

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

September 25, 2021

5pm-7pm

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and via Zoom
14 online attendees, 8 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."- Pat

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

3. Reading of Concept Nine: Sharon shared on her experience

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

4. Establish quorum- 18 voting members

5. **Approved August 2021 meeting minutes-** Call for discussion about any additions or corrections. Sarah moved to approve meeting minutes. Phil seconded. Meeting minutes approved.

6. Introductions/Attendance:

Visitors (attended online): Sharon S

(attended in person): Bradley, Angie

GSRs and reports:

Stephen (attended online) **Sunday Night Hospital Group** (Bozeman)-Still all on Zoom, just got word from the hospital that they will not be allowing meetings back at least until the end of the year. About 20 attendees in general.

Gail (attended online) **Wednesday Noon Group** (Bozeman)-Meeting at Fellowship hall, doing a hybrid meeting, Zoom attendees has been low or non existent, planning on staying hybrid for now

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. Having a group conscience to explore making the speaker meeting a hybrid.

Katie (attended in person) **Tuesday at 8pm** (Bozeman)- Meeting in person, doing great

Jack (attended in person) **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman)- Averaging around 34 people every meeting, no online meetings, have developed a newcomers welcome packet with brochures and some other literature, hopefully to keep people from feeling too overwhelmed. Still getting lots of newcomers, seeing people coming back and getting involved. Coffee positions are filled, opener and closer positions are filled. Business meetings are large and well attended, so they need to move into a bigger room.

Doreen (attended online) **6th Chapter** (Bozeman)- 11am Sunday morning. Continuing online, made the decision to stay online until the end of the year but also investigating the hybrid option.

Sarah (attended online) **Women's Friday Noon Meeting** (Livingston)-Fridays at noon at Vince Grant Hall in Livingston. 10-20 women attending. 4th Friday of the month there's cake! Next week there will be a 10 minute speaker on sponsorship.

Heather (attended in person) **Early Risers** (Bozeman) Sunday at 8:30am, meditation/11th step group then open discussion, hybrid meeting, 12-20 people attending generally

7. Committee Reports

Treasurer-Leah T. (attended online)

- Paid rent in August but forgot to include in the August treasurer's report so we will see that in September
- Reimbursed Angie for Grapevine in August and September
- Reimbursed Alex for travel to Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC)
- Bradley was reimbursed for some printouts of treasurer's report
- Bradley was paid for July and August hybrid meeting-IT support and rental of equipment
- Only \$26 in income from group contributions
- **Current operating balance is \$4,798.79**
- Question about operating balance because the spreadsheet is currently set up to include Roundup money in operating balance. Is there a way to have the Treasurer's report reflect the actual operating balance? Currently says \$5,551.63 but we need to subtract \$752.84 for the money that's earmarked for Roundup
 - Pat offered to be on a committee with Leah to help modify the spreadsheet, Bradley also offered to be involved
- As of end of August, we had \$6058.13 in the First Security Bank account

Answering Service- Gillian (attended online)

- 67 phone calls to our area in July, 10 to our district. 8 of those 10 were people who were from out of town/on vacation and looking for meetings.
- In August we had 62 calls to our Area, our district had 11, 10 of those were looking for meetings as visitors

Archives- Catherine (attended online)

- Had a committee meeting
- Eleanor was able to attend a few events and was able to meet with Earl (Area Archivist). They are setting up training via Zoom with Earl for the district committee to learn from him. The committee would like to hire Bradley for this training.
- Archives committee meeting Sunday 9/26 at 4pm via Zoom, would like to use the District zoom meeting room for that meeting.
- Projects they are working on:
 - Collecting COVID stories of each group

- Interviewing oldtimers from District 72
- Scheduling a visit to Area archives sometime in October

Bridging the Gap- Phil (attended online)

- 3 requests this month, relatively quiet

CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community- Open chair position

- No report

Corrections- Chris (attended in person)

- Had a committee meeting on the 8th of September
- Meetings have been going well at the detention center, attendance is lacking at the prison meetings.
- Got news that the reentry center will start meetings up again, proposed days and times but no confirmation yet. Currently talking with the detention center about setting up a liaison.
- Made up some pink cans in order to get that program rolling again district wide. **Trying to bring awareness to the pink can again and get donations.** They go through a lot of books at the reentry center so they are trying to be proactive and make sure they are able to get plenty of books available when they do go back to in person meetings.
- Betty asked about the liaison-is that separate from the alternate chair that we were talking about last month. Yes-this is completely separate, the liaison will deal with only the detention center.
- Rick had a suggestion-maybe access the pink can fund at the Area level because there is a lot of money there right now. Chris will reach out to the pink can chair there.

Grapevine-Angie (not in attendance)

- Betty gave an update-Giving a 1 year subscription to the reentry program in Bozeman
- **Get in touch with Angie if you have any other suggestions on places to donate Grapevine subscriptions to through the end of the year**
- Eleanor shared-SouthWest Chemical Dependency in Livingston would be really excited to receive Grapevine subscriptions. She will reach out to Angie about this.

Literature- Chrissan (attended online)

- \$736.53 in inventory, just placed another order for groups because we ran out of Big Books and 12x12
- Chrissan is going to start making sure that groups pay her when they pick up their books so she's not acting as a bill collector
- Rick shared that the new service manual will probably be out in November of this year so we won't want to order more until after that one comes out
- Jack asked whether we can get Big Books in Spanish to have on hand. Maybe 5 or 10? Chrissan will decide whether to keep those in stock

Public Information-Sarah (attended online)

- Sarah apologized that she missed Area
- Putting together a quick page about where to access AA that can be posted in different places
- Working on press releases and radio blurbs around the holidays
- Placed an order for the schedules last week, should be ready mid next week
- Pat asked: Can we add blank space to the schedules for names and numbers? Sarah will look into that and get back to us

Special Events-Savannah (attended online)

- Working on a new event: a dance party at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman the day before Halloween in conjunction with other groups. Plan is to rent out the library at the hall and set up tables with information about District and what we do
- Catherine had a suggestion about a movie night, might be safer than getting a lot of people in a room
- Doreen asked about mask/cleaning requirements in the Fellowship Hall-Bradley (Fellowship Hall board member) said the hall is following the guidelines of Gallatin County which is that they are strongly suggesting but not requiring masks so it is left up to the groups to enforce or not

Treatment-Alex (attended online)

- Averaging about 4 people a month to go up to MCDC, people keep bailing but he's just rounding up as many people as possible, also brought some big books up there recently.

District Inventory Ad Hoc Committee-Katie M (attended in person)

- Had one meeting so far, seems to be a bigger project than first believed so will have more to report next month after another meeting or 2

Alt. DCM-Betty (attended in person)

- Worked on some wording for potential district guideline changes
- Worked with Angie on finding some more Grapevine recipients

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

- Attended West Central Regional Forum virtually-2023 Missoula will host the forum in person. GSO did an incredible job on the virtual forum. It was informative and fun, got to hear from new Class A Trustees, new CFO, etc. Rick really encouraged everyone to attend if they have the opportunity
- Area 40 Fall Assembly-virtual, was really cool.
 - Filled Treasurer position
 - Voted to update Area 40 policies and procedures to reflect what we are currently doing
 - There was a motion to form an ad hoc committee to review the current Triangle newsletter situation and bring it to Spring assembly, i.e. should we still produce it in paper? If you are interested in joining the committee, reach out to Rick.
 - Approved 2022 budget
 - 2 floor actions
 - 1) To make the Bridging the Gap form more accessible in the area website. The treatment committee is going to work with Webmaster to place it in places that are more accessible.
 - 2) Form ad hoc committee to explore a hybrid option for Spring assembly-get ahold of KC area chair alternate delegate,
- Great Falls roundup Nov 5-7- their breakeven point is 200 people in registration. They would like everyone to register ASAP if they are interested because if they don't have 200 registrants within 30 days of the event they will have to cancel. Registration is on the area website.
<https://aa-montana.org/calendar.php>
EventBrite Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-fall-round-up-tickets-163881934277>

7. Old Business

● Nominations for CPC chair

No nominations. Gillian commented that she has held this position in the past and really encouraged people to try for it, it's very rewarding and very much needed

● District guidelines language change

- Gail-had questions about whether the alternate chair would be sent to assembly, would they have a vote, what would the logistics be and how would that affect district as a whole?
- Tuesday at 8 Group-felt pretty strongly that AA operates by 1 chair position and why shouldn't we be able to continue to do this? Is there something that can't be done right now that we need to solve? We don't have CPC filled, why would we want to create 2 whole new chair positions?
- Livingston Friday Noon Women's Group- met the idea with some interest to further investigate but felt they needed more information before proceeding

- Chris' response to some of the concerns: there's a level of comfort in having an opposite gender for people reaching out, having it visible on the meeting schedule may encourage more people to feel comfortable actually picking up the phone. For groups and most committee positions, there aren't separate facilities but in treatment and corrections there ARE separate facilities. In Billings, they have both male and female representatives for these positions. By having a set position, with an expected time commitment, it leads to more stability. There's no set term for someone who is appointed from a committee.
- Katie-how do committees work? Can the chair just create a co-chair position at the committee level and make it a two year term and fill in internally? Yes, that's an option but Chris thought writing it into the guidelines and creating this expectation might make it more stable.
- Rick mentioned that farther down the triangle the committee chair selects an alternate. **Rick suggested we take this new language back to the groups and come back and talk about it next month.**

New Business:

- None-ran out of time

9. Closed with Responsibility Pledge

Next district meeting Saturday, October 30 @ 5:00 – 7:00pm at Fellowship Hall and on Zoom