

## **Minutes of the Area 82 Nova Scotia Service Weekend**

**(Conducted using the Zoom platform)**

(Minutes prepared June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020)

### **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 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
<a href="#">Operational Funds</a>		10,798.18
<a href="#">Prudent Reserve</a>		14,623.15
<a href="#">Upcoming Budget Reserve</a>		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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

AREA 82 NOVA SCOTIA SERVICE WEEKEND  
JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**“2020: A Clear Vision for You”**

Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>      5:30 NS. (6:00 pm NL time) Archives Reports  
6:00 NS. (6:30 pm NL time) D.C.M./AREA 82 OFFICERS MEETING.

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>      7:00 -9:00 PM NS Time GSR Workshop (combined with GSR's and officers from NL)  
- The workshop will be focused on the “Many Aspects of Service” and will be conducted by Billy N. (Class B Trustee, Past Director and GSD)

SATURDAY: June 13<sup>th</sup>    9:00 AM

- OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS
- 12 TRADITIONS/ SYMPATHIES / MISSION STATEMENT
- 2019 SERVICE WEEKEND MINUTES READ / BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D.C.M. REPORTS
- PAST DELEGATES ADDRESS
- 

11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON    BREAK

12:00 NOON

- TREASURERS REPORT
- ALT. G.S.D. REPORT
- AACYPAA REPORT
- REMOTE COMMUNITIES REPORT
- ARCHIVIST REPORT
- WEBMASTER REPORT
- CERAASA REPORT
- 

2:00 PM 3:00 PM    BREAK

3:00 PM

G.S.D. REPORT

- ACCEPT ALL REPORTS
- ROLL CALL (*All GSR's MUST be present at this time*)
- 
- 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*

2. 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)*

3. District 2 Area 82 Sunrise Group Proposal

See Proposal attached, *Implement Zoom Conferencing to facilitate Area 82 meetings*

4. 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.

5:00 PM SUPPER

6:30 PM Alt GSD Active Committees Sharing Session

- CONTINUE WITH NEW BUSINESS ITEMS (if necessary)

<https://zoom.us/j/559167021>

Meeting ID: 559 167 021

One tap mobile

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# District 1 DCM Report

## Nova Scotia Service Weekend

12 June 2020

Hello everyone, my name is Steve and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving the groups in District 1 in A.A. general service as their DCM, and to represent these groups on the Area 82 Committee. My home group is the Acceptance Group in Halifax. We meet online every Saturday morning at 10:00 am.

District 1 covers an area which encompasses the southwest one third of Halifax Regional Municipality. Towns or cities with A.A. meetings in District 1 include Hubbards, Upper Tantallon, Tantallon, Timberlea, Halifax, Bedford, Middle Sackville, Beaver Bank, and Mount Uniacke.

Twelve of the 28 groups in District 1 have an active GSR. Of these 12 active GSRs, seven participated in the Area 82 Assembly held last October in Sydney. District 1 is also home to five meetings which are not listed with GSO. After the suspension of face-to-face meetings in March, a total of 24 of the 33 groups and meetings in District 1 established an online presence using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. These 24 groups and meetings are now conducting a total of 33 online A.A. meetings per week.

As DCM, I chair the monthly District 1 General Service Committee meetings, currently being held on Zoom the last Sunday of every month. I have been keeping all District 1 GSRs up to date on notices and information provided by GSO, and by the Area 82 Delegate, Kirk S. I prepared and exhibited a District 1 General Service Committee display table at the A.A. Committee Fair hosted by the Districts 1 & 2 Central Service Committee at Club 24 in Dartmouth on January 11<sup>th</sup>. During the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Roundup held in Halifax in February, I had the honour of thanking a very inspiring Saturday night banquet speaker, Doug M. from Canton, Georgia.

### **District 1 Activities**

- During our February monthly meeting, District 1 voted to support forwarding a proposal from the Fresh Start Group for inclusion on the agenda of this Nova Scotia Service Weekend, as well as the Area 82 Assembly in October. The proposal recommends that during their respective Service Weekends, each province in Area 82 would elect co-chairpersons for the five Area 82 committees for which the Area 82 Alternate Delegate is chairperson. These five committees are Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, Treatment, Corrections, and the A.A. Grapevine.

The District 1 Committee spent part of its monthly meeting in May discussing the three other new business agenda items for this Nova Scotia Service Weekend. Many good points were made, and quite a few GSRs had discussed the agenda items with their

groups during their own business meetings.

- Districts 1 and 2 were planning to hold a joint 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Service Conference pre-conference meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Sackville Heights Community Centre. The Area 82 Panel 67 Delegate, Tim M., was lined up to facilitate the pre-conference meeting, and an agenda was prepared and circulated. This in-person pre-conference meeting was cancelled when the Community Centre was closed due to COVID-19 protocols. When it became clear that the in-person 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference would not be going ahead, all planning ceased for holding the Districts 1 & 2 Pre-Conference Meeting using online meeting technology.

Kirk S., the Area 82 Delegate, participated in the April District 1 monthly Zoom meeting. District 1 Committee members in attendance were provided with an opportunity to individually ask Kirk questions, including about how the now online 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference would work, and this was greatly appreciated by all.

- The 2020 Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup, to be co-hosted by Districts 1 & 2, was to be a one-day Founders Day event held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup Committee unanimously agreed, on March 29<sup>th</sup>, to cancel this event entirely (i.e., it was not rescheduled for a later date in 2020).
- Workshops are held in District 1 every other month and are organized by the Alternate DCM, Lisa N. The next District 1 workshop will be held by online Zoom videoconferencing on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The workshop topic is: *Contributions and Self-Support: Understanding the Seventh Tradition.*
- District 1 is considering the idea of proposing to Area 82 that CERAASA 2023 be hosted somewhere in Nova Scotia from February 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The acronym CERAASA stands for Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. Researching this idea is in the very early stages and going forward, input from the other 10 districts in Nova Scotia will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for providing me with the opportunity to give this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Peace and love in service,

Steve A.

DCM

District 1, Area 82

# District 2 DCM Report

**June 6, 2020**

My name is Blair A. and I am an Alcoholic. I was elected as DCM of District 2 in December after the resignation of Shane S. I would like to thank Shane for his work with District 2 during the last number of years as DCM and GSR of the Fall River Group. District 2 consists of the Dartmouth portion of HRM and continues north to Enfield, east to Musquodoboit Harbour, and west to Fall River. District 2 has 16 registered groups who host a total of 26 meetings a week. Our District meeting is held the third Sunday of each month at 2pm at Club 24. The District Committee consists of Foster L. as Treasurer, Beth P. as Secretary, and the Alternate DCM position is currently vacant.

District 2 is supported by the Central Service Committee for Districts 1 & 2 through each group having a Central Service Representative attend their monthly meeting. In addition to the CSR from each group they consist of a Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Chair of each subcommittee. They are a great help to District 2 by carrying out the work of CPC, PI, Corrections, and Treatment. As well as having a committee for Entertainment, Literature, Newsletter, Help E-Mail, Hospital Visitation, Telephone, Webmaster, and Mid Winter Roundup. An ad hoc Technology committee has recently been formed which have been a great help in the transition to online meetings. I would like to thank Mike H., Central Service Chair and anyone involved with carrying the message to current and potential members of AA. More information on what activities and services are being offered is available by visiting [aahalifax.org](http://aahalifax.org).

District 2 participated in the 2020 Mid Winter Round Up held at the Westin Hotel in Halifax in February. This was one of the last in person activities held before the transition to on-line meetings. District 2 has been hosting their monthly DCM Meeting online since April and 9 of the groups have transitioned their meetings to online. District 2 has struggled with holding their bi-monthly workshops in 2020 due to scheduling conflicts and vacant Alt DCM position. District 2 participated in the planning of 2020 NS Provincial Roundup and 2020 Pre. Conference Meeting, but with great regret these events were cancelled due to the restrictions on social gatherings. I would like to thank everyone involved in the planning and preparation of these events before they were sadly cancelled.

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity and encouragement to step into the role of DCM for District 2. God has given us this opportunity to push through our fears and carry the message to the suffering alcoholic in new and creative ways. I look forward to being part of Area 82 and working with all of you during these challenging and uncertain times.

Yours In Service,

Blair A.  
DCM District 2  
Area 82

DCM REPORT  
N.S. Service Weekend

June 2020

Tim MacB.  
DCM District 3

Good morning friends, my name is Tim and I'm an alcoholic. Grateful to serve alcoholics anonymous and district 3 as DCM. Glad to be sober and glad you are all here.

District 3 spans from Gaspereau to Annapolis Royal in the Annapolis Valley. We have 12 groups and 2 meetings. Our groups are Annapolis, Aylesford, Berwick, Bridgetown, Cambridge, Fundy, Gaspereau, Kentville, Kingston, Meadowview, Middleton and Saturday night. Our district meeting is the third Sunday of every month with an information session prior to the district meeting. These information sessions are put on by volunteers on a variety of topics. They are very informative and inter-active.

We also provide AA meetings at 2 institutions in our district every week. The clients seem to really enjoy these meetings and they give them a little taste of AA outside the institution. Groups from districts 3 and 17 voluntarily put these meetings on.

Our AA phone line, 902 691 – 2825 is quite busy. The phone is rotated among the groups in our district. An essential service that I believe is more important now than ever.

Our CPC/PI committee has made so many contacts and distributed volumes of literature throughout the valley. They have also put signs with the AA phone# in particular towns and places in the valley that are visible when driving. It is remarkable to see the dedication and commitment that our CPC/PI committee has. What a great job!

Since Covit, things have changed, as we all know. Some of the groups in district 3 have meetings via Zoom. We also continue to have our monthly district meeting via Zoom. The phone conversations and the meetings, one to one, maintaining social distancing of course, have been more important and more widely used than ever, from the feedback I'm getting, as well as the Zoom meetings.

Members tell me that it will be so nice to get back to the rooms and shake people's hands and see their smiling faces.

I am so grateful for the committee members and GSR's in our district. I have and continue to learn so much from all of you. You certainly help AA stay strong today. What a blessing!

District 3 is doing well. With God's grace and all AA members we can continue to live sober with a level of peace and contentment.

Grateful to serve you all.

GOD BLESS you all

Tim MacB.  
DCM District 3



**AREA 82, DISTRICT 4 DCM REPORT**  
**to the 2020 NS SERVICE WEEKEND (via ZOOM)**

**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**My name is Pete N. and I am an alcoholic and am honoured to be the DCM of District 4.**

**This has been a challenging year for all of us. We in Service have perhaps been the lucky ones, I can only imagine how challenging the last 3 months have been for the newcomers to the program or those 'first-comers' trying to find a meeting or even a friendly and understanding ear to talk to.**

**At our last GSR meeting in February, one of the topics discussed was District 4's ability to act as host of the annual Provincial Round-up. At present we already host the annual Lighthouse Round-up held in early November of each year, something we have done for the past 42 years. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Lighthouse round-up this year. As there are only an estimate of 75 members within the district at the most at any one time, finding volunteers to organize this event has also been a challenge, but to find another group of volunteers to run a second round-up in the same year would be virtually impossible. It was therefore decided that we would request that District 4 be removed from the host rotation for the Provincial Round-up. Presently, our next slated hosting is for 2022.**

**Individual Committees within District 4 have not been as active as probably would have been liked, but to no fault of their own. We had a representative as our contact with Detox in Yarmouth, but the province decided that the current Detox arrangement was ineffective. It is now a day program running from 7am-7pm, 7 days per week. Patients are registered based on needs assessment. They do not currently offer meetings of any kind within detox, something which 6 of our Groups used to hold weekly at the hospital on a rotational basis. In our opinion, this is a large disservice to not only the recovering alcoholic but also our current members who thoroughly enjoyed these visits and an opportunity to remember where they came from. We have also had 1-2 members act as liaison with the County jail in Yarmouth, but of course COVID-19 has brought a temporary pause to that. Hopefully, the weekly visits will resume soon. We have discussed forming a CPC committee, but with our 7 Groups spread out over a considerable area, it was felt that it would be a difficult task to form a committee that could effectively cover the whole area. Perhaps, with the arrival of Zoom and people becoming more comfortable with it, this might be a more plausible possibility in the future.**

**To end on a positive note, one of our Groups (Meteghan) has just resumed face to face meetings in their local library. Attendance is limited to 10 'masked' people and of course several other precautions have to be taken i.e. no shaking of hands or hugs, but it is a start.**

**Best wishes to you all – stay safe and keep smiling.**

**Yours in Service ..... Pete**

**AREA 82, DISTRICT 5 DCM REPORT**  
**to the 2020 NS SERVICE WEEKEND (via ZOOM)**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*(Wade presented an impromptu verbal report on behalf of District 5.)*

Hi folks.

My name is Wade and I am GSR for primary purpose group in Amherst.

It's good to be here today. We currently have six active groups.

And we have one group that just started out in February. And they got about a month of meetings and it was a big book study on Wednesday mornings at 7am. But of course, all groups now are not meeting due to COVID. Before COVID we were also hosting two meetings a week. The district was at detox in Spring Hill. We had our annual September roundup which was good but attendance was low, due to the fact that it was on the weekend of Hurricane Dorian. We actually had to shut it down a few hours early due to the hurricane.

District five is currently hosting nightly zoom meetings at 8pm.

And that's all I got.

Wade

## **District 6 DCM Report for the NS Service Weekend June 12-14, 2020**

Good Morning everyone, my name is Brent and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as DCM of District 6.

It has been a busy time and I would just like to highlight a few things happening since my last report at the Area 82 Assembly in Cape Breton.

We had a couple successful events to finish 2019 off:

- The District 6 annual Holiday potluck where we come together for fellowship and good food around mid-December
- The other is what we call the District 6 Alcathon, which are continuous hourly AA meetings that we hold on those sometimes "slippery" days: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day.

Both events were very well attended, and we were successful carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

To start 2020, we got an early start on planning and preparation for the District 6 Mid-summer Roundup which was to happen on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Then COVID-19 happened and really threw all our plans and activities out the window. As a result, our Roundup has been cancelled this year and we hope to come back as strong as ever, next year.

Like everyone else, we as a District and the groups in that District had to quickly come up with plans to continue to carry the AA message and continue to have meetings, however possible. As a result, 5 of the 10 District 6 groups are holding Zoom meetings. These cover every day of the week, except Wednesdays for a total of 7 meetings. The Zoom meetings are well attended, and the general feedback is that most are happy to have some form of AA available. In general (without COVID), our layout of meetings, which we hope to get back to as soon as we safely can is: 13 meetings, Monday to Sunday at the 10 groups in the District. We were also continuing to do some work at a couple outside meetings, which we hope to get back at as well:

-we help District 7 by putting on a meeting at the Pictou Detox once a month. This meeting is at 2:30pm on Sundays.

-we put on a weekly meeting at the Eagles Nest Recovery House in Shubenacadie. This meeting is at 7pm on Tuesdays.

We have one other meeting that was taking place in District 6. It is a Step meeting that takes place on Fridays at 7PM at St. Andrews United Church on King St. in Truro. It is, just a meeting, that is generally very well attended.

Thanks for the opportunity to share on District 6. I hope and pray that all stay safe and healthy and we are back to our new "normal" as soon as possible.

Take Care and God Bless,

Brent M.- DCM District 6





**AREA 82, DISTRICT 7 DCM REPORT**  
**to the 2020 NS SERVICE WEEKEND (via ZOOM)**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Hello everyone my name is Blaise S.

I'm a DCM for district seven. Replacing our previous DCM Paul L. as he has moved on to a different province now and is doing well the last time I talked to him.

We have 14 groups in District 7

Our district meetings are online now. We're doing well with that thanks to our secretary Dwayne MacD.. He's been a great help and asset to us all to keep in touch with members.

Some members are not accessing the meetings online but are reaching out to other members by phone. Some of our members, are committed to calling on a regular basis to all of the members . It takes them sometimes up to a week to get through to all their members but they stay in touch that way. Communications regarding agendas, meetings and area and district information has been provided via email, phone calls via the GSR's.

The CPC / PI committee has been still getting information out to the hospital and we got in touch with the radio to tell them that the meetings are still occurring, but are now online. They keep in touch with one of our members. The detox committee has also been active in keeping in touch with all the DCMS in opening and closing of meetings during the Covid outbreak, which is causing quite a havoc here for a little while. Correction committee has been in touch with the District at our regular Sunday meetings and staying informed upon what's going on with the Covid.

We continue to be in need of rotation for our different committees. That just seems to be an ongoing thing we get on those committees and we're there for a period of time, I'll say. We are grateful to everyone active in District service.

Godspeed to all and yours in service.

Blaise S. DCM District 7



## **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



## NOVA SCOTIA ~ SERVICE WEEKEND June 12, 13, 2020

### District 9 DCM Report ~~ Basil MacLean

Good morning friends, my name is Basil MacLean and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving District 9 as a trusted servant, in the DCM position.

District 9 covers all areas governed by the CBRM. We have 24 groups with 34 meetings per week. We host meetings in Sydney, New Waterford, Glace Bay, Dominion, Reserve Mines, Louisbourg, Eskasoni, Membertou, Sydney Mines, North Sydney, Sydney River, Boisdale and Iona. Our monthly District meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month with normally 60% of GSR's participating. This however has diminished considerably due to the restrictions placed on us by our Health Care Department. Our District Meeting opens with the reading of the Tradition corresponding to the month. After a short discussion, the regular business begins.

Our Alternate DCM Joe Williams, Secretary Peter Marshe, and treasurer Monty Charland continue to provide valuable support and guidance to the district, and to me personally, and for that I thank them sincerely.

Our PI/CPC Committee and Corrections Committee have been somewhat dormant since Covid 19 took hold. However they have participated in the online world of Area 82 committee meetings. We believe this to be a very beneficial service.

Zoom Meetings are now the normal routine around the AA world. I have personally attended many over the past months, and they are doing a very valuable service in our communities. No one believes them to be as good as our well known face to face meetings, but I can see where they can have a very distinct place, in our lives going forward. One meeting I attended, where an elderly gentleman spoke very highly of them. He said that he didn't get to many meetings in the past, as he didn't drive at night and was reliant on someone stopping in to pick him up. He then boasted "Now I can get a meeting every night if I want one".

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the never ending work of Kirk, Trudy, Monique and Gerry for your tireless dedication to Area 82, and your initiative for taking us through these on-line meetings.

Yours in Love and Service:  
Basil M, DCM District 9

*"When Anyone, Anywhere, Reaches out for Help  
I want the Hand of AA Always to be there. And for that I am Responsible"*

DISTRICT 10 SERVICE WEEK-END REPORT June 2020

Good morning my A.A. friends, I am Ellen N. and I am an alcoholic serving as DCM in District 10.

I am glad to have the cooperation from the GSR's of all seven groups and all members of District 10. Our meetings are all on-line. We have a Back to Basics meeting on Friday night and a Big Book meeting on Monday night. All but one group is on-line. All seem to be doing well.

Our "WE" Program is going great and I really appreciate working with all executive members including Alternate DCM Pat R., Treasurer Ed J., and Secretary Michelle P. We make a good team!!

Klaus B. is the chair person for PI. and CPC and is doing great work.

Detox is running on a daily basis in conjunction with South Shore Mental Health.

Patricia F. is doing a great job providing groups and members with the Newsletter. Her report includes AA birthdays, news, AA events and also information on ZOOM meetings for District 10.

Kathy S-C. is the the Nova Scotia Archivist and later today she will give a full report. Great job Kathy.

Ed J. is the chairperson for the 49'rs Literature Club, providing District 10 with books, literature and medallions.

Jody L. is the chairperson of the phone committee. Our AA phone number is 902-521-8114 and is answered by members in District 10 rotating on a monthly basis.

Sorry to report that our Bridgewater May Day has been canceled for this year due to the COVID-19 virus.

The monthly District meetings are held on ZOOM and are well represented by at least 80 to 90% of the GSR's. We are currently doing a workshop on the 12 Concepts and all GSR's are participating.

District 10 Members are contacting other members who do not have access to ZOOM for support.

In closing I would like to thank all members of District 10 and Area 82 for their support. Also thanks to Trudy A. for being there and for all her support.

Yours in service,

**AREA 82, DISTRICT 17 DCM REPORT**  
**to the 2020 NS SERVICE WEEKEND (via ZOOM)**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Good morning everybody. My name is Dwight and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as DCM for district 17. In West Hants County and Wolfville, we have six registered groups in the Portland area, Brooklyn, St. Croix, and Wolfville plus a couple of unregistered groups.

This COVID-19 has kind of put a kink in everything but we use the we kind of have a meet and share the third chunk of the of the month in. We've been having our District meetings every third Sunday on Zoom. We are not getting many GSR's because of anonymity concerns.

Some meetings are starting up with 10 people to the meeting. The Brooklyn and St. Croix groups are calling people and asking becoming what is in. I attended St. Croix meeting a week ago to see how it went. Everybody was maintaining six feet apart and following Social Distancing guidelines. I was invited to Brooklyn last week but I didn't make it.

Our last PI / CPC chair has moved away . Our new committee is chaired by Jo M0s. and co-chaired by me. We will be meeting in the near future to plan our way ahead.

And then the mini-roundup this year is cancelled due to COVID-19. We are hoping that next year, we'll come back and have another great year for Roundup.

Dwight C.

DCM District 17



**Detroit 2020 Hospitality Suite Report  
Area 82 Nova Scotia Service Weekend**

**Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Total contributions \$4050.00

expenses Pins. \$2057.36

Maple candy \$404.26

Total expenses. \$2461.62

1588.38 Candy will be given out at CERAASA Pins will be saved for Vancouver 2025.

\$153.83 will be sent back to the Areas with an extra \$50.00 to Area 81 as they made a contribution of \$450.00.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your coordinator for the Eastern Canadian Region Hospitality Suite.

Yours in Love and Service

Tim M.

Panel 67, Area 82

Item	Budgeted Amounts	Notes	
✓ GSO Conference	\$2,500.00	2500	
✓ GSD Expenses	<del>3800</del> \$4,300.00	4300	
✓ Alt. GSD Expenses	???	2000	
Area Chair Expenses	18,000 \$2,200.00	1800	
✓ Secretary Expenses	\$2,300.00	2300	
✓ Treasurer Expenses	\$2,100.00	2100	
NL Archive Upkeep & Storage	\$1,200.00	1200	
NL Archive Travel Expenses	\$500.00	500	14,600
✓ NS Archive Upkeep & Storage	\$500.00	2000	
NS Archive Travel Expenses	\$1,000.00	1000	
Webmaster Assembly Travel	\$800.00	1000	19,000
Web Hosting & Domain	900		
Remote Committee	2000		
NS/NL Area Active Committees	4AY For PAR \$3,500.00	3500	
GSO Guest	\$1,500.00	1500	
Regional Forums/ CERASSA	\$1,500.00	1500	
Assembly Seed Money	\$1,000.00	1000	25,100
Misc	\$250.00		
Bank Charges	\$250.00		
Total	\$25,400		0

Line on

25.

# Area 82, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador 2020 Budget Report

Item	Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts												
		31-Jan	28-Feb	31-Mar	30-Apr	31-May	30-Jun	31-Jul	31-Aug	30-Sep	31-Oct	30-Nov	31-Dec	YTD Total
GSO Conference	\$ 2,500.00	\$2,500.00												\$ 2,500.00
GSD Expenses	\$4,300.00	\$527.22												\$ 527.22
Alt. GSD Expenses	\$2,000.00													\$ -
Area Chair Expenses	\$1,800.00													\$ -
Secretary Expenses	\$2,300.00													\$ -
Treasurer Expenses	\$2,100.00	\$10.35	\$15.76			\$10.35								\$ 36.46
NL Archive Upkeep & Storage	\$ 1,200.00		\$1,172.28		\$97.69									\$ 1,269.97
NL Archive Travel Expenses	\$ 500.00													\$ -
NS Archive Upkeep & Storage	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00												\$ 2,000.00
NS Archive Travel Expenses	\$ 1,000.00													\$ -
Webmaster Assembly Travel	\$ 1,000.00													\$ -
Web Domain & Hosting	\$ 500.00													\$ -
AACYPAA	\$1,000.00													\$ -
Remote Communities	\$2,500.00													\$ -
GSO Guest	\$ 1,500.00													\$ -
Regional Forums/CERASSA	\$1,500.00													\$ -
Assembly Seed Money	\$ 1,000.00													\$ -
Misc	\$250.00				\$325.00									\$ 325.00
Bank Charges	\$250.00	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75								
Total	\$ 29,200.00	\$ 5,041.32	\$ 1,191.79	\$ 3.75	\$ 426.44	\$ 14.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,658.65

**WEBMASTER IS OWED for 2019 Expenses. He is not advanced, but reimbursed.**



# Area 82, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador Chequing Account Ledger 2020



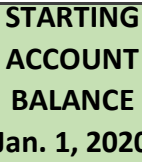
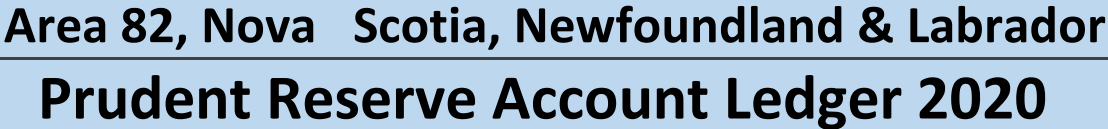
Ledger  
Balance  
Jan.1, 2020

\$5,656.12

Outstanding  
Cheques

DATE	CHEQUE NUMBER	WRITTEN TO	REASON FOR CHEQUE	DEBIT AMOUNT	DEPOSIT AMOUNT	Cheque Number	Amount
02-Jan			Bank Fee	\$3.75			
03-Jan			Transfer from Upcoming Budget		\$23,043.88		
03-Jan	11	GSO	Conference	\$2,500.00			
03-Jan	12	Kirk (NY Delegate)	Expenses	\$5,800.00			
	13	VOID					
03-Jan	14	Gerry (Area Chair)	Expenses	\$1,800.00			
03-Jan	15	Samaira (Secretary)	Expenses(Stop Payment issued 19/04/2020)	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00		
03-Jan	16	Monique (Treasurer)	Expenses	\$2,100			
03-Jan	17	Kathy (NS Archivist)	NS Archivist Storage	\$2,000.00			
	18	Matt (Webmaster)	Matt has not submitted his receipts				
03-Jan	19	Martine (Remote Communities)	Expenses	\$2,500.00		19	\$2,500.00
03-Jan	20	Trudy (Alt.Delegate)	Expenses	\$2,000.00			
	21	VOID					
03-Feb			Bank Fee	\$3.75			
11-Feb	22	Gerry (Area Chair)	NL Archivist Storage	\$1,172.28			
02-Mar			Bank Fee	\$3.75			
01-Apr			Bank Fee	\$3.75			
20-Apr	23	Gerry (Area Chair)	Zoom/NL Storage Arrears/ Expenses over 2019	\$1,007.04			
01-May			Bank Fee	\$3.75			
31-May			Transfer from Upcoming Budget		\$500.00		
				\$ 23,198.07	\$ 25,843.88		
Ledger Balance					\$ 8,301.93		
ACTUAL RBC ACCOUNT BALANCE (Ledger Balance Plus Outstanding Cheques)					\$ 10,801.93	Total	\$ 2,500.00
Prudent Reserve Account Balance					\$ 14,623.15		
Upcoming Budget Reserve Account Balance					\$ 11,279.61		





**\$12,967.11**

[illegible]



**Area 82, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador**  
**Upcoming Budget Reserve Account Ledger 2020**



	STARTING ACCOUNT BALANCE Jan. 1/20	\$30,709.54
	DEBIT AMOUNT	DEPOSIT AMOUNT
		\$16.06
	\$10.00	
	\$1,388.60	
	\$23,043.88	
		\$1,700.00
		\$3.51
	\$9.00	
	\$0.60	
		\$1,919.00
		\$3.14
	\$11.00	
		\$228.24
		\$1.50
	\$1.00	
	\$1.93	
		\$1,921.20
		\$0.43
	\$8.00	
	\$500.00	
	\$250.00	
		\$1.00
	\$ -	
	\$ 25,224.01	\$ 5,794.08
Balance		\$ 11,279.61

**Special Notice** [Canada Emergency Business Account](#)



Royal Bank

AREA 82 NS/NL

Sign Out

June 5, 2020

Products & Services

My Accounts

Customer Service

Banking

[Profile & Account Settings](#)

#### Business Accounts

Account Services

Pay Bills and Transfer Funds

Alert Centre

Profile and Preferences

Apply for Products and Services

Pay & Sync with QuickBooks

Grow Your Business with Credit

## Account Balances - AREA 82 NS/NL

Statements/  
Documents

Messages/  
Alerts

Beyond  
Banking

Offers  
For You

Print

Enter your question here



#### Money Management

- ▶ [Request Money](#)
- ▶ [Tax Filing Service](#)
- ▶ [Daily Transaction Limits](#)

#### International Services

- ▶ [Purchase Foreign Cash](#)
- ▶ [RBC Global Connect](#)
- ▶ [RBC Global Trade](#)

#### Business Tools

- ▶ [Invoicing and Accounting](#)

Chequing/Savings	USD	CAD
<a href="#">Operational Funds</a>		10,798.18
<a href="#">Prudent Reserve</a>		14,623.15
<a href="#">Upcoming Budget Reserve</a>		11,279.61
<b>Total:</b>		<b>36,700.94</b>



Canada Emergency Business Account  
**\$40,000 Loan**

[Learn More >](#)



Make or change an appointment

## Alternate GSD report NS Service days 2020

Hello all my fellow zoomers,

I have the privilege of serving Area 82 as the Alternate General Service Delegate. When I was elected to this position, I was both humbled and frightened all at the same time. I can say that I remain both still today.

When we started our journey in January 2019 we had never heard of Zoom, Zoom bombers, Zoom links, and the list goes on. This year we have been forced into a new and exciting platform to carry our message and to enhance our programs with messages from around the globe. We have certainly adapted on the fly and I am so proud of us all!

As the AGSD one of my duties is to chair the active area committees. When I started in January 2019 those committees consisted of Webmaster, Remote Communities, Archivist and AACYPAA/MCYPAA. This year has seen me, with the use of Zoom, be able to start a new type of communicating with the committees in our area.

We started a Zoom committee meeting that is being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. This is the place where any of the committees in our Area can come together and meet in the new normal face to face gatherings. We have allowed the district committees, no matter what table they sit at in our respective districts, to hear about what has been done each month by those groups. We get to ask each other questions about how this or that has been done and this has allowed us not to try and invent the wheel for each new committee and district.

The DCMs have already spoken of the Committees they have in their districts during their reports this morning. I have been asked by Districts 1 and 2 to give a brief report on the committees that they share and meet at their Central Service table. So here goes!

Ad Hock Technology – Marie is the chair and they have been working hard on getting us up and running in this time.

CPC – Heather C- They have not been able to do much physically during this time, but they are working with PI to help in any way needed.

Corrections – Troy S.- The Corrections Committee is comprised of 23 members volunteering in service behind the walls at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility. Two weekly meetings are traditionally held at the facility. It is policy that 2 men and 2 women are in attendance for any given meeting. Due to COVID-19, all meetings are currently on hold. Alternate meeting options are not an available option due to security and staffing levels. However, some committee members continue to work with inmates via telephone. There are also members within working the Steps with each other currently. Literature inventory continues to be maintained in the facility with placement in the library, Chapel and provided for distribution by Case Workers/Prison Staff during these unprecedented times. We are extremely fortunate in District 1 and 2 to have a great working relationship with the Senior decision makers in the facility and Provincial Department of Justice.

Entertainment – Shawn M- Due to these Covid days they have not been able to plan any activities.

Help Email – Michael A.- This is a wonderful tool that helps anyone who has questions to get answers. Some of the types of questions are about how to find a meeting and other general AA questions.

Hospital Visitation – Allison M.- During this past month, the committee continued to adapt to the "new normal." We have found that many who could not get to meetings during COVID circumstances are able to access the Zoom Meetings to attend online. That being said, volunteers continue to be available for those who do not have access to the internet and need a meeting or fellowship. Once again, I just ask that CSRs take back to their groups that if there is a member who does not have internet access, there are options available to help bring AA to them. Volunteers are happy to make a phone call to chat AA anytime the need is there.



Literature – Cathy M. has a bookstore now open. It was a slow time when Covid started to interrupt things but now that things are starting to open up hopefully groups will need physical literature again!

Newsletter – Kelly D. chairs this committee and has put her own look to the Districts 1 and 2 newsletter. If you would like to see it for yourself, you can find it on the [aahalifax.org](http://aahalifax.org)

Mid-Winter – more will be revealed

**PI - Leah C.- The PI Committee has 5 active members and we meet the 1st Saturday every month where we brainstorm ideas to carry the message. Our committee has had a busy year with various projects, health fairs and presentations. We have also developed a couple of PI Pamphlets which explains to the fellowship and the public what we do in Public Information. Since the COVID 19 crisis we have been very busy getting information out to Dr. Offices, and Organizations to let them know we are still here and letting them know about Zoom online meetings. We also had 3 radio stations carry PSA's during the pandemic. We recently gave a presentation with Maritime Business School as well presented at the East Coast Music Association panel on Alcoholism, both were on the Zoom platform. Our committee has been attending the Area 82 Committee meetings which have been a wonderful opportunity to share ideas among the different Districts, and because of Zoom I have attended workshops all over North America along with PI/CPC Chairs from other Districts in Area 82.**

Telephone – Sharman M. chairs this committee. The phones are still being handed around to the respective volunteers (observing health guidelines). The phones are still being answered 24/7 and the number is 902-461-1119

Treatment – Stephanie J.- As expected all facilities remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As things are beginning to open up again, I will be contacting Detox, Forensics and Marguerite Center in Jun to see when they may expect to resume meetings.

Webmaster – Pedro G.- He is amazing...I can say no more because I do not understand a word he says (I am not technologically minded)

I have had some challenges contacting the Remote Communities Chair. I and other members of the executive have tried to contact her. As of today, I have not been able to speak with her.

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be a small part of the many sides of service in the Area.

Trudy Alfors

Alternate Service Delegate Area 82

## Archives Report June 2020

Hi everyone, my name is Kathy S-C., I am alcoholic. It has been my privilege to be your Area 82 AA NS Archivist for the last 3 years and over the last 8 years, 5 of those helping Gary when he was Archivist, it has been our privilege and delight to present and show the archives as they are today. We also have had the opportunity to put on a couple of workshops, one when the assembly was in Dartmouth and the other when we were invited to put one on at the monthly meeting for District 1, where all who attended had a chance to look for clues about their local AA history. We all had a blast. Anytime I have the opportunity to share the history of AA with someone I jump at the opportunity and the greatest part of my job is that I never stop learning. Most likely when I am at different events some member will bring me something or share a story with me. There will always be history and always someone to share it with - so please if you have anything tucked away and would like to give it a good home, I promise you I will take good care of it for you.

So what have I been up to since my report to you last July? I am happy to report to you that everything on my to do list has been completed. We had a banner made up that says Area 82 NS AA Archives in gold and black lettering, some of you may have seen it at the Lighthouse Roundup or at the Mid-Winter. Some of the binders have been upgraded. In an effort to save valuable Area money, I recycle and reuse what I can and accumulate binders when and where I can, but sadly some of them had to be retired.

The "In Memory" of Binder has, SADLY, grown since I introduced it last year, but I would like to thank all those who have helped me with this project.

The inventory is always growing with the archives, but rest assured that every time I make an entry I update the inventory list. As I reported to you last July I was going to send a complete inventory list to the Webmaster, and with Lisa N.'s help, that has been done. This was done so all members would have access to what exactly we have in the archives.

The big news I have is that your archives is now in a safe and secure storage facility in Bridgewater as of Jan. of this year. Many trips were made from Lunenburg to Bridgewater and with Gary's help with some additional shelves, everything is up on shelves and being organized every time we go there. Your archives have grown, and grown and grown over the past 8 years, from the 5 totes we received to 15 plus totes, along with numerous other items, such as banners, pictures and cassette tapes. It is like we received a little baby who has now grown into a full fledged teenager, YIKES !!

So having said all that, here are my plans for my next year's term. I introduced several weeks ago, the idea of a time capsule with contributions from all members who would like to participate in sharing their experience, their strength and their hope with some member most of us will never meet. This time capsule will be kept with the Archives and re-opened at some event, perhaps a Provincial Roundup, in the year 2045. Trudy A. has graciously agreed to send out a letter I wrote explaining exactly what would be acceptable for the capsule - a small note, a pin or maybe even a medallion, whatever you would like to pass on would be appreciated. I would like to leave this project opened for as long as possible in 2020 - as to give all members a chance to contribute.

Also I would like to expand my displays by doing some more research on some of the displays and putting an explanation next to them while the items are on the tables for display. For example, we have the Golden Records by Father John Doe - well what are the Golden Records, who recorded them and who exactly is Father John Doe ?? If you are too shy to approach me and ask or if I am tied up talking to someone else, you may walk away never knowing. This way it will be a learning experience for all of us.

Well, so much for my One page report, but you did a lot for me in a half hour !! But as some of you know I am very passionate about the archives and the work that I have done with them. It is my wish that you see

and appreciate that passion in the displays and in when I have the opportunity to speak about the archives. To me, without history - without one drunk going to talk to another drunk in hope he would stay sober himself, with out Ruth having the foresight to know these things should be saved for future generations, I would be without a job.

I look forward to continuing with my work as your Archivist and to meeting a lot of you around the archives displays. I am here as a servant of AA and will be available to all members if ever I can be of any help.

Yours in Service  
Kathy S -C.  
Area 82 NS AA Archivist

Sent from my iPad

## **AREA 82, Webmaster REPORT**

### **to the 2020 NS SERVICE WEEKEND (via ZOOM)**

Hi, I'm Matt. I'm an alcoholic

First of all, I'm sad that I had some urgent things in my personal life come up, so I'm unable to attend the rest of the service weekend. But I did want to come in and give the update here. I will disappear shortly afterwards.

The webmaster report is, as in all other walks of life, been a unique year for the area 82 website and among the fellowship. We will continue to adapt our online presence to keep reaching out to alcoholics. As the situation with COVID-19 develops and changes with in-person meetings coming back online, I will be taking that opportunity to fully migrate the site to the new meeting list format that was introduced last fall. I'll communicate with the DCMS on how updates will be maintained in that new system. It will be simpler and more accurate than it was previously. And we'll also have a standard format across the area since all meetings are listed the same way instead of the mixed bag of meeting list formats that we've had in past years. To move on to the administrative side, I'll now discuss our web hosting services. The domain name fee renewal was paid in October, at a cost of \$54.51 for three years. Renewal is coming up October 15 2022. And following on the resolution at last assembly, the site hosting fee renewal was paid in November, at a cost of \$358. 20 us for three years. Renewal isn't coming up again until November 19, 2022.

The area Forum has been a hot topic over the past year or so. It was up and running with Gerry Trudy and I as administrators on the site. Since my last report, I'd been dealing with the behind the scenes spam problem that was overwhelming the site with auto requests. After a brief period of resolution, the problem became much worse. I pulled the forum last month. I do believe I have resolved the issue now with a number of security updates with a number of pieces of the platform. And I will be reposting the new Forum in the coming weeks. (hopefully without the spam issue).

Website cleanup since my last report, I been continuing to clean out and archive all the information in the website databases going back to 2011. It's a slow and tedious process as it's not always clear what will break old links that are still active on the site. However, I expect to have this complete for my hand over to the new webmaster at the end of the year.

Website visits statistics. In 2019, we had an average of 9300 visits per month from 4900 unique visitors per month. That changed in 2020. No doubt because of COVID. We're up to 17,000 visits per month with 6900 unique users. Traffic has picked up. So far this year (up to today) there have been 380 emails received and 180 sent with a large portion of that related to the rollout of online meetings to support recovery during COVID-19 pandemic. This is greater than all of the correspondence in 2019 in half the year.

However, in these communications, I as webmaster have the relatively easy job of posting the links and times of meetings. I just like to take a moment now to acknowledge the tireless work of DCM's, GSR's, meeting organizers and other technical supporters in setting up all the zoom accounts and setting up all the zoom meetings so that I have something to post on the site. It's been critical continuing to provide the message of recovery to all of us. So please take a short moment today to be thankful for these enthusiastic and energetic individuals that have made sure that dozens of meetings with many meetings per day are available for all of us to continue receiving the fellowship and support that we need to say stay sober and help others to achieve sobriety As always, any requests for changes to the content or display of the overall site can be sent to area representatives or me for addition to the website. I thank you all for the opportunity to be of service.

Take care and keep God close in your lives.

Thank you very much

Matt D.

Area 82 Webmaster

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## CERAASA REPORT 2020

Hello fellow members. Here is a brief CERAASA report of the committee reports since we last met. The committee has struck up a new Purpose, Schedule, Composition, Responsibilities/Duties. These are just drafts as of today, because they will have to be approved at the next CERAASA. At present we are fine tuning some of the duty's of the host committee. The 2021 CERAASA will be held February 26-28, 2021 in St. Catharines Ontario. Flyers have been sent out to all Delegates, I have about 150 on my counter, hope to be able to get them out soon.

All debts from last years CERAASA have been paid and the start-up fund is in place. We are hoping with the new guidelines and the monthly Zoom meetings we are having, that everything will run smoothly from here forward. All 10 Delegates and Alt. Delegates with our Regional Trustee have been partaking in these meetings to iron out all kinks and help make sure we have all successful CERAASA's from here forward.

2021 CERAASA: hotel; For reservations at Holiday Inn & suites call [toll free] 1-877-688-2324 or 905-688-2324.

or on the web: <http://ceraasa.org/en/> Room rates are \$139.00 plus taxes

Room block deadline is Dec. 26, 2020 Use code CERAASA

Thank You All For Your Service

Kirk S.

A82 P69

## 2020 G.S.D. REPORT

JUNE 2020

Hello Friends my name is Kirk S. And I have the pleasure of serving Area 82 as your Panel 69 Delegate. The 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference was held in may by Zoom. We have tried our best with the times we are in and having to get the work of AA done. A big thank you goes out to all GSO staff for their patience with those of us who are not tech savvy. They worked long and hard days from home, to make sure we were all up to speed.

Conference began May 16<sup>th</sup> with a welcome from Michele Grinberg, chair of the General Service Board. Followed by remarks from Greg Tobin, General Manager at G.S.O. Greg then went on to roll call and review our agenda.

The committees broke into their own work space in the afternoon. We had very limited time to review items to bring to the floor. Really glad we as a group on P.I. Met ahead of conference. Each committee only had 45 minutes to present and have passed agenda items. Therefore we would be lucky to have one passed with the question and answer time on each item being part of the 45 minutes.

The following are the committees reports:

### Cooperation With The Professional Community

#### Committee Considerations

Discussed discontinuing the pamphlet "AA in Your Community" and took no action. Noting an update of the language and style is needed. Update with a focus on modern settings and various formats, such as digital resources.

### Corrections

#### Committee Considerations

Report heard from AAWS's publishing director on effects to provide digital distribution of AA literature into correctional facilities. Several options identified. Also reported Publishing plan to make most AA pamphlets staple-free. They also reviewed the Workbook and Kit and suggested adding the Pamphlet "The God Word".

### Finance

Recommended; Add draft language related to virtual basket in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money And Spirituality Mix." PASSED

### Grapevine

Recommended: Change name to Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina. PASSED

#### Committee Considerations:

Request Grapevine Board consider developing gender neutral language options and bring a revised plan back to 2021 GSC.

### Literature

Recommended: Update video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure." PASSED

AAWS policy "Policy on Publication of Literature: update Pamphlets and other AA Materials. PASSED

Committee Considerations: Report back to the 2021 conference for the following pamphlets; The Twelve Traditions Illustrated, The Twelve Concepts Illustrated, AA's Three Legacies, Too Young, Young People in AA, Pamphlet for Spanish Speaking Women.

### Policy / Admissions

Recommended: Process for Approving Observers to the Conference be approved. PASSED  
Recommended: General Service Conference implement electronic voting for trustee elections starting in 2021. PASSED  
Recommended: Continuing review of dates for the GSC be changed to consider dates with timing and years to review as requested by the General Manager. PASSED

## Public Information

Recommended: Adjust all AAWS video titles for search engine Optimization. {SEO} PASSED  
Committee Considerations:

Reports reviewed and accepted: Annual Report regarding aa.org and aagraevine.org; GSO communications department report on the AAWS Meeting Guide App; status of Google AdWords/Grants; PI comprehensive Media Plan to create video shorts based on pamphlets; Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs; AA Membership survey. Report back to 2021.

Accepted report distribution and tracking information on PSA “Changes”: new financial reporting system for PSA media valuations; Report on the development of two PSAs. Draft to 2021.

Create a new form of communication: request information be gathered on Social Media before moving forward, i.e.: Suggested: Shared experiences; safety & etiquette, Anonymity. Report or draft proposal back to 2021.

AA Podcast; develop and bring back to 2021.

Committee shared concerns on the relevancy of a print copy workbook and PI kit. Suggestions included: explore developing a service committee App; Create PDF version; broader sharing; more accessibility in PI work; reflection of AA digital assets and how applied to PI work [such as You Tube, Meeting Guide App, etc] Report back to 2021.

## Report And Charter

Recommended: Amend article 4 of current conference Charter to read From: '3/4 vote of all conference members' TO: 3/4 vote of all conference members PARTICIPATING IN THE VOTE" PASSED

Committee Considerations:

Review and accepted: Report from Publishing re: timely and accurate preparation & publication of 2020 GSC Final Report.

Reviewed draft of AA Service Manual, requested update draft incorporating suggestions from the committee be brought back to 2021.

Discussed restoring two paragraphs with footnotes to Concept Eleven previously removed by 66<sup>th</sup> GSC. TOOK NO ACTION

## Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibility

Recommended: Revising the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” updating for currency and inclusion to reach broader scope of treatment settings, and that a progress report or draft be brought back to 2021. PASSED

Committee Considerations:

Suggested that the trustees' committee develop a Bridging The Gap Workbook and bring a progress report to 2021 GSC

## Trustees

Recommended: The approval of the slate of trustees and officers for General Service Board and A.A.



Grapevine, Inc. Board. PASSED

Approval of the slate of Directors for A.A.W.S.----RULED OUT OF ORDER

Approval of the slate of trustees for A.A.W.S. As presented. PASSED

Committee Considerations;

The slate of directors, summary of events re: Appeal: amend by-laws of the GSB specifically eligibility of past delegates to apply. Report to 2021

Archives

Committee Considerations:

Considered request for the development of a book on AA history from 1955 through the present.

Suggested Committee consider possible themes, content ideas and the time period such a book might cover. Report back in 2021

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Committee Considerations: Accepted report from Talley Management outlining steps taken prior and post cancellation of the 2020 International Convention.

Discussed the using of The Lord's Prayer for closing the big meetings. Wide range of discussion followed.. Also encouraged interest in Regional and Local Forums. Many suggestions offered.

AAWS/GSO REPORTS

Due to the Virus Interruption no audit was available at the time. A special Virtual meeting will be held when final figures are available.

FLOOR ACTIONS

The following floor actions FAILED a motion to decline consideration and will be forwarded to the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference.

1-Recommended: Proposal to revise the pie chart percentages emphasizing that any percentages included are only suggestions and examples,

2- Recommended: Due to many agenda items being forwarded to the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC. Consider extending the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC by as many as three working days, whether 71<sup>st</sup> is face to face or digital.

3- Recommended: Consider developing a PSA about AA geared toward minorities.

4- Recommended: 70<sup>th</sup> GSC approve slate of directors for AAWS as originally submitted.

5- Recommended: Pamphlet "AA for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" be updated to include fresh stories & a new title.

6-Recommended: Slate of directors of AAWS as submitted be approved.

7-Recommended: Launch of Google AdWords- Grants halt until the 71<sup>st</sup> approves and the Ad Hoc Committee progress report from Finance be immediately released to all members of the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC..

Thank You

Kirk S

Panel 69

Area 82

## **Area 82 Proposal**

To be discussed at 2020 Service Weekends and Area

### ***In Reference to***

Section VI – Area Officers and their Responsibilities – b) Alternate Delegate

- The Alternate Delegate is the chair of Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.), Public Information (P.I.), Treatment, and Corrections Committee and the Grapevine Representative for the Area.

### ***Proposal*** from Fresh Start Group, District 1

For each province of Area 82 Nova Scotia/Newfoundland and Labrador to elect a Co-chair for the following committees: Corporations with Professional Community, Public Information, Treatment, Corrections, and Grapevine, at their respected Service Weekends.

The elected Co-chairs of Committees will assist and work with the Chair (Alt. Delegate) for the above-mentioned Committees. The Co-chair with direction of the chair will provide support in districts and groups in engaging in building Committees in their communities passing information from GSO, help set up committees in districts that do not have committees, help facilitate workshops or any other assistance that required by the districts in the province, to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Chair/Alt. Delegate will report on all the committees for both provinces at the service weekend as well as a yearly Area 82 Assembly.

### ***Background:***

We have contracted over 10 Areas on how they run their Area Committees. We have found that in their Area, they have Chairs of the 4 Committees. Corporations with Professional Community, Public Information, Treatment, Corrections, and Grapevine. With the size of our Area, we have decided to only have the Alt. Delegate to be the Chair of those committees, mainly a money issue as having 5 additional members of the Area Committee would be quite an expense.

### ***Conclusion:***

By adding Co-Chairs to our committees at Area, we will be more connected with all the Districts Committees and with both Provinces. We will be able to close the gap that we have created by not having Area Chairs for the important work Committees to, sharing the message to all who want help from Alcoholics Anonymous

## DISTRICT 10 AREA 82 PROPOSAL

To be discussed at the 2020 Service Weekend  
Vote to take place at Area 82 Assembly 2020

PROPOSAL: Amend Area 82 Guidelines to read as follows:

(Under Section IX – Expenses) Area 82 provides an advance of funds to respective Area Officers and Committee members to fulfill their duties while performing Area business, as per the approved budget (page 13, Area 82 Guidelines).

***In addition, Area 82 offers to pay an amount equal to or greater than the Delegate Fee for their General Service Delegate to attend and fulfill the duties at the General Service Conference in New York. In years when there are funds in excess of budgeted expenses and the Prudent Reserve, the payment shall be equal to the excess after allowance for adjustment of the Prudent Reserve.***

REASON:

Area 82 has had more than \$5000 in past budgets at year-end. Despite budget surpluses, Area has paid only the Delegate Fee and GSO has paid the remainder. If Area 82 has enough money to cover more of the GSO Conference cost share, District 10 unanimously agrees Area 82 ought to pay a larger amount for our Delegate to fulfill his or her duties while attending the Conference.

District 10 moved and carried a motion to present this proposal to Area 82.

Yours In Sobriety,  
Michelle Pierce, District 10 Secretary  
On behalf of District 10

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

We think that the following information will be helpful in promoting an informed group conscience as regards our proposal:

**A. *How much does the Conference cost?*** We looked at a letter from GSO's Chief Financial Officer, who estimated that the 2019 Conference cost was approximately \$1,140,000 US\$. GSO estimates that there are about 135 attendees – including the Area Delegates, the Trustees, the Directors and GSO Staff. So if we divide the total estimated cost (\$1,140,000) by the total attendees (135), we get the cost per participant, which is about \$8,400 US\$ for 2019. Here's what the cost per attendee looks like for the past few years:

2019 est	8,400	Manhattan (location)
2018	8,100	Manhattan
2017	5,500	Rye Brook
2016	7,400	Manhattan
2015	7,800	Manhattan
2014	5,800	Rye Brook

**B. *What does GSO suggest we contribute?*** GSO does not ask for the entire cost per person. When it writes to our Delegate, as it did in January 2020, it says that the Conference Fee is \$1,800 US\$ per Area. This amount was established at the General Service Conference in 2017, and was a raise of fee from \$1,600 to \$1,800. There are three points to notice here:

- The Conference Fee letter comes in January, just three months before the Conference. Our budget for the upcoming year must be planned and approved in October of the previous year, so we have to estimate the amount to budget. (We need to keep in mind that GSO reimburses the Delegate for his/her airline ticket. This is an expense of the Conference, and not an expense for Area 82.)
- The Conference Fee is stated in US Dollars. The exchange rate varies year to year. The Bank of Canada has averaged the 2019 exchange

rate at \$1.00 US = \$1.3269 Canadian. This means that the \$1,800 US Conference Fee amounts to approximately \$2,400 Canadian in 2019.

- The Conference Fee does not come close to covering the cost of the Conference. Even if all Areas in North America (93 of them per the 2019 Final Report) paid the \$1,800 Conference Fee, the amount paid would come to

$$93 \text{ Areas} \times 1,800 = \$167,400$$

And this represents only a small portion of the total cost – only about 15%.

The letter from GSO goes on to say that they appreciate voluntary contributions, and through Oct. 31, 2019, they had received approximately \$358,000 in Area Contributions and Additional Contributions toward the 2019 Conference. So we can see (since \$358,000 is greater than \$167,400) that some Areas DO contribute more than the Conference Fee. In 2019, Area 82 contributed \$2400, the Canadian equivalent of the Conference Fee.

**C. Can Area 82 afford to contribute more? Up to and including the current estimated total remaining excess over the Prudent Reserve?** At January 1, 2020, our Treasurer's email to all Districts showed that we had Canadian funds in the bank of

Operational Funds	5,656.12
Prudent Reserve	12,961.40
Upcoming Budget Reserve	<u>30,709.54</u>
Total on hand	49,327.06

The minutes from the 2019 Area Assembly say that the 2020 Budget was set at \$28,700. Subtracting shows us, in Canadian funds,

Total on hand	49,327.06
Less 2020 budget	<u>-28,700.00</u>
Excess above budget	20,627.06
Less Prudent Reserve	<u>-14,350.00</u>
Excess remaining	6,277.06

The Area Prudent Reserve is defined as one half of the amount of the current year's budget. Now we know that 2020 actual expenses will be less than budgeted expenses since few are travelling and officers' travel makes up a large part of the budget. And we need to have a prudent reserve against the next year's budget. But we need to be mindful of Concept XII, Warranty One, which warns us against the accumulation of too much money. Indeed, it says "no great excess of group contributions over legitimate operating expenses is ever likely to be seen."

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the District 10 proposal.

## **ZOOM Conferencing App**

On January 20<sup>th</sup> at the regular business meeting of the Sunrise Group, it was decided with substantial unanimity that the following motion be added to the Service weekend and Assembly agenda.

### **Motion**

The Sunrise Group of District 2 Area 82 so moves that Area 82 implements Zoom Conferencing to help improve communication within Area 82.

### **What is ZOOM?**

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video.

### **Why Zoom in Area 82?**

For a long time in Area 82 poor communication has been an issue in part due to our geographic make up. With Zoom, communication can be greatly enhanced. Communication between Committees, (P.I., C.P.C., Corrections, Treatment Facilities), Districts, Area Officers, Remote Communities, and the list goes on. Zoom can be used for webinars and other training tools.

### **What is the cost?**

There is a free version of the Zoom App, although it is limited. For a cost roughly \$200.00 a year all our conferencing need would be covered.

Thank in advance for considering this Motion  
Sunrise Group.