

# **DISTRICT 91 BUSINESS MEETING**

March 28, 2021

Hosted by Alano Club of Kalispell and Zoom Online Meeting

*Anonymity Protected Version*

## **Attendees**

A total of 15 members from District 91 attended: 4 officers, 6 committee chairs, 4 GSR's, and 1 visitor.

## **Opening 3:00 p.m.**

- Serenity Prayer – \*\*
- Preamble – \*\*
- 12 Traditions – \*\*
- 12 Concepts – \*\*
- Concept of the Month (March) – \*\*.
- Next Month Concept of the Month (April) – \*\*
- Next month District meeting to be held at Alano Club 153 N. Meridian, Kalispell and on Zoom simultaneously at 3:00 p.m. April 25, 2021
- Review and approval of February minutes: motion by \*\*. seconded by \*\* and approved without corrections.
- No 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collected due to COVID-19 at this time

## **Introduction of Attendees**

## **Committee Chair Reports**

(Please forward all reports for monthly meeting by the Thursday preceding the meeting to District 91 Secretary.

**Archives – (vacant position)**

**Bridging the Gap: (vacant position)**

**Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC): (vacant position)**

**Corrections – \*\***

I need to give you a report as the district corrections chair. The main discussion we had was about the literature being changed by trying to reword some of the sentences so that they did not have the words “inmate” or “offender” in them. There was a complaint by an inmate up in Canada who found some of those terms offensive and suggested we should try to change it some way, so as to not offend him or so that it could be more “inclusive”. The arguments were that after some surveying of other inmates, who read

the literature, none of them found it offensive, so it came down to changing the literature for potentially one person. Problem being, this could take a lot of work and time, and would he even be able to utilize the program after the changes had been made? Would he still be in prison? Jail? Seeking recovery? A lot of questions came up for me as far as why and why not. Where in the literature does it use terms I am wondering? I have not checked yet, but will tonight at my meeting (he might be the only person who's actually read all the literature, for pete's sake) Are the terms so frequently embedded into the literature that it would completely change the message that the literature is trying to evoke? Therefore potentially ruining, or changing the efficacy of the message, the same message that has been most effective to us or to the inmates the have found recovery before him? Would it take too long to have to rewrite the whole thing if we decided to? Would usage of different terms be a simple fix and something that no one else would consider vital to their recovery if it were changed? Would anyone even notice but him. Is this man in Canada, from whom the complaint came, a con artist, or someone that just wants to harass AA, and try to get the best of us by wasting our time and convincing us that our efforts can be put to meaningless things, from any demand, from any type person, struggling to find recovery or just a low-life? If the man is just resentful of being in prison, and really doesn't care one way or the other, but just wants to complain to somebody about something, than a lot of people might say no, do not go to the trouble to change it. Is he really struggling to find something for his alcoholism that he feels he can read because it treats him with respect? Between his complaint being the only one, and no one else caring either way, it almost sounds to me like it should be changed. I felt that if it wasn't too much trouble, maybe we could've changed the literature for him, low life or a man struggling to find recovery, I think either way it could make his life, and show him that we care about him in AA, and that we might have a new member. I sometimes get the feeling from the people in these meetings that they haven't truly been cared about or listened to, and that is partly why they are in trouble and do not have lives. I also feel like from a personal standpoint, I hated lots of things about this program and I wanted things changed, I can't say they changed the literature for me or anything for that matter. But I can definitely say that they listened to me, shared their stories with me, I got a service position, so heck I might argue they did change things for me.

I didn't share very many thoughts with the committee, I was too nervous, but I mostly summarized the above. I just tried to express that maybe we could help him out and change the wording if it would help him. We voted on the issue and I believe we voted in favor of changing the literature, saying that we should change the wording.

We talked about new and innovative ways to get meetings into the jails during this time. I didn't share about this. Although, I was almost successful in getting meetings set up one on one or two on one meetings at the visitation window, this past February. The meetings were set for four windows between the times of 4:30pm and 9:00pm, starting the next Friday, about a week from that day. "Great!" I thought. I had planned to announce it to meetings that week, but got busy with work and school and was only able to get the word to a few people, one declined. She had also asked to try to email her and give her a head count of how many people would be showing up. I never got

the email off but planned to show anyway. I felt kind of tired that day and did not show up for the planned date. Anyway, I emailed her the following week to try to touch base, however, the commander in her reply said she had discussed it with some of the other workers at the jail and they decided to not move forward with the meetings. She said that based on how things are going, April might be okay to get the meetings going again. Anyway, having the knack for getting tight at precisely the right moment, maybe? I have reached out to her about three times since, a few times in person, once just to get her email, I said I didn't need to speak with her in person at that moment. She prefers emails, I've had questions for her about potential Skype meetings and the grapevine. But no response since.

They also talked about the jail meeting kit. We didn't talk about this very much at all and the meeting convened pretty early.

### **Grapevine – \*\***

Not much new to report on Grapevine waiting for Covid restrictions to ease up. Trying to make different meetings to promote Grapevine. Would like other groups to follow Canyon Group lead. They have a Grapevine Chair that selects a couple of current Grapevine stories to discuss at the designated 2nd Sunday of every month GRAPEVINE meeting.

### **Literature – \*\***

For the month of March I had Three book orders. The orders are coming in slowly but I do feel with spring coming the orders will pick up. I'm hoping so! Thank you!

### **Public Information (PI) – \*\***

I am the new PI chair. Due to Covid brochures and schedules have not been being distributed. I believe we are getting schedules tonight at the Intergroup meeting and will make my initial rounds next week.

### **Treatment – Vacant position**

### **Intergroup (non-voting) – \*\***

No report for March

**District Intergroup Liaison (non-voting) – \*\*** Spring Fling is on!! It will be the 3rd or 4th week in May More information and flyers to come. Look forward to bowling April 24th 1:30 to 2:30 at the Pin & Cue in Whitefish. Sign up sheet available. Welcome to \*\* as Schedule Chair for Intergroup. Look forward to Band of Brothers back, Alano Club 6pm Weds. The Canyon Grp speaker is \*\* April 2nd, the first Friday in April. By the Book speaker 1st Saturday of the the month, . Founders Day campout by Serenity Group June 11 - 13 at Tally Lake-see flyer.

### **Standing Committees/Reports**

Into Action – Cancelled for 2021

Christmas Alcathon 2021: Need to get chair. Please tell all groups a chair is needed.

Fall 2022 Roundup: \*\* is the newly elected chair, nominated by \*\* by acclamation and seconded by \*\*

## **Group Reports**

### **Baffled Lot Group – \*\* GSR**

No report

### **Band of Brothers – Inactive at District for now**

### **Big Book Group – no representation**

### **Bigfork by the Bay Group – \*\* GSR**

Bigfork by the Bay Group is still meeting 3 times, once in person on Sunday eves 7 pm. The “lively” Thursday evening 6:30 Zoom book study of the 12 Traditions (hosted by \*\*) will continue right into studying the 12 Concepts and attendance is good and all are welcome to join. As was provided by District, the Assembly agenda and dashboard info was emailed to the group members in advance. It was on the Bay agenda for our last business meeting and many items were brought up by members and discussed.

### **By the Book – \*\* GSR**

No report

### **Canyon Group – \*\* new GSR**

Good afternoon,

I am the new GSR for the canyon group. I will officially be voted in at our next meeting. I was able to attend our Spring assembly and be an active member and sit in on literature committee meeting. Even though i had to get to that uncomfortable place again in my sobriety now that I have jumped in with both feet.....I'm ready to be in the lifeboat with you all and help row.

Our group is alive and thriving. As has probably been reported previously, Canyon group has never shut down and has met in person throughout this time. With that being said, attendance has been up along with contributions.

We do have one hybrid meeting being the Saturday morning women’s meeting at 8:30 a.m. with them now doing a speaker meeting 1st Saturday of the month.

We do have Tues,, Wed,, Thurs, Sunday 6:30 a.m. meetings that could use support but it is great to have that option. Thanks to \*\* and \*\*and \*\* for chairing those meetings.

Many of our members are very active in intergroup and it is great to see that service work.

Annual Campout is June 25 -28 at Swan Lake Campground with \*\* chair and \*\* co-chair.

\*\* our monthly speaker on the first Friday in April.

Thanks for letting me be of service.

**Chief Cliff AA – \*\* GSR**

No report this month

**Circle of Sisters – \*\* GSR**

We meet weekly with a hybrid in person/zoom option. Around 10 - 20 people attend.

**Columbia Falls Group – \*\***

Meetings held every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights at 8PM at Chapel of Veterans' Home in Columbia Falls. Social distancing a premium and masks required. Now serving decaf coffee.

**Flathead Valley Serenity Group – \*\* GSR**

No report

**Fresh Start – no representation this month**

**Going to the Sun Group – no representation this month**

**Lunch Bunch – \*\* No report for this month**

**New Hope Group – \*\* GSR**

No report this month

**Somers/Lakeside Group – \*\***

Update from the Somers/Lakeside Group.

We are continuing to host our weekly in-person meeting on Monday nights at 8 pm at the Eidsvold church in Somers. This meeting is also hosted on Zoom if you would like to attend this way. Please email or text for the meeting ID and password. We are also continuing to host a Thursday night big book meeting, held exclusively on Zoom. This meeting starts at 8 pm. Please email or text for this meeting's ID and password. Thank you for all you do! Seeing you Sunday on Zoom-

**Sunrise Group – no representation this month**

**Swan River AA Group – no representation this month**

**Tobacco Valley Group – \*\* GSR**

No report

**Whitefish Group – \*\* GSR**

As I stated earlier, zoom hybrid meetings are barely attended ... not quite sure why , there is Saturday 8pm meeting which is not listed on the area website, I have made \*\* aware of this, so I presume she will pass this on to \*\*.

Meeting attendance ( in person) is not as much as I would like it to be considering the size of the Whitefish group People are still balking at coming down into the church basement.

## Women in Sobriety – no representation this month

### Officer Reports

- **District Committee Member (DCM) – \*\***
- It has certainly been a busy AA month, beginning with WCRAASC, followed by Pre-Assembly, and ending with Area Assembly just this weekend. It has been a large time commitment for many and much appreciated. For many years, I did not realize how much it took to really carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic and how much more to AA there was besides my weekly meetings and working with my sponsor. That was all I could handle in the beginning, and then my sponsor introduced me to more opportunities to be of service. “Service keeps you sober” was something I heard a lot and I am grateful I took that to heart. I’m also grateful that there are so many people in District 91 that live by the same motto. Thank you.
- WCRAASC was a 2-day, virtual event, in place of the usual 3-day conference that meets in rotating cities throughout the Region. Friday night was for Delegates, and past Delegates only, Saturday was available for anyone to attend. Area 40 was well represented with 37 attendees. West Central Region consists of 8 Regions and well over 300 members attended. The entire focus of the Saturday conference was to go over General Service Conference agenda items. Hot button items were those that dealt with revising and updating pamphlets, creating, adding to, or revising the Big Book and a Statement of Concern and Motion to censure. Thank you so much to all the District 91 members that spent a Saturday in AA Service. I found one Area report very interesting, Area 36, Southern MN, has three annual Assemblies with an attendance of approximately 130 people. They have 26 Districts, over 1000 weekly meetings and a MUCH smaller geographic area than Area 40 (lower half of the state of Minnesota). Area 40 Assemblies generally have at least 130 people in attendance, that says a lot about the commitment of our Area to reach the still suffering alcoholic. Way to go!
- District 91 had a tremendous showing at Pre-Assembly, with 12 attendees, out of 45 for the whole Area (that is over 25% from one District!), really impressive team! We discussed qualifications for a new Webmaster. Even though we focused more on Area 40 business, there was still much discussion on AA Literature, from the Literature Agenda, CPC Agenda and Grapevine, regarding the pamphlets (changes to Sponsorship, Black and African American, gender neutral changes and “inmate” terminology), changes to BB, 12 & 12, plain language BB. Changes to Area 40 Past Motions/Archival items were discussed, in order to bring current and meet what’s written with actual practice, requesting Area approval to do so at Assembly. The Pre-Assemble was 3 hours long, so a lot of material was covered, this is just the highlights, as I saw them.
- Area Assembly was held this weekend, I will have a report on that next month.

- GSR's-please make sure that you have changed your Group information with your contact particulars. The form is in the GSR kit or available on AA.org website. This is how GSO will get information to you, like contributions, etc.
- Our Lit Chair, \*\* now has a credit card for District Lit purchases. Please place your lit orders with her, as she can combine orders to reduce shipping costs, etc.
- As always, everyone, please encourage groups members, sponsees and guests to attend District meetings. It's the best way to know what's happening and see service in action.
- Grateful to serve,
- \*\*
- Dist 91 DCM

**Alternate District Committee Member (Alt. DCM) – \*\*** Nothing to report this month.

**Treasurer – \*\***

Checking balance: \$4,950.74

Prudent Reserve: \$1,497.52

Pink Can balance: \$1,258.35



Treasure Report  
February 28, 2021 (10)

**Secretary – \*\*** Nothing to report

### **Old Business**

- District 91 Elections –  
Need to fill vacant committee chair positions: Archives, Bridging the Gap, CPC, and Treatment

### **New Business**

None for this month.

\*\* from Serenity Group presented information about their Founder's Day Campout in June: reaching out for help and asking people to bring items to potluck and breakfast.

### **Closing**

\*\* moved to close the meeting and it was seconded by \*\* Meeting closed at 4:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Responsibility Statement by all in attendance.

**Minutes submitted by \*\* District 91 Secretary**

**DISTRICT 91 GUIDELINES**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bagRWUFLzMQhzdd5VV0QWKAjKYPAGK08C8qPzD53vog/edit#heading=h.px11p82xkmpp>

**DISTRICT 91 AGENDA PROPOSAL FORM**

<https://www.aa-montana.org/district-sites/dist91/docs/district-91-agenda-proposal-dec-20-2020.pdf>

**SERENITY GROUP FOUNDER'S DAY FLYER AND REQUEST FOR HELP WITH CHAIR POSITIONS**



Founders day  
campout 2021 flyer.d



Founders Day Camp  
out Chairs.docx