

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

October 30, 2021

5pm-7pm

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and via Zoom
16 online attendees 16 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- Jerry

3. Reading of Concept Ten: Julie

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

4. Establish quorum- 23 voting members

5. Approved September 2021 meeting minutes-not voting yet?

6. Introductions/Attendance:

Visitors (attended online): Julie, Sharon

(attended in person): Bradley, Tony, Neil, Dave, Jim, Scott (alt GSR for Stacey's Alumni Group)

GSRs and reports:

Stephen (attended online) **Sunday Night Hospital Group** (Bozeman)- Nothing too different, still fully online, hospital is not open to our use at least through the rest of the calendar year, had a couple newcomers recently

Gail (attended online) **Wednesday Noon Group** (Bozeman)- Meeting in person in the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman, 12-14 people/week, hybrid, anywhere from 0-5 attending on Zoom, seems to be going pretty well, the group would like to invite all of the district committee chairs to attend their meeting, business meeting held on the second Wednesday of the month right after the meeting

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)- Now have an online and an in person meeting happening at the same time. It's not hybrid.

Karon (attended online) **Women's Pink Cloud** (Bozeman) Hybrid meetings since July, mixed attendance, numbers have been fluctuating quite a bit, looking at how to encourage attendance. Would like to talk with other meetings about effectiveness of hybrid meetings and how to prevent Zoom-bombing

Heather (attended online) **Early Risers** (Bozeman) Sunday morning, 8:30am, in person at the hall, quite a few newcomers since September, sticking with hybrid, 3-5 on Zoom and around 12 in the room itself.

Ashley (attended online) **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) 10-15 members, starting to plan their February event which may be on Zoom, more info to come

Alex (attended online) **Bozeman Young People's** Sunday meeting time changed to 7pm to keep them all the same

Dennis (attended online) **Friday Men's Noon Meeting** (Bozeman) Masks required, regular attendance about 15 men every Friday, trying to do hybrid but hasn't been successful, discussing whether to go back to only in person or only online

Joe (attended online) **Vennis over the Hill** (Virginia City and Ennis)-Monday is hybrid, Wednesday in Jeffers in person, Friday hybrid book study, Virginia City on Sunday morning in person.

Jerry (in person) **Stacey's Alumni Group** (Gallatin Gateway) They haven't seen a Treasurer's report, their address on the meeting schedule is wrong and needs to be fixed, group is concerned because when you Google Alcoholics Anonymous Bozeman there is a phone number that doesn't work or connect anyone to AA, their group disagrees with the changes to the preamble

Jerry (attended in person) **Monday Night Live** (alt GSR) and **Surrenders** (GSR) (Belgrade) Monday at 7pm, meeting has been small. Thursday night 7pm has about 20-25 participants

Jennifer (in person) **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman)- Went to hybrid in June, cost-sharing with other groups, has had some concerns about meeting safety with the hybrid format

Pat (in person) **Wednesday Noon Group** (Bozeman)- having some flux with attendance, talking about going back to Zoom because there are a lot of people who would prefer to attend that way.

7. Committee Reports

Treasurer-Leah T. (attended online)

- Thanked Sharon, Bradley, Pat and Rick for their help on the Treasury Committee. The September report stated the ending balance as \$7345.18. The October report has been amended to accurately reflect an opening balance of \$5378.04. After removing the prudent reserve, roundup, pink can, and literature, we are left with an operating balance of \$517.18. Today's report is an accurate reflection of our current financial situation, the Treasury committee is asking for groups to consider contributing to the District once again so we can keep up with our expenses.

Answering Service- Gillian (not in attendance)

- No report

Archives- Catherine (attended online)

- First, we need your help GSRs. We developed a Group History Form for GSRs to share with their home group members; we encourage you to gather this information at your next group business meeting.
- We will send a form to fill out via Survey Monkey to all GSRs through Meghan, District 72 Secretary as an online form or I can mail you a paper version of the form if you text (917) 204-6733 or email your mailing address to catherinemjohnson7@gmail.com.
- **Home Group History Project**

- We are especially interested to know how groups responded to COVID-19? What changes if any occurred to the meeting format, setting, membership, etc.?
- **Interviewing Oldtimers**
- Another project we have underway is the interview project with the Area Archivist Earl. We are putting together lists of people to interview.
- Our committee meets monthly, if you are interested in being of service please contact Catherine J. at (917) 204-6733. Our committee will meet again on November 14th at 4:00 PM. catherinemjohnson7@gmail.com

Bridging the Gap- Phil (attended online)

- Very quiet this past month, no requests at all.

CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community- Open chair position

- No report

Corrections- Chris (attended online)

- Lenore has been the liaison for the jail and communication has been improving there, meetings are going well, recently took more literature up there just to make sure there are plenty of books
- Continue to need more volunteers so trying to get more people on their committee, may work with Savannah in special events, call Chris if you are willing to volunteer, applications are on Area 40 website
- Reestablishing Pink Can
- Reentry facility is now reopened 7pm Wednesday. You have to have gone to orientation to attend, masks are required, another orientation will be coming up, contact Pat for more info on the orientation
- GCDC orientation is on November 18th from 5pm-8pm for people who already had applications in

Grapevine-Angie (attended online)

- Working on the Carry the Message project, for September, sent 2 subscriptions to Livingston Health Partners, and one to the Reentry Program
- October- one 1 year subscription to Big Sky Medical Center, one 1 year to West Yellowstone Police Department
- Project will end now because we are below \$1500 operating balance

Literature- Chrissan (attended online)

- Inventory is back to \$1900+, someone from Bozeman Health is wondering how to get updated schedules, Chrissan will contact Sarah

Public Information-Sarah (not in attendance)

- In October I ordered 350 meeting schedules from Allegra. We still have some left over on the counter in the literature room at the Fellowship Hall if you would like to take some back to your groups. I only had one request for a meeting change which has been updated on the online meeting calendar. As a result of the minimal changes this past month, I did not print any additional schedules. I will have updated meeting printed meeting schedules at the Nov/Dec meeting.
- During the Fall Assembly, the PI Committee created flyers to post on local bulletin boards (at laundromats, grocery stores, gas stations, etc) as a way to reach the still suffering alcoholic over the holiday season. Jared H. sent 10 of these flyers to all the DCMs in the state. Please let me know if anyone would like copies to place around your community. Also, starting in December I will be sending out PSAs about AA and local meetings to print and online newspapers and magazines as was done last year for the Christmas/New Years Eve Holiday. If anyone would like to help with this process or has any ideas of additional ways to reach the still suffering alcoholic during what can be a very difficult season, please let me know.

- Sharon S. who has been a huge help on my committee also passed along that the Area 40 webmaster is working on some changes that will hopefully send meeting zoom information to the Meeting Guide app. Sharon has been 'testing' it with them. They still have some work to do but are working on having District 72 zoom meetings in the app (click to join). Please contact Sharon if any groups have questions.
- Lastly, Dennis S. received the below message from treatment court asking that we pass it along to groups:

"The Treatment Court team has been hearing that the on-line meeting participants are logging in and not visible on the video during meetings. It was addressed by Judge Brown in Treatment Court this morning that they must be visible on the meeting each time. Please pass along to your AA and NA meeting contacts. And, if there are any issues with a particular individual, please reach out to me. We want to make sure they are participating, even if they are not speaking we know that they are listening and engaged. Any questions please reach out, my email and phone are attached." Please contact Andrea Lower at Andrea.Lower@gallatin.mt.gov if you have any questions

Special Events-Savannah (not in attendance)

- Event tonight at 8:30pm, still looking for volunteers

Treatment-Alex (not in attendance)

- No report

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

- Committee broke things down and assigned to specific chairs/committees to put these ideas into action (see attached notes)
- District may want to discuss whether to elect a District Inventory chairperson for the upcoming inventory if we do decide to go with the recommendation of having this ad hoc position ongoing

Alt. DCM-Betty (attended in person)

- Helping Grapevine chair

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

- Flyer for National Corrections Conference on November 12th-14th in New Orleans. Will be hybrid with online info being posted about a week before the event www.Nationalcorrectionsconference.org
- Literature-updated with new changes approved at the last GSO conference. 2021-23 Service Manual should be available in the next month
- Grapevine-new Grapevine podcast, new episodes every Monday www.aagrapevine.org/podcast
- Bob W-new GM of GSO, letter about ways to improve communication between groups, Area, district, etc. He will be having a "1728 Meeting"-to broaden understanding of concepts, traditions and steps.
- March 4th-6th in Minneapolis, MN West Central Regional Service Conference, Saturday speaker will be Bob W.
- Area 40-Connie R has requested that if anyone knows anyone doing Spanish speaking meeting, GSO has reached out to her for help for a Spanish speaking member who will be visiting the state. Reach out to Connie if you have any info
- Area PI committee put together cards that can be posted in various places to show people how to reach out to AA.
- Spring assembly, April 8th-10th, hopefully at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls, might be hybrid but not sure. More will be revealed.

7. Old Business

- **Nominations for CPC chair**
 - Katie M nominated Tony

- Sobriety date February 2020, organized Saturday night speaker meetings, 5:30 Friday chaired meetings, active in his home group
 - Leah nominated Neil
 - Sobriety date April 2018, active in the community with mental health officials
 - 3 votes for Tony, 19 votes for Neil
Neil B voted in as new CPC chair
- **District guidelines language change**
 - Tuesday at 8- does not want to change the guidelines/add positions
 - Young People's Group-not in favor of changing the guidelines, prefer to use the committees
 - Gail-handled by committee and not added to guidelines
 - HOW Group-like the idea and we should move forward with the alternate chair position
 - Jennifer-agreed to the need for both genders in the committees
 - Chris-Reb Dogs were in favor of adding the positions
 - Meghan-thinks that we are really talking about two separate things-the language change in the guidelines does not automatically require a co-chair position, but only suggests that a committee chairperson may consider it based on the realities of Treatment and Corrections facilities being broken up into two separate sections based on biological sex. We could decide to update the language, THEN decide whether that position would be filled by District vote or chairperson appointing a member of their committee. Meghan is in favor of language change with committee chair appointing the co-chair.
 - Conversation tabled again

New Business:

- Spending plan for 2022-same spending plan with just a few changes, less money for DCM events that aren't happening, PO box fee went up, line item for tech rental \$825/year, proposed spending plan \$9683.22, please bring this to your groups and we will talk about it next meeting.

9. Closed with Responsibility Pledge

Next district meeting Saturday, December 11 @ 5:00 – 7:00pm at Fellowship Hall and on Zoom