

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

March 30, 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: 26
4. **Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions:** Betty M..
5. **Reading of Concept Three:** Lenore M.

III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

6. **Questions about last month's minutes? Can I have a motion to approve the Jan. 2024 minutes?** (meeting held 2/24/2024)
 - **Motion to accept:** passed, minutes approved

7. Introductions & Reports: GSRs & Visitors:

- Lila H, **Bozeman Young People's Group** (Bozeman) - meet Sun, Tues, Thurs @ 7pm. Business meeting held 1st Tues. @ 8:15pm. Attendance is up to around 20. Ad Hoc committee working on our meeting formats.
- Bob C, **Belgrade Common Solution** (Belgrade) - meet Sundays @ 5pm, business meeting held 2nd Sun @ 6:15pm. Not much to report, would love to see more people at our meetings.
- Teresa R, **Women's Serenity Group** (Bozeman) - hybrid meetings on Tues & Fri @ noon. Tues. is Steps & Traditions meeting, Friday is a discussion meeting. Attendance is steady. Birthday meeting is last Fri. of the month, business meeting held 2nd Tues. @ 11am.
- Matt S, **Vennis Over The Hill Group** (Ennis) - Meet Mon. Wed, Fri @ 7:30pm, Tues. @ 9am, Sun. in Virginia City @ 10am. Attendance good. Business meeting held 3rd Mon. @ 8:45pm. (Mon & Fri meetings are hybrid)
- Connie L, **Fellowship Group** (Bozeman) - meet Thursday at Grand Ave. Church @ 7:30pm, Business meeting held on 2nd Thurs. after meeting. Birthdays are celebrated every Thursday. Steady attendance 16-20 people, good discussions, but still need more women.
- Matthew R, **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 is growing. Both GSR & Alt GSR will be attending Spring Assembly.
- Nick, **There Is A Solution - TIAS** (Bozeman) - 7am Zoom everyday, in person Mon-Sat only. Attendance is steady around 20 daily. Business meeting held 1st Monday of the month @ 8am. Sat. is Big Book Study (good meeting), Sun. is a short speaker (if interested in speaking contact me).

Catherine J, **Hospital Group** (Bozeman) - We are hybrid and meet in the Bitterroot Room at Bozeman Health Group @ 6pm. Our business meeting is held the 1st Sun. of the month and we celebrate Birthdays the last Sun. of the month. We have some new people showing up.

Kristi D, **6th Chapter Group** (Bozeman) - meet Sun. @ 11am, still struggling with attendance, it's hit or miss 6 - 20 people. Please announce to your groups we could still use support.

Ashley P, **Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) - meet Wed at 8pm, Big Book Study, Business Meeting held 3rd Wed. of the month. Things are going well, attendance is 20ish.

Joshua M, **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman) - meet Sun - Fri at 5:30pm & Sat at 7:30pm. Business meeting held 2nd Tues. of month @ 6:46pm. Attendance is around 40..

Melinda W, **Tuesday at 8 Group** (Bozeman) - we've gotten really large and have probably maxed out in that room, but that's OK we'll take it.

Ellen C, **Friday Women's Noon Meeting** (Livingston) - attendance good 20 -25. Our sponsorship workshop went well.

Marice W, **Friday Men's Group** (Bozeman) - attendance good 20-33.

Marice W, **Thursday Big Book Study** (Bozeman) - attendance is anywhere from 10-20.

Scott, **Stacey's Alumni Group** (Gallatin Gateway) - meet Mon & Fri @ 7pm, attendance good.

Visitors: Rebekah P.(Alt GSR), Doreen M.(Alt GSR), Brian (Tech. Committee), Brenda C, Susan H, Dennis, Zack, Jeff

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 March 2024, or on Area 40 in District Mini Sites)

Answering Service: Dustin G. -

- Things running smooth, few hiccups.
- Have 12 volunteers - 6 male, 6 female

Archives: Gail M. - (absent)

- No report

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

- Updates
 - On March 12, we presented to staff at the Gallatin County Court Services including the director of court services and approximately 15 pretrial services and misdemeanor probation officers. Nora D led the presentation with background information on A.A. and what A.A. does and does not do. Jay J was the speaker who shared his experiences in the system and subsequent recovery as a member of A.A.
 - Contacts have been made and we are following up on speaking opportunities with the Interfaith Council, Bozeman Kiwanis Club, and the Montana Healthcare Foundation's 2024 Symposium: Celebrating Health Care Innovation. It is a professional development opportunity for innovative clinical practitioners from across the state to connect, exchange ideas, and share inspiration. We're still investigating opportunities in Gallatin County for May which is mental health awareness month.
- Feedback on CPC agenda items for Area Spring Assembly:
 - We discussed CPC agenda items for the spring assembly and will provide comments at the CPC session there.

- Response to request from Area Chair (Ty K)
 - Prepared an overview of D72 CPC activities since September for his report at Spring Assembly (report attached)
- Thanks to CPC Committee members—Bob E (Madison County), Dennis S, Doreen M, Eleanor W (Park County), Nora D, and Sharon S.
- Also many thanks to our literature chair, Amy K., for being a great literature resource. She truly knows the AA literature and guided me to pamphlets that are useful for our committee.

**District 72 Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee
Report to the Area 40 2024 Spring Assembly on Activities October 2023- March 2024**

Collaboration with Al-Anon:

We've had a productive collaboration with District 8 Al-Anon to share contact information and speaking opportunities. Presentations include brief overviews of each program and speakers sharing their experiences as alcoholics or family or friends of alcoholics.

Presentations to Professional Groups:

In our experience we've found that reaching out to groups to "meet them where they're at" is an effective and efficient way to get our message to larger numbers of professionals and pre-professionals who come into contact with individuals with alcohol problems. We've made presentations to groups in the professional community at their staff meetings and to students at MSU as part of their coursework. We provide light snacks and distribute literature, including meeting schedules, A.A. pamphlets relevant to the professional audience and postcards with information on the A.A. meeting app guide.

- On October 12, 2023, we had a speaker panel event with Al-Anon at MSU for 24 nursing students in their senior level psychiatric nursing course. Special thanks to Doreen M, who organized and emceed the event and our speakers Nora D, Tom M and Lila H We've been asked to repeat the panel in future semesters.
- On December 5, 2023, we joined Al-Anon for a speaker panel event at a staff meeting of professionals at the Community Health Partners. Doreen M provided the introduction to AA and why we cooperate with professionals; Nora D was our speaker. Approximately 13 behavioral therapists and outreach administrators participated on the meeting held on zoom. We sent AA pamphlets, meeting schedules and the CPC meeting app card in advance of the meeting to be distributed to staff there.
- On March 12, 2024, we presented to staff at the Gallatin County Court Services including the director of court services and approximately 15 pretrial services and misdemeanor probation officers. Nora D led the presentation with background information on A.A. and what A.A. does and does not do. Jay J was the speaker who shared his experiences in the system and subsequent recovery as a member of A.A.
- We have initiated contact for future events at staff and other membership meetings with the Interfaith Council, the Bozeman Kiwanis Club, and the Montana Healthcare Foundation for their 2024 symposium on health care innovation.
- We are exploring potential collaborations and speaking opportunities for professionals in May which is Mental Health Awareness month.

Thanks to CPC Committee members. Unless otherwise noted members are from Gallatin County: Bob E (Madison County), Dennis S, Doreen M, Eleanor W (Park County), Karon K, Nora D, and Sharon S.

Grapevine & La Vina / Structure: Savannah D. -

- Happy Birthday Big Book!
 - This month's special section is "Happy Birthday Big Book!" To celebrate our beloved Big Book's 85th anniversary, members share their favorite memories and stories.
- Grapevine Daily Quote March 30
 - *"In the life of each AA member, there still lurks a tyrant. His name is alcohol."*
- Updates:
 - AA GRAPEVINE, the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, will increase the price of its print magazine for the first time in over 12 years. The new price for a yearly subscription is \$36.00, effective April 15, 2024.
 - The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities is seeking A.A. members in the U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces to discuss their experience, strength, and hope as sober members of A.A. in the military in recorded anonymity-protected interviews. The goal of this effort is to improve A.A. outreach to members in the U.S. and Canadian military. Interested military members can volunteer or get more information about this project by writing to militaryoutreach@aa.org
- Coming Soon, April 26th: Our Twelve Steps!
- New Audiobook: Prayer & Meditation
- 2024 Catalog now available to download.
- Help us spread the word that the apps are here!
- Grapevine Workbook available on GVR Resources Books and more!
- The Grapevine/Laviñia bulletin board is stocked!

Literature: Amy K. - (absent - Joanne M. read report)

- We sold \$579.52 in literature (hopefully that jives with our treasurer, if not she is right) and CPC got \$9.00 in pamphlets that came out of their budget.
- Stock is pretty good, I will probably need to put in an order for some more big books in the next couple of weeks.
- I will take inventory in April. I will take stock of everything we have in the cupboards along with the total dollar amount of everything so everyone can see where we are at.
- If you need literature I am pretty flexible during the day during the week. Let me know if you or your group need anything.
- Thanks for letting me serve.

PI (Public Information): Katie M. -

- We ordered 1,200 schedules this month.
- The PI committee delivered schedules to 36 and we mailed schedules to 21 locations. A big huge thank you to the PI committee, they are so awesome making this all happen!!
- Karon + the CPC committee have given us several new locations/contacts to deliver schedules to so far this year. I think it's pertinent for the district to know that your committee chairs are collaborating!
- 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. Due to this the PI committee is now stocking the hall with schedules weekly.
- 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 could you please announce? We always need more volunteers!
- Next committee meeting is April 21st - 9am. If you or anyone in your home group would like to volunteer please contact me.

Special Events: Valerie K. - (absent - had to leave meeting)

- No report

Bridging the Gap: Tony B. -

- BTG Report [2024-03-11].
Greetings, below are some notes on Bozeman BTG activities. Broadly,
Recruiting: I have made announcements at Primary Purpose (Bozeman; M/W 8PM), Tuesday at 8PM (Bozeman; T, 8PM), Fellowship Group (Bozeman, Th, 7:30 PM). I have received n=1 volunteer (Holt P.).
Valerie K (?) from young peoples made an announcement, and filled out a sheet/form. I have texted here about getting this form and she has yet to send it back.
Nora D is discussing BTG with the PI committee. Wanted to know if the form (i.e. the BTG form volunteers send to me when they have someone who is interested) is available online. I said its not currently. However, I'm all for putting this up on Area 40 or elsewhere. I typically house documents github (easy upload/easy download, intended for housing programming data/info, but you can put anything on there), but I suspect this might just generate confusion, probably just better to put it on area 40 site?
- Current BTG requests:
 - 1 male - Status: No volunteers yet. Tony will take initiative and see he gets to Warming Center. Work on getting him to Butte.
 - 2 females - Status: no information on Release dates as of yet.

Corrections: Jennifer M. - (absent - sent report after meeting)

- Worked with Bradley to get zoom fixed for monthly corrections meeting, we have had successful corrections meeting both months in person and online. The corrections meeting is the second monday of each month and is now properly scheduled in zoom and with the district calendar.
- I will apologize for missing February and March meetings in person at the April district meeting. My time has gone to doing the actions of performing the duties of correction chair, minus the reporting to district portion. Much time and energy has occurred for the benefit inmates by carrying the message and all the actions required to do so.
- Continue to forward MSP emails and notify volunteers.
- Had quarterly meeting with Misti Tinder the GCDC program director, details will be provided at the April district meeting.
- Largest numbers of meeting attendance and higher level of engagement in continuous sponsorship by inmates to date recently.

Treatment: Chris O. - (absent - Joanne M. read report)

- I first of all owe an apology for missing the last meeting & failing to submit a report...please reach out if there is anything I need to do to make this right with anyone. I will try to not let that happen again.
- I just want to say it's an honor to serve & love making the connections with volunteers and MCDC residents that show up to local meetings. That being said, the MCDC meetings are going well & we are actually seeing the residents returning to Bozeman at meetings or at least calling for AA related information. Please reach out to me directly if you or anyone in your group would like to get involved. We could also use some literature, so if your group is sitting on any pink can money, please get it routed to the treasurer. Thank you for letting me serve!

Technology: Bradley G. -

- We're in a good spot
- Settled into committee routine
- Created the committee job description

- Thanks Lenore, Joanne for updating to language to be platform or brand independent
- Upcoming In-Budget items
- Longer cables
- Gaffers tape
- Improved camera
- Upcoming Tech duties
- Internet accounts divorced from an individual
- Develop standard procedures
- Chairs can schedule the Districts Zoom room @ bradleygillick@gmail.com
- Reminder send screen shares to:
- Area40.district72@gmail.com

Alt. DCM: Lenore M. -

- Thank you Katie & webmaster for the District 72 Mini Site facelift
- I was able to attend the Pre Assembly, and will be attending Spring Assembly.

DCM: Betty M. -

- I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference virtually at the beginning of March. I was sick and unable to travel. The Conference itself was engaging and inspiring. To see so many AA members from the 7 states which make up our Region sharing their experience, strength & hope around AA service work, and helping to help prepare our 8 WCR Delegates to share the conscience of their Area at the General Service Conference in April is inspiring to me. It reminds me of not only why I attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings as an individual, but also why it is important for me to participate as a servant within the AA structure.
- Our Delegate, Kacie N, asked our groups to provide input around a number of agenda items described in the Area 40 Post-Pre-Assembly Aid that was distributed earlier in the month and is attached at the end of this report. Could I just see a count of hands as to who will be attending the Assembly either in person or virtually, please?
- This is an important Assembly. I am asking each GSR and D72 Committee Chair to share the thoughts of your group/committee with me directly if you are unable to attend so that I can do my best to represent your thoughts. You can call, email or text me anytime ON/BEFORE April 4 th . My email is D72dcm.bettym@gmail.com, and phone is 406-600-9595.
- EVENTS:
 - Area 40 Spring Assembly – April 5-7 Holiday Inn, Great Falls. In person and on ZOOM. Zoom information: MTG #: 983 5741 6479. PASSCODE: area40
Agenda for Spring Assembly: Contact Betty M or Joanne M

Begins @ 7:30 p.m. Friday; ends approx Noon on Sunday. Room code for discount: A40. The Agenda below is for the 2024 General Service Conference – not A 40 Spring Assembly.
Background materials is found on this site.
Agenda: www.aa-montana.org/dashboard
User id: dashboard
Password: xwPa4Sky
- Other Events:
 - 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”

Additional events on www.aa-montana.org calendar page.

GSRs: It is time to prepare for Area Assembly! *Are you overwhelmed? Don't know where to start?* Here is a: **Post Pre-Assembly Aid**

Every April, a delegate from each of the 93 Areas meet to discuss important items in AA. They release the agenda in February, to give groups plenty of opportunity to get their voices to their delegates. Here in MT, all the Area Committee Chairs gathered in a Pre-Assembly to discuss the agenda items with the fellowship. Now the GSRs will take that information back to their groups for discussion so they can arrive at Area Assembly well informed & ready to talk.

At Pre-Assembly, our delegate specifically asked for input on:

Corrections

Item D: deal with creating new pamphlets for the fellowship

International Conventions

Item D: choosing a prayer to close the big meeting

Item E: please also ask reasons for groups non-participation in Forums & Service Conferences

Finance

Item C: especially wants fellowship experience on changes to AA literature written by our founders. What do people really think? Are most people angry, or is there a silent majority who is ok with the changes?

Please note: this item is to discuss the changes that have already happened, there is no new change being proposed here.

CPC

Item D: feedback on videos on aa.org

Literature

Item F: The delegates will have a chance to look at the draft copy so if there is any part of the book your group is especially concerned about be sure to let your GSR know so (s)he can tell the delegate at Area Assembly.

Hotline/Report & Charter

Item A: changes to the Service Manual

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy

Item 2: Area 40 Ad Hoc on our policy & procedures

Grapevine

Items C&D: discuss funding for Grapevine & LaVina

Policy & Admissions (our delegate's assignment)

Item C: feedback on the EDW, both pros & cons

Item D: report of online groups in AA, specifically feedback & new ideas regarding online groups

These items are a great start for the discussion in your groups. Also, be sure to find out which agenda items are important to your group because communication goes both ways!



If your group doesn't have a GSR, you can start the discussion yourself!

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?
LAST CHANCE FOR ANYONE WHO WASN'T HERE AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING TO GIVE ANY INPUT/FEEDBACK FROM YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR HOMEGROUP MEMBERS
Discussion: Betty M. will wrap things up.
- **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? (what do groups want us to do with it?)** - Meghan R.
Discussion: Meghan gave a quick recap about where the money came from. Total amount of excess funds D72 has is \$1418.69. Ideas of what to do with the money were to send to GSO, or to send to the next roundup.
Motion: Send \$1418.69 from 2023 Bozeman fall round-up to GSO.
Passed: YES - 23, NO - 0

Background Information: When fall 2023 Round-Up was over, all expenses paid, splits with AI Anon paid, money sent on to the next round-up, and contribution made to GSO, the committee sent the remainder to D72.
This item has been on agenda for several months allowing GSRs time to discuss with groups.

11. New Business:

- **Discussion about registering District 72 as a nonprofit to purchase a subscription to Quickbooks Online through TechSoup for use by the District Treasurer to track and report on financials** - Meghan R.
Discussion: Meghan explained the current Google sheets process we use now, explained the purchase of Quickbooks, pros & cons.
(See attached Agenda Item Form on next page)

DISTRICT 72 AGENDA ITEM FORM: DISCUSSION

(1) Discussion to register District 72 as a nonprofit and purchase a subscription to Quickbooks Online through TechSoup for use by the District Treasurer to track and report on financials

(2) List how the discussion item originated and background info:

- District 72 currently uses a complex Google Sheets spreadsheet for tracking budgets, income, expenses, and bank balances.
- The use of this spreadsheet requires an understanding of how Google Sheets and the use of formulas work to keep it accurately reflecting the data.
- It can be burdensome when new groups or budget lines are added to ensure all formulas throughout the spreadsheet are pulling from the correct places.
- Area 40 uses a version of Quickbooks for tracking and reporting on finances and has had an overall positive experience with it
- To qualify for the discounted price, we need to register as a non-profit with the IRS. I would request asking the District if we have any members experienced in this process to ensure we are properly registered from the outset.

(3) List the considerations (pro and con) of the discussion item:

- Pros -
 - Quickbooks software is designed specifically for this purpose and will likely be more reliable for tracking data
 - There is less room for error and would make the Treasurer position in future service rotations more accessible to folks who don't have Excel or Google Sheets experience
- Cons -
 - This would require an additional expense to the District
 - In order to maintain status as a non-profit, this would also require annual tax filings with the IRS and the State of Montana

(4) Financial considerations for the discussion item:

- \$20 to file articles of incorporation with the state of Montana
- \$275 to apply for recognition of exemption under § 501(c)(3) submitted on Form 1023-EZ with IRS
- This would require an increase to the Treasurer's budget (or the tech budget) of \$75/year
- This would require a potential increase to the overall spending plan of \$20/year to file annually with the Secretary of State

(5) Why should this subject be discussed by the District:

- Because it requires an additional expense by the District

(6) Final Comments:

Motion to adjourn @ 6:30pm

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."*

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 April 17.*

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

**Next district meeting Saturday, April 27th , 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>**

*If your group has an event flyer you wish to post on the Area 40 Calendar of Events
please send to: webmaster@aamontana.org*