

Minutes of the Area 82 Nova Scotia Service Weekend

(Conducted using the Zoom platform)

(Minutes prepared June 23rd, 2020)

Saturday June 13th, 2020

Gerry W opened the Service Day at 9:00 am 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 and that we would be limiting sharing to two minutes.

Gerry W. addressed a question from one of the attendees at the Workshop the previous evening. The Chair stated that the session would not be recorded. Shortly afterwards recording was turned on. The presenter (**Billy N.**) was OK with it, so it continued. The confusion was solely the responsibility of the Chair, it had previously been established during planning meetings that the session would be recorded.

Trudy A. explained the need for placing 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), and **Gerry W.** (Chair), **Steve A.** (DCM District 1) **Blair A.** (DCM District 2), **Tim MacB.** (DCM District 3), **Pete N.** (DCM District 4), **Brent McP** (DCM District 6). **Blaise S.** (DCM District 7), **Gerard M.** (DCM District 8), **Basil MacL.** (DCM District 9), **Ellen N.** (DCM District 10) , **Dwight C.** (DCM District 17), **Kathy S.C** (NS Archivist), Past Delegates in attendance, **Boyd B.**, **Tim M.**, **Sonny S.**, **Billy C.**, **Una H.**

12 Traditions were read by **Brent McP.**

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

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

Minutes from the 2019 Area 82 NS Service Weekend were read by **Gerry W.** Motion to adopt the minutes as read was made by **Dwight C.** Seconded by **Steve A.**, approved unanimously.

- Business Arising from the minutes. **Blair A** asked if monies sent to the Eastern Canada Hospitality Suite would be returned. **Tim M.** asked to table the question as he would be giving a full report a little later. Agreed.

Gerry W. reviewed the Agenda.

The Agenda was approved unanimously using the yes/no feature in the Participants panel.

District Committee Members Reports:

District 1 attached- given by **Steve A.**

District 6 attached- given by **Brent M**

District 2 attached- given by **Blair A**

District 7 attached- given by **Blaise S**

District 3 attached- given by **Tim MacB.**

District 8 attached- given by **Ron K**

District 4 attached- given by **Pete N**

District 9 attached- given by **Basil MacL**

District 5 attached – given by **Wade LeB** (GSR
Primary Purpose Group)

District 10 attached- given by **Ellen N**

District 17 attached- given by **Dwight C.**

****** Minutes from Districts 5, 7 and 17 were transcribed from the official recording but may have minor inaccuracies.***

Past Delegates Address:

We were blessed by the attendance of five past delegates. **Sonny S, Billy C, Una H, Tim M. and Boyd B.**

Sonny S, “I’m pleased to hear all the reports from all the districts. I think we're doing quite well on Zoom, but it's not my cup of tea myself. As far as it goes. It is not like right away and eye to eye. I’m keeping an open mind and doing the best I can. I'm still learning. Thank you.”

Billy C. “It's really great to be here. Great, great to be sober this morning. And it's awesome to hear all the reports. I have to make a statement. I was wrong one time. I remember when Tom and Dwayne and a few others were looking at meetings through a cycle like this, and I didn't think it would work. I thought it would be bad for AA but you know, I've certainly changed my mind. And I guess even us old guys must be open minded sometimes. Our first tradition says our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon AA unity and right now this is our unity. It is awesome to hear all these reports this morning and see all of these people. I wish you all well. Enjoy your service weekend. I missed the workshop last night. But I'll try to catch what I can through the day today and it's just great to see you. Thank you all for my sobriety, also thank you all for your service.”

Boyd B. “What a wonderful message from Billy N last night. I just wanted to comment on the fairly large turnout of people attending Nova Scotia service weekend. There’s a lot of new GSR’s”

Tim M. “Good morning friends. I served on panel 67. It was a pleasure to have that service and it changed my life forever. It was an amazing experience and I'll be forever in the debt of the good folks of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador. Thank you very much. If anybody has been around Area 82 in the last 10 years like Billy and I, you know we talked about zoom conferencing. I never thought it

would happen so quickly. I will be doing a report via zoom a little later. I know it will not replace our face to face Service Weekend's and our Assemblies and our regular AA meetings.

In closing, as this is an election year, I would like to encourage each and every one of you, who will be rotating out of your current positions, to please think seriously about letting your name stand for other positions in your District, in your Home Group, in the Area. I hear a lot of people say that "I can't. I'm not qualified to do these positions". I believe that God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called. I was not an experienced delegate when I was elected to that position. It took two years to make me an experienced delegate. The same applied to GSR, DCM, or whatever position I had. If you have the time and you are willing to serve this great fellowship, please, by all means, at your elections, put your hand up and let God decide what your future will be in the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, Area 82. Thanks for allowing me to share a few minutes. God bless you all. "

Break called by Chair. Reconvened at 12:00

Tim M. asked that he be allowed to present his report on the Eastern Canada Hospitality suite planned for Detroit.

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

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Questions / Comments arising from the Treasurer's report:

Steve A. "line Item 4 (GSO Conference \$2500.00) in the 2020 Budget Report is shown as a budgeted amount but not as an actual amount."

Monique McL. "that is a typo." She corrected the spreadsheet on the fly.

Dwayne MacD. "You mentioned moving \$500,00 to the Budget to cover Webmaster expenses because it was missed from the budget originally. The budget doesn't get changed once passed at the Assembly. It won't be a problem, there's plenty of funds to cover it but just to make a procedural point, we don't modify the budget after it has been voted on."

Monique McL. agreed and will move the funds back to the appropriate account.

Blair A. Could you explain the breakdown of those expenses covered by Cheque #23 to the Area Chair?

- \$325.00 Zoom account rental (2020 expenses)
- \$584.35 Area 82 Chair over budget (reflected in the 2019-year end report)
- \$97.69 NL Archives storage arrears (one month) (2020 expenses)

Terry H. "Will the funds dispersed to Area 82 Committee officers be returned now that there is no travel planned for the foreseeable future"

Gerry W. "Yes, minus minor expenses. The decision has still to be made regarding a face to face vs virtual Assembly for October."

Blair A. "Going forward we need more accurate expense reporting from to allow for better budgeting"

Brent McP. "One outstanding issue that seems to carry over year to year is the Webmaster's expenses. Those expenses are probably not great but if we had those in a timelier manner it would help with planning. This applies to all Area Officers. We need to probably look at increasing those budgets in October"

Lisa M. "We should revisit the financial statement taking into account the fact that most of the monies now advanced to the Area 82 Officers should be returned by them to the account. This will change the outlook considerably."

Dwayne MacD. "We are asking the treasurer to reconcile expenses when we don't know what expenses are still ahead of us before the Assembly. The monies will be returned if not needed."

Terry H. "I just find that we get bogged down in the details. You know the budget was set up. The people got their expense money. We are all trusted servants. At the end of the year, the money that's left over will be returned."

Ellen N. “I never heard before that if there was any extra money it would go to GSO.”

Gerry W. “Yes, that's in the 2017 minutes. It was a floor motion voted on and passed in 2017. We are also off topic here; this will come up again when discussing one of the Proposals later today”

**** *The Chair closed discussion on this issue.***

Alternate General Service Delegate Report.

Trudy A. presented the Alternate GSD report (attached)

AACYPAA Report.

An AACYPAA report was not available. (All Atlantic Conference of Young People in AA)

Remote Communities Report.

A Remote Communities Report was not available.

NS Archivist Report

The Area 82 NS Archivist report was presented by **Kathy S.C.** (Report attached)

Webmaster Report.

Area 82 Webmaster Report was presented by **Matt D.** (Report attached)

CERAASA Report

Kirk S. presented the CERAASA report (attached)

(Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)

Questions arising from Reports.

Steve A. “Question for **Kathy**, Archivist and **Matt**, Webmaster. The Archives inventory was meant to be posted to the Area 82 Website. I cannot find it. “

Matt D. “I have the document from Kathy, it hasn’t been posted yet. “

Terry H. “Will the Father John Doe LP’s be converted to a digital format for general membership use?”

Kathy S.C. “I will check on copyright issues, technically may be difficult plus they may already be available in that format online. I will check.” Tamar D offered technical help if required.

Lisa M. “Have you had many contributions to your “Time Capsule” yet?”

Kathy S.C. “A few pieces so far. Mostly related to Zoom meetings. I hope to get the audio tapes from these sessions for the Archives as well.”

Dwayne MacD. “I had permission from everyone in the room to send the screenshot to Kathy for this purpose.”

Michael A. “I suggested that we include the recordings of these Zoom sessions and I try to encourage participation by posting to the closed AA Facebook page in NS.”

Blair A. “Is it time to revisit the inclusion of AACYPAA in our Assemblies? There seems to be little participation and we keep budgeting for it.”

Trudy A “AACYPAA is a great idea but we are having trouble getting young people involved.”

Tom R. “Can we be notified when these Area Committees meetings and workshops occur.”

Trudy A. “The Area 82 Committees meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month on Zoom. I will send the link more frequently.”

Brian C, “If we're going to video, we need people's permission or at least they need to know before the meeting starts. It is not okay to change in the on the fly even with the best of intentions, but it happened to me last night. I thought we were not videoing, and I participated from that place. And then in the middle, it's like, oh, my God, we're videoing. And then I felt a little bit shut down.”

Gerry W. “That was the first thing we addressed this morning when we opened this session.”

Brian. “I'm sorry, I wasn't there to hear it.”

Ian M. “Will the workshop presentation by Billy N last night be available to share in some format?”

Gerry W, “It's unlikely the video will be shared, Billy gave permission to share his talk”

Kirk S. “We decided last night to share the audio to the Area 82 website, the members from NL were in attendance for that decision.”

Brian C. “I don't want to beat a dead dog here. But there is something in Canada called the PIPA Act, the personal information, and Privacy Protection Act, which is a legal requirement for sharing, pictures and stuff.”

Troy S. “When it comes to audio, and it's one person speaking and they've granted their permission for it to be shared, that's perfectly alright with regard to the PIPA laws as they exist. Just for clarification, it's okay.”

Lisa N. “With regard to the PIPA legislation. Whether it's provincial or federal, in Canada it does not apply to us. It only applies to commercial activities. So that was a wormhole we don't need to go down.”

***** The Chair closed discussion on this issue to go to scheduled break. Reconvened at 15:00***

General Service Delegate Report.

Kirk S. presented his GSD Report (attached)

Questions arising from the GSD Report.

Steve A. “Will we have a hard copy of that emailed to us at some point?”

Kirk S “Yes, I need to make some minor corrections to grammar.”

Gerry W. “Do you have any further history around the failed floor action regarding the trustee selection? What was that about?”

Kirk S “That is all still up for the air. The trustees have met, the boards have met. Half of them want the trustee that was nominated to get the position the other side does not. The discussion revolves mostly around the number of years a person should be in the position before they are eligible. The Trustees are still having that debate. The floor motion would give the Trustees the authority to allow the candidate to fill that position. This motion would have provided the conference the authority to approve that candidate for that position. He seems like a great person and is the most qualified, out of all the resumes that were there.”

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

Dwight C moved that all reports be accepted. It was seconded by **Doug J.**

An opportunity was provided to ask further questions. The reports were accepted unanimously.

Roll Call

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

Overall, of the 137 GSO-listed groups in Nova Scotia, 62 participated in the Service Weekend (a total 45% turnout). GSR's in attendance by District: District 1 (14 of 27), District 2 (6 of 16) District 3 (3 of 12), District 4 (4 of 7) District 5 (1 of 6), District 6 (5 of 10), District 7 (6 of 14), District 8 (1 of 12) District 9 (4 of 24), District 10 (7 of 7) , District 17 (3 of 6) of their GSO-listed groups.

54 GSR's, 9 DCM's, 1Alt-DCM plus 4 Area Officers (3 Voting) 67 votes total. Chair only votes to break a tie.

Old Business:

Old business was covered earlier by **Tim M.**'s report

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

Dwayne MacD. “It is redundant to what we already have in place. The way the finances work as passed in 2017, when I was the Treasurer, is that the budget is set at the Assembly in October. Any monies above the remainder of the current year, the budget for the following year, and the prudent reserve is forwarded to GSO. I am assuming that is still being done. It was done when I was the treasurer. The GSD expenses, or the conference expenses are a line item in our budget. If we wish to increase the amount, then we can just do that before the budget is set. We can still send any extra to GSO. This is redundant to what is already there. It is already taken care of in the Area Guidelines that if we want to increase it, we can increase it anyway.”

Lisa M. “We are approving expenses for 2019 that were over the budgeted amount as they come through in 2020. I don't know if there's a process of approval for that. If this is based on actual receipts, then we should increase the amount on the budget for this year. We are going to have significant savings. We don't want anyone to be at a personal loss by being a service member. The prudent reserve is there for things like this. I don't know why we're not actually considering sending some of that prudent reserve to GSO at this point in time. Our districts and groups are doing it, but for some reason, we are not doing it.”

Heather C. “When I brought this District 10, Area 82 proposal to my group, the question was raised, “Why? Why wasn't some of that money put into the committees of our area?” In other Areas they have a chairperson from Committees sitting at the Area table. When this was brought up in Area 82 before it was rejected because it was a money issue. Our group feels that excess money should be used by our own committees at Area 82.”

Pat R. “I want to speak to the comments about redundancy of this proposal. I found out about the 2017 past motion just two days ago when Dwayne brought that to my attention. I went back into the 2017 minutes and reviewed what was then passed. There is a material difference in the way the excess funds guideline proposal specifies that we use excess funds. The proposal passed in 2017 uses the operational account as the basis for the calculation of excess funds earmarked for GSO. Our proposal uses total funds. If we use the operational account only for the basis of this calculation, at the time that we wrote the proposal, the operational funds balance was only \$5656.12. That would not have been any kind of a contribution at all. We say all the money counts. We should use total cash as the basis for the calculation.”

Basil MacL. “I'm in favor of Dwayne's position, but with a caveat. I don't like the idea of coupling the monies that are earmarked for prudent reserve with any calculations of money going out. Our reserve is strictly for a shortfall, when for example, there's no money's coming in that year. The prudent reserve is there to look after our shortfalls. On page one, it says “if” Area 82 has enough money to cover more of the GSO conference cost share. We don't know that until the end of the year. Are we looking at budgeting monies on an “if the monies are there” basis? Right now, whatever surplus is there at

the end of the year is going to go to GSO anyway. The end of the year calculation is simpler than trying to decide if Area 82 was going to have money at that time.”

Gary O. “Every year this comes up at budget time. “Do we send more to GSO for the conference?” I think what we need to do is find an amount, pick it and get it there. I get the General Service conference report every year. In 2017 we had 205 groups. 96 groups contributed to GSO at 46.8%. We usually meet our budget, but we are not in the business of collecting extra funds at Area level. It's the Group's responsibility to pay GSO. It's not the Area responsibility to make contributions to GSO. We need to find a balance in what we send them, but we need to be careful right now. A lot of our people have been unemployed. A lot of groups are suffering right now. We heard last night that GSO went \$3 million into their reserve. We have it there for these reasons. We should be careful how we use it, because we could be looking at a hard year ahead.”

Brent McP. “I've been around General Service for almost five years. At least two or three out of those five years we were sitting at either this Service Weekend or at an Assembly going back to the GSR's that were present at the time saying that we need money. While we seem to be in trying times, fortunately, due to travel restrictions, we are going to end up with excess money this year. That hasn't always been the case.”

Blair A. “The service manual states that GSO asked for \$1600.00 US dollars. That's roughly \$21-2200.00 Canadian with the exchange rate today for the GSC, and it does state that some areas, send additional funds. I just wanted to point that out that we are sending what they ask us to send, and we have the option to send more when the year ends.”

Gary O. “I'd like the Area to consider for Assembly that we pick a fixed number (eg. \$2-3 thousand dollars) over our budget per year and then all groups should be notified when we've met our budget for that year. So that groups can allot money in other Areas if need be.”

Steve A ‘How much of the 2019 surplus was sent to GSO using the excess funds procedure agreed upon in 2017?’

Monique McL. “Because of a misunderstanding of that 2017 motion, the calculation was not made. I thought that the excess funds were directed into next years' budget account. It will be corrected”

Steve A. “Thank you, I simply wanted to point out that it had not been done, that we have a procedure in place and that we need to adhere to it.”

**** The Chair closed discussion on this proposal to move on to the next one**

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District 1 Area 82 Fresh Start Group Proposal (See Proposal attached)
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. “I'm from the Fresh Start group. I just noticed that there was a small error on this

proposal. Where it says below the “Area 82 Proposal” header “To be discussed at the Area 82 2020 Service Weekends and Area” it should read “To be discussed at the Area 82 2020 Service Weekends and voted at the Area 82 Fall Assembly”

Brian C. “In my group the proposal wasn't clear. We liked the proposal but were unsure if we were talking about three co-chairs or two?”

The chair asked Leah to clarify.

Leah C. “Last year District 15 put up a Public Information chair proposal at the service weekends and the assembly. When that proposal came out, I was the PI chair, District one. We started to look at public information at the Area level. Every other Area across Canada had a public information chair at the area level and asked them what their role was. At the NS service weekend when it was brought up for discussion, it was pointed out that the Alt GSD is the chair of CPC, PI, treatment, corrections and the Grapevine. That is what the area 82 guidelines say. It names those committees. From the Service Weekend and the assembly, the point was made that it would be difficult for the alternate delegate to be the chair of all the positions at the same time. The main issues around the original District 15 proposal seemed to be a perception of extra cost plus only PI was recommended for an Area presence. Our group proposes one co-chair for each sub-committee (PI, CPC, Treatment, Corrections and Grapevine) for NS and one co-chair for each sub-committee for NL. These co-chairs would coordinate with the districts by helping to get committees up and running, by passing information, getting information from GSO, so and so forth. These sub-committees would report, through their co-chairs, to the Alt GSD, and the alternate delegate would be the person who would report at the Service Weekends and the Assemblies. There is no need for more money. The alternate delegate is still going to be there.”

Brian C. “Are you talking about one co-chair each for NL, NS? “

Leah “One co-chair for each sub-committee in NL and NS. A total of five co-chairs each for NL and NS, chaired by the Alt-GSD”

Wade LeB. “I like this proposal and it speaks directly to our needs. All of those positions at our district are vacant and we will need help to get those positions filled. This is too much for one person.”

Blair A. “I really liked the idea. I don't know how we incorporate it more. I think there is a gap. We spoke to this on the DCM meeting. In the districts which have a Central Service Office, there is a disconnect between them and Area. I think this would be a great opportunity to close that gap. Maybe we need a co-chair for the area. That person could be responsible for all this. I think spreading it across too many people might weaken the input to the area level, but I really like the idea. I do not know how we can work together but sounds great.

Bill P. “I have five arguments in favour of the proposal.

- 1.) Standards of Service, Pages S46, S47
- 2.) Leadership, committed leaders in NL and NS studied and started to implement what they found in the Workbooks. We need liaison between committees for Bridging the Gap and Corrections
- 3.) Coordination. Ideas across the Area that need to be available to everyone doing PI or CPC
- 4.) Liaison and Communication
- 5.) Simplicity and Costs

Trudy A. “I love the proposal. It applies to next year's Alternate GSD. We vote on it in October. Does that mean that the Alternate GSD is no longer the person who liaises with the Webmaster, with Remote Communities, with the Archives? What about CERAASA and AACYPAA, all those committees that I already liaise with and give reports for when they're not here? Will those co-chairs be elected at Assembly? We need to know for the next person. The next Alternate GSD needs to be able to step into a position, knowing clearly what is going to be entailed in this.”

Basil MacL. “I won't belabor the subject because the points I was going to make have already been made. Most importantly, I wanted to hear from our current Alternate Delegate.”

Lisa N. “I really liked what Bill P was saying but I think the proposal could be upgraded to include some of Bill's points. A Group will then have a more clearly informed conscience to bring to the Assembly.”

Bill P. “The fourth argument was simply that the communication and liaison that goes on between New York and the staff and the chairs of these committees at the Assembly and area 82. There has been a problem with the flow of communications between GSO and Committees. The fifth argument was simply addressing the question of simplicity and costs. We are already proposing co-chairs as opposed to chair, so they don't necessarily have to be elected. They would still be reporting to the Alternate Delegate, except taking into mind these comments. I don't think a single person can be responsible for all of those very diverse kinds of committees. If we're looking at Zoom, and emails, the cost may be minimal. The co-chairs would not travel. They would be at home on their computer.”

Monique McL. “Are these co-chairs automatically from Central Service in Nova Scotia and Intergroup in Newfoundland, or do people in the Area have a chance to take one of those positions? How would we go about that process?”

Discussion closed by Chair. Break for supper. Back at 6:30 NS Time

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District 2 Area 82 Sunrise Group Proposal (See Proposal attached)
Implement Zoom Conferencing to facilitate Area 82 meetings

Read by **Gerry W.**

Questions / Observations Arising from Proposal

Basil MacL. “The proposal states that Zoom costs roughly \$200.00 per year. Did you find that to be incorrect?”

Gerry W. “That is roughly the case for a basic account. Basic accounts are limited to less than 100 people. The license that we are currently using is part of a business license. Unfortunately Zoom marketing does not allow a simple step to the next level, the company requires that you buy 10 licenses. St. John's Intergroup had already bought the next level package, which contained 10 licenses. Area 82 is renting one of those. We get it for \$325.00 per annum. We are limited to 300 participants in the room using this license.”

Doug J. “I think it's great. I don't know if it's a “great” thing for us right now, but I don't know what we do without it.”

Gary O “Was the intent of the motion to replace the face to face Assembly and Service Weekends or simply to have Zoom available to the Area for use from time to time? “

Tom H. “No, it wasn't made with the intent of replacing face to face meetings. We are going to still do those. We can save a lot of money. The need to use Zoom supports the actual proposal.”

Mark F “We put forth a proposal in 2014 to research the cost savings of video conferencing. Travel between NL and Nova Scotia is a long-standing issue. We researched what was on the market at the time. I would like to support another research committee in support of the Sunrise Group proposal?”

Michael A “I’m concerned about the idea that we’re replacing the face to face meetings with Zoom. If we bring Zoom into the Club 24, we have to pay rent and pay for Zoom. The groups may not be able to afford it.”

Paul B “Billy N was saying that we need to get with the times. Zoom is here, Zoom’s probably going to be here for a while. It is essential that we use it in our Assemblies and meetings but we must construct it so that everybody is included.”

Pete N. “I just like to support all those that are in favor of keeping Zoom, I think it's a great tool”

Blair A “We've already started using it and it's working well. Perhaps we need to look at amending the guidelines. This proposal came from a group in my district. Perhaps we do a modified proposal for the assembly. What is the process for that? We need to document when and how we are going to use Zoom. The recording piece and all the specifics need to be outlined so that when somebody comes to an Area meeting, they know what is going to happen.”

Tom R “Online meetings were around for years. We are going to continue to have face to face meetings. We are also going to have zoom, because we do have those winter months when people aren't able to get out. One group volunteer will take the meeting on zoom while another volunteer takes the face to face meeting. “

Bill P. “I'm generally in favor of the proposal, although I wonder whether we should be wedded to Zoom. Even without COVID the online meetings have proven such a convenience for committees to meet. After COVID passes, that convenience is still going to be attractive for holding committee meetings. In the PI committee we must address accessibility issues. Many people are confined to their home simply because of physical and mental handicaps. I don't see that zoom meetings are going to disappear because there's been a cure for COVID I think it's here to stay.”

Terry H. “Zoom was a been a great tool. I am concerned that if we started doing our Assemblies and our Area meetings with Zoom, then the face to face meetings will die. It costs a lot of money to rent these facilities for face to face meetings. The Zoom option will reduce the number of live attendees. The argument that we will get more people on Zoom does not fly.”

Jim M. “We're not going to vote on this until the Assembly. We should use it until then to get everyone trained on it. Perhaps we could use it to train our GSR's.”

Arnold “Zoom will cut down on attendance at face to face meetings affecting 7th Tradition. Zoom is good for the Service / business side of AA.”

Tamar D. “The motion says that the Sunrise Group moves that Area 82 implement Zoom conferencing to help with communication. It seems like we are moving this conversation into Tradition four, and Tradition nine. The groups can do what they want with their meetings. But what we're talking about here is if and how the Area will keep using it”

Sandy D “It's a great idea for things like these meetings when groups don't have the money to send representatives. They can be present at the meeting because of Zoom.”

Gary O. “Today we are represented by 54 groups. Last year at the service weekend, we were represented by 137 groups. We got roughly a quarter of the population here today. Zoom has its place. I was there in 2014 when the presentation was put forward. The speed and clarity of the technology has changed a lot since then. I think it has a valuable point and what was discussed last night about maybe NL and NS can meet twice a year, one on Zoom, one in person. We can do more elections and move our Area a little better.”

John W. “I love them. And there's a lot of good applications for them here. But when we get to the level of District and Area, I'm concerned that we would exclude people who don't have access to, or are not comfortable with technology.”

Patty B. “I think zoom is a wonderful thing when it comes to people who can't afford to attend Area and Service Weekends. Zoom training sessions on Service would work well for me.”

Trudy A. “I'm a little frustrated. For the past 8 weeks, the area executives Gerry, myself Monique and Kirk, have conducted Zoom orientations twice a week for any GSR in Area 82. For the first couple of weeks, we were seeing lots of new People but for the last month, the same people were attending. I am just frustrated because I heard that gentleman say, “Why don't we use it to have Zoom orientations?” Well, we have already done that. “Why don't we do workshops?” We are already doing that. Zoom is a valuable tool for the committees that meet every month. We are going to continue to meet on Zoom. We also did a workshop on the role of the District, your role in your home Group.”

Gerry W. “We're starting to go over the same ground now from different people. Unless you have a novel thing to throw in here, keep it short. We have to move the agenda along.”

Darrell MacN “I'm hearing about a lot of people that we're going to exclude if we keep Zoom. I think we must look at the other side of that. I think every young person out there has a cell phone in their pocket and it's pretty easy to have a Zoom app on your cell phone. I think that we would attract far more people that we would exclude.”

Tom H. “I am suggesting that I take it away and refine the proposal. It can then be a voteable proposal in the fall. I can do that with Tim M. He is in our group and, and we can refine it. That way it will have more clarity for the rest of the groups, if that's what you'd like.”

Discussion closed by Chair

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 discuss the pros / cons of a physical or virtual Assembly in October.

Read by **Gerry W.**

Questions / Observations Arising from Proposal

Heather C. “I’m not feeling comfortable to be flying from here to Newfoundland in October. There is no vaccine out there yet. Until there is a vaccine, there’s still COVID out there. I have an 88-year-old father whom I visit every day, so I have to stay well.”

Blair A. “What is the intent here? Are we simply discussing or deciding? Presumably, this same discussion will happen next week at the NL Service session.”

Gerry W. “I think we can make a decision here and the folks in NL will make a decision next week. I will not share the results of your vote.”

Gary C. “I won’t be attending a face to face Assembly for health reasons”

Gary O. “Too much uncertainty for planning airline flights or travel.”

Brian C. “It’s too soon.”

Doug J. “No vaccine yet, I’m not going.”

Gerry W. *(Chair lost connection and was not present for part of the discussion)*

Kirk S *took the chair in Gerry’s absence.*

Blaise S. “Put it to a show of hands.”

Paul B. “I won’t be attending the Assembly in person.”

Gerry W *reclaimed the chair*

Terry H. Called the question, seconded by **Steve A.**

Gerry W. “Are we conducting a face to face Assembly in October?”

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 start planning for a virtual Assembly in October.

A motion to adjourn was made by **Steve A**, Seconded by **Tom H**. The motion to adjourn was unanimous.

The Nova Scotia Service Day was closed with The Responsibility Pledge.

Gerry W.



Area 82 NS / NL Chair