

District 8 Report to the 2020 N.S. Service Weekend

Hello friends, my name is Ron, and I'm an alcoholic. I have the honour of representing District 8 as the Alternate DCM for this two-year rotation. I am presenting this report in place of our current DCM, Gerard MacP, who is present this weekend but unfortunately does not have the electronic means to present this report. District 8 covers a large geographical area that includes the counties of Inverness, Richmond, and Victoria on beautiful Cape Breton Island. This area is all of Cape Breton except for Cape Breton County which is in District 9. During normal times, our District meeting takes place on the third Sunday of each month, starting at 2pm and finishing around 4pm. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, in April we started to have our District meetings online using the Zoom platform. This method seems to be working quite well and we are probably getting better group attendance because of the non travel component.

Usually at our District meetings, we start the meeting with a service study workshop, followed by the business meeting. Last year the District decided to suspend the workshop on the Service Manual for awhile and concentrate on reading and studying the 12 Traditions. Since Covid-19 shut down our face to face meetings, District 8 has suspended our workshops and we have been just having our District 8 business meetings online. We are blessed with a dedicated group of district members that take time out of their busy lives to ensure that AA stays strong at the District level in District 8.

District 8 currently has 12 active groups and one meeting that is currently in the process of becoming a registered group which is a slow process in these trying times. This new meeting is a step study in Mabou on Friday evenings at 8pm. They recently move from their original meeting location to the community firehall. It seems to have good and steady attendance. This shows that AA members in District 8 are interested in reading the Big Book and learning the Program from each other. District 8 encourages all groups to visit other groups in their district, especially to support some of the very small groups in remote areas.

Since Covid-19 has shut down our face to face meetings in March, we have seen two of our District groups go online with the Zoom platform. These groups include the Margaree 12 Step Group and the Happy Destiny Big Book Group. It has certainly been a learning curve for many members to learn the procedures for carrying on these online meetings, but it does seem to be working out. We realize that it is not the format that we are accustomed to or the one that most of us would prefer, but it is the best solution that we have as an organization at this time. We also have 4 District groups that have been holding small meetings with no more than 5 members up until June and now 10 members so that they can follow the Dept of Health guidelines. These groups include Cheticamp, Glendale, Margaree, and the Mabou meeting. A member of the group

with solid sobriety arranges the meeting by invitation to members in the community. Obviously, these groups have their own meeting rooms in order to hold this type of meeting.

Our “Bridging the Gap” meetings at the Strait Richmond Primary Care Unit have been put on hold since the beginning of the pandemic because the unit has been shut down. Before the shut down, one member each week was going in to carry AA’s message of hope and recovery to the clients that were there taking a day program. Feedback from the unit had been very positive up to this time.

I am happy to report that the membership at the District 8 table consists of members from the majority of our 12 groups. We encourage all group members to attend the service meetings, even those not currently elected to a service position. Using the online Zoom platform has made this easy to do and it is something for future considerations moving forward in this new world.

Yours in Service,

Ron K.

ALT DCM, District 8