always be the primary purpose of the conference. Our agenda listed the items to be presented at the General Service Conference in New York next month. Attending this event felt like an important responsibility.

The conference was very much like AA Assemblies I've attended. The agenda items were read, some clarification provided, people were invited to share questions, thoughts and concerns. There was much talk of how each speaker felt that our AA traditions and Service Concepts should be applied to the agenda item. The group listened.

As we discussed the items, it was apparent where a big concern lay. Money! We have a number of pamphlets to be updated or retired, we are working on a Common English Language translation of the 4th Edition of our Big Book, as well as a 5th Edition of the Big Book which retains the wording of the original and subsequent editions and includes some updated stories.

When the conference group got sidetracked by a non-agenda item that was generating a lot of emotion, our Delegate, Kacie N, spoke kindly & powerfully to us. She asked us to please keep our focus on the agenda items that would be discussed at the General Service Conference, so that the voting members could begin to discern the group conscience of the West Central Region. The feelings left the room; people settled down. This was a great opportunity to observe how and why AA continues functioning as an international community without a single leader. We don't always agree, and that's OK. We are grateful, passionate people who care deeply about doing the next right thing for AA as a whole, and are committed to doing our very best to help newcomers find the fellowship and recovery they seek in our rooms. Even in disagreement, we put the unity of AA above all.

Around St. Patrick's day, Kacie attended a special meeting of the Delegates & Trustees, Trustees Emeritus, GSO staff and a French interpreter at which concerns surrounding the resignation in January of Justice Linda Chezem, Class A Trustee and GSB Chair was discussed. The Trustees were able to satisfy the other attendees that the Service Concepts & Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous were followed to the best of everyone's ability but the process was complicated by the fact that the resigning Trustee was also the Chairman of the General Service Board. We did not have the mechanisms in place to address conflict like this when it involves the Board Chair. Joanne sent an email to you on March 19th, with more information. Please email/call/text if you would like this information to be resent to you.

Finally, I'm looking forward to attending Spring Assembly, and seeing you at our District 72 table! Hope you can join us for lunch on Saturday; it was fun last year...

Many thanks for your service, and for allowing me to do mine. 😊

Betty M, DCM, D72

By the time I left, I came to see why the Area service conference is so valuable.

- **Discussion:** the need to continue renting technology equipment, newly formed technology committee is still working on recommendations.
- **Motion:** District 72 continues to rent technology equipment through June 2023 at the cost of \$75 X 3 months = \$225 total.
Passed: Yes - 28, No - 0

10. Old Business -

- **Discuss having a potluck or pizza at district meetings – Savannah D.**
Motion: People give \$3 to \$5 for pizza wanting food and fellowship at district meetings. Discussion included how much pizza will be ordered, who will pay, will the district chip in funds, will it cause disruption during the meeting, is this district business.
Motion to table until next month’s district meeting:
Passed: Yes - 22, No - 0

11. New Business:

- **Elect (or bring back to your home groups for next District meeting) a new Special Events committee chair**
Job Description: *Special Events Committee Chairperson: plans and coordinates four special events a year for the district (these should be service functions, e.g. workshops, panel discussions, District Day); finds locations for these events, asks speakers or guests, arranges for expenses, organizes and plans activities; is available to serve on committees for area or regional events held in the district; reports to the district at regular meetings up-coming events and activities being planned by the committee; provides the PI Committee with fliers for upcoming events in District 72 for posting to the District 72 page of the Area 40 website.*

Savannah D. nominated Lila H. - respectfully declined since holds GSR position.
Catherine J. offered to help whoever takes the position.

Motion to adjourn @ 6:32pm

12. Responsibility Pledge

*“I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of
A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.”*

**Next district meeting Saturday, April 29th @ 4:30pm – 6:30pm
at Bozeman Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.
See Area website for happenings in our District and the rest of Area 40
as well as current District information:
AA-Montana.org**