

Area 82 Active Committees Meeting

October 25th, 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/CPC) Area 82 NS PI Co-Chair

John W. (District 3) and Area 82, NS Corrections Co-Chair

Kathy S-C (NS-Archivist) Chair

Ray S. (District 12)

Paul W (District 6) PI Chair

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

Gerry reviewed the minutes from the September meeting. They are now posted on the Area 82 Website at <https://area82aa.org/area-docs/> . No errors or omissions were noted.

Gerry welcomed John W. to the meeting in his new role of Area 82 Corrections Co-Chair for Nova Scotia. John was elected to that position at the Fall Assembly earlier this month.

- ***Mark Z. (District 3 PI/CPC) Area 82 NS PI Co-Chair***

Good evening, folks, I have to do a very quick report this evening as I'm on my way to work.

The single item I want to report on for this month is the inclusion of our AA information in the Annual publication called "Valley Faces of Business". It is produced by the Rotary Club with distribution from Winsor to Middleton. It's a great big, glossy, eye-catching publication. This year, we asked for space for a public service announcement. It was granted and our AA contact information was included on page 91. I included the contact information for District 17 because the publication covers that district as well.

- ***From Boyd B. (District 15 PI and Area 82 PI Co-Chair)***

Boyd sends regrets (prior commitment)

- **John W. (District 3) Area 82, NS Corrections Co-Chair**

I started out by contacting Paul B (District 1 DCM) in Halifax to get an email contact and phone number from him for the District 1 Corrections committee.. I haven't followed through to reach out to any of those guys yet as to what is going on. I really have nothing much to report but I hope to change that soon as I develop further contacts.

Although Spring Hill penitentiary is in Nova Scotia, this medium security institution currently comes under the umbrella of area 81. I do know Dave A. from Area 81 who is active up there and will follow up on ways to cooperate and help his efforts.

- **From Sharon G (NL-Archivist) Chair**

**** Sharon was not in attendance, but I will include her full report from the Fall Assembly earlier this month. Only a synopsis was presented at the Fall Assembly, because it has been the normal practise in Area 82 to present Archives Reports only at the respective Provincial Service Weekends which have been held in the Spring on separate dates. Report follows;**

NL Archives Report

October 9th, 2021

As the new archivist for the NL AA Archives, I am working my way through the contents of our locker at the U-Haul Building, and trying to establish a committee for the archives.

Some technical problems have arisen as all the inventories and database are stored on CDs. My computer does not have a CD reader, nor does the one at the Intergroup Office. I borrowed a computer from Lisa C. with a CD reader and I started copying files to a thumb drive. I need a larger thumb drive (one large enough for all the files costs about \$60). It would be also extremely useful to have an external CD drive which should cost about \$40, judging by the prices on Amazon.

Other costs involves with the Archives are renewal of the costs for the storage locker. Our space expires March 14 2022 and the new price is \$89.95/month so we have to prepare to renew this.

I would note that the files etc in the storage locker are very difficult to access. They are stored in large tubs, some are very heavy. From talking with the NS archivist Kathy S. it seems like the answer to this (if we continue to use the locker) are to build shelves (portable) to store files, etc, in a more accessible fashion.

In service

Sharon G.

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

It's been quiet for the archives due to COVID but I did venture down into my workplace today and found my work table.

Every now and then I get flyers over the internet, and I print them off. As Gerry reported for me at the Assembly, I have been approached by a young, bright star in in Halifax area, who is who has volunteered to give me a hand with the with the archives. We're now just working on the inventory and once we get that all updated, we'll address some other projects.

Please keep in mind that my term ends next May. I would like to leave the archives in as good shape as I can for the next archivist. I will try to do a lot of housekeeping and making sure that that I do the best I can to have it cleaned up with no surprises for the incoming archivist.

Other than that, Jerry, it's like, you know, I'm looking forward to attending some round ups in 2022. Hopefully, the Midwinter Roundup is coming up. It's still uncertain whether that will be virtual or in person, I haven't officially been told about that yet, but I was contacted by the committee for the Nova Scotia Provincial Roundup. Because my term is up in May, I may need special permission to fulfill this request. I would like to work with the incoming archivist during a transition period and I do hope to get the archives back out there where people can see them, learn from them, touch them and get excited about them like I do.

Kathy's full Report from the Fall Assembly follows.

NS Archives Report

October 9th, 2021

I would like to start my report today saying how grateful I am to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and in particular over the past 14 years to have been a part of your Nova Scotia Archives - the last 5 years serving as your Archivist.

Although the Pandemic has affected us in ways we all never thought possible Alcoholics Anonymous showed us how resilient it can be and continued on in a virtual fashion. And to be able to attend a Service Weekend or an Assembly without ever leaving the comfort of our own homes - shows me - at least - that AA's are strong and will remain together for years to come.

Having said all that I have missed very much not being able to be part of Roundups and AA days - showing off your Archives and all the hard work we have put in to get them to what you see today. Believe me when I say I can not wait to drag those archives out again and display

them for all to enjoy and learn from. I love to show them and God help you if you get me going on what we have and where we may look for it. So since my last report and despite Covid, I continue to collect things for the archives and every now and then I find myself with a spurt of energy to find the archives table once again and have everything filed and placed where it should be. I also appreciate those members who have taken the time to come and see what I actually do and where the archives are stored and what is yet to be done. I continue to collect things for the time capsule, which will be closed this coming January. Also I would like to thank the members who have been helping me with sending me obituaries of passed members for our " In Memory Of " book.

I have also been attending the Committee Zoom meetings and trying to contribute what I can - such as help with previous notes and books for the chair of the Remote Communities -Arlene. And I have also been in contact with the newly elected Archivist for Newfoundland and have offered my help in any way and encouraged her that no matter how dark and bleak the job ahead of her may be - the rewards at the end of the day far outweigh the chore. I also contribute to the newsletters in Districts 9, 3 , and 17 . This is just my way of sharing some of the treasures that I find shifting through the odds and ends of the piles on my table. If any other district who have newsletters would like me to send them along to them please contact me and we can certainly make that happen.

I have been recently contacted by a very bright, young and enthusiastic member who has offered her help with the Archives. Her name is Melissa , currently she is endeavouring to up date the inventory list so it is in respectful order for your next Archivist. Trudy also has a copy of that inventory list and is working to get it on the website - so all members can view it and see just how much you as members have contributed to your archives.

Now I know I have taken up enough of your time -but again I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the Archives displays - to the time capsule - to the In Memory Book. For all of you who have supported me and encouraged me over the years - for those of you who have taken the time to look at the Archives and to take the time to learn from them. From the bottom of my heart I THANK YOU for giving me the opportunity to serve and to grow in this program and the once in a life time opportunity to meet the most wonderful people in the world.

Yours in Service

Kathy S-C. Area 82 NS AA Archivist.

- ***Ray S (District 12 DCM Treatment Committee Member)***

We are in the process. of doing the new schedule now for the Humberwood Treatment Center for next year. The current schedule runs out sometime in December. Although the administration would like a second meeting, we plan to stick with the one meeting for now on Thursday night. I attended the meeting Monday night past at the Curling Group and Humberwood is still sending taxis with their clients over to the outside meeting. We had four there Monday night from Humberwood.

We have one Zoom meeting left, all others have returned to in-person format.

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

I'm Paul W I'm an alcoholic and I'm district six PI Chair.

As I'm driving by, if I see a location that looks promising for PI, I'll simply drop in and introduce myself. The other day I dropped into a place that had a psychologist advertised on the door but there was nobody there. A lady working in an adjacent business told me she hadn't seen the professional since the COVID started.

I want to add that most of our meetings in District Six are in person now. There are still a few meetings online. One of the meetings that we go to lately are now asking for a Covid 19 Vax pass. They want to see your card to make sure you're double vaccinated. It's not a requirement of the AA group, it comes from the landlord of the building itself. That's the way the law is here in Nova Scotia that some places need to see the VAX pass but others do not.

If people are unwilling to show one, they can go to other meetings in other places where the VAX Pass is not required. For example, at our group, we're supposed to wear masks in our meeting, but we don't have to show any pass to get in. We do what's required by our landlord and the provincial health directive that are appropriate to our building.

Darlene recently sent an email to Tammy at the Women's Prison in Truro, but she hasn't gotten an answer back yet.

- *General Discussion*

Kathy S-C asked Paul W from District 6, "Paul, do you guys have a newsletter up your way? I contribute articles to various Area 82 Newsletters and it's well received.'

Paul answered. "Not yet, we are looking into it."

Gerry W. screen shared the Area 82 Website Newsletter tab where all the current Newsletters in Area 82 are displayed.

=====
Ray S. "Gerry, did you say you got some feedback from meetings in the St. John's area where they had to show a vaccination passport?"

Gerry W. "No, we haven't. I have gotten calls from two DCMS, one Alternate DCM and two GSR's. Essentially all had the same question regarding our Traditions. How does a Vaccination Passport, where a member must provide an ID / Vaccination record at an AA meeting not violate our Tradition of Anonymity?

The only input I have to offer is that it's not the AA group which requires this documentation. It is either the landlord or the law. If it's the law, we must comply, AA does not stand outside of it. There are, however, exemptions available under the Mental Health Act which allow AA meetings to occur without the Vax Passport. This does not apply if the landlord requires it. At that point, we have the option of quietly interceding with the landlord, pointing out the Mental Health exemption or we can find another facility and landlord where we do not have to provide documents.

In any event we will still have to adhere to the health directives around Social Distancing, contact tracing (attendance logs) and masking. If we want to stay with the facility we have, then we're going to have to work around it. We can, of course dig our heels in and say, I'm sorry, this is against our traditions, we absolutely must find another place. That is a decision that's going to be made by each group individually after discussion and carefully consulting the group conscience."

- =====
 - The meeting adjourned at 6:40 NS time with the Responsibility Statement
 - Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm NS time, 6:30 NL time on the 29th of November, 2021 at the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88688093457>

Roughly transcribed by

Gerry W.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gerry W.', written in a cursive style.