

Area 82 Active Committees Meeting

April 6th, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm NS time

Chaired by Trudy Alferts Area 82 NS/NL Alt-GSD

Trudy asked for reports from the committees by the District they are in.

Districts 1 and 2 (Leah C. Chair PI and Heather C. Chair of CPC)

- Leah reported that an ad has gone to Eastlink for the Community Bulletin Board detailing information regarding the website and contact telephone numbers daily.
- Telephone campaign to notify doctors offices how to contact AA (numbers and website info)
- Mike PI committee member– campaign to contact shelters in the Districts with AA contact information
- Heather CPC- Nothing to report since the last meeting. She and Foster to schedule a brainstorming session through Zoom to plan a way forward.

District 3 (Mark Z. PI/CPC Chair)

- Mark called all doctors offices to notify them that AA meetings have moved to Zoom and how to contact AA online.
- Called Valley Regional Hospital and they said they will post information up where people can see it.
- Two local radio stations will renew the currently running PSA's and will add info on how to reach AA during this time.
- Mark called the local newspapers but print media is shut down.
- Annapolis Community Health Center is willing to install an AA display case when the virus is done

Districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 15 -No Report

District 9 (Joe M.- PI Chair for half of Cape Breton Island -Sydney area)

- Nothing new to report. Hoping to get some direction from this meeting
- They do have meeting schedules in the newspaper in that region and he will try to get in touch of someone there and ask them to put in a notice about how to find our meetings right now

District 10 (Kathy S.C. NS Archivist read her report)

- It is hard to know as your Area 82 AA Archivist on how I can be of service in spreading the word of recovery through these very difficult times. But, as always, I turn to history, to our very roots, to find the answers for myself and for others.

When you look back in history and realizes the immense difficulties our founders endured to get this program going, you can only have a deep sense of gratitude for what they went through and the lengths they went to achieve what we so freely enjoy today. Talk about social distancing, when this thing first started you had Bill W. in the city of New York and Dr. Bob in Akron and them trying their best to spread the word of recovery to any drunk who would listen. Can you imagine if Zoom were available back then!!

Imagine our Big Book - our gospel - not having to be written page by page and then mailed by snail mail all over the country for approval by all the members , then snail mailed back - oh , how Bill would be in his glory if he had access to the technology we have today.

So, what I would like to say as Archivist to the members of today. - we will get through this -we will survive. - we will be stronger on the other side. We owe it to those who have come before us, so their struggles were not in vain.

Klaus B from district 10 could not find the zoom link as it had changed, and I had his email incorrect. This has been fixed and he will be able to attend the next meeting. (Sorry Klaus)

District 12 (Alfred S CPC / PI Chair)

- Last meeting was in March and now in wait and see mode due to virus shutdown.

District 14

- Jeff B (DCM) reported that a new PI Chair had just been elected to the position.

District 16 (Martine T. Remote Communities Chair)

- The members in her District have accessed via Zoom a women's and a men's meeting from Halifax on Zoom. They are in the process of setting up their own Zoom meetings. Before COVID-19 they did not have access to the technology necessary to do this, now that this is happening, they have been given access to it. (Not good that this had to happen but at least some good is coming from it) They are planning to reach out to indigenous community members as well.

District 17 (Gary O. Corrections and Institutions Chair)

- Working with Crosbie Center in cooperation with District 3 on rebuilding the "Bridging the Gap" contact lists and converting them to a telephone contact list for clients leaving the facility. Staff was very appreciative of this.
- He tried to contact the facility for young offenders but no response so far.
- Approached District about helping Districts 1 & 2 at the Burnside Corrections center to offer the AA message to inmates but there is not enough interest in the district

Jo PI/CPC

- Jo is new to the position and haven't had a meeting of her committee as yet.
- Working on a list of places / Institutions, professionals, etc. to provide a starting point. She plans to coordinate with Mark in District 3 to tap his experience as a resource. (Mark was here so he provided her with his contact info)

Trudy Alferts Area 82 NS/NL ALT-GSD

- This is where the contacts for all committees can gather and feel out what they can do, get ideas from what others are doing and generally just feel supported.
- Trudy reported that GSO has suggested that all requests for media interviews be handled by the ALT-GSD. She has already fielded two such requests with another scheduled for the near future. She also spoke briefly to her role as Chair of Active Committees. In this position she serves to facilitate / coordinate activities among the active service committees in all of Area 82

General discussion followed reports.

- Leah plans to revisit all work done in Districts 1 and 2 with the intent of renewing all contact information and to reopen contacts with nursing homes and hospitals. The hospital visitation lists will be converted to telephone support lists for the duration of the crisis. Also have a member who is doing some research and getting in touch with some addiction centres who may benefit from this information.
- Mark suggested that a separate email list be developed specifically for CPC / PI
- Mark also suggested that follow-up with the unrepresented Districts be initiated. Trudy assured him that it would be.
- The email addresses for all attendees was hilarious and if you all missed it, I feel sad for you!!
- Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm NS time, 6:30 NL time on the 20th of April 2020

Roughly transcribed by Gerry W. and finishing touches by Trudy A.

NOTE ... New Zoom ID Number / No password

<https://zoom.us/j/93129549742>

Meeting ID: 503 783 3979

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