

Area 82 Active Committees Meeting

September 27th, 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

John W. (District 3) PI Chair and Area 82 PI Co-Chair

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

Sharon G (NL-Archivist) Chair

Loyola G. (District 12)

Bill P. (PI member District 1)

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.

Gerry reviewed the minutes from our August meeting. They are now posted on the Area 82 Website at <https://area82aa.org/area-docs/>

John W from DCM District 3 expressed his interest in letting his name stand for the Area 82 NS Corrections Co-Chair . The process was explained, and John will have his resume submitted in time for the Area 82 Fall Assembly October 9th.

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

Boyd was having connectivity problems and asked me to include a report he sent afterward for inclusion. That Report Follows;

Start of District 15 CPC/PI Report

Public Information Committee Report for September 7, 2021

1. Literature distribution in public places – Ongoing (all). Reminder – whenever we are in public places (e.g. hospitals, doctor’s offices, pharmacies, supermarkets, etc.) we should all be checking to see what literature (pamphlets, cards, meeting lists, posters, etc.) may be displayed, always keep in mind and update as required. With the easing of co-vid restrictions, we are able to get back into some places, e.g. doctors’ offices. One of our members will be travelling across the island and take this opportunity to distribute some materials, e.g. business cards, at locations along the way, e.g. service stations.
2. PSAs went out over the summer and letters were sent to churches. Letters usually sent every two months.
3. Recruitment for PI Committee Required –New Secretary has now assumed position. Recruitment efforts should be ongoing as more participation is needed.
4. Digital advertising (Static Ads) – this item was deferred to next meeting on October 12, 2021.
5. Coffee News – not able to reach them but will try again and provide a report on this next month.
6. Promotional materials – Alternatives for better pricing explored. Current supplier, Cansel, is best option.
7. Active Area Committee – Nothing specific to report. This item will be referenced under “Reports” in future meetings. Only district with a CPC/PI committee in NL is District 15, but member will advise re activities in other districts. We effectively function as a “provincial” entity and do respond to requests from outside our own district.

New Business

1. “Thrive” sends out an e-mail every week regarding mental health matters.
2. St. John’s Status of Women Council are starting a “managed alcohol” program and seeking/inviting lived experiences. Will be investigated before next meeting, however, discussion by committee raised concerns re anonymity and whether this type of program accords with AA philosophy. A member advised of a discussion with a counsellor regarding this program a few months ago and it entails providing participants with one drink every 1-1.5 hours, i.e. it promotes “controlled drinking” with a view to “harm reduction”. It was concurred by committee members that we would not participate in or promote such a program as this approach is counter to our AA program, which is based on complete abstinence.
3. Proposal re the idea of an annual planning meeting to decide on committee activities and budget for the upcoming year, e.g. for us to look at possible new ways to get our message out to the public.

Reports

Intergroup - IG is not in great financial condition and will be deferring issuance of our usual second funding cheque of \$2,500.00 (we have received the first one for 2021). There was no commitment to when it would be received, but it is hoped this will happen on or before year end.

Treasurer - As of September 7, 2021 current balance is \$3,904.66. Only bank charges deducted since last report.

Institutions Report:

Current meeting Coordinators as follows:

- HMP – Mondays – 6-7PM. It has been difficult to get people in to run meetings over the summer. A few members are currently being vetted to begin holding meetings. Ideally need about 16 members to successfully run regular meetings. Some existing members have had to quit due to work commitments and some have passed away. Some literature has been sent to the men's correctional facility in Bishop's Falls in District 13.
- Recovery Centre – Saturday – 6-7PM
- Recovery Centre – Tuesday, 8-9PM
- Recovery Centre – Wednesday, 8-9PM
- Eastern Health Drunk Driving Program – As required

Volunteers needed for all meetings.

ATSA (Addiction Treatment Services Assoc)

Does not meet until next week

School presentations

No current activity due to co-vid restrictions, but hope to get back into schools in the near future. Query contacting guidance counsellors again later in the school year re dropping off literature.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom.

End of District 15 CPC/PI Report

- **From John W. (District 3) Filling in for Mark Z , PI/CPC.**

I don't have anything to report. I did hear a report a week ago. There's not much going on because of COVID. (Mark's last report is copied below)

"We have been in contact with a mental health organization to coordinate a public information display. That should happen before the end of the month.

We're still on the agenda for a presentation to the municipality of the County of Kings. They haven't forgotten us, but things are slow with COVID.

I placed a paragraph in our newsletter to all our groups in our District that CPC / PI committee is looking for members and that the Area 82 co chair positions need to be filled. I also put that through to all the provincial DCM'S for them to pass along passing it along. A lot of them shut down for the summer, so I'll approach them again early next month.

We have a couple of local festivals such as the Apple Blossom Festival, the Lawrencetown Exhibition and the Hants County Exhibition days. Each of those festivals,

puts out a flyer, brochure or booklet of all the events. I will check with them to see if they would put a public service announcement in their publication.

I was talking to the Rotary Club who put out an annual publication. It's quite a thick, glossy, well-done publication that goes right through the Annapolis Valley. It provides information about all the businesses in the valley and what those businesses do. And it's just a promotion of the valley business. They have agreed to put some information on AA in their publication as a public service announcement.”

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

I'm becoming familiar with the holdings in the NL Archives. I have questions regarding copyright of CD, Cassette tapes etc. which will be answered as we go along.

I plan to have some shelving constructed to facilitate our work as we organize.

I have a number of ladies interested in helping me with the Archives.

- ***From Loyola G (District 12 Treatment Committee Chair)***

The AA presence at Humberwood is going very well. We've got a good slate of volunteers. We currently host one meeting a week on site right now, but our goal is to have two meetings a week. Our hosting schedule is filled up with volunteers until December.

The administration are also very cooperative and supportive of the AA program. They have been sending some of their members out by taxi to some of our meetings.

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

Good evening, folks. My name is Clayton. I say very good evening folks. For Districts 1 and 2 Public Information.

We discussed Fultz House last time. That's basically a museum in Sackville with a large sign out front. They have agreed to share our contact information for February and June. We are also looking into Acadia Hall, in Sackville where there's more signage that we might be able to avail of. Katie Hall is another spot that has a lot of traffic and potential for signage.

Another member of the committee was able to get our public service announcement on Seaside FM which covers Eastern passage.

We have a list of doctor's offices and clinics that we provide material for. We started that before COVID began. One of our members is updating that list now and following up with the contacts to assess their needs.

We also have someone looking into listing guidance counselors, putting together a package of AA information for them and making some contacts.

Another Committee member is looking into Salvation Army's and shelters.

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

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

I visited a walk in mental health clinic we have in Truro. I was in there today and delivered a few pamphlets and our 24 hour number. Although they call it a walk in, you still need an appointment to get inside.

Some good news. Ed and Darlene got an email from, from the woman's prison in Truro, the Nova Institution. We haven't been in there for two years, but Darlene is going to chair like she did before. This is very encouraging for the committee.

I've been visiting Visitors Information Centers and medical facilities.

The Visitors Information Center in Tatamagouche took our contact information.

Stewiacke was open but are not displaying many pamphlets. They did take our 24 hour number and post it.

I went to a medical center in Stewiacke as well they were willing to post our 24 Hour number. They still had a few brochures there but they didn't have our 24 hour numbers

- **Bill P. (Districts 1 & 2 (Corrections and Bridging the Gap ?)**

With respect to Districts one and two, our Corrections Center is still shut down for us for probably well over a year. The recovery / treatment section of the Nova Scotia Hospital has now reopened for AA meetings.

The forensics unit has also opened up for meetings and we also do meetings at a place called the St. Marguerite Center, which is a unit for women who are in recovery from addictions.

We are still plodding along with getting the Bridging the Gap program off the ground. I have come trying to compile a list of all the Help lines in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Query. Does Newfoundland AA have a single 1-800 number and does that cover Newfoundland and Labrador. **Answer.** Yes it is **1-888-579-5215**

I've also discovered that not all Districts in Nova Scotia have helplines, or at least they don't have helplines listed in any of either their newsletters or on the Area 82. website. I'm not sure what to do with that other than putting the chair of the District's phone number on to the list I'm compiling. Many of our Centers are here in Halifax and Dartmouth with clients

coming from all over the province. I want to make sure that wherever they're going, including Area 81, (NB PEI) that they have at least a contact number to call for meetings.

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

When I attempted a further demonstration of the features of the new Area 82 website, I discovered that the link to the Meetings database was broken. All other pages were working as they should. A trouble ticket was generated next day. The website was restored to full functionality within 24 hours.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:00 NS time
- Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm NS time, 6:30 NL time on the 25th of October, 2021

Roughly transcribed by

Gerry W.

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