

District 72 Business Meeting Notes
January 30, 2021 5pm via Zoom

Opened with the serenity prayer

Read the District 72 Mission Statement-Lisa C.

Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions-Rick H.

Reading of Concept One:

“Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”-Catherine J

Call to approve December 2020 minutes-there was no comment from members in attendance so the minutes were approved.

Introductions/Attendance:

Bradley G- Tech Host, **Rick H**-DCM, **Mark E**-Treatment Chair, **Meghan**-Secretary, **Catherine**-Archives Chair, **Phil**-Bridging the Gap Chair, **Gail M**-GSR Wednesday Noon Group, **Katie M**-GSR Tuesday 8pm Group, **Pat P**-GSR HOW Group, **Brian**-GSR Big Sky Group, **Lisa C**-Visitor, **Sarah S**-PI Chair and GSR Women’s Livingston Big Book Study, **Karon**-GSR Pink Cloud, **Heather H**-GSR Early Risers Group, **Aaron B**-GSR Primary Purpose, **Angie**-Grapevine Chair, **Stephen**-GSR Hospital Group, **Alex M**-GSR Bozeman Young People’s, **Savannah**-Special Events Chair, **Chris O**-Treatment Chair, **Chase**-GSR Better Late Than Never, **Bob E**-Visitor, **Joe**-GSR Vennis Over the Hill Group, **Doreen**-GSR 6th Chapter Group, **Chrissan R**-Literature Chair, **Ty K**-District Inventory Chair, **Dennis**-GSR Friday Men’s Group, **Betty**-Alternate DCM

Committee Reports: *What did you do this month? Specific plans for future (as of now)? Do you have any changes to the Proposed District Guidelines for your position?*

• **Treasurer**-Phil gave a quick recap of 2020. Due to the pandemic, our income has been much lower than expected. We typically bring in 45-50% of our income in January and we have only brought in \$20+ however we also only spent about 1/3 of our budget for 2020. *(see attached reports for more details)*

• **Answering Service-**

From Gillian-I have spoken to Craig S., the previous Chair, to talk about what information I need/what this commitment involves. Craig gave me the phone number of the Area 40 contact, Sabrina S., but I haven’t heard from her yet.

Thanks for letting me serve.

Gillian S.

Rick said Sabrina had reached out to him and he will pass Gillian’s contact info along to her.

• **Archives-** Archives is looking to interview old timers who have been in AA in our area for 30+ years. Please reach out to Catherine if you fit this criteria and are willing to be interviewed.

This month I have not received much information from the outgoing Archives. Keep archives in mind when you or your group have OLD STUFF, particularly for Zoom activities and PI notes and contact them anytime because they will gratefully be cared for and exhibited to the fellowship in the years to come! Announcements, the 24th Annual National AA Archives Workshop "Today is Tomorrow's History" September 30 - October 3, 2021, San Antonio, Texas <https://www.naaaw.org/index.php/next-workshop/> and Registration: <https://www.naaaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/24th-NAAAW-workshop-flyer-English.pdf>

District Guidelines - My suggested changes in RED for Archives Committee:

collects, houses, and catalogs archival material for the district; materials are housed at the Fellowship Hall;

is available to research archival material for past experiences that can be beneficial to the district; reports activities and information to the district at regular meetings; may attend the Area Assembly when budget allows, to sit in on discussions of the Archives committee at the area level and reports to the district, in writing, any new activities or information from those committees' discussions.

Other suggestions for District Guidelines:

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 to attend and encouraged to 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. We intend for the following suggestions to help clarify and expand the information found in the Alcoholics Anonymous Service Manual.

• **CPC / Cooperation with the Professional Community-**

From Steven R: I've reached out to Gillian S., the previous CPC chair, and we'll be connecting soon on how I can follow in her footsteps providing communication and cooperation with the professional community.

• **Corrections-** Met with the outgoing Corrections chair, got a list of volunteers, made contact with several of them. We're doing an adequate job with the limited resources we have available during the pandemic. Currently preparing for when things re-open by making contact with people within the system so we're on their radar and able to take meetings back into the jails as soon as we get the go ahead.

• **Grapevine-**

From Angie S.: I spoke with Mike, our past Area 72 Grapevine Rep. He told me to get signed up as our District 72 Rep on the Grapevine.org website and they will send some information along

to me. He said to remind groups to save old Grapevines to be donated to the Gallatin County Detention Center. I'm not sure if Jackie Keery is allowing this due to covid but I will email her.

Effective Jan 1, 2021 there is new pricing for Grapevine subscriptions.

<https://store.aagrapevine.org/grapevine-epub-subscriptions>

Interesting things you will find on the AA Grapevine.org homepage

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/>

View our calendar of events for upcoming events

also

Do you have an event you want to share?

Tell us about it!

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/sobriety-card>

ALSO there is a pretty cool way to make a birthday card for a friend or sponsee in AA. If you right click on the card you can take a screenshot to print!

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/sobriety-card>



You can also sign up to receive a daily email inspirational quote @

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001oGSL6wu1SRbyFpIJFVXhsJmfiAwT9-c8UsT0fdV_rGWO0nkmyqyZNeqCr7gepkDIDRIYDIBrj6ttjM9WOM4EDDB8yJI8CthuzoJnKQ3qUlp0CvlgGgRGoOKITxJOzyVP1RIKrqxlgSXuW3sVMidP0w0o3wKFt4t9

Grapevine Daily Quote January 30

“Tomorrow is never ours until it becomes today.”

November 1946, “One Little Secret of a Happy Life”, Beginner’s Book

• **Literature-** We currently have \$974.26 in inventory. Inventory is getting low so Chrissan would like to place an order soon. Phil suggested we wait until groups specifically ask for orders before we order any more. Rick suggested we add an agenda item to discuss at the district level whether we should have hard cover big books in stock.

• **PI / Public Information-**

From Sarah: I met with Kristi, the outgoing District 72 PI Chair, and went over the position and responsibilities. I also helped with Holiday AA ads in the Livingston, Bozeman and Belgrade newspapers and additional free periodicals in the area both online & in print. Lastly, I met with Sharon S. via Zoom who has served on the P.I. committee and went over the P.I. commitment as it relates to the area 40 Website and online.

Requesting an additional \$500 to PI budget to do an additional holiday ad campaign and additional radio/press releases during the year. The holiday one was very well received and we would like to do an additional one mid year (4th of July?).

• **Special Events-** GSR Workshop today, no future events planned yet but Savannah is looking for ideas if anyone has any.

• **Treatment-** District 72 is hosting an online meeting at MCDC the third Saturday of each month on Zoom. We are looking for 2-3 females, 2-3 males max. Contact Mark if you are interested in attending. Send an email markdelkins@gmail.com or text at 510.557.5029.

• **Bridging the Gap-** Updating contact list on website- GSRs please ask any members of your group who’d like to be a BTG contact to e-mail Phil so he can add name, phone number and email address and he will add them to the list. phil.merta@gmail.com Please provide name, hometown, phone no. and email address. We’ve had about 6 BTG requests in January so far and have had good responses from our AA community. District BTG chairs around Montana are well connected and able to help each other make contacts throughout the state.

• **Hybrid meeting equipment update-** none

• **Alt. DCM-** Working behind the scenes to try and put the meeting together.

• **DCM / District Committee Member-**

- Had first area meeting for area chairs and DCMs, pretty good attendance.
- Spring Assembly will definitely be virtual, still hopeful fall assembly will be in person.

- **The West Central Regional AA Service Conference will be on Zoom March 5th, 6th, 7th.** More info on that to come. Attendees will go over agenda items that'll be discussed at the General Service Conference (over 97 agenda items!). There is a dashboard on the Area 40 AA website where info on the agenda items will be for review before the conference. **If a GSR wants to get into that information just contact Rick so you can get in.** It's not secret but it's kind of secret. Mostly for GSRs because they will be voting on these things at the Area level.
- **Pockets of Enthusiasm will be March 19th and 20th.** There is a flyer up on the area website.
- Pre assembly for Area Assembly-no date yet but likely a one day Zoom meeting on a Saturday.

New address for Pink Can donations:

Area 40 Inc.

PO Box 3464

Bozeman 59772

Discussion on the District Inventory Question 1. We broke into groups to discuss the results of question one from the District Inventory:

(From the District Inventory)

1. What is the District doing to Carry the Message to the still suffering alcoholic?

The District Answering Service, Bridging the Gap, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Corrections, Public Information (PI) and Treatment Committees provide volunteers who answer hotline calls; provide contact into the A.A. community for people leaving corrections or treatment facilities; hold workshops and luncheons for professionals; take meetings to Montana State Prison (MSP); Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC), Bozeman Reentry Center, the Gallatin Country Detention Center; maintain meeting information on the Area 40 Website; and print and distribute meeting schedules.

The District (and often the individual groups and individuals) responded well during the pandemic: many groups have an online presence and the District holds the district meetings online, making the meetings easily accessible to some of the remote communities that have not been able to participate. The district entities mentioned above cooperate to bridge among individual, group and district activities and responsibilities.

What more can we do (to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic)?

- Make it as easy as possible, especially for newcomers, to get to on-line or face-to-face meetings and get Big Books
- Redouble our efforts to reach out to the community so newcomers can find us
- Brainstorm new ways to reach out in these unprecedented times

- *Although there were not specific suggestions about what more could be done, the responses imply that more could be done if:*
 - Service at the District and Area levels were better understood
 - GSR communication with the group were improved
- Communication about District Committees and opportunities for A.A. members to serve were improved
 - A.A. member attendance at District meetings were encouraged
 - Accessibility to district information posted on the Area 40 website were improved
 - District meetings were continued with online accessibility
 - GSR's more openly shared experience, strength and hope about what works and does not work in carrying the message
 - More support and learning opportunities were provided for GSR's

Group 1: We reviewed the summary from the inventory and it felt comprehensive in terms of what we appear to be trying to do. Discussed AA literature, how to access it in a digital format, and how to alert other groups to that resource who may not already know about it.

Group 2: Suggested polling the newcomers to see how they found out about AA to get a better understanding of how our outreach is currently attracting people. Using meeting formats to reach out to newcomers in the meetings-saying things such as those available to be a sponsor please raise your hand. Also discussed outreach to healthcare professionals and how to continue reaching out on a fairly regular basis.

Group 3: Discussed advertising on Facebook or Youtube or how to use the money that PI is asking for. Asked about whether we can get literature to the warming center, is it possible? Other places for literature: HRDC? Fork and Spoon? Also discussed having a temporary sponsor point person-would that be something BTG could take on? There is a meeting in town of spiritual leaders monthly-can we be involved?

Group 4: PI committee is really focusing on public access, can we be going more digital by buying google ads so it'll come up faster, Facebook ads, trying to saturate shops and public areas with schedules and other announcements? Focusing on trying to get the meeting schedules out despite the fact we don't have as many in person meetings. Focus on getting those meeting schedules to the groups who are meeting in person. Getting the GSRs much more involved at the District level.

Group 5: Dug into the negative sides of putting the ads out on social media, infringing on the anonymity and competing with for profit recovery centers that are spending a lot more money. Suggested making sure online schedules are updated as often as possible.

We discussed the importance of getting GSRs involved to get more people more excited.

Next month we will talk about where we want to go with this.

Notes from the Chat Log:

Pat P.:

The H.O.W. Group hold 4 online meetings a week on zoom -

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://us02web.zoom.us/j/8712102218?pwd%253DQ59RM3BzdFBvKzk2NUJHWldYS1JqQT09%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;ust%3D1612053600283000%26amp;usq%3DAOvVaw3lfx6w36G_3ApVJ5qv7Okp&sa=D&ust=1612053600348000&usq=AOvVaw268EwgwlrGsS5XykNJ_WPT

-Sunday Speaker Meeting 7:30pm

-Monday Big Book Study Meeting 7:00pm

-Thursday Discussion Meeting (Birthday Meeting on Last Thursday of the month) 7:00pm

-Saturday Discussion Meeting 8:30am

The H.O.W. Group holds 3 face-to-face meetings a week at the Church of Christ on corner of Kagy and 19th

-Monday Big Book Study Meeting 7:00pm

-Thursday Discussion Meeting (Birthday Meeting on Last Thursday of the month) 7:00pm

-Saturday Discussion Meeting 8:30am

Mark E: FYI - Rebellion Dogs has face to face meetings Sunday - Friday at 5:30pm and a speaker's meeting at 7:30 every Saturday. We are serving coffee so come by, get some fellowship and have a cup of coffee!

Catherine J: Notes from Group 3 breakout room:

MORE coordinated outreach to organizations:

- HRDC organizations like this in town to facilitate
- Is it possible to have meetings at the warming (Group sponsor)?
- Is it possible to have more PI information Fork and Spoon (PI)
- Public Information Ad on Facebook You Tube Channel AA
- DHHS Website <https://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/SubstanceAbuse>
- <https://aa-intergroup.org>
- Have a Press List Contacts

More outreach to underserved groups

- Pamphlets Hospital, HOPE House need literature, more,
- Homeless Shelter Meeting Lists

INVOLVE GROUPS

GROUPS can adopt an idea or work with a committee

- Attend Monthly Spiritual Meeting and get in contact with Family Promise/Love Ink Involve Groups
- New ways to – have more roles for people such as a “Temporary Sponsor” brief overview a quick touch point person for AA (BTG & group meeting format suggestions)
- Contact for Recovery Center at MSU

Catherine J: For AA History Buffs Here is an update for the Month of January:
Archives Preservation Project <https://www.steppingstones.org/archives.html>

Aaron B: Hey all, before we go, I wanted to put a bug in your ear about the Primary Purpose speaker event Feb 13 3:15-8 on zoom. Flier is on the district website.
gm59715@gmail.com

Meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge.