

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

April 29, 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 - 19
Zoom - 6
Quorum - 25
4. **Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions:** Bradley G.
5. **Reading of Concept Four:** Lenore M.

“Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”

6. **Questions about last month's minutes? Can I have a motion to approve the March 2023 minutes? (meeting held 3/25/2023)** Motion 1st & 2nd.

Motion to accept: passed

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

Melinda W, **Tuesday @ 8pm Group** (Bozeman) - now meeting at the Education Center, behind St. James Church, 111 S Tracy. We have new people showing up.
Business meeting held 1st Tues. @ 9pm.

Lila H, **Bozeman Young People's Group** (Bozeman) - small group but good time, new faces,
business meeting 1st Tues. @ 8:15pm.

Bob C, **Belgrade Common Solution** (Belgrade) - meet at Peace Lutheran Church, good
attendance. Business meeting held 2nd Sunday @ 5pm.

Megan P, **Pink Cloud** (Bozeman) - hybrid meeting, business meeting held 2nd Wed. after meeting.

Roslyn, **On Awakening** (Bozeman) - Alt. GSR - Zoom only,
business meeting held last Tues. after meeting.

Kietra N, **There is a Solution** (Bozeman) - meetings 7am x 7 days a week
(Mon-Sat in-person, Sun-Sat Zoom, Saturday is hybrid)
Business meeting held 1st Mon. @ 8am on Zoom.

Jennifer M, **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman) - Alt. GSR, business meeting held
2nd Tuesday of the month @ 11am.

Aimee B, **Third Step Meeting** (Livingston) - GSR - this is the group's first time at D72 meeting.
Business meeting held 1st Sat. after the meeting.

Catherine J, **Hospital Group** (Bozeman) - still on Zoom, business meeting 1st Sun. after meeting.

Ashley H, **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) - meet Mon & Wed @ Pilgrim Congregational Church 8pm,
Business meeting held 3rd Wed.

Matt S, **Venice Over The Hill Group** (Ennis) - meet Mon & Wed @ 7:30pm,
business meeting held 3rd Mon.

Gail M, **Wednesday Noon Group** (Bozeman) - Business meeting held 2nd Wed after meeting.

Doreen Mc, **6th Chapter Group** (Bozeman) - Alt GSR - business meeting held 2nd Sun. @ 9:50pm.

Susan H, **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman) -

H.O.W. Group has settled in nicely at the Hall, and brings in 15-25 attendees for their M, Th & Sat meetings. I would like to remind the fellowship we have a Sunday night Speaker Meeting @ 7pm, and would love for more support for speakers - no pressure meeting - just come and hear the experience, strength, and hope of a fellow traveler! Our business meeting is held 2nd Thurs @ 8:15pm.

H.O.W. Group will be joining efforts with Dist. 8 AIAnon for a Soup & Bread Luncheon Panel/Workshop on Relationships in Recovery. This event is being planned and will take place somewhere at the end of June. A flyer and more details to come soon.

I will be stepping down at the end of May from the GSR role for H.O.W. Group, I will be relocating to Ennis and hope to join local fellowship there. Although, I hope to see some of you on the Broad Highway as she will still reside in D72.

Thank you for letting me serve,
Susan H.

Visitors: Erica (Alt GSR), Rebekah P. (Alt GSR), Jeff (River Rock Meeting, Belgrade), Justin (Ennis), Austin (helping out tech), Sharon S.

8. Introductions and Committee Reports:

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

Treasurer: Meghan R. -

- (see email attachment for April 2023 budget report, or on Area 40 in District Mini Sites)
- Expenses were high - Assembly expenses for DCM, PO Box fee for the year, Technology equipment for Jan, Feb. & March.
- Questions about bank account balance

Answering Service: Emily Y. -

- We had 10 calls for the month of March.
- We only had 2 missed calls in April. Both answered quickly.
- Thanks to Ashley and John as well as the rest of the volunteers.

Archives: Gail M. -

- Reaching out to committee members to set up a meeting.
- Working on Archives display for the Fall Roundup.

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

- We've been in contact with Jeanne C, the counterpart CPC chair in AI-Anon, to explore opportunities for collaboration. We discussed the possibility of working jointly on a database of community contacts that would serve both AA's and AI-Anon's outreach initiatives, many of which we put on together. Currently, CPC and PI committees have developed a spreadsheet of contacts that we are updating. If all members of the committee approve, we'll ask Jeanne to join our committee to help with information sharing and collaborative planning.

- Jeanne and I attended a symposium at MSU on "Mental Health Resources and Research " and made some valuable contacts with presenters on the program. One was Dr. Sise, founder of 406Recovery, a nonprofit provider of mental health services based in Montana, focused on Montanans. It is dedicated to lowering barriers to care and expanding treatment for individuals who are struggling with substance use and co-occurring behavioral health concerns. They are launching a partnership with Rimrock for educational events. During his presentation he mentioned that in his experience individuals with substance abuse disorder are amazed in the medical community and some medical professionals will not treat addicts. It was heartening to hear him say that in general abuse is one of the easiest to treat and the important role 12-step programs like AA and NA play in returning these individuals to useful lives. I followed up with an email to him for his thoughts on what programs or personal contacts are likely to attract and have a positive impact or influence in reducing the stigma among medical professionals.
- Since there have been so many staffing changes at Bozeman Health and other health and mental health organizations, we discussed the need to rebuild professional contacts. Members of the committee have made targeted efforts to do that and conduct the needs assessment we've reported on the last 2 months. We are learning that email contact and presentations at staff meetings may be the most effective way to reach professionals in the medical field; their time is so strictly controlled mostly by insurance and hospital policies and regulation for accountability.
- District 61 is hosting a Treatment-Corrections Workshop in Helena May 13. We're seeking committee member volunteers to attend to get some ideas on doing something similar here.
- Several members will be following up to conduct needs assessment with contacts at Alcohol and Drug Services, Southwest Chemical Dependency Program, Gallatin County Interfaith Association, and a mental health advisory council in Livingston. We'll also research opportunities to speak or provide literature at professional meetings.

Grapevine/Structure: Savannah D. -

- Looking to buy subscriptions for treatment and corrections out the Pink Can money.
- Keeping our board at the Hall flush.
- Had a great time at Area and learned a lot.
- I would like to encourage GSR to get subscriptions if they don't already have one.
- And reach out to me if you have a question!:))

Literature: Amy K. -

- Slow month.
- GSRs please have your group check pamphlets supply. They are inexpensive, about \$.20 each, and a great way to spread the word, especially newcomers.

PI (Public Information): Katie M. -

- We ordered 800 schedules this month. They are in the drawer for GSR's to take.
- The committee delivered schedules to 35 locations (10 more than last month). We mailed schedules to 7 groups in our district. We have now delivered to 5 locations in Livingston.
- Our goal for this month is to contact jails + hospitals in West Yellowstone, Ennis/Virginia City, Three Forks, Belgrade, Big Sky, and Clyde Park to see if they would like us to mail schedules to them. If you are going to any of these towns and want to help us deliver schedules please contact me, we would love the help!

- Warming Center
 - The meetings are the 1st + 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon.
 - This is not an open meeting. It is a service commitment only.
 - We have made an orientation packet for all volunteers.
 - We have flyers for GSRs
- Removing the technology chair issue from the agenda
 - The committee voted to use just the word “technology”
- Next committee meeting is Saturday 5/27 at 3:15pm at the hall or on zoom.
 - GSRs - please announce! The committee is open to everyone!

Special Events: No report

Bridging the Gap: Tony B. -

- 3 requests in District 72 this month. Have 10-20 male & female volunteers
- Next weekend I will be attending: Bridging the Gap Outreach Workshop, Shelby MT, Saturday May 16, 2023 @ 12pm

Corrections: Jennifer M. -

- MSP - next orientation is in July
- GCD - next orientation is May 11, then July 13
(see email attachment for GCDC Volunteer Packet) - Please share with your groups.

Treatment: Chris O. -

- MCDC meeting was great this month, 10-15 residents participated.
- Volunteers - 3-4 men & 3-4 women, had some new folks join us.
- Area 40 - I attended and connected with other Treatment Chairs. Mostly review agenda items, no action items at this moment.

Roundup Chair: Bruce W. - *(absent- committee minutes emailed)*

- Buy your tickets now!!! Looking for service members to chair; marathon, childcare coordinator, as well as asking for donations for scholarships, and stuff for silent auction donations runs from Friday - Saturday
You can contact: 23fallroundup@gmail.com
- **Round 2023 Meeting Minutes 4/18/2023**
People in attendance - Nicki, Jeff D, Pat, Bert, Monica, Bridgette, Savannah, JoAnna, Bruce W, Tom G, Jamie, Kietra and Christie
- **Treasure report:** JoAnna -
\$1491.96 is in the bank account. We had a few people register this month. Reb Dogs and Gateway meeting gave scholarships. Scholarship questions and scholarships should go to the round up email 2023fallroundup@gmail.com. Nicki to check round up email.
- **Hospitality:** Christie -
We need to reserve 2 rooms at the Grand tree. We can't bring in our own coffee. Hospitality needs to come up with a budget for how much they will spend on cookies, snacks, cooler and drinks etc.. Will also answer questions like “where are the bathrooms etc. We have to buy coffee from the grand tree.
- **Agenda report:**
We heard from Jake H from Whitefish about doing a “how to write a story for the Grapevine”. We are gearing groups towards 6 & 7 for their topics. Bert asked if we should ask the speakers if they would like to do a panel, the group voted that Bert would ask Sterling. We don't have a local speaker for Friday night. Jeff D recommended that Scott E be the Friday kick off speaker.

- **AI-Anon report:**
- **MC:** Jeff and Monica are to be the MC.
- **Speakers report:**
We need someone to host Sterling. Joanna to get the plane tickets for Sterling and Astrid we are going to reimburse. Sterling is coming from Omaha.
- **Party report:**
Mask creation/ painting table. Masquerade ball. Costume contest, games, creep foods and snacks. Pat has a sounds system potentially. Budget for the Party is 500\$. We need to find prices for the costume contest and best food. Rebellion Dogs will have their own party Saturday Night and the Round party will have a party Friday night. Maybe host an ice cream party Saturday Night!?
- **Eventbrite/flyer:**
Bridget to updated the flyer and maybe create a card kind of flyer that people could set on tables. A couple flyers to be made to take to district. Bridget reached out to webmaster and got the round up on the calendar. Tom will get with Kietra about the agenda. Will need to make a flyer when food sells out.
- **New Business:**
- **Swag:**
T Shirts aren't a money maker. Coffee Cups with design? Laminated cards with quotes for sale? We need a list of swag to pick through.
- **Additional Notes:**
 - What positions do we need -
 - Silent auctions, Childcare coordinator, Marathon meeting chair, Pad as AV recording?
 - Jeff D - Guy in Whitefish that does the recording of the speaker meets and has a booth that sells speaker tapes. He asks that fuel is paid, and the room is comped.
 - Have the silent auction end right before the speaker meeting Saturday night.
 - Updates should be given as a report unless its super important.

Technology: Bradley G. -

- Committee has met, we're working on hardware purchases and a formalized job description.
- Closed captioning (CC) is now available on Zoom (Spanish option also)
- Austin is training to help out Bradley.
- Motion tonight in New Business

Alt. DCM: Lenore M. -

- Trying a new room set up to help improve hybrid services.
- Visitor last week, Jill from AIAnon, asked if there is any interest in creating a Spanish speaking meeting, or if any AA members who speak Spanish are willing to help out.
GSRs please take this question back to your groups and see if there is any interest.
Please feel free email Jill @ mtdistrict8@gmail.com
- Jennifer M. noted there is a need for Spanish speaking volunteers in the jail.

DCM: Betty M. -

- Hi everybody! My name is Betty and I'm an alcoholic and the DCM for District 72. We hold District meetings on the last Saturday of each month at 4:30, and you're welcome to visit in person or online anytime!

Our trusted servants in District 72 are my "Dream Team". They care deeply about carrying the message of AA to our fellows in both the real and virtual AA rooms, as well as newcomers who've just joined us, and to those who will be arriving in the future. We use the group

conscience to always bring us back to our primary purpose and principles when we disagree on something.

I sense an energy – an excitement in District 72. We have both new and familiar faces at meetings, and often have a handful of visitors as well. I'm seeing more collaboration between groups and committees.

Our GSRs report that their meetings are doing well. They have recovered from COVID and attendance is increasing. We host over 90 meetings a week in multiple formats – in person, online only and hybrid.

In January, our Special Events chair hosted a great Service Kick-Off event led by Kacie N, and Susan H from Bigfork. They made the workshop informative, personal and so much fun; they really set the tone for the excitement I feel.

Our Primary Purpose group had a workshop/speaker/potluck event in February. The topic was Fear, and Candace M from Los Angeles was their main speaker. The event was very well attended. After the drought of COVID, it felt so good to be at a special event together to fellowship and share with each other.

Our Archives, Answering Service, CPC, PI, Bridging the Gap, Corrections and Treatment chairs have focused on growing & organizing their teams. Several have, and are continuing to be intentional, about looking for new committee members from towns outside of Bozeman. Our PI chair contacted GSRs who are not attending district meetings to see if they need meeting schedules. Lenore, the Alternate DCM and I will be following up with them to encourage their participation at district.

Our Literature and Grapevine chairs are doing a terrific job of keeping us informed about what the groups need to know for buying literature, and for extending the reach of Grapevine & La Vina.

Our Treatment Chair brought 4 boxes of Big Books to MCDC. It was rewarding to hear that their current residents included 15 newcomers to AA, and they were taking advantage of the new resources.

Our Answering Service chair, Emily, had the cutest baby on February 20th! Pre-baby, the Answering Service implemented a new approach for responding to Hotline calls. One or two people take responsibility for answering calls for one month at a time. This should contribute to a greater sense of individual responsibility & accountability when a Hotline call comes in.

The CPC committee has conducted a series of interviews in the Valley to update their contacts and to hear what professionals are identifying as their high priority needs. This, and with support from area & district CPC committees, will help them plan for how best to meet those needs.

Our Bridging the Gap and PI chairs were contacted by the Bozeman Warming Center to request that we share our stories at a non-AA specific recovery meeting for the homeless.

Because our online meeting presence is thriving, we recognized the need for a technology committee, and now, we are in the process of implementing it. We elected a chair and held the first meeting last month. At present, we have 32 on-line or hybrid meetings, in addition to district and several committee meetings.

The Roundup Team is busy preparing for the event "We Are Not Saints" this Fall. Flyers are provided on the table near the door and you'll hear more about it Sunday morning.

Like I said, to me this is exciting, and I am so grateful to have the privilege to represent District 72 at the Area 40 Spring Assembly.

Thank you.

Betty M, D72 DCM

9. Immediate Business - April 2023

- **Elect a new Special Events Committee Chair** - Lenore M.

No nominations or volunteers at this time.

GSRs please let your home group know we are still looking to fill the position.

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.

- **Review and briefly discuss motion from the technology committee on a budget increase for the hybrid-meeting hardware purchases** - Bradley G.

(for GSRs to bring back to their homegroups so that it can be voted on at the May or June District meeting) - Bradley G.

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL

- (1) **Describe the proposal:** Increase upfront funding approved by District 72 on Feb, 25 2023 to better meet current and longer-term needs of in-person and on-line District Meeting participants. Already approved funds for equipment: \$575. Additional funds requested: \$569.
- (2) **List the proposal benefits:**
 - a. **User experience** – regardless of how the participant is participating in the meeting (in-person or on-line), user experience would be improved.
 - i. **The microphone** must be sufficiently powerful to enable on-line users the ability to hear what's going on in the District 72 meeting room. Online users cannot do this with the type of microphone proposed in the approved Technology Committee proposal (attached).
 - ii. **The projector** must provide a user experience for in-person attendees that is at least as good as what the Technology Chair is using now (i.e., his own equipment). So that in-person attendees may see/hear the online participants when they are participating in the meeting.
 - iii. **Investing in better technology now will help to 'future-proof' our devices and minimize the risk of the Technology Committee needing additional funding for equipment updates or replacements for 3-5 years+.**
- (3) **Cost Estimate:**
 - a. **Already approved: \$725.** \$575 for equipment, plus \$149.90 for one (1) annual Zoom license.
 - b. **Additional need: \$569**

Approved Budget		Recommended Budget	
Device	Approx Cost	Device	Approx Cost
Laptop (Dell,Chrome)	\$200	Laptop (Dell i5, 15")	\$450
Monitor (32" Insignia)	\$110	Projector (Epson)	\$300
Microphone (Yeti)	\$90	Microphone (Yeti Pro)	\$208
Camera (Codi)	\$25	Camera (Codi)	\$25
Cables & Misc	\$57	Cables & Misc	\$57
Security/Cable Locks	\$26	Security/Cable Locks	\$0
Total	\$508	Total	\$1,040
*FLEX +10%	\$559	*FLEX +10%	\$1,144

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

- a. Approved Hybrid Meetings and Technology Committee Formation agenda item, dated October 2022. Approved Feb, 25 2023

(5) How the proposal originated: Approved agenda item forwarded to Technology Chair for committee review. Upon review, the Chair determined that both the microphone and the monitor funds needed to be increased to provide a similar user experience to that which the D72 meeting attendees are using now. Both sound and viewing properties would be compromised. Unacceptable sound for on-line attendees, inferior viewing capacity for in-person attendees. Both are core requirements. Chair also suggests increasing the budget for a new 'i5' laptop to assure performance and longevity.

(6) Final comments: The mission of District 72 is to enable service-oriented alcoholics from the Gallatin Valley to participate actively in District meetings and committee functions. Having the right equipment run by knowledgeable technology resources will ensure we are able to continue to adapt and evolve technically so that we can most effectively carry the message of A.A. throughout our service area.

Discussion: included being able to reach out better to create community, new vs. used/donated equipment, equipment for D72 business only which includes business meetings & committee meetings, increases budget \$569.

Revisit agenda item and vote in May after GSRs have a chance to discuss with their groups.

10. Old Business -

- **Discuss having a potluck or pizza at district meetings – Savannah D.**
This motion has been withdrawn by Savannah D.
- **Discuss rent increase to Fellowship Hall - Hospital Group, Catherine J.**
(Item was tabled until April when the Hospital Group brings a report for review)
Catherine J. consulted with the board of Fellowship Hall, the gesture is appreciated but there is no need to increase rent. They want to keep rent affordable to the community.
The Hall is funded by a financial gift, annual fundraiser, and crowd source donations.
No motion was ever made for this agenda item, so no vote required.

11. New Business:

- **Add “Technology Chair” with name and phone number to meeting schedules - Katie M.**
Item removed from agenda by Katie M.
- **Is anyone willing to take minutes/notes at the June meeting - Joanne M.**
Jennifer M. offered to do this.
- **Discuss using the format that Area 40 uses for “Agenda Item Proposals” at our district meetings in terms of writing motions - Lenore M.**
This would be something Committee Chairs and GSRs would use to help prepare and present any motions for the district agenda. Can also be used for discussion items, realizing that sometimes motions come out of discussions.
Benefits of using something like this are: collect your thoughts and put them in writing, save time at D72 meetings, and help manage agenda items.
The Area 40 “Agenda Item Proposals” form can be adapted and changed to fit D72 needs. This form is only a suggestion to help assure D72 meetings run smoothly and efficiently.
More discussion is needed about this in the future.

REQUEST: *If you have any items you want added to the next month’s agenda, please email it to Lenore at lenore.maunz777@gmail.com at least 10 days in advance of next month’s meeting date so there is enough time to add it and send the agenda out.*

Motion to adjourn @ 6:25pm

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