

Minutes of the Area 82 NL Service Weekend

(Conducted using the Zoom platform)

(Minutes prepared June 30th, 2020)

Saturday June 20th, 2020

9:00 am **Gerry W** opened the meeting with a few moments of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Gerry W. discussed a few ground rules, including the fact that the sessions were being recorded for the purposes of minutes and that we would be limiting sharing to two minutes.

Trudy A explained the need for placing your contact information in the chat area for the purpose of minutes and keeping our contact lists up to date.

Introductions of Area 82 NS Officers and DCM's

Kirk S. (GSD), **Trudy A.** (Alt-GSD), **Monique McL.** (Treasurer), **Gerry W.** (Chair), **Ray S.** (DCM District 12) **Jim D.** (DCM District 13), **Angela C.** (DCM District 15), **Boyd B.** (Past Delegate), **Una H** (Past Delegate),

12 Traditions (Long Form) were read by **Loretta D.**

Mission Statement of Area 82 was read by GSD **Kirk S.**

Sympathies: Members spoke the names of AA members we have lost from the NL section of Area 82 since the Assembly last October. A minute of silence was observed in remembrance of the members and their Service to AA.

Minutes from the 2019 Area 82 NL Service Weekend were read by **Gerry W.** Motion to adopt the minutes as read (minor corrections, two typos) was made by **Jim D.** Seconded by **Monique**, approved unanimously.

- Business Arising from the minutes. The Area 82 Guidelines need to be updated to reflect additions / changes made at last Assembly

Gerry W. reviewed the Agenda.

A motion was made to approve the Agenda was made by **Monique McL.** Seconded by **Loretta D.** The agenda was approved unanimously using the yes/no feature in the participants panel.

District Committee Members Reports:

District 12 attached- given by DCM **Ray S.**

District 13 attached- given by DCM **Jim D.**

District 14 attached- given by **Kayla V.** GSR of Carbonear Lunchtime Group
on behalf of DCM **Jeff B** (who sends his regrets)

District 15 attached – given by DCM **Angela C.**

****** Minutes from Districts 12, and 15 were transcribed from the official recording and may have minor inaccuracies.***

Past Delegates Address:

Past Delegates **Boyd B.** and **Una H.** addressed the body.

Boyd B. “It is good to see some new faces here today as well as many old friends. I'm thrilled to be here. I want to focus on the word gratitude this morning. Gratitude involves Action. The more I put into Service the more I receive. These people you have with you on the executive are all very experienced. What a great job you guys have done for the past couple of years. Great to see you all. Enjoy the rest of the day. Thanks very much.”

Una H. “Good morning everyone. I’m glad to be here and so happy to be a part of this. It’s good to see what you guys have been up to.

Kirk S asked for time to play a short video appeal regarding the 7th Tradition from Leslie Backus who is a non-alcoholic Trustee serving as Treasurer of the General Service Board.

<https://vimeo.com/430834698>

Break. Reconvened at 12:00

Treasurers Report:

Monique McL. Area 82 Treasurer presented a full financial report (attached)

The following synopsis represents a cropped screenshot of the Area 82 bank statement. Full details of the Operational, Prudent Reserve and Upcoming Prudent Reserve are included in the attached Treasurer’s report.

Chequing/Savings	USD	CAD
Operational Funds		10,798.18
Prudent Reserve		14,623.15
Upcoming Budget Reserve		11,279.61
Total:		36,700.94



Canada Emergency Business Account
\$40,000 Loan

[Learn More >](#)

Questions / Comments arising from the Treasurer's report:

Bert F. "You said something about a Zoom and your contribution to a Zoom meeting. Could you explain?"

Gerry W. "When the pandemic shut down the face to face meetings, I went looking for a Zoom platform for Area meetings. We needed a format to accommodate more than 100 members. To get that next level (above basic), we would have to buy 10 licenses. That would bring costs up to \$3250.00 for the year. By then, St. John's Intergroup had already purchased that business package and had some extra licenses available. Area 82 rented one of those licenses for the year. That allowed us to have the extra functionality for a \$325.00 yearly Zoom rental fee."

Gerry W. "Cheque # 19 to Remote Communities Chair has not been cashed. How long before the cheque becomes "Stale dated"?"

Monique McL. "Six months."

Valerie W. "What is normally covered by these expenses? I'm new."

Monique McL. "During a normal year, the Area 82 Executive would travel to both NS and NL Service Weekends plus the Assembly. Expenses would include airfare, gas, our meals, our accommodations plus stationery and miscellaneous. Much will be returned this year. It is likely, however, that budgets for the upcoming year will need to be increased. A number of Officers chose to personally absorb some expenses."

Bert F. "Area Officers should not be expected to absorb any legitimate Area 82 costs."

George S. "We need accurate expense reporting from Area officers to allow for better budgeting"

**** The Chair closed discussion on this issue after several more GSR's spoke to re-iterate and support more accurate expense reporting to ensure better budgeting.**

Loretta D. moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by **Patricia B.** The report was accepted unanimously using the yes / no feature in the participants panel. Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Alternate General Service Delegate Report.

Trudy A. presented the Alternate GSD report (attached)

AACYPAA Report.

An AACYPAA report (All Atlantic Conference of Young People in AA) was provided by Ken B. (attached)

Remote Communities Report.

A Remote Communities Report was not available.

NL Archivist Report

The Area 82 NL Archivist position is currently vacant. A report was presented by **Gerry W.** (Report attached)

Webmaster Report.

Area 82 Webmaster Report was presented on behalf of Webmaster **Matt D.** by **Trudy A.** (Report attached)

CERAASA Report

Kirk S. presented the CERAASA report (attached)

(Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)

Questions / Observations arising from Reports.

Pat C. "Will CERAASA be conducted in Zoom format if Covid 19 is still a problem?"

Kirk S. "That decision has not been made yet."

Bert F. "The Remote Communities chair is inactive. When do we look at replacing an officer who is not performing the duty they were elected to?"

Bob T. “With respect to remote communities, or any other position, if we had somebody in that position that can’t or won’t do the job, it’s time to replace them.”

Gerry W. “Yes, the Guidelines cover that as well as does the service manual. We cannot arbitrarily replace them. The decision needs to be made at the Assembly.”

Trudy A. “We will continue to try communicating for now. We do not have all the information. She could be working nonstop 12-hour shifts. We cannot ask people to make an uninformed decision.”

Ken B. “**Martine** is the first Remote Communities Chair we have had from a remote Area. Wait till the Assembly.”

Gerry M. “What if the Archivist came from another District? How important would it be to have to move it if it’s secure in St. John’s? Is there a precedent there?”

Trudy A. “According to the Guidelines of Area 82, the Archives would be housed in the District the Archivist lives in. For example, if the archivist lives in District 13 then the alternate archivist would be the DCM of District 13. All the DCM’s from 11 to 16 make up part of the Area Archives Committee.”

Valerie W. “Who is eligible to hold Area positions?”

Trudy A. “The Webmaster, Provincial Archivist, Remote Communities Chair are elected from the general membership. The Area officers’ positions, General Service Delegate, Alternate GSD, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are DCM’s who are rotating out plus any Area officer who has not already held the position under consideration. Last year, we voted that past DCM’s who wished, could also let their name stand. A Service resume is required for all positions”

Bert F. “Can we link PSA’s from GSO to the Area 82 website?”

Trudy A. “I will ask the webmaster.”

Ken B. “The job of Webmaster has evolved to a much more complex task. I recommend that the Webmaster have a committee to help him / her with both the work and the decisions.”

Trudy A. “The Area Webmaster’s support committee comprises the Area Officers and the DCM’s. A small group of technical support people would be helpful.”

Gerry W. Played the video version of the message from Leslie Backus Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee, Treasurer of GSO. <https://vimeo.com/430834698>

Bert F. “What is the purpose of CERAASA?”

Kirk S. “CERAASA is laid out like a forum. It is held in February, before the April GSC and everything on the agenda at CERASSA reflects the agenda for the GSC. It is basically a workshop before Conference to get the sense of how all 10 Areas in eastern Canada feel about agenda items coming up at the conference. These may be on PI, CPC, Corrections, Accessibility or Literature. It is held in February before Conference and it is important that both the Delegate and the Alternate Delegate attend. It shadows the format of the Conference itself and allows both the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to learn the ropes. It is great for the first-year delegate because he has no idea what he is walking into. It is a real eye opener.”

Gerry W. “It allows the GSD to go to the conference for a good informed group conscience.”

**** CERAASA = Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly**

***** The Chair closed discussion and moved to Break. Reconvened at 15:00***

General Service Delegate Report.

Kirk S. presented his GSD Report (attached)

Questions / Observations arising from the GSD Report.

Bert F. “I heard you mention “The God Word.” What was that all about?”

Kirk S. “The Corrections Committee wants to include the pamphlet, “The God Word” in the Corrections Workbook. “

Bert F. “You mentioned “The Lords Prayer” in your report. Is it part of AA?”

Kirk S. “It came up in the context of the International Convention. The five big meetings are usually closed with the Lord's Prayer. Although we are not having the convention next week in Detroit, we did have quite a discussion on it. A suggested alternative was to close with “The Responsibility Pledge”. Most people were in favor of closing it with the Lord's Prayer.”

Kirk S. “There are plans to have pieces of the World Conference done by Zoom next week. The committee will send out links so we can watch the flag ceremony and a couple of the big meetings done by Zoom. The link is available on the aa.org website.”

Patricia C. “I heard you talk about pamphlets for black Americans and inclusion. Do you have any idea of the racial balance within AA as reflected by the last membership survey”?

Kirk S. “I don't know exactly. We had a variety of ethnic backgrounds at Conference both this year and last. I'm not sure of the exact numbers but the percentage is higher in the USA than it is here in Canada.”

Gerry W. called for a motion to accept all reports.

Kayla V. moved that all reports be accepted. The motion was seconded by **Ken B.** The reports were accepted unanimously. An opportunity was provided to ask further questions.

Roll Call

The roll call was performed by **Trudy A.** (ALT-GSD)

Overall, of the 75 GSO-listed groups in NL, 17 participated in the Service Weekend (a total 23% turnout). GSR's in attendance by District: District 11 (0 of 6), District 12 (3 of 8) District 13 (2 of 3), District 14 (3 of 13), District 15 (9 of 37), District 16 (0 of 8)

(17 out of 75) GSR's, 3 DCM's plus 3 Area Officers (2 Voting) 22 votes total. Chair only votes to break a tie.

Old Business:

No Old business

New Business:

1.) DISTRICT 10 AREA 82 PROPOSAL (See Proposal attached)

Amend Area 82 Guidelines regarding GSD expenses at General Service Conference in New York

Read by **Gerry W.**

Questions / Observations arising from Proposal

Jim D. “I think it is all good but because of the ongoing lack of funds coming in, we need to be extremely careful of our prudent reserve.”

Pat R. “It's really nice to be here and to see all your faces you look much better than any classes I ever taught at St. Mary's. I was the one who wrote the background information on this. At the Area 82 website, you can find that if you go to your 2017 Area Assembly minutes it's on page seven. It is under “excess funds Guidelines proposal”. That has got all the information on what was voted into effect. District 10's position is, that, while that's the right idea, there are some things that we feel are necessary to change in that proposal. The biggest one is that in the proposal that is in effect right now, the 2017 proposal, they did the calculation at the Assembly with the information that they had at the Assembly. Our position is that the calculation for this contribution should be done at year end in December 31st when we know all the actuals versus the budgets. We also feel that the 2017 proposal emphasizes budget figures only. We feel that it is important to take into account what our actual expenses were. And we only get that updated at the end of the year.”

Patricia C. “Do I understand that it is already in effect that the Area pays their bills, sets it's prudent reserve and whatever money is left over goes to New York anyway. Am I correct? Now tell me what's different in this proposal.”

Pat R. “That's a really good question that speaks to the heart of why we made this proposal. We think that the calculation needs to be done after all expenses are in. We think that the calculation needs to be based on actual figures, rather than budget figures at the time the calculation is done. According to the 2017 proposal, we are three quarters of the way through the year. We don't have the information from the last three months of the year.”

Patricia C. “Eventually the excess winds up in New York, regardless of when it's calculated. It averages out.”

Trudy A. “We're supposed to distribute the funds after we have our prudent reserve and our budget met. Any amount over that is supposed to go to GSO as a general contribution. In October when we are at the Assembly, we set our budget for next year. For example, if our budget is \$30,000 then our prudent reserve is \$15,000, because that is half. That means that we need to have \$45,000 in the bank in 2021, to fulfill our expenses and our budget. Whatever money left over at the end of 2020, is supposed to be sent to GSO. It did not happen the last two years because we forgot. We did not even think about the fact that we passed it in 2017. There were no GSR's, DCM's or Area officers who reminded us of that fact. We all forgot. Pat's proposal suggests that we should send the money as an Area contribution towards our General Service Delegate's expenses instead of just going in as a general contribution to GSO.”

Valerie W. “I'm confused between what the proposal says and how Pat R. explains it. Pat's explanation has to do with timing, whereas the proposal seems to be about allocation. Can we address the timing separately? If we make a general donation, will GSO allocate it where it is most needed, or do we have to specify where we would like it to go? Is there any good reason for us to specify instead of letting GSO decide where they need those funds to go?”

Kirk S. “If we specify that it is for the General Service Delegate expenses, it just goes into that pot and that pot alone. If we do not specify where it goes, then they use it where they need it.”

Pat H. “It seems to me that the only difference is one way we can control what the GSO uses it for, and the other way we leave it up to GSO to use it as they need it. I see nothing wrong with leaving it to GSO to use it where they need it.”

Bert F. “How are we self supporting ourselves as an Area if we're counting on GSO to help us with our Delegate to New York?”

Trudy A. “It would cost us over \$12,000 Canadian to have a Delegate at the General Service Conference. GSO only asks for a certain percentage from each Area per delegate to make it fair to every Area. That way every Area can afford to have their Delegate at the Conference.”

Jim D. “Support Group, District, Area and anywhere we can.”

Pat R. “The calculation is done at the time of the Conference, not at the end of the year.”

Discussion was closed by Chair.

2.) District 1 AREA 82 (See Proposal attached)

Fresh Start Group Proposal

Election of Co-Chairs for CPC, PI, Treatment, Corrections and Grapevine to work with and assist the chair (Alt. GSD)

Read by **Gerry W.**

Questions / Observations arising from Proposal

Leah C. “Last year District 15 brought a proposal to the table at our Assembly about a public information chair at the Area level. Being a public information chair myself, I decided to do a little bit of looking around to see why we did not have an Area PI chair. What does an Area PI chair do? I talked to a few PI chairs in different Areas and found out that, typically at the Area level, all across Canada, except for our Area, these committees have a chair at the Area level.”

Heather C. “We don't have any chairs for these committees that sit at Area level. It is a money thing. Recently we got together with our Alternate Delegate Trudy. I am the Chair for CPC in District one and two. Trudy has gotten in contact with CPC and PI chairs throughout Area 82 once a month we meet now on Zoom. These co-chairs would work with our Alternate Delegate. It won't cost Area any extra money”

Valerie W. “I'm trying to understand. Is there one co-chair for all of those or is it a co-chair for each one? If it is a co-chair for each one, what's the difference between having five co-chairs or five chairs? Is the main difference that the co-chairs will not travel?”.

Heather C. “Those co-chairs would work with the Alternate Delegate.”

Trudy A. “My understanding is that there would be one co-chair in Nova Scotia and one co-chair in Newfoundland, per committee.”

Valerie W. “How are co-chairs, working with the Alternate Delegate, different than what co-chairs would normally do? I'm still learning structure, I don't understand.”

Heather C. “In other Areas, they have a chair for these committees that sit at their Area table. We can't afford that. The Alternate Delegate would report on the activities at Assemblies and Service Weekends, instead of having chairs for these committees sitting at the table.”

Bert F. “I wouldn't be in favor of that proposal. I would have to check it out with my group and talk to them. We got to keep things simple. I heard Jim D. talking about trying to get his District involved with PI / CPC. I think we must go to the Districts. When we are adding extra people on to this, I just don't see where it's going. I think we're really complicating a quite simple issue.”

Discussion closed by Chair.

3.) **DISTRICT 2 AREA 82** (See Proposal attached)
Sunrise Group Proposal (See Proposal attached)
Implement Zoom Conferencing to Facilitate Area 82 meetings

Read by **Gerry W.**

Questions / observations arising from Proposal

Patricia C. “Are they saying that Area 82 should have its own zoom account? Which means that they can zoom around Newfoundland, Labrador and Nova Scotia?”

Gerry W. “That does seem to be the intent of it. Area 82 does have its own account. We're renting it from the St. John's Intergroup.”

Patricia C. “Why are we discussing this if we are already doing this?”

Gerry W. “We are discussing this because it was proposed before the pandemic and was already on the agenda before circumstances required the use of Zoom. “

Pat H. “This one is a no brainer. Zoom is a wonderful tool, especially for remote communities.”

Ken B. “Zoom is here to stay. It facilitates so much of our Area work.

Discussion closed by Chair

4.) DISTRICT 12 AREA 82 SUGGESTION

District 12 Area 82

It was suggested at the District 12 Service meeting that it might be advisable to decide at the individual Service Weekends the need to discuss the pros / cons of a physical or virtual Assembly in October.

Read by **Gerry W.**

Questions / observations arising from Proposal

Loretta D. “Personally, I do not want to travel to meet in a large group. I have health issues and I will not want to be gathered in the crowd around the time we might have a second wave. I'm for virtual.”

Jim D. “I cannot commit to going St. John's to the Area Assembly, because of my health reasons.”

Valerie W. “I'm of the same opinion that it is best to err on the side of caution.”

Gerry M. “It doesn't matter. The bigger problem is apathy. Only 22 people were here today instead of the 75 + who should have been. “

Ken D. “It would not be prudent for our groups to make a plan to travel now in October. We don't have the resources as we would have if our regular meetings were open. Put off the face to face Assembly for this year. This will allow groups to regroup and get their finances in order.”

Trisha B. “Should we not bring this back to the groups for a decision?”

Gerry W. “We are the people that are making this decision. We have the Right of Decision, given to us by our groups, our Districts and our Area respectively.”

Angela C. “The people who are in this room are the folks interested in Service and have the right to make the decision.”

Geoff S. “It may well be that it doesn't matter what decision we make, it may be pre-empted by the government anyway. We have a travel restriction in place that says, “people cannot come from out of province”. We have no idea when that will be lifted.”

Gerry W. called the question “Do you want to have the Assembly in the fall in this Zoom format?”

Yes or No. Use the yes/no buttons in the participants panel

The vote was unanimous to cancel plans for the face to face Assembly and to plan for a virtual Assembly in October.”

Discussion closed by Chair. Break for supper. Back at 7:00 NL time for The Actives Committee Workshop

The Newfoundland and Labrador Service Day was closed with The Responsibility Pledge.

. Gerry W.



Area 82 NS / NL Chair