

New Business # 3 Item

District 17 Meeting February 17, 2025.

Hantsport Group, District 17, Area 82 Hantsport NS - Motion to bring at Spring Service Weekend, for voting at Fall Assembly of Area 82.

Motion: To sever Area 82 by its Provincial boundaries, resulting in two autonomous Areas of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Reasons for Motion: The primary reason behind this motion is monetary. Travel difficulties and personal time constraints are also key reasons to consider this motion.

- 1) **Financial** - Fall assemblies are held annually on a rotating basis between NS and NL. This geographic area is the third largest in North America, spanning from Yarmouth NS to St. John's NL (1770 km plus a ferry ride) and west to include Labrador. The distances that DCM's and GSR's are required to travel result in a high cost for the home group and the District, and loss of income to the member.
 - a) **Cost to 7th tradition contributions** - A conservative estimate to attend this fall in St. John's NL is \$1500. With over 100 GSR'S, DCM'S and committee members living in NS, this would cost the 7th tradition funds over \$150,000.
 - b) **Cost to the member**- Travelling by land ranges from 1100 -1770 km for Nova Scotians. Add in the three days of the event and we are now asking volunteers to effectively take several days off work which is usually not compensated for. Many members can not do this in our economy.
- 2) **Travel difficulties** - The two provinces are separated by water. This requires a choice of two commercial methods of travel: 8 hour ferry or by airplane. Both methods require planning, and both are subject to weather conditions. In the fall it has been recognized that cancellations of flights or the ferry are frequent and will add unexpected expenses and lost time. There is also the consideration of taking personal vehicles. These distances add wear and tear on a vehicle which is usually uncompensated. There is also the danger of vehicle collision and vehicle breakdown especially if wintery conditions are present.
- 3) **Time constraints** - For members who work, there is a limited amount of vacation time annually. Attending the assembly in the other province likely means using a week of time from work. For parents, it is a week away from the house and home.

Summary - The expense, time demands and risks of having volunteer members attend assemblies is high. It is easy to reason that the negatives associated with the extreme demands of travel are directly reflected in the poor attendance at the assemblies. Over time, a loss of interest in attending the assembly may also be reflected in the poor attendance during the on-line meetings.