

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting
February 27, 2021
5pm-7pm via Zoom

Mission: "District 72 is an association of AA Groups banded together to carry out common functions and service activities in order to help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic. All AA members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in district meetings. We strive, as a district, to work within the spirit of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous."

1. Opened with the serenity prayer-Alex M.
2. Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions-Leah T.
3. Reading of Concept Two: Lisa C.

"When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society."

4. Approved January 2021 minutes-
 - Betty called to approve meeting minutes
 - Phil made a motion to approve, Mark E. seconded
 - Motion unanimously approved

5. Introductions/Attendance:

Committee Chairs and Officers:

Sarah S-PI Chair; **Gillian S**-Answering Service; **Phil M**-Bridging the Gap; **Mark E**- Treatment; **Chris O**-Corrections; **Savannah**-Special Events; **Chrisann**-Literature; **Betty M**-Alt DCM; **Leah**-Treasurer; **Rick**-DCM (District Committee Member); **Meghan**-Secretary

GSRs and reports:

Joe Vennis Over the Hill (Virginia City/Ennis)- nothing to share at this time

Karon Pink Cloud Group (Bozeman)-have about 20 women every week, anxiously awaiting news about technology that would support hybrid meetings, investigating doing an online survey to determine how we attract and are attractive to new women, how to encourage inclusivity, encourage all women to attend

Jennifer M. Women's Serenity Group (Bozeman)- Tuesday and Friday at noon-no announcements

Doreen 6th Chapter (Bozeman)- Sunday Morning Meeting. Getting quite a few visitors from out of town out of state, their group went back and forth discussing how to collect donations, finally got a P.O. Box to accept cash donations.

Pat HOW Group (Bozeman)-4 Zoom meetings a week, Sunday 7:30pm speaker meeting, Monday 7pm discussion meeting, Thursday 7pm book study, Saturday 8:30am. Also doing 3 live meetings a week, Mondays/Thursdays 7pm and Saturday 8:30am at Church of Christ on 19th and Kagy. They are all doing well.

Gail M Wednesday Noon Group (Bozeman)-closed meeting, normally about 15 or 20 people attending on Zoom, planning on Zoom for the foreseeable future

Stephen M Sunday Hospital Group (Bozeman)- going strong on Zoom, several out of towners on the regular now, things are going well

Sarah S Friday Noon Women's Meeting (Livingston)-attendance has been good, back to in person meetings, read out of the book, third Friday of the month they have a speaker, last Friday of the month they read and discuss a tradition.

Dennis S Friday Men's Group (Bozeman)- meets on Zoom, experiencing benefits of COVID 19 zoom by getting a pretty strong following of men from out of state, don't anticipate returning to in person until more guys can get vaccinated

Katie M-Tuesday Night at 8pm (Bozeman)- meeting on Zoom

Alex M Alternate GSR of Bozeman Young Peoples (Bozeman)-Meeting Thursdays at 7pm in person and Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom.

Aaron Primary Purpose (Bozeman)-both in person and Zoom meetings, 10-20 in person, 3-7 on Zoom, just finished up a speaker event on Zoom that was really successful

Visitors: Lisa C, Bob E, Bradley

6. Committee Reports associated with Financial Request:

Treasurer – Present request for: Annual contribution to GSO

- Total expenses for the month were \$512.25. This was mostly reimbursement for print ads for PI committee.
- There were several events we had budgeted for that did not happen last year because of the pandemic which resulted in a surplus operating balance of \$8924.
- Please submit requests for reimbursement promptly, you can email or text Leah. See the attached Treasurer's Report for Leah's contact information.
- Leah is making a recommendation to send a \$500-\$1000 contribution to GSO from District 72. GSO provides a lot of services to alcoholics and the groups and we want to be able to keep that going.
- Discussion followed regarding purpose of prudent reserve, how the amount is calculated, and whether we might be capable of sending more than the recommended amount to GSO to help build up prudent reserve at that level.
 - Gillian made a motion to contribute \$2000 to GSO
 - Dennis seconded.

Further discussion regarding whether we could consider sending an even higher amount.

- Jennifer made a motion to increase the amount to equal our prudent reserve
- Point of Order from Gail-we can't have another motion if we have a motion on the floor
- Gillian amended her motion to contribute \$2500 to GSO
 - Chris O seconded

Motion as it stands, made by Gillian, seconded by Chris O:

“District 72 to make a contribution in the amount of \$2500 to GSO”

Discussion related to consideration of the motion that many groups are not currently sending contributions to District precisely because of the large amount of funds we are sitting on.

Vote suspended on this motion until after we'd discussed other requests for additional funds from committees

Hybrid meeting equipment update-Betty-Fellowship Hall is looking to come up with a grant request to receive the money for the wiring from a grant rather than ask District 72. Next month someone from the Fellowship board will attend district to report on status, as of now we do not need to plan on a big chunk of money to come out of district coffers.

PI / Public Information –

- The Google doc that was created for Bozeman Zoom meetings will be eliminated at the end of February and everything will be moving to aa-montana.org.
- Zoom links & passwords have been added to the District 72 mini – site information page. It is a great thing to announce at meetings so individuals who have interest in what goes on at District or do not usually attend can be aware of how to access the monthly meetings.
- <https://www.aa-montana.org/district-sites/dist72/index.php>
- I would also like to ask groups & GSRs to review how their meetings are designated (face to face, Zoom, etc.) and make sure that information is correct along with the name and contact information for their group. Maybe it is time to remove the 'face to face' designation all together? We have 'temporarily closed' and 'online only'. By now I think people probably would assume the meeting is in person if not designated otherwise. I have included the link below. Please let me know if your group would like to make any adjustments.
- <https://www.aa-montana.org/meetings.php>
- Please announce in your groups that PI is looking for people on their committee.
- Reminder to everyone: you can print off schedules from the District mini site
- PI committee chair has been chosen as a voting member at Area Assembly this Spring, Sarah is unable to attend.
 - Katie volunteered to attend in Sarah's stead, Sarah will communicate details with Katie.
- Request for money-PI came before the District last month and asked for an additional \$500 for additional print ads.

Vote suspended on this request until after we'd discussed other requests for additional funds from committees

Literature-

- Inventory for February is 974.26. I have two groups that would like to place an order, but still would like to increase my inventory with softcover and hardcover Big Books, HC & SC 12 x12, Daily Reflections, HC and SC As Bill Sees It, Pass It On, Dr Bob's & Good Old Timers, so I can provide to groups and individuals for purchase. I plan to purchase \$674.70 for my inventory, 278.92 for Primary Purpose, and 44.65 for 6th chapter.

Discussion: Does District 72 need to keep hard-cover Big Books in stock? If so, order required.

We do not need to discuss this, it is encompassed in the Literature Chair guidelines. Chrissann is placing an order for more books to beef up our inventory.

There was a vote on whether we need to bring the motion about the GSO contribution back to our groups. 15 out of 23 in favor of voting tonight.

Went into Breakout groups to discuss motion and PI request.
Zoom poll votes when we returned from our breakouts.

Do you approve the **motion to send \$2500 to GSO** at this time? Results: 95% in favor, 5% against. **Motion passed.**

Do you **approve the request from PI for \$500? 100% in favor.**

9. Committee Reports (continued)

• Answering Service-

Some changes have been made as to how our Hotline/Answering Service will operate at the Area and District level. Here is an overview of how it will now work. I think it's important to note here that we have one answering service for the entire State of Montana.

1. At the Fall Area meeting, the position of Hotline Chair was created. Previously, the Hotline was handled by the Public Information Chair, but because the work involved was very time consuming, this new position was created. Sabrina C. is the new Area 40 Hotline Chair.

2. As District 72 Chair, I send the names of two Twelfth Step volunteers – one male, one female – to the Area Chair. These numbers will be given to the Answering Service (AS) as the volunteers for District 72.

(It is important that the two volunteers who take this commitment answer the phone. It is easy to think the operator will go down the list of names until they get someone else, but the AS only has those two numbers for each district - it was far too expensive for us to have the AS go down a list of numbers, as we are charged for each call. So if the designated volunteer does not pick up, several other people have to be involved to reach another AA. It may be hours by the time we finally reach the person who called the Hotline and by then, it may be too late.)

3. Here's an example of how it works: A woman calls the Hotline number saying she wants to stop drinking. The operator asks what city in Montana she is calling from. The alcoholic says she is calling from Livingston. The operator then looks at the volunteer list, sees that Livingston is in District 72 and then finds the female volunteer listed for District 72 and transfers the caller to her.

If the volunteer does not answer, the operator tells her that someone from Alcoholics Anonymous will be contacting her shortly and hangs up.

The operator then sends an email and a text to the Area Chair saying that a call for District 72 was not answered. The Area Chair will then text/call me, giving me the caller's name and phone number and asks that an AA member from District 72 return the call. I will then find another female volunteer who will make sure that the caller gets the help she wants.

4. I'll be asking Hotline volunteers to let me know that they received a call from the AS and how it went and if they feel any follow up is needed.

At the beginning of each month, the Area Chair will email me a report showing the number of calls that our District received from the AS, which I will then report to you at our District Meeting.

5. Action for next month: a) I will prepare a handout for people volunteering to answer calls from the Hotline. b) I'll review the number of calls that came into our district in 2020, to help determine how often we rotate volunteers – District 81 (Missoula) have a very heavy call volume, so rotate volunteers every month.

- **Archives-** National Archives Convention is happening in September in San Antonio
www.naaaw.org/index.php/next-workshop/
- **CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community**-no report
- **Corrections**-Met with someone at Gallatin County Detention Center, got the list of people who are currently approved and new forms for new people to get approved, in the process of getting Zoom meetings set up for inmates, the people who are approved will be able to get Zoom meetings in there soon, met with Area Corrections chair and starting to get a game plan together for MT State Prison.
Going to get a Corrections and Treatment committee going in March. Contact Chris O for more information.
- **Grapevine**-report attached. If you have assigned Grapevine Reps in your homegroups OR a secretary that would be interested in receiving the monthly updates from Grapevine that can email Angie @ anglesjan2006@yahoo.com and I will send the updates to you.
- **Special Events**-nothing to report
- **Treatment**-Had 1st Montana Chemical Dependency Center call, via Zoom, since COVID hit us Call went well with support from several fellowships. District 72 has chosen the 3rd Saturday of every month to host this call until we can get back in face to face. We have no idea how long we will have to do this call remotely. Currently the Zoom dial-in being used is from District 71 and Treatment requests that we use the District 72 Zoom dial in for our monthly obligation. We need to find a way to evangelize this call across our district and we may ask GSR's to help in that effort. Treatment chair will try to build a flyer that can go out to all of District 72 announcing these calls. Treatment chair will try to build a calendar, possibly on the District web site that can announce these calls and track participants. Looking for other programs where we can be of service in the district
- **Bridging the Gap**-Phil had a brief meeting with the Area chair, in the process of distributing business cards to the institutions, we had 3 people who reached out from the detention center this month and were able to get connected.
- **Alt. DCM** -we now have a Zoom account set up for the district meetings, if there are groups who want to use the District Zoom account for their meetings, contact Betty.
- **DCM / District Committee Member-**
 - Next weekend (March 5, 6, 7) is the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC). There are 8 states in our region. Anybody who wants to is encouraged to attend this year because it's on Zoom. Passwords are on the Area 40 dashboard as well as background information on the many agenda items. Rick encouraged everyone to pick a certain area that appeals to you and attend the committee meeting to learn more about how it works.
 - Spring Assembly for Area 40 is the last weekend in March. The District meeting is also on that same Saturday, all GSRs are encouraged to attend Area Assembly. It is suspected that District 72 members will be able to take a break from the Area Assembly to attend our business meeting. Pre assembly is on the 13th, see the Area 40 calendar at www.aa-montana.org for more information

10. District 72 Guidelines Review, Discussion & Vote (if we are ready)-**Tabled to March meeting**

11. Close with Responsibility Pledge:

Next district meeting Saturday, March 27 @ 5:00 – 7:00pm