

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 3rd 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

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