

Area 82 Active Committees Meeting

July 26st, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm NS time

Chaired by Gerry W. Area 82 NS/NL A-GSD

In attendance.

Gerry W. Area 82 Alt-GSD

Mark Z. (District 3) PI Chair

Bill P.

Tyler Graves Area 82 Webmaster

Kathy S-C (NS-Archivist) Chair

Arlene P. (Area 82 Remote Communities) Chair

Clayton (District 1 & 2 PI)

Paul W (District 6) Chair; PI

Gerry opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

- ***Tyler Graves (Area 82 Webmaster)***

The Area 82 Website had been experiencing significant down time and our contract webmaster Tyler Graves was asked to address the issue. Tyler documented some of the problems he encountered with our existing web service provider Jaguar PC.

1. They were taking three to five days to get back to me
2. Jaguar PC weren't really giving me straight answers
3. I discussed the problem with Gerry W (Alt GSD) and Trudy D.(GSD) and suggested that it was a good idea to move over to a more reputable hosting company.
4. It was recommended that we go to Bluehost, which is one of the three hosting providers that WordPress actually recommends you use.
5. We switched over to Bluehost.
6. We're not completely migrated yet. I just have got the staging website up and I'm working on getting a theme in there and migrating all the content over.
7. I plan to finish that by this coming weekend. And then I'll just have to migrate all the emails and domains and everything over and that'll be that. Excellent.

- **Arlene P. Remote Communities Chair**

Kathy was nice enough to bring in that very large binder of Remote Communities material. I'm trying to free up some time to actually go and get this all copied so that I could return it to Kathy because it is straight out of the archives. I'm still trying to get around my new schedule for my new job.

Gerry W. "I have an update for you. I got to talk with Jill Williams MSw. today. That's the lady who will be heading up the new treatment facility which will be opening in Labrador during March of 2022. She's asked me to put together an introductory letter. I will introduce you (Arlene) and I and include a package of material detailing what Alcoholics Anonymous has to offer. I'll share that with you before we send it anywhere so that you can have your input. Ms Williams plans to take that introductory letter and send it off to all the Aboriginal government agencies in Labrador. Hopefully, this will be the start of getting some meetings among their community."

- **Kathy S-C (NS-Archivist) Chair**

My name is Kathy I'm alcoholic. I'm not much going on my end. I can report that I did get the book containing the Remote Communities material to Arlene and hope it's some of some use to her

Sometimes, if you do a little bit of digging you, you can find some things that are of use even today.

Still doing the newsletters, contributing some AA stuff to the newsletters for Districts 10, Nine, Three and 17. This month, for some reason, I opened an old Grapevine from 1983. And there was an article in the back that I just happened to open. It was an article on the Serenity Prayer. I'll plan to be offering that over a three-month period to the various newsletters. The first month will be an explanation on the serenity part of the Serenity Prayer, next month will be courage, with Wisdom addressed during the third month. I enjoy falling into things like this which contributes to the newsletters.

I spoke to Sharon G. (NL Archivist), on Saturday, we had a really nice conversation. I told her I wished I was a block away from her so I could help her. I would love to be at that beginning stage again where we could dig in and find the treasures that are in those archive boxes.

Question for Tyler, with respect to the archives. "How difficult would it be to set up a secure portal for a members only that could see selected bits (anonymity protected) of the Archives?"

Answer. "That wouldn't be too hard. We can use a password protected page with all that info on it."

- **From Mark Z. (District 3) Chair PI/CPC.**

Good day, friends, Mark alcoholic. Over the last couple months COVID has shut everything down so we haven't been able to distribute our information as freely as we would like. Now that things have opened back up again, we're slowly restarting. Once we get started, the energy will come back.

I've reached out to a few places. but it's slow going. We are starting into the tourist season, and now people are allowed to travel a little bit more, we are approaching the hotels, motels, and campgrounds just to see what information pamphlets and posters that they will take.

I reached out to a mental health organization down here in the Valley, they plan to contact me in September. We hope to do a presentation or display at one of their events. alcoholism, mental health type, combined effort with other health organizations and just be part of like a little help Expo type thing.

We still have a pending presentation to the municipality of the county of Kings. We are on their agenda, it's just a matter of fitting us into one of their slots.

I also plan to login to a train the Trainer CPC/PI workshop this evening.

To address the open Area 82 co chair positions, I drew up a paragraph explaining what co chair positions are available, what they are all about what their intent is. I sent that off to all the districts in Nova Scotia to be included in their newsletters.

- **Bill P. (District 1)**

I have two things just to raise for people's consideration.

1. This is in the category of a bright idea. The media tends to select a particular month to highlight a particular not for profit organization for some publicity. I would suggest that we select a month such as September 2022 where we (as Area 82) conduct a coordinated media blitz to saturate all available media with the message of AA. This would stay within established AA guidelines of "attraction rather than promotion"

Comment. The Blitz idea excites me. This seems to naturally fall within the scope of responsibilities laid out for the existing NS and NL Co-Chairs of CPC/PI. I suggest we start planning in October / November of 2021. I think we can take that to a provincial level and really coordinate all the districts to do the same thing. It will take some work and some organization. That's where we have to learn to be patient, it's not going to be done today or tomorrow. But it will with a little bit of organization and a little bit of work. It's a starting point from which to grow. .For those that are planning, we will need to put some budget behind it, probably not a lot of budget, we just need to make sure that it gets to the right people in the right way.

2. The second thing is probably focused in the area of Public Information.

In the mental health field, until the last couple of years, "Alcoholism" was a diagnosis, a particular medical and mental health condition. The terminology has now been changed to a condition variously called "alcohol use", "alcohol abuse", or "alcohol use syndrome".

The irony of all that there's this book called Alcoholics Anonymous in 1939, which distinguishes the different types of drinkers and separates us real alcoholics from the rest. Under the more recent mental health diagnosis they're including all of that as part of the "alcohol abuse syndrome". If you've got some high school students or some university student goes on drunken sprees two or three times a year, they're included.

Comment. It's possible that we are straying into an "outside issue" area here. While we as AA members commonly accept the definition of alcoholism within our Big Book, there's no reason to suppose that the National or Provincial health professionals have to accept that for their purposes.

- ***Clayton (Districts 1 & 2 PI)***

Good evening, folks. My name is Clayton , I'm an alcoholic. To go over with some of the stuff that we've been working on in the CPC/PI committee. It's been kind of slow this spring, and it's been starting to pick up a little bit this summer. Our committee is going to meet in person for the first time, the first Saturday of the month. We're looking forward to that. We have been working on some signage. We have been liaising with some businesses here in Sackville that allow us to put up some signs, really local stuff. One member has contacted some radio stations, Valve radio and Sackville Radio. He has been holding off on the buses, waiting for the fall when we get best bang for our buck. Public transit has come back a bit, but it's nowhere like it was. A committee member is liaising with guidance counselors in the area. There's a medical facility on the base in CFB. Halifax, with an addiction prevention and treatment program. I was going to try to sneak some of our posters in there, like business cards or anything like that. I have a contact there who's currently on vacation. Thanks.

- ***Paul W (District 6) Chair; PI***

I'm Paul W I'm an alcoholic and I'm district six PI Chair. There's not a whole lot new to add here just I want to start trying to get down to some of the Tourist Information Center. People are starting to move around and might be going into them for information. I had information in them before but now it's been well over a year since I've been into one of them. And they're starting to open up. I know the one down here is open. I'll make sure they have our information there. That's about all I got to say

- ***Gerry W. (Alt GSD.)***

No formal report for District 15. We're back into the penitentiary in St. John's area with live meetings again.

We have a liaison with the treatment facility in the nearby community of Harbor Grace. We have been providing AA zoom meetings for them, when they asked for it. We hope to build on that as we go forward.

Ray S. (DCM) from District 12 informed me that they are back into the Humberwood facility with live meetings.

General discussion followed reports.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:10 NS time
- Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm NS time, 6:30 NL time on the 30th of August, 2021

Roughly transcribed by

Gerry W.