

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

January 27, 2024

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)
 - Voting members in attendance: 30
4. Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions: Maurice W.
5. Reading of Concept Eleven & Twelve: Lenore M.

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

6. Questions about last month's minutes? Can I have a motion to approve the Nov./Dec 2023 minutes? (meeting held 12/09/2023)
 - Motion to accept: passed, minutes approved

7. Introductions & Reports: GSRs & Visitors:

Dwayne K, **Belgrade Surrenders Group** (Belgrade) - new GSR for the group

Lila H, **Bozeman Young People's Group** (Bozeman) - meet Sun, Tues, Thurs @ 7pm. Business meeting held 1st Tues. @ 8:15pm. Small group, working with the new treasurer.

Bob C, **Belgrade Common Solution** (Belgrade) - meet Sundays @ 5pm, business meeting held 2nd Sun @ 6:15pm. Attendance is good (15-20)

Teresa R, **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman) - hybrid meetings on Tues & Fri @ noon, attendance is stable birthday meeting is last Frid. of the month. Business meeting held 2nd Tues. @ 11am.

Ron, **Vennis Over The Hill Group** (Ennis) - Meet Mon. Wed, Fri @ 7:30pm, Sa.t @ 9:30am, Sun. in Virginia City @ 10am. Attendance good. Business meeting held 3rd Mon. @ 8:45pm.

Connie L, **Fellowship Group** (Bozeman) - meet Thursday at Grand Ave. Church @ 7:30pm, Business meeting held on 1st Thurs. after meeting. Steady attendance 17-18 people, lots of birthdays.

Melinda W, **Tuesday @ 8pm Group** (Bozeman) - meet in the basement at the St. James Episcopal Church 111 S. Tracy. Business meeting held 1st Tues. @ 9pm. Good attendance.

Tim K, **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman) - meet Sun, Mon, Thurs, Sat, birthday meeting last Thurs of month. Business meeting 2nd Thurs of month @ 8:15pm. Attendance good 40-50 people.

Marice W, **Friday Men's Group** (Bozeman) - attendance good (25-30), low for the holidays.

Marice W, **Thursday Big Book Study** (Bozeman) - attendance is anywhere from 15-13.

Erica S, **Saturday Morning Third Steppers Group** (Livingston) - Attendance is good (30-40). Our business meeting is held the 1st Saturday of the month.

Nick, **There Is A Solution - TIAS** (Bozeman) - 7am Zoom everyday, in person Mon-Sat only. Business meeting held 1st Monday of the month @ 8am.

Catherine J, **Hospital Group** (Bozeman) - The Hospital Group meets in the Hospital and we are grateful to be back in the space. Attendance increases weekly. We meet in the Bitterroot Room at Bozeman Health Group. Our business meeting is held the 1st Mon. of the month and we celebrate Birthdays the last Sun. of the month.

Kristi D, **6th Chapter Group** (Bozeman) - had asked for support and are getting new folks but would still appreciate more. We discontinued the hybrid format, and are trying a variety of formats but nothing permanent has been decided yet.

Deb K, **Great Fact Group** (Bozeman) - hybrid in the winter months, in person during the summer. Right now attendance is only 3-4 people.

John T, **On Awakening** (Bozeman) - attendance 4-5 people. Business meeting 2nd Thurs. after regular meeting

Christine C, **West Yellowstone Group** (West Yellowstone) - we meet Wed. & Sun. at 6:30pm. Wed. is 12 x 12 or As Bill Sees It study, Sun. is Big Book Study. Attendance been really good, 21 people with newcomers attending. Business meeting will be held 2nd Wednesday in May.

Ellen C, **Livingston Friday Noon Women's Group** (Livingston) - attendance varies, 20-30. Business meeting held last Fri. of month.

Ashley P, **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) - meet Wed at 8pm, Big Book Study, Business Meeting held 3rd Wed. of the month. Group Event being held on 2/17 from 4pm-8:30pm (see attached flyer & print out for home groups)

Nel H, **LGBTQ & Friends** (Bozeman) - *I apologize to this group for not reading their report at the business meeting. (Joanne M)*

The Bozeman LGBTQ+ and Friends AA group has all service positions filled and we are self supporting through our own contributions.

We continue to attract new local members and visitors as they pass through town.

Our group is a welcoming safe haven for all queer and trans AAs and a warm and friendly place for all to share experience, strength and hope.

Please feel free to come and check us out at our 6pm Saturday meeting at the Fellowship Hall. We'd love to see you!

Visitors: Lisa CD.(Area 40 Chair), Rick H.(Area 40 PI Chair), Rebekah P.(Alt GSR), Nate S.(D61), Megan P, Jeff, Mike, Doreen M.(Alt GSR), Chopper (Ennis), JoAnna K.

8. Introductions and Committee Reports:

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

Treasurer: Meghan R. -

- (see email attachment D72 Treasurer's Report End of Year 2023 & D72 Treasurer's Report January 2024, or on Area 40 in District Mini Sites)

2023 Recap

- We had expected to spend \$11,966.94 for the year
- Our 7th tradition income, which is what we use to cover the spending plan, was \$8,013.40
- Our actual expenses were \$8784.54

Even though our total expenses exceeded total income for the year, we had started the year with surplus of cash so there were no issues there.

We ended the year with an operating balance of \$695.48, however that is including the money we received from the Roundup added to our general coffers and not set aside in a reserve account. Without the Roundup money, we would have ended the year with an operating balance of -\$723.21.

2024 January Report

- We had substantial 7th tradition contributions this month from the groups, totaling \$1870.94
- This resulted in an operating balance of \$2949.71 which is in excess of 25% of our total annual spending plan by \$171.83.
- Usually, if our operating balance is in excess of 25% of our total annual spending plan, the Finance Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the District about how we should consider spending those excess funds. However, with the ongoing agenda item involving how to handle the money we received from the Roundup at the end of 2023, we are going to wait until a decision is made there to determine whether a recommendation from the Finance Committee is warranted.

Answering Service: Dustin G. -

- New volunteers
- We were not getting calls.....but problems have been solved.

Archives: Gail M. - (absent)

- No report

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

- Activity/communication updates:
 - Bozeman Community Health Partners – Doreen and Nora reported on the December 8 event with Al-Anon. About 17 professionals attended online. Speaking at professional meetings is an effective way of presenting our message—the professional group does the organizing and attendance is more likely assured if dovetailed with some other business, professional or educational meetings in their venues.
 - Area 40 CPC, PI and Hotline Service Workshop (monthly on zoom) – Karon has been attending the monthly meetings to share information about activities in various districts.
 - Speaker event opportunities: Nora has made contacts in both Bozeman Health and District Court areas and Doreen with the interfaith council. We may have an opportunity there in the spring. Nora will connect with PI chair about getting meeting schedules for the Law and Justice Center along with other AA literature she will take there.
 - New Al-Anon CPC contact – Jill J is new chair of the Al-Anon CPC/PI committee. A few rotations back she was district representative and familiar with lots of contacts they have used in the past. She's anxious to collaborate with AA. One thing she shared is that Bozeman Health is building a new center near the stadium with anticipated opening in March. I don't know if CPC or PI committees would be interested in a booth. Greater Impact is sponsoring a community meeting to describe their recovery program. This is a good opportunity to make contact with some of the professionals there.
- Planning priorities for 2024 activities
 - Speaker events (Interfaith council; hospital staff meetings; Veterans and business groups, others?)
 - Researching professional meeting opportunities—speaking on panels and/or literature displays
 - Database updating

Grapevine & La Vina / Structure: Savannah D. -

- Have a stock pile of old Grapevine/La Vina magazines
- Open to suggestions to how this committee can do more
- A suggestion was given from a member to put magazines in the ER at hospital, and also to contact the spiritual advisor at the hospital to see how we can be useful.

Literature: Amy K. -

- Sold \$240 this month, also got a call from a large group who will place a large order soon.
- Have more pamphlets in stock - see attachment for list of all books & pamphlets available for purchase (*print out and share with home groups*)
- "Call For Stories" for the AA Pamphlet (*see attached flyer for info & print out for home groups*)

PI (Public Information): Katie M. -

- We ordered 800 schedules this month.
- The PI committee met at the beginning of January to get the new quarterly schedules out. This month we delivered schedules to 33 locations and we mailed schedules to 21 locations. I want to recognize + thank the committee members, David, Lisa, Valerie, Lila, Alycia, Brenda + Sean, they are all putting in a lot of hours to make all of this happen!!
- The room with the drawer that we used to keep schedules in is now locked, if your group runs out of schedules you can call me + I will get you more. For groups that meet at the hall, we now have a committee member making sure there are schedules in 3 places here, the east + west room + by the front door. So please consider this when taking schedules today if your group meets here.
- 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.
 - **GSRs please announce, we always need more volunteers**
 - We have new flyers printed so please take one! (*see attached flyer, print out & share*)
- The committee discussed the district inventory questions:
 - What can make our meeting schedule more appealing to newcomers?
 - qr code
 - Distributing schedules throughout the district
 - Doing it + can always do more
 - Ensure surrounding communities are served
 - Doing it + can always do more
 - Increase PI outreach (radio, TV, newspapers, etc)
 - Can work on this
- Next committee meeting is February 10th at 9:30am . If you or anyone in your home group would like to volunteer please contact me.

Special Events: Valerie K. -

- Today's Special Event "How Serves Preserves Us" with Lisa CD was a huge success! Attendance was around 30-40 people, potluck comfort food served, and lots of good information and fellowship.
- Next events possibly in May & September
- Open to ideas & suggestions

Bridging the Gap: Tony B. -

- I've been able to attend AA men's meetings at Gallatin County Detention Center (GCDC). This allows me to collect any completed Bridging the Gap (BTG) forms directly, and connect with volunteers. This expedited the process and has been extremely helpful. I collected 5 BTG forms in January. Now I need to figure out how to speed up the process for collecting forms from the women's section of GCDC.
- Bridging the Gap Workshop for September 2024 Event, Missoula MT
(*See email attachment for flyer, print out and share with home groups*)

Corrections: Jennifer M. - (absent - Joanne M. read report)

- Am a little behind on my corrections work, will be putting the time in to catch up this weekend.
- Have had some problems reconnecting to the district zoom account to have the monthly corrections meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month.
- I continue to forward kite requests received to program volunteers and inform them to check their email.

- I will be sending an email to all GCDC program volunteers in regards to protocol we must follow in regards to male and female inmates not interacting during transfer from program room to their pod when meeting has concluded in addition to not leaving any items personal or from the volunteer program room in the program room we hold meetings in, there have been a few incidents with things left behind.... In addition I was contacted upon the request of another recovery program to give them Tuesday evening. This request was declined by myself after speaking with Misti Tinder the program coordinator.
- The next new volunteer orientation at the GCDC is tentatively 14 March, I need to confirm.
- I continue to forward emails in regards to MSP (montana state prison) and inform those volunteers there about existing emails, a special thank you to Pat L he helps much with MSP, being a female I am limited in ways of what I can do given it is a prison for male inmates.
- Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Treatment: Chris O. -

- MCDC has been going great! 8-10 volunteers attended this month. Folk are booking out in advance anywhere from now through December 2024. So if you are interested in attending MCDC anytime in 2024 call Chris O. now and get scheduled.
- GSRs please tell your home groups "Thank you for all your Pink Can contributions". I brought 2 cases of Big Books to MCDC in December. The literature is flowing.

Roundup Chair: Bruce W. - (absent)

- No report
- JoAnna K. reviewed the D72 Final Fall Roundup Treasurer's Report October 2023, money returned to D72. Q & A, discussion, and a letter was read from an absent D72 AA member.
- There were concerns about there not being a final report from the committee chair.

Technology: Bradley G. -

- No meeting over holidays BUT...
- We updated the wording for Tech Comm job description to be platform independent
- Added a timer to Zoom
- Starting hybrid admin rotation Feb

Alt. DCM: Lenore M. -

- I will be updating the D72 Guidelines with the changes we have made
- Thank you Valerie for putting on the Special Event today!!!
- Thank you everyone for showing up today and participating.

DCM: Betty M. -

- **Finance letter from GSO:**
 - More than 9K groups & members responded to GSO's call for contributions. Rec'd just over \$1.8Million. By year end 2023 – the amount rec'd exceeds the amt budgeted for 2023 – 10.5MM.
 - Still facing difficulties of meeting expenses. Profits for 2023 under budget and literature sales – a vital spiritual tool & service to Fellowship - dropped significantly. Also, ability to rebuild the reserve fund is challenging. We dipped into our prudent reserves during COVID as contributions from members experienced a big decline during this period. As of yearend, the balance will cover a little over 7 months of operating expenses, less than the general expectation of 9-12 months.
 - Working hard to prepare the 2024 budget. GSB will finalize it at the end of the month. Several projects have been deferred to do that.
 - Need more frequent & sustained contributions from members & groups. GSRs, please read the details of the letter which Joanne sent out and consider discussing with

your groups whether they (individually or as a group) would consider making an increased or more frequent contribution – c/b monthly, quarterly or yearly.

- 7 th tradition of AA talks about the importance of being self-supporting. Bill W. wrote “But this leaves us with a responsibility... We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, areas and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and bills are paid... When we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.”

- **EVENTS**

West Central Regional AA Service Conference – March 1-3, Minot, ND.

The purpose of the Conference is “to develop greater unity among members, groups and areas of the WCR, to encourage the exchange of ideas & experiences. Recovery, Unity and Service should always be the primary purpose of the conference..... When the agenda is published, it should list the items our Delegates would be addressing at the General Service Conference in New York next month. People from all levels of the AA service structure... from AA members to Regional Trustees . It is a pretty diverse group.

Many folks from our Area are going to be catching the train in Minot, and will be in Train car 8 going, and 7 returning. Knowing the folks that are going, it will be great fun and a good way to get to know more Area 40 folks committed to service.

See me for more information.

AA General Service Board Calendar Key Dates: Jan – April 2024

Board Calendar 2024		
Date - 2024	Event:	Location:
January 26	General Service Board Weekend	The Westin at Times Square Hotel, New York, NY
March 7	A.A.W.S. Strategic Planning Session	NYC
March 8	A.A.W.S. Board Meeting	NYC
April 14 - 20	General Service Conference	New York Marriott Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn, NY

- Area 40 Spring Assembly – April 5-7 Holiday Inn, Great Falls
- Never too early to think about good candidates for GSR, D72 Committee Chair & Officer positions... What position interests you? Find out more.... AUGUST
- Feb 2-3 District 91 Kalispell – workshop
Connecting with love, unity & service. Free event held at local church. Lodging
- March 15-16 – Pockets of Enthusiasm, Helena
- May 4 District 61 Mega Committee Workshop. Catered conf with Treatment, Corrections, PI, CPC & Workshops committees.
- May 17-19 – Spring Roundup in Billings @ Big Horn Resort. “Beyond our Wildest Dreams”

9. Immediate Business:

- No immediate business

10. Old Business:

- **Discuss the idea of conducting another District 72 Inventory** - Betty M.
 - Further discussion from Groups & Committee Chairs to the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc of the Ad Hoc District Inventory Committee? Plan for moving forward?
Discussion: A few committee chairs and GSRs have already reviewed their part of the inventory recommendations, and have made a plan to make changes.
Each GSR, Committee Chair, and Officer should review their section of the D72 Inventory report. Be prepared to report if you are already doing the suggestions, or if not, how you plan to implement them. The idea of the inventory tool is to be self monitoring. The report should be brief, and will be compiled into a response document to the inventory report.
Please email all inventory response reports to district72.secretary@gmail.com
Reports will be given at the February D72 business meeting on 2/24/24.
(see inventory report attachment)
- **We got a check from this most recent round-up to replenish the money we saved from the canceled 2020 Bozeman round-up. What should we do with it?** - Meghan R.
Discussion: Total amount is \$1418.69. Any information from past practices?
GSRs be sure to discuss with home groups and bring back ideas.

11. New Business:

- No new business

Motion to adjourn @ 6:21pm

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. This would be Oct. 11.

Please send any items to be screenshared displayed at the next D72 meeting to:
area40.district72@gmail.com

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, February 24th , 2024
4:30pm – 6:30pm at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman
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

The link to our District mini site is:

<https://www.aa-montana.org/district-sites/dist72/index.php>

