

Area 82 Active Committees Meeting

April 20th, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm NS time

Chaired by Trudy A. Area 82 NS/NL Alt-GSD

There were some problems for people trying to log into the meeting. They were getting a notice that the host was in another meeting. Gerry and I will work to fix that, also Trudy will be sending out a reminder email the day before with the proper log in information. Progress not perfection!

Trudy had a few questions to ask the committees.

1. Where do you all see this going forward in the next month?
2. What would you like to see happen in these meetings?
3. Would you like to keep meeting every 2 weeks or a longer time period between meetings?

This meeting is for the Committees to share with each other and any interested members. Trudy is just here to facilitate the meeting and learn how she can help in any way.

The group feels it is beneficial to meet monthly on zoom even after the social restrictions are lifted. This platform will allow face to face interaction with all the committee people across our Area.

Kathy (Archivist) feels that her Archives may not be as front line as some of the other committees and will join us when she has something new to bring us. She will stay connected with us through the minutes and is free to contact anyone with questions.

Klaus is just joining us for the first time this week. Technical issues kept him out the past 2 meetings. (I think that may have been my fault). He will take in the meeting and provide some feedback at the end

Leah says she is good with whatever the committees agree to. As long as we keep the lines of communication open now that we have started, this will be a great tool.

Heather was wondering what we have planned for the Service weekend. She also is in favor of continuing this at least once a month.

Foster agreed that once a month was good for a meeting on zoom and, if something comes up in the meantime the committees can run it by Trudy, and we can decide what to do with it.

Trudy asked for reports from the committees by the District they are in.

Districts 1 and 2 (Leah C. Chair PI and Heather C. Chair of CPC))

- Leah came across the Shopper's Drugmart website and saw that they have all kinds of links to click on for health, wellness, mental health and addiction services. Maybe we can get the message out on this platform. Community health has the same services online. Maybe get a PSA on there.
- Telephone campaign to notify doctors offices how to contact AA (numbers and website info)

- Also researching different ways to face this problem and find different places that need information.
- Heather received a call from Adsum House looking specifically for women's meetings. The lady had clicked onto the AA Halifax website but had trouble finding any women only meetings. Heather gathered zoom id's and passwords for the Sackville, Dartmouth and a few other women's meetings in our area and gave those to her.
- Heather CPC- Her committee cannot do to much right now but is lending a hand with PI calling and anywhere else they can. She said that as 2 committees we will work as 1. (I love this statement)
- Foster let us know that Jamie Q. was in touch with 811 and they did acknowledge that they have our website and phone number information and will be touching base with us again when they are not so swamped with calls.

District 3 (Mark Z. PI/CPC Chair)

- Mark said that it is rather slow down in the Valley right now. He did contact Eastlink TV to try and get something running on the local channel. They said they do not have a local channel however they have the provincial channel and the HRM is already running some PSA's.
- He also contacted Jo, the chair in district 17 for PI/CPC, and they will get together when they are able to help each other so they are not wasting time and resources.
- He agreed with Foster that we can run things by Trudy and if the committee people want to talk between meetings that's great too.
- He believes that this getting together in this format will be invaluable to the smaller districts to gather ideas and contacts from other districts that may have been there before him.
- Mark brought up an idea to have different committees meet on different nights or the same night on different weeks. I am sure as we fashion this format, we will look at that great suggestion.

Districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16– no reports

District 10 (Klaus B. PI/CPC Chair)

- Most of District 10's resources have been going to making sure that all the groups who want to be are plugged into zoom meetings.
- The district 10 PI/CPC committee has met 2 times now on this platform and it is a great platform for this type of work. They have had some resistance around radio stations not wanting to run the AA PSA's. Someone from the committee is doing some research into the back history and maybe they can get some audio PSA's running soon.
- He has really loved getting the minutes from the past meetings we have had. It has generated some new ideas for their committee. He had not thought about contacting doctors' offices but now he has!
- We also have a 24-hour telephone and he is looking at where it is listed. He is happy to see it is quite out there but there are a few gaps that need some work covering.

District 10 (Kathy S.C. NS Archivist read her report)

- Sometimes when I listen to all of you give your reports and how much you all are doing to give back to this program and to the still suffering alcoholic - it makes my job as your Archivist sound pretty boring - but then I realize that all of you and all of these reports will someday be in our AA history and it makes me proud to be somewhat a small part of that, by preserving it for others to see and to learn from in the future.
For those of you who don't already know, the archives are now in a safe and dry storage facility in Bridgewater. It is very different for me not having it just a few steps away - but I am adapting.

Most recently we have acquired 3 more totes from our mentor, Warren C., who, unfortunately, is now in a long term care facility, but, as usual I dove into it with anticipation of great treasures and I was not disappointed. This old campfire notebook dated 1979, with the original minutes from the start up of the Newport group, now the St. Croix group was one of the many things I found.

So, I continue to accept anything I can to help the growth of your archives -which by the way has grown from the 5 totes Gary and I originally received to 15 plus when we moved everything into storage. As my work as your Archivist goes in spurts of when I receive items, I may not always have anything to report, and I look forward to giving you my full report at the upcoming Service Weekend.

Also please remember that Kathy has asked any members who would like to send along a few sentences, your sobriety date, how you or your group got through Covid-19, etc. she will put it all in a time capsule that will be opened by whoever is Archivist 25 years from now. (I really hope I am around to see it opened)!!!!!!!

District 17 (Gary O. Corrections and Institutions Chair)

- Gary is wondering if there are Treatment/Corrections people who will be attending.
- Maybe we could form into different nights so specific committees can meet
- Gary brought up that sales of alcohol and drugs are way up so we need to remember that there are people out there who may need us so we need to remain visible in the community and also make sure that everyone knows where we are. He also stated that people are really struggling with this and communities are changing.
- He also brought up the question of anonymity on zoom. We will discuss this after reports.
- He has been working with another member to get zoom meetings into Crosbie centre with district 3.
- Since there are no physical meetings right now there is not really anyone using the district newsletter. He asked if they could ask members to put their sobriety birthdays on the calendar so if they are at a meeting people would know and say a happy birthday!!

Jo PI/CPC

- Jo has not had much time between meetings to get to much started. Once a month would be a great idea. They are just starting to form their committee and the logistics behind that are not easy when some do not do zoom.

- Also agrees with Mark that meeting in this format once a month will be beneficial for all the committees.

Trudy Alferts Area 82 NS/NL ALT-GSD

- I feel incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to be a small part of all the frontline work accomplished in Area 82. I am excited about where these committees and the Zoom platform are going, and I am so pleased with the response from the members.

General discussion followed reports.

- Gray’s question of anonymity on zoom was addressed. Gary stated that a member down in his district refused to go on zoom because they believe there is an anonymity issue. Mark from district 3 said some of the meetings he has attended have been “zoom bombed”. He noted that those meetings have not had passwords. Charles (a member of Districts 1 & 2 Technology Committee) answered some general questions on this issue. The waiting room is a way to keep the bombers out of the meetings. If 50 people try to join a meeting with a waiting room then the host won’t let them in and that solves the problem. He went on to say that a meeting should remember to not allow screen sharing and always should have at least one co-host in case you run into technical difficulties. If you follow these suggestions, you should not have anything happen that wouldn’t happen in a regular meeting! If someone is concerned about their anonymity in a room then advise them to turn their video off. The problems are mostly to do with big business. If someone comes into our rooms looking to steal AA trade secrets the worst thing that could happen is they might get sober!!!
- Bill mentioned that he is concerned about what COVID is doing to our fellowship. There have been several members who have relapsed during this time.
- Trudy thanked everyone for attending and if there is anything between now and the next meeting that you need help with please contact Trudy at alt_gsd@area82aa.org
- **Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm NS time, 6:30 NL time on the 18th of May 2020**

<https://zoom.us/j/93129549742>

Meeting ID: 503 783 3979

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