

Area 82 Active Committees Meeting

March 29th, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:05 pm NS time

Chaired by Gerry W. Area 82 NS/NL Alt GSD

In attendance.

Gerry W. Area 82 Alternate GSD

Arlene P. Area 82 Remote Communities Chair

Boyd B Past Delegate, District 15 , CPC-PI Committee

Kathy S.C. Area 82 NS Archivist

Loyola G. Alt DCM District 12 and Treatment Committee Chair

Ken B District 12 PI Chair

Clayton (?), Chair PI District 1

Paul W, District 6 PI Chair

Mark Z (District 3) PI Chair (Report in absentia)

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

He then asked for reports in no particular order, simply position on screen.

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- **Boyd B. (District 15) Past Delegate, filling in for CPC-PI chair Lesley O.**

Public Information Committee Report for March 9, 2021

- PSA's sent to radio stations. Standard letters sent out to distribution list of professional associations, community groups, unions and large local employers.
- Churches – Emails sent to area churches with information about AA and how to contact us for literature.
- Recruitment for PI Committee – three new committee members have volunteered, one has expressed interest in the Treasurer position. Secretary has given notice that they will be stepping down from the position and the committee as of the final meeting for the spring (June 8, 2021).

- Newfoundland Herald – committee will not be pursuing any paid advertising in this publication. Too expensive and not enough distribution.
- Literature order – order placed and items received, awaiting invoice.
- Digital advertising (Static Ads) – Rough cost estimates provided, these included design fees, campaign fees and reporting fees. Committee will investigate further and look to potentially pursue later in 2021.
- Pearl, Loop and Shoreline, Buy & Sell – inquired about obtaining credit or 6 months free in 2021, given the decreased circulation over the pandemic shut down. Chair reported we will get credit from Pearl, Loop (35 weeks remaining) and that Buy & Sell will give paid until us until 31-Dec-21 due to the delayed publications.
- Christmas Promotion – VOXM promotions occurred over Christmas (cost \$2,000.00). Discussed possibility to continue in 2021. Committee agreed we will likely pursue but will wait until a little later in the year, especially given we may pursue digital ads (Item 6).
- Active Area Committee – PI Committee member has attended two meetings to date and will attend as our representative in future.
- Memorial Virtual Wellness Fair (March 3, 2021) – committee opted not to participate.
- Telegrams Payments – as per unanimous agreement by Committee, we have paid for our ad through to the end of 2021.
- Service Workshop – Intergroup has requested PI participation in a committee they have formed to plan a Service Workshop. Secretary has volunteered and will coordinate with Intergroup.

Institutions:

All institutions closed to public because of COVID-19, no meetings occurring.

ATSA (Addiction Treatment Services Association):

Addictions Awareness conference held on Zoom on March 5, 2021.

School presentations:

Will defer for time being, given COVID concerns and restrictions.

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- **Kathy S.C. Area 82 NS Archivist**
- The NS Archives Time Capsule will still be open for contributions until December 2021. People will be able to see it but won't be able to read it until the year 2045, when it will be opened.

- I'm still continuing my history blurbs for district newsletters. Right now District 10, District 3, District 17 and District 9 are availing of my offer of historical pieces.
- I still need contact information for the editors of newsletters in the other districts. During Covid times it is an effective way for an archivist to provide the service they should. *(Arlene was able to help here with District 1 contact info)*
- A personal highlight since I've reported to you last month occurred last Thursday evening, Stepping Stones put on a presentation in honor of women in AA history month. It was the story of Marty M. It was amazing. It started at nine o'clock our time and finished at 1030.
- Sally C, a volunteer at Stepping Stones provided a virtual tour. <https://www.steppingstones.org/>
- In June I will t have one year left in my term. We will be actively searching for a Nova Scotian archivist to replace me. I love the work but it has been 13 years with rotation only between Gary and I. It worked and it allowed us to got the archives to where they are today. It is now time for change.

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- **Mark Z. (District 3) Chair PI/CPC (Report in absentia).**

District 3 report

- We have some of our posters mounted on wooden backing to withstand the weather.
- Two have been placed at stop signs, so when cars are waiting in traffic, it is clearly visible. We can now use this example to approach other communities for approval.
- We have stocked up our supply of pamphlets and other AA material, and are ready to visit all hotels, motels, B&Bs, and campgrounds in our district. People are still going to travel and visit our area. We thought this would be a goof place to post our info.
- We have a plan in the works to be placed on the agenda of the Municipality of The County of Kings, to do a 10 minute presentation of our CPC/PI efforts. This would be followed by a 10 minute question and answer session. The county councillors would be a good tool to have knowledge of our projects. They may be able to assist us with future endeavours.

- One of our committee is in contact with government officials, hoping to get some guidance of how to get our posters at all Nova Scotia Liquor stores in our District

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District 1, PI Report

Hi I'm Clayton, I'm an alcoholic. I'm just getting into service work. Just this year, I took over as chair of the Public Information committee in District 1. I have been learning a lot.

- This winter, we finished up calling and delivering material to doctors offices and clinics in the area. There might still be a few outstanding
Public Health. That's another story like the hospitals and stuff, right.
- The Public Information section of the District 1 and 2 website has been updated with a section on what our Committee does.
- I also had the webmaster update the PI page with my contact information.

- We had a new member join last time we met. It is good that he's getting into service as well. He's looking into a couple things for us. He will be contacting GSO about Social Media and local Unions regarding EAP programs etc.
- District 1 is also looking for a CPC Chair at the moment

- Our next meeting is on the third of April. I was able to get added to the current newsletter. Hopefully we will get more membership.

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Area 82 Remote Communities Report

My name is Arlene, I live in District Two, which is Dartmouth. in Nova Scotia. I am a long-time member of the Cole Harbor group. I'm your Area 82 Remote Communities Chair, who's still trying to learn the ropes.

- I am still gathering information.

- With our Archivist Kathy's help, I've gotten some additional information regarding past activities of the Remote Communities Committee to use as a starting point. I have the information from 2003 to 2008 when I served as DCM for District 2. Once I go through that, I have contacts with at least three other past Remote Communities chairs. I will contact them and see what info they might be able to pass along to me.

- I am starting from scratch, for setting up committee and trying to get to find out what's needed, and what I can help with and then go from there. At the moment, I don't have a lot to report. But I am trying

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District 12 Treatment Committee

I am Loyola G. I'm the Alternate DCM as well as the Chair of the District 12 Treatment Committee.

- I've talked with the head of Humberwood Treatment facility, Kathy to become familiar with how we can best carry the AA message within their facility. Part of that process is to determine what they expect from us, as far as the number of meetings. This communication has been very helpful.
- I have also been reading up on the guidelines and literature for Treatment Committees, trying to get, our committee in place, and trying to do up a new schedule.
- I am really looking forward to April 10th, when we have our Treatment and CPC meeting. I have a number of questions which I hope to be informed on, One of which is "What length of sober time is sufficient for a person to attend or conduct meetings at the Humberwood facility?" The facility administrator seems to think that a year would be best.
- During follow-up discussion it was pointed out that each District is autonomous but we are guests in the facility and work within the guidelines and policies of those facilities.

(The April 10th meeting referred to is an Area 82 follow-up Pre-Conference meeting to address agenda items pertaining to the Treatment and Accessibilities and CPC Committees at the GSC that were not covered by the March 27th workshop),

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District 6 Public Information Committee

Hi , I'm Paul W ,I am a member of the Sunrise Trail Group and I am Chair of District 6 Public Information Committee.

- I dropped off some pamphlets and posted our 24 hour number at the health clinic in Fundy Trail mall in Truro.
- I also left some pamphlets at the West Colchester Community House in Bass River I had been to these places before, and apparently people are picking up pamphlets because they were depleted. So I left some more.

- I dropped pamphlets off at Lillian Fraser hospital in Tatamagouche as well.
- I did the same at the mental health and addictions office in Truro hospital.
- When I visit these places, I give them our phone number and explain that some meetings are on Zoom and some are in person. I suggest to them that they call ahead to make sure that they know whether it's on the web rather than live meeting. I also explained about the Area 82 website as well as the information they can get off of aa.org.
- I also contacted Darlene H. and asked her to reconnect with the Nova Institute in the Truro women's prison. We were on our way to getting meetings back to be put back there before COVID-19. Darlene was then Corrections Chair, so I asked her if she would do it again. She is willing but needs permission to start again.

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District 12 Public Information Committee

Hi folks, I'm Ken B. I've just been assigned to Chair the PI Committee about a month ago.

- We are in the process of doing an inventory of the literature on hand and compiling a list of new pamphlets we need to acquire such that we have enough literature pertinent to our needs.
- We are transitioning back and forth between Zoom and, and in person meetings this last few months. There's some concern about the loss of members.
- Some of the locations that we had for meetings are no longer available and probably won't be available for some time. I suspect that it's going to be a long time before we're allowed back in schools or the hospital.
- This time of transition is, however, a good time for me to be able to put together a plan for when the alert level drops off, and we can get back out into community again.

There is not a heck of a lot to report but we are trying to piece together where we are and formulate a plan to move forward.

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General discussion followed reports.

- **Gerry W. AGSD**

A part of my responsibility as Alternate General Service Delegate is oversight of the Area 82 website. The webmaster and I have got the site as up to date as we can get it.

We have added a page dealing with the COVID-19 protocols for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador plus a link to the same information on the GSO website.

(Repeat from last month) I am delighted to report that a candidate has put their name forward for the position of Newfoundland and Labrador Archivist. The resume submitted will be considered by the NL DCM's and GSR's at the Spring Zoom Assembly. The individual has long term sobriety and has good organizational skills. It is a pleasure to see somebody finally step forward.

(Repeat from last month) I have received one resume from NS, and none from NL, for the five committee co-chair positions to be elected at the Spring Assembly. The appeal will be repeated at the end of these minutes.

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Question from Boyd B. for Arlene P (Remote Communities)

Some years ago, when the when the Area's Remote Communities committee decided to focus on Labrador in particular there was some concern that Labrador wasn't the only sector within Area 82 with remote communities. One lady had mentioned that there was an indigenous reservation in the center of the province which might have benefited from some attention by the Area 82 Remote Communities Committee. Was there ever any attempt to contact this group?

Answer from Arlene

The Whycomomagh (We'koqma'q) Reservation is Migmaw (Mi'kmaq) They have an active AA group and actually have native members who are involved with alcoholism and addictions outreach. From what I know at the moment, through reading, is that they are helping their own.

The remote communities originally looked to help but the focus was put on Labrador because they had no access and no way of getting the meetings or literature.

We have another reservation at Millbrook, near Truro. They have access to a huge AA community right there in Truro, which is only five minutes away.

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During his report, Loyola G had asked for input on the length of sobriety needed to conduct (or attend) meetings at the Humberwood Treatment Center.

Input from Arlene

In my district, when you go to a treatment facility, you are invited by the Facility authorities. Although Districts one and two have pertinent Guidelines, the Facility administration determines the length of sober time that they require as well as the length of time since the volunteer had been released from the facility. Because we are invited, we must follow what they're comfortable with, rather than what we would like to see.

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Question from Ken B (District 12, PI)

Is there anything regarding a COVID literature plan from the Area? The guidelines and protocols differ from every province, but an AA etiquette document might be helpful

Answer from Gerry W (Alt-GSD)

Neither the executive nor area officers (DCM's) have considered adding anything to the guidelines without instruction from the Area body. We have certainly discussed this in the context of the Fourth Tradition, "each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole".

That is the primary reason why we incorporated a new page into the Area 82 website devoted to COVID protocols and responses from both provincial jurisdictions and GSO.

<http://www.area82aa.org/covid-19-information>

I would suggest that if a Covid 19 etiquette document was brought to the Spring Assembly using the process outlined in our Area 82 Guidelines, it would likely be welcomed by the members.

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Repeat of "Appeal for Resumes"

- Gerry W. "In early January of 2021, I sent out an email calling for resumes to fill the five co-chair positions (five for each province) based on the Motion passed at the October Assembly to elect co-chairs for PI, CPC, Treatment, Corrections, and Grapevine."

"The elected Co-chairs of Committees will assist and work with the Chair (Alt. Delegate) for the abovementioned 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. "

"We hope to get a full slate for both provinces. A resume will be submitted to document your history in service and your willingness to serve. If the co-chair positions are appropriately distributed over both provinces, we can get as wide a representation as possible in all those committees. The call for resumes will go out in early January, and the positions will be voted upon at our Spring Assembly (May 28th – 30th, 2021"

- The meeting adjourned at 6:40 NS time with “The Responsibility Pledge”
- Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm NS time, 6:30 NL time on Monday, April 26th, 2021
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88688093457>

Roughly transcribed by

Gerry W.