

Area 40 - District 72 Business Meeting

September 30, 2023

4:30pm-6:30pm

**Hybrid meeting held in person at the Trinity Episcopal church in Jeffers (right near Ennis)
and via Zoom**

Thank you Venice/Enise for your hospitality hosting the District 72 meeting!

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: 22
4. **Read the Short Form of the Twelve Traditions:** Lila H.
5. **Reading of Concept Nine:** Lenore M.

*“Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety.
Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be
assumed by the trustees.”*

6. **Questions about last month's minutes? Can I have a motion to approve the August 2023 minutes?**
(meeting held 8/19/2023)
 - **Motion to accept:** passed

7. Introductions & Reports: GSRs & Visitors:

Ashley H, **Bozeman Primary Purpose** (Bozeman) - meet Mon & Wed @ 8 pm, attendance good.
Business meeting held 3rd Wednesday.

Lila H, **Bozeman Young People's Group** (Bozeman) - meet Sun, Tues, Thurs @ 7pm in Big Room
of the Hall. Newcomers are jumping into service. Kickball
event was well attended, even though weather was stormy.
Business meeting held 1st Tues. @ 8:15pm. Topic right now is
should we have 2 or 3 meetings a week, causing tension
amongst members.

Bob C, **Belgrade Common Solution** (Belgrade) - meet Sundays @ 5pm, attendance 10-15. Good
group of people, room for more. Business meeting
held 2nd Sun @ 6:15pm.

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

Matt S, **Venice Over The Hill Group** (Ennis) - All meetings well attended; Mon. Wed, Fri @ 7:30pm,
Sat @ 9:30am, and Sun in Virginia City @ 10am.

Kristi D, **6th Chapter Group** (Bozeman) - meets at 11 am at the Hall, steady attendance.
Business meeting held 1st Sun. @ 9:50pm.

Connie L, **Fellowship Group** (Bozeman) - meet Thursday at Grand Ave. Church @ 7:30pm,
Business meeting held on 1st Thurs. after meeting.
Meeting is well attended.

Joshua M, **Rebellion Dogs** (Bozeman) - meet Sun - Fri at 5:30pm & Sat at 7:30pm with Women's meeting held at same time in Large Hall room. Halloween Party Oct. 28 "Spiritual Gangster" is the theme.
Business meeting held 1st Wednesday of month @ 6:45pm.

Melinda W, **Tuesday @ 8pm Group** (Bozeman) - meet at the St. James Episcopal Church, 111 S. Tracy, lots of visitors, lots of people showing up.
Business meeting held 1st Tues. @ 9pm.

Tim K, **H.O.W. Group** (Bozeman) - meet 4 days a week: Sun, Mon, Thurs, Sat, all well attended.
Birthday meeting last Thurs of month. Business meeting 2nd Thurs of month @ 8:15pm. October Speaker Event 10/14,
See attached flyer for information.

Celia H, **On Awakening** (Bozeman) - group has gone virtual only, meeting Tues & Thurs @ 6:30am.

Catherine J, **Hospital Group** (Bozeman) - meets virtually Sundays @ 6pm, but will soon be hybrid as we'll get an available room at the hospital to meet in.
Hospital has a new spiritual director and is super helpful.

Visitors: Steve, Lauri, Erl, Ron, Chopper, Caitlin, Doreen M (*Alt GSR*), Rick H (*Area 40 PI Chair*), Elizabeth (*Raleigh, NC*), Nate, Dustin, Brain, Rylan W.

8. Introductions and Committee Reports:

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

Treasurer: Meghan R. -

- Distributed seed money to Roundup Committee, that account is now \$0 balance.
- Next month I will present the proposed 2024 Spending Plan. Previous committee account amounts will be sent out to all chairs for review. Please give feedback on the account amount to Meghan R.

Answering Service: Emily Y. - (absent)

- No report

Archives: Gail M. - (absent - Joanne M read report)

- Hi Everyone,
There's not much new in Archives. If you would like to have minutes from your groups' business meetings entered into the District Archives, please get them to me and we will keep them in our cupboard at The Hall.
Additionally, if you would like to be a member of our committee, we would love to have you join. Just let me know! We meet for a short time each month on the 4th Thursday on Zoom.
Thank you for allowing me to serve.
Gail M.

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

- We reviewed the speaker luncheon event sponsored by Area 40 - CPC preceding Regional Forum in Missoula. We collaborated with CPC committees in districts 61 and 81 to plan the event with class A trustee Kerry Meyer and areadelegate Kacie N. as emcee. The event drew professionals in person and on Zoom from health and criminal justice backgrounds.
- We are collaborating with Al-Anon on developing contacts data and provided their PI/CPC committee a template they will use for contact data for mental health practitioners.
- One member of our committee was able to attend the "Hometown Rising" recovery event in Livingston and provided some feedback that could be useful in developing contacts in Park County.

- We reviewed preparations for the panel for MSU nursing students on October 12. This is a senior level psych/mental health nursing class. We are collaborating with Al-Anon for the event and will have 4 AA speakers and a couple Al-Anon speakers.
- We discussed the permanent closure of Alcohol and Drug Services and the transition to Cedar Creek which is a privately run service for outreach to patients. We will be talking with treatment and PI chairs about how we might best collaborate to introduce AA and how AA can be helpful to them with literature, speakers, etc.
- DCM Betty M. requested that the committee consider presenting a district-wide “sponsor your professional” workshop. We'll be working with events chair to plan something, likely in January or later in 2024.

Grapevine/Structure: Savannah D. -

- Have a motion on today's agenda

Literature: Amy K. -

- We sold a little over \$400 this month, need to order more Big Books.
- Questions about Roundup? Savannah D. will have Roundup committee chair contact Amy K.
- Should there be a budget for literature?
- GSRs spread the word to groups to please buy literature from Amy @ 406-570-6773

PI (Public Information): Katie M. -

- We ordered 1,000 schedules this month for the quarter!
- Per the new quarterly schedules: GSR's please take the same amount of schedules you normally take. I will still bring schedules every month and there will still be schedules in the drawer at Fellowship Hall. The PI committee asks GSR's that before coming to district next month you check to see if your group needs more schedules.
- The PI committee delivered schedules to 23 locations and we mailed schedules to 14 locations.
- National Recovery Month Event: The treatment court judge's office invited us to an event in Livingston on Sunday September 24th. It was an event that the 6th Judicial Treatment Court and The Phoenix put together to celebrate National Recovery Month. We had a table with outward facing pamphlets. We gave one pamphlet away and we met the treatment court judge Brenda Gilbert. Beyond this it didn't seem that we were very useful at this event, but AA was asked to participate and we showed up, so that felt positive.
- 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
- Next committee meeting is Tuesday 10/17 at 5:45pm. If you or anyone in your home group would like to volunteer please contact me.

Special Events: Valerie K. -

- We are partnering with the CPC committee to have an event in January or February
- Possibly a literature centered event in March
- Ideas are always welcome. Please contact Valerie K.

Bridging the Gap: Tony B. - (absent)

- No report

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

- Programs have not been running as often this month at the detention center.
- Pre-release/re-entry is going well
- I just emailed the October schedule to MSP volunteers
- I met the new program director for the detention center, her name is Misti Tinder, she will not be fully trained for her new position until the end of October.
- We need new volunteers at the detention center the next orientation is 9 November.
- The monthly corrections meeting is the 2nd Monday of each month at the hall or on zoom in the tiny business room next to the big west room.

Treatment: Chris O. -

- MCDC is by far the high point for me, good interactions at the meetings. October volunteers are covered. MCDC is fairly busy with residents. Need volunteers for Nov, Dec, Jan.
- Question about the amount of funds in Pink Can - we order in bulk which lasts 2-3 months, so the amount in funds might be high right now, but will be ordering a large amount soon.

Roundup Chair: Bruce W. -(absent - Savannah D. gave report)

- Plans are going well
- Ticket sales at 191
- Looking for a Literature & Child Care Chairs
- Need help with party planning
- GSRs please push ticket sales, reminding folks there is a 400 capacity limit
- Taking donations for the silent auction
- Questions contact Savannah D.

Technology: Bradley G. -

- Things are going well with the Technology Committee (Meghan, Brian, Rylan)
- Agenda item will be presented for discussion today....Technology Service Description

Alt. DCM: Lenore M. -

- Thank you Venice Over The Hill for hosting today's potluck & D72 meeting
- Next month's meeting will be a week early, October 21, since the Roundup is scheduled during our regular meeting time.
- We ask that groups be mindful of regular scheduled meetings when scheduling events.
- The newly adopted *District 72 Agenda Item Form* is now posted on the our district mini site on the Area 40 website.
- I had the opportunity to attend both the Forum and Assembly, again making me realize how incredibly important AA service work is.
- Another take away for me was that D72 rocks!

DCM: Betty M. -

Hello, District 72! I am attaching 2 documents FYI that I put together earlier this month.

- At the **West Central Regional Forum in Missoula**, I heard that the 12 Steps, Traditions and Service Concepts really are practiced at all levels of the AA Service Structure. Sometimes AA may engage outside consultants to help gather the right information in order to formulate a possible approach but it's ALWAYS through the group conscience of our trusted servants that AA members made the decisions. ALWAYS. They are worthy of our trust. We're in good hands. *My write-up on pages 3-4 of this document.*
- At the **Area 40 Fall Assembly in Great Falls**, I was proud to share information about how District 72 is fulfilling our primary purpose and that I loved our energy. I was also able to see first hand how important it is for trusted servants to perform their tasks fully. Many came to the Assembly but left before voting on the business items related to Area 40. We almost didn't have enough people based on our original quorum to participate. We finally did; the voting issues & results follow. *My write-up on pages 5-6 of this document.*

Committee	Area 40 Issue	Vote – Yes or No
Structure & Policy	Consider whether to make permanent the reassignment of Report & Charter GSC from the PI Committee to the Hotline Committee	Yes
	Consider revising the Area Advisor job description to make the Venue Liaison duties applicable for the four assemblies of the Advisor's rotation.	Yes
Treatment & Accessibilities	Consider submitting an agenda item to the 74 th GSC: Consider a 2-year moratorium on all new agenda items at the GSC starting in 2025. The exception would be the filling of GSB and Corporate Positions	No
Finance	Consider Area 40 budget for 2024, including funding for Tech Committee per fall 2022 motion.	Yes
Literature	Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74 th GSC: Consider developing a pamphlet addressing Alcoholics Anonymous and the Unhoused Alcoholic	Yes
	Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74 th GSC: Consider writing a new meditation book for the fellowship. This would be in addition to the current Daily Reflections	No

- **Area 40 Candidate Proposed for West Central Regional Trustee:** Gerry Robinson
- **Important Dates:**
 - o **Havre AA Mini-Conference:** 10/6-8/2023, Havre MT
 - o **2023 Fall Roundup: *We Are Not Saints*** - 10/27-29/2023, Bozeman MT
 - o **2024 West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference:** 3/1-3/2024, Minot ND
 - o **Spring 2024 Round Up: *Beyond Our Wildest Dreams*** - 5/17-19/24, Missoula MT
 - o **2024 National AA Archives Workshop:** 9/26-29, 2024, Des Moines IA

West Central Regional Forum: Attendees from Area 40, District 72:

Amy K, Betty M, Brenda C, Bob C, Catherine J, Doreen M, Eleanor W, Earl F, Jake W, Jeff L, Joanna K, Julie R, Karon K, Kristie D, Lenore M, Lindy B, Lisa C-D, Luanne T, Maurice W, Matthew R, Rick H, Sharon S, Ted Z, Theresa R, Tim K, Ty K

DCM Report:

Hi! My name is Betty and I'm an alcoholic.

It was exciting for me to see how many people from District 72 – current & former Chairs, Officers and GSRs along with Visitors – attended this incredible weekend event. Because many of us were first-timers and unsure of what to expect or what we might be called upon to do, I wanted to share my experience, strength and hope.

As a first-timer, I stepped outside of my comfort zone and volunteered to greet attendees on opening day - Friday afternoon. I sensed my feelings of “anxious apartness” slip away as each attendee arrived and group excitement intensified.

The Forum opened with a discussion about similarities & differences and how we are united. I heard that it is especially important for me to remember how & why we are united as we discuss the present and the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. I don't know how “united” everyone felt at the beginning of the Forum but I left the event with the knowledge that everyone in that room was part of my ever-growing AA family. Even when disagreeing, we remained fully united in our common purpose of wanting to help the suffering alcoholic who wants to stop drinking.

The Forum was a combination of presentations & workshops conducted by leaders of the General Service Board, regional trustees, delegates and other key staff. Sharing Sessions were held throughout the day to give all attendees an opportunity to come to the microphone and ask these trusted servants a question, raise a concern, or share an opinion. The group listened and provided explanations or stated they would find out and report back.

Though never stated directly, I heard that AA is in very good & capable hands. That leaders at the bottom of AA's inverted service triangle care deeply about what they do, and that they work harder than I thought possible. For example, I spoke with Bob W, the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO) and learned that he is a real AA and a real human being – he lives with his family in Massachusetts. He commutes weekly to GSO spending 3 days in New York City each week (unless he is traveling or conducting AA business elsewhere). Between now and year end, he will only have 2 weeks available to relax with family & friends. That's passion and commitment for Alcoholics Anonymous – I think of it as love in action.

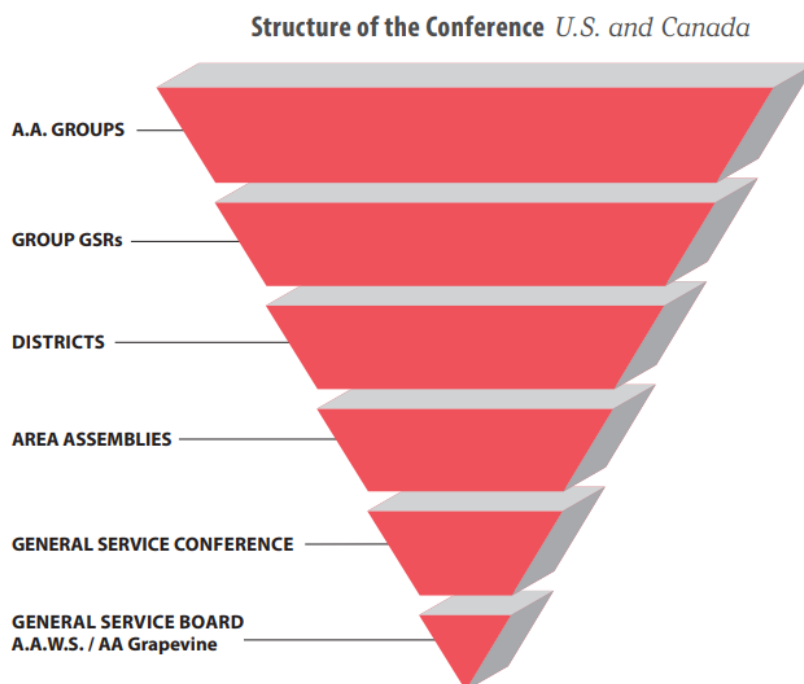
I heard that the 12 Steps, Traditions and Service Concepts are practiced at all levels of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sometimes AA may engage outside consultants to help us gather the right information in order to formulate a possible approach or work deliverable, but it's ALWAYS through the group conscience of our trusted servants, that AA members make the decisions. ALWAYS. AA's trusted servants are worthy of our trust throughout the fellowship.

Getting to meet more of these folks over coffee, a donut in the Hospitality Suite or a bowl of ice cream Saturday night, I came to see that AA's practice of decision-making through the informed group conscience of our members is in place at all levels of the triangle.

I am confident that Alcoholics Anonymous will be here for generations to come as long as:

1. I remember to trust and support my fellow AA members, my trusted servants and my Higher Power.
2. I remember that Alcoholics Anonymous is filled with people just like you and me who are dedicated, honest, open-minded and willing to do whatever it takes to make this program accessible to those who want it.
3. I remember our Responsibility Pledge: *I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty M
DCM, Area 40 District 72



DCM Report – District72 – Presented at Area 40 Fall Assembly 2023

Hi everybody! My name is Betty and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as the DCM for District 72.

Geographically, District 72 includes Gallatin, Park and Madison counties. We offer both open & closed meetings, options for men & women, as well as an option for those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community and friends/allies. Each group determines whether their meeting is online, in-person or hybrid. Hybrid District meetings are held the last Saturday of the month, and we average about 28 attendees/month. 20% of those are visitors!

The AA Preamble states that "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." That's exactly what we've been doing this year.

Our GSRs report that their meetings are doing well and growing. They are getting newcomers from a variety of sources, including Bridging the Gap, treatment centers & correctional facilities. Once through our doors, newcomers are being offered the opportunity to get involved in AA through service – setting up the room, hosting & chairing meetings, greeting, making coffee – as well as fellowship activities like kickball, BBQs combined with speaker meetings and fun.

Obviously, these things don't happen by accident – they are accomplished through the combined efforts of our dedicated trusted servants at the group, district and area levels. We collaborate with each other and our counterparts in Area 40 to share questions, ideas and approaches on how best to accomplish our primary purpose. For example, under the leadership of our Area Chair, our District CPC chair worked her counterparts in Districts 61 & 81 to put on a hybrid CPC panel before Regional Forum. Judge and Class A trustee, Kerry Meyer spoke about her experience in dealing with alcoholic/addicts in her court, and her view of the efficacy of the AA program. Medical, law, and criminal justice professionals heard how AA supports people in recovering and leading healthy lives. I heard that it was very good and well attended.

We had over 25 members attend West Central Regional Forum. The GSO Staff, Regional Trustees & Delegates talked with and listened to the AAs in attendance. Both presenters & attendees were treated respectfully, enabling an open exchange of information & ideas. I saw that AA's trusted servants, even the ones I don't know, are people who are passionate about A.A. and committed to our primary purpose. I believe that with the help of God and an informed group conscience, A.A. is and will continue to be in good hands forever.

District 72 is financially stable, hovering a little over prudent reserve. Our cabinets are full of literature. Our Technology Committee purchased equipment to support district meetings and special events. We've used it once on the road already without a hitch.

Administratively, we look at our processes and allow ourselves the freedom to consider what we might be able to do better for the Fellowship. We implemented a new standard approach for bringing new business before District. This approach makes it easier for GSRs to share and explain what is being considered to their groups, why, and at what estimated cost. Discussion is much more efficient & effective; more business may be accomplished.

We have a variety of events scheduled between now and year end: a HOW group speaker event on October 14th. Our Roundup Committee is hosting Fall Assembly the weekend of October 27th. You'll hear more about this event Sunday morning. Flyers & registration forms are available on the table. The Technology Committee is working with the HOW group and the Roundup team to finalize what they might want to make available to online attendees. Stay tuned for more information. We hope to see all of you there!

I love the energy in District 72 and am grateful to be part of it. Thank you!

Yours in service,
Betty M
DCM, District 72

- Questions regarding shift of work load from one committee to another. Betty M. & Rick H. explained how and why this happened.

9. Immediate Business:

- Elect a new Answering Service Chair:
Job description was read. Dustin G. was nominated, as well as Nate T. (who respectfully declined). Dustin gave service history & sobriety date. Dustin G. voted in as new Answering Service Chair.

10. Old Business:

- **Motion: Give an additional 1-time amount of \$56.42 (addition to the \$50 in grapevine budget) to be given to the Grapevine/La Vina Chair so that items/subscriptions can be purchased for the district.** - Savannah D.
Explanation given why the funds are being requested and how money will be used.
Passed: Yes - 20, No - 0
- **Motion: Update the District 72 Guidelines to add “La Vina” alongside anyplace where “The Grapevine” is mentioned.** - Lenore (this was discussed last month)
Passed: Yes - 22, No - 0
- **Discuss adding a bullet point to the District 72 Guidelines stating: “Use the ‘District 72 Agenda Item Form: Discussion or Motion’ for all no-emergent agenda items to be submitted for the monthly district business meeting” to the District 72 Guidelines at the very bottom of Section I. Functions and and Services (this is located on the first page of the District 72 Guidelines, right below the title and mission statement)** - Lenore M.
The form was voted to accept at 8/2023 business meeting, seems to make sense to add it to the guidelines.
Motion: Add “Use the ‘District 72 Agenda Item Form: Discussion or Motion’ for all no-emergent agenda items to be submitted for the monthly district business meeting” to the District 72 Guidelines at the very bottom of Section I. Functions and and Services (this is located on the first page of the District 72 Guidelines, right below the title and mission statement) - Melinda W.
Passed: Yes - 20, No - 0

11. New Business:

- **Discuss the idea of conducting another District 72 inventory** - Betty M.
Last inventory done 2020, recommended to conduct every 2 years, should we do a new inventory?
Discussion: use the recommendations from the last inventory and start there, why redo it? Take serious look at the last report, finish out what was started from last inventory, each chair make recommendations, keep it simple with only a few questions then add more questions as we move forward, do an inventory during the interim year in between rotation, form a subcommittee to make it easy. Locate and send out the last report and recommendations.
Motion: Send out reports and recommendations from 2020 inventory, GSRs read and bring back to groups, and discuss at the next D72 business meeting.
Passed: Yes - 23, No - 0
- **The Technology Committee submits the “District 72 Technology Chair Description” for consideration and in preparation for a future motion to approve** - Bradley G. (and the Technology Committee)
Discussion: Bradley explained proposed service position, suggested that qualifications be added, look at the Area 40 technology service position, committee responsibilities are added.
- **Motion to adjourn - 6:30pm**

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

13. 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, Oct. 21st @ 4:30pm – 6:30pm

This meeting will be held 1 week earlier than normal,

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>