

## Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

October 29, 2022

4:30pm-6:30pm

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and via Zoom

### 1. Opened with the serenity prayer

2. **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

### 3. Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions - Katie M.

### 4. Reading of Concept 10: Betty M

5. **Betty shared some reminders** re: Roberts Rules of order and how the conversation/voting happens in these meetings.

6. **Establish quorum** - 9 online, 10 in person - 19 total

7. **Approved September 2022 meeting minutes**- Katie motioned to approve, Gail seconded

### 8. Introductions/Attendance:

**Visitors** (attended online): Joanne

(attended in person): Heather, Tony, Cassidy

### GSRs and reports:

**Pat** (attended online) **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman) - Meeting at Church of Christ and on Zoom - concurrent. Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday (speaker at the live Sunday meeting, discussion at the Zoom Sunday meeting). Recently notified by the church that they are selling their property and will need to leave by March 2023. Set up an ad hoc committee to explore new places for the HOW group.

**Karon** (attended online) **Pink Cloud** (Bozeman)- Wednesday 6pm, women's meeting, still hybrid, 6-8 on Zoom and 10 or 12 in the room. Anxious for more home group members.

**Jennifer** (attended in person) **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman) - Tuesday and Friday at noon. Modified meeting format, locked into continuing hybrid meetings.

**Alex** (attended online) **Bozeman Young People's** (Bozeman) - Meeting Thursday, Sunday, Tuesday 7pm. Pretty good turnout but would love to see everyone there!

**Gail** (attended in person) **Wednesday Noon** (Bozeman) - Still hybrid, online presence has dwindled, bought a nicer microphone but still working out some kinks to better facilitate the hybrid format, need more home group members.

**Stephen** (attended online) **Bozeman Hospital Group** (Bozeman) - 12x12 on Zoom, Sundays at 6pm.

**Doreen** (attended online) **6th Chapter Group** (Bozeman) - Sunday morning 11am, still hybrid, going well, attendance is picking up a little bit, would love to have more attendees

**Katie** (attended in person) **Tuesday at 8pm** (Bozeman) - Meetings are going great, more normal attendance to pre-Covid which is great

**Nicki** (attended online) **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman) - Halloween event this evening!

**Dawn** (attended in person) **Early Risers** (Bozeman) Sunday morning 8:30am at the Hall. Hybrid meeting

**Bob** (attended in person) **Common Solution** (Belgrade) - 5pm Sunday in Belgrade, have been meeting just over a year, things are going well

## 8. Committee Reports

**Treasurer-Leah T.** (attended in person)

- Committee chairs - reminder to get receipts to Leah for any reimbursements you're waiting on.
- Rick asked for clarification on misc expense - was for reimbursement for a committee chair to attend Area assembly

**Answering Service- Gillian** (not in attendance)

- No report

**Archives- Catherine** (attended online)

- Catherine shared the Twelve Statements of Technology
- Shared how much she has enjoyed the service position and urged members to get any archivable information to her so she can file it
- One last chance to give us feedback about your Group's experience and approach to technology <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GroupStory>
- We now have an Area 40 Technology Committee which was established at the last Area 40 Assembly.

As your archives chair, I researched recent AA history regarding Technology and came across this gem of a group of drunks!

### **Background Information for your group to reference:**

- NAATW is made up of people from varying backgrounds in service and varying geographic regions. There seems to be a growing realization that Alcoholics Anonymous is somehow moving into a technological age, but we are not sure what form that we might, or ought to take. We are here to communicate our experiences and to "INFORM" ourselves about our needs and our experiences when using technology in our service work.
- All forms of service are involved; Intergroup, General Service, or at the Home Group level. NAATW is a forum for learning to frame the right questions, and sharing the groups current answers as well as past and current experience. It gives opportunity for group collaboration and new ideas to spark.
- We actively realize the long list of technical actions already known, that we need to take in order to utilize the next available app or device feature. Our choices have become more involved as that list of options has grown... and grown... and grown. We are down to the actions which require change and growth. Our groups, our committees, and our trusted servants are not new to dealing with discussions over content and functionality on websites.
- About the NAATW <https://naatw.org/content/>

What They Do :

- Suggest roles to focus on this area of SERVICE
- Trust our TRUSTED SERVANTS

- Encourage the sharing of solutions that prove useful and any related EXPERIENCE
- Offer experience to other AA Service COMMITTEES
- Evolve deeper service GUIDELINES and insights into applying our TRADITIONS.

#### Twelve Statements of Technology

1. We suggest implementing technology where it supports our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
2. We are responsible and assess value when using self-support funds for technology initiatives.
3. We are responsible where anonymity is more vulnerable to a wider audience with increased speed or new sensation.
4. An informed group conscience is paramount to technology decision-making.
5. We strive to understand where Individual versus Group values are different.
6. We perform due diligence and rely on demonstrable A.A. experience.
7. We record non-technical requirements before making technology choices.
8. We take care to understand the property value and legal implications of technology used for A.A. purposes before making binding decisions.
9. We are responsible for transparency in discovery, process, & implementation.
10. We use technology to make information available, not to limit it.
11. We communicate and support the intended service level.
12. We consider how best to Pass it On.

*Twelve Statements of Technology adopted at the 2014 NAATW Aug 7th St Louis, MO*

#### What They Do Not

- Create software to SOLVE all AA's problems
- Create a central IT group to DECIDE things
- Provide a LIST of "conference approved" technologies and vendors
- Do the job of EXISTING AA Service committees
- Tell AA groups the CORRECT way or what their requirements should be.

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#### **Bridging the Gap- Phil** (attended online)

- There were 3 requests in October, 2 men and one woman, all from the Gallatin county detention center.
- One returned home to White Sulphur Springs, and the Bridging the Gap chair in Helena helped find a contact for him there.
- I have had some issues with phone numbers of inmates no longer working, which renders contact very difficult. Presumably inmates are not able to pay their phone bills on time so their service gets cut off.
- We continue to do the best we can with connecting people to their local AA FELLOWSHIPS.
- I want to sincerely thank all the btg volunteers who have stepped forward to help with newcomers. You make a tremendous difference.

#### **CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community- Neil** (not in attendance)

- No report

#### **Corrections- Jennifer** (attended in person)

- Had an orientation for volunteers at the detention center. There's a new program where you can sign up and find out when inmates are released.
- They do accept donations at the detention center
- Coffee donations - any kind
- Met with Jackie - Google voice is a program that can potentially be used for inmates to call someone in AA (currently the AA hotline gives a person a call back and people in the detention center are unable to receive incoming calls)
- Inmates use tablets, had some requests for audio files to put on the tablets
- In 2023 you can take phone calls from inmates, or sponsor an inmate, or bring meetings into the

detention center

- Montana State Prison - currently short-staffed, not a whole lot going on because the program is in transition

#### **Grapevine- Angie** (not in attendance)

- All Grapevine literature purchases will be free of shipping charges from Nov 1 – Dec 31
- The Grapevine Pod Cast turns One Year Old!
- The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour turns one-year-old this month. To celebrate we will release a special anniversary episode on Tuesday, October 4 at 9:00 AM Eastern. This is in addition to our regularly scheduled episode on Monday, October 3.
- Tune in to hear Don and Sam talk with the gang at Grapevine about the creation of the podcast, and listen to some hilarious bloopers that didn't make it onto the weekly podcast.
- You can find the AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour wherever you listen to podcasts or at [aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast).
- AA Grapevine Instagram
  - Send us your most striking photographs that reflect the joy of living, serenity, and other sobriety themes.
  - Photos must be anonymity protected (no full-face poses or identifiable images of people).
  - Selected photos will be posted on the AA Grapevine Instagram page!
  - You may enter as many photos as you wish. Contest is ongoing.
  - Please include your name and last initial, and location.
  - Send photos to [social@aagrapevine.org](mailto:social@aagrapevine.org)

Reminder!

- August 2022, NEW YORK, NY, AA GRAPEVINE, Inc., the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, will add a \$2.49 increase to all books. The top 10 selling books' prices will increase on January 1, 2023, and other books' prices will increase as they go to reprint. Other ancillary items prices will increase on January 1, 2023 as well.
- I will be having open heart surgery on Nov 14th so you won't be seeing me around the hall as I am trying to stay healthy. I hope that if you see the Grapevine bulletin board low on free GV issues please grab some and fill the containers. The donated copies are on the shelf in the sponsorship room across the hall from board.

#### **Literature- Amy K** (attended online)

- Recently placed a couple of large orders because cupboards were empty of Big Books. Pretty well stocked up, literature is being sold
- Still have lots of service manuals! Great tool for new GSRs and committee chairs

#### **Public Information-Sarah** (not in attendance)

- Ordered 600 schedules for November and have distributed them. There are bundles of 10 in the storage room at the hall if groups would like to take some back.

#### **Special Events-Savannah** (not in attendance)

- Not much to report, still **planning on a changing of the service positions event prior to the December district meeting.** **Contact Savannah if you'd like to help,** stay tuned for more details.

#### **Treatment- Chris** (attended in person)

- MCDC Meetings are going well, finally did get a full slate of men and women at our last meeting. May be a seasonal issue where people aren't volunteering in the summer. All volunteers offered to do it again next month. Trying to build some more consistency around who is going up. Looking at picking up other treatment facilities and bringing meetings there.
- **Always looking for more volunteers!**

#### **Round-up Chair- Bruce** (not in attendance)

- Everything is on track, the event is at the GranTree Inn October 27th-29th 2023. Room block rate is

\$139/night. Estimating event cost to be under \$50/person, meal will be extra \$25, daycare will be available Burt W and Angie D in charge of finding speakers. 3 AA, 1 AI-anon.

- Theme is “We Are Not Saints” to coincide with Halloween. Jeff D is back-up chair and back-up bookkeeper. Still seeking a Master of Ceremonies, has District EIN and will be opening a bank account. Trying to land a signed by Bill W. 2nd edition Big Book, will have lots of vintage literature. Estimates total cost is \$25,000
- Haven’t had a regular meeting for a couple of months. Next meeting will be a Tuesday or a Thursday in November. Bruce will get us more info.
- Pat voiced concern about Bruce not being in attendance so we can ask questions in person if we have them.

#### **Alt. DCM-Betty** (attended in person)

- Been going to a lot of meetings to get a jump start on being next year’s DCM.
- Talking up service a lot and trying to encourage people to be involved

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

- Area 40 website now has a new hosting platform, still a work in progress.
- There will be a great event on November 12th, Zoom event that will combine the concepts study with a rotation workshop - will talk about how to run a committee meeting, how to write a report, etc. Good for anyone moving into a new service position.
- Minutes for Fall 2022 assembly are on the website now Area committees → Assembly minutes and Agendas
- GSO - publishing news - they will be coming out with a new jacket-less version of Big Book and the 12x12. Will help streamline production despite supply chain issues (also quite a bit of \$ saved)
- Grapevine will be raising the price
- Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference - used to be a book. No longer available in a printed form, available in digital format only.
- Young People’s video project soliciting video submissions - [publicinfo@aa.org](mailto:publicinfo@aa.org)
- October was 1 year anniversary of Grapevine podcast

#### **9. Old Business**

- Special Events committee chair election for 2023-2024 rotation
  - No nominations. Bring this back to your groups. We will call for nominations again at the December meeting

#### **10. New Business**

- **Spending Plan -**
  - Leah went over the increase in DCM budget for proposed spending plan (more travel anticipated this upcoming year)
  - Treasurer - there’s an additional \$50 because checks are getting low and may need to be ordered
  - Answering Service budget got taken out because this is paid primarily at the Area level now
  - Leah suggested incoming and outgoing chairs get together and discuss their budget in case they want to see things changed
  - P.O. Box budget was increased because we’ve been seeing annual increases from the post office
  - Chris asked whether it would be okay for Treatment to purchase a gas card to provide to the people driving to MDCD - discussion about whether to reimburse mileage instead of direct receipt for gas. Nothing was decided.
  - Committee chairs: If you would like to see a change in your budget, bring an agenda item to the December meeting so the District can hear and vote on it.

- GSRRs - please take this spending plan to your groups so we can discuss any proposed changes at the December meeting
- **Group Members and Service** Karon - would like to discuss the challenge of finding people willing to make longer term service commitments. Would like to have a broader conversation about what some groups may be doing to encourage service commitments. Some of the newcomers coming in on Zoom may be missing out on service opportunities because they are only participating online. **What are the groups doing to encourage people to take on longer term commitments?** Pink Cloud is facing the possibility of moving away from being a group and being "just a meeting". Major issue is getting a sufficient number of attendees to participate in a home group so they can continue to have a voice at the District level. Would like to see this as an old business item at the next meeting to have the discussion in December. **Please discuss with your groups strategies for encouraging people to join your group and commit to service. We will share ideas at the December meeting.**
- **Technology Committee** Meghan - presented an agenda item around creating a Technology Committee at the District level. See attached.
  - Some discussion we had included:
    - Should we specify in the proposal that the District equipment can be used by groups and committees (not just District business meetings)
    - Can we ask the Fellowship hall if we can put a key code lock on the room where we keep our items currently
    - Should we also purchase a stand for our equipment to easily wheel it in and out of the room and elevate the monitor? (this is not something we currently find ourselves needing or using)
    - Thought was shared in favor of the agenda item: if we are able to pass something like this at the District level, it could help provide a model for the groups who are considering hybrid meetings and they can use our experience to execute at the group level
    - If we are considering a new Committee Chair position (voting member at the District level), we will need a position description to vote on to add to the District Guidelines
  - Please take this to your groups so we can discuss this more at the December meeting
- **Katie - Proposed agenda item for the December meeting:**

Agenda item to propose a continuation of the current technology/hybrid system until either:

1) another technology plan is passed thus replacing this plan

Or

2) April 1st, 2023

We will talk about and vote on this in December

## 11. Closed with Responsibility Pledge

**Next district meeting Saturday, December 10th @ 4:30pm – 6:30pm at Bozeman Fellowship Hall and on Zoom**

