

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

June 11th & 12th, 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