

District 36 Business Meeting Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Agenda

- Serenity Prayer
- Twelve Traditions, Natalie ● Seventh Concept for World Service, Tami.
- Welcome
- Roll call, Mike L., Tami B., Natalie C., Virgil O., Edd A., Danny K., Robert L.
- Introduction of any new General Services Representatives (GSRs) in attendance. No new GSRs
- July Anniversaries, Edd A. 19 yrs.
- Officer Reports ○

District Committee Member (DCM) - Paul C. Not present, report emailed in.

Open District Roles The following table shows the service roles we have open and my subjective priority for getting them filled. Other Items of Interest this Month ● The Area 72 July Business Quarterly was on Friday, July 7th and Saturday, July 8th. I attended virtually. Our Alternate DCM, Mike, attended in person. The topics which were discussed in-depth will be highlighted during the Pre-Assembly meetings in August and at the Area Assembly in October. ● Thank you all for providing feedback during our District 36 Inventory in June. Tami did a fantastic job of capturing the questions and our responses. During the new business section of this meeting, we'll discuss where we want to keep them for reference and how we want to make use of them through the rest of this rotation. ● The Western Washington Area 72 Assembly is coming up in October. As with many AA meetings, we have a meeting ahead of time to introduce and discuss the topics to be introduced during the Assembly. This meeting is called the Pre-Assembly. District 3 has invited us to join in on their pre-Assembly meeting. It will be in Shoreline and virtual. I have added it to our events calendar on the www.snovalleyaa.org website. You are welcome to join ANY district's Pre-Assembly ahead of the Area Assembly. Just wanted to let you know that there's one where we've arranged to join in.

○ Alternate District Committee Member (Alt DCM) - Mike L.

Distributed and discussed District Service Flyer and update schedule at my local meetings. One District member reported a missing meeting in the print schedule, so I will update. Participated in the District Inventory on June 20. Updated the District electronic meeting equipment list. Attended the Area 72 Business Quarterly, represented the district for voting and DCM sharing (I was in person and Paul C was online). I will provide an abbreviated report in e-mail by the time of the district meeting.

On July 8, I attended the Area 72 Business Quarterly in Bremerton, Washington. Paul C attended online and we together represented District 36. All of the quarterly reports are available on the Area72 website and you must register on the website to access the documents (anyone can register):

<https://area72aa.org/july-2023-business-quarterly/documents/>

Here are the notes I took on the agenda items that were of interest to me or might be pertinent to the district. This is only summary information; more will be available once the published minutes are available. Or you can ask me for more information if something strikes your interest right now! I also got to participate in the Friday night presentation from our delegate (Crystal) who gave an update on the General Service Conference (GSC) topics from her report back session (we attended one of her report backs in June in Monroe with District 3). As always, it's fun hear from her and her enthusiasm as the Area 72 Delegate for Panel 73. Crystal has a ton of reports on her Google drive, including her report back PowerPoint, that are available through the Area 72 website (<https://area72aa.org/delegates-conference-documents-info/>).

There were five business votes (approve recording of meeting, approve minutes from April quarterly, approve Sound Person, approve Treasurer's report, approve to adjourn). We also participated in votes for three motions to bring to the Assembly for group votes. District 36 voted approve/yes for all motions except for the last assembly motion which was voted not approve/no by a substantial majority (more info below).

1. Intro, readings, review of voting members, and approve minutes from April Quarterly [Vote]
 - a. Voting members at the quarterly are Area elected, Area Appointed, DCMs, and alternate DCMs if DCM is not present. This is different for the assembly where the GSRs are the also voting members (alternate GSR if GSR is not present), along with the same ones just mentioned.
 - b. Paul and I agreed that I would do the voting for District 36 since I was present in the room. We did have a chance to discuss the votes via text back and forth.
2. Introduction and approval of area Sound and Zoom person (Mike B). The previous sound appointed member informed the Chair last month that he could no longer serve. [Vote]
3. Elected trusted servant reports.
 - a. Delegate recap on her presentation to groups and districts. She has an outstanding request for shared experiences from members.
 - i. Native American AA stories, sponsoring alcoholics with intellectual or processing challenges, sponsoring persons in custody. If you have any of these stories/experiences to share, please reach out to Crystal (delegate@area72aa.org)
 - b. Alternate Delegate (Courtney) shared about her GSR and DCM university sessions that are ongoing for the Area. She also created a google drive where districts can upload and share their district guideline documents.
 - c. Chair (Lupita) is preparing for the upcoming pre-assemblies that will take place in August and September to prepare our groups for the October assembly.
 - d. Treasurer (Derek) and alt Treasurer (Lisa) presented the financial report for Area. Contributions are above budgeted, and expenses were down for the quarter, so finances are healthy. We are currently at \$19K above our prudent reserve. Derek reiterated that we should not look at a single quarter as good or bad because we budget for the whole year, but nothing in the report caused anyone issue. The previous post office address for the Area has stopped forwarding first class mail, so any group that is

using the old address will get their checks returned. The current address is on the website.

4. Intergroup/Central office reports – summer picnics are the top theme with many districts and intergroups mentioning them.
5. Discussion topic #1 – How can we make General Service more attractive? Are we asking too much of our Trusted Servants? Open discussion where participating members share their experiences from the floor. I noticed two themes depending on who shared, the large districts/geographically remote and those with less participation in General Service tend to say yes, we do ask a lot. The DCM and alt DCMs that shared were doing a lot of work to keep up with group and district business. The higher population districts with more participation from groups thought that we were not asking too much. The more alcoholics who participate in general service, the less work it is for each of us.
6. Special reports
 - a. Our Stories Disclose III – the third edition of the history of AA in Western Washington. Still taking pre-orders, optimistic that it will be printed and available this year. They are in the final layout stage and publishing will take six to eight weeks.
 - b. The 2023 Hispanic Convention for AA in the US and Canada had a report and invited everyone to attend (Sept 1 to 3).
7. Discussion topic #2 – continuation of the discussion topic on the web standing committee charter and responsibilities. This was to expand the web standing committee to include all online technologies and invite trusted servants who can help with online meeting and other web technology beyond the website.
8. The area appointed servants all get time to do a brief share and they submit written reports to the document folder.
 - a. Area appointed and chairs are: Secretary, Accessibility, Archives Chair, Archivist, Cooperation with Professional Community, Corrections, Grapevine & Literature, Language, Newsletter Editor, Public Information, Registrar, Sound, Treatment, Web Servant, Web Chair, Young People
9. Discussion topic #3 – participation of online groups in Area 72. This generated a lot of discussion and is basically about what, who, how do online groups that are not affiliated with a geographic district participate in general service. The guidelines from GSO are that an online group is registered in the geographic district of choice or assigned a district based on the address of the contact person who registered the group. Area 72 was one of the first areas (and one of only two Areas that we know of) who created a completely online district (District 25). This district does not have any geographic boundary but was created within Area 72. This is problematic or could be problematic if we only want groups within Area 72's geographic boundary participating in area business. It's unclear who or how we would enforce this and the current DCM of district 25 (Frank M) stated it is not his role to check on group locations or enforce participation by members who may or may not live in western Washington. Just as groups and districts right now don't double check where people live, we cannot as an Area enforce geography in group participation. At least part of the problem (in my view) is that Area 72 is far out front in online group participation (with the online district) and GSO has not provided a clear solution. Groups that want to participate in general service but may not feel represented by a geographic district would find that joining an online district outside of their geography is a solution. Frank told me that his district has 40 registered online groups right now.
10. The discussion topic created a floor motion from District 31 and amended by the Area Delegate that we affirm as an assembly that District 25 is an online district with no geographic boundary.

With approval the motion is moved to the October assembly for groups to approve or disapprove (with plenty of discussion at the pre-assembly) . [Vote]

11. DCM sharing. I shared about our return to in person/hybrid, our work to update the schedule, our district info/GSR flyer, and our district inventory.
12. Motion that Area 72 submit a GSC agenda item that the General Service Board develop supplemental financial reporting focused on the actual cost of the services AAWS and GSO provides. This is asking the GSO to provide more transparency for the services provided as groups want to better understand how the money is spent at the GSO level. One issue noted in the background is that we are approving a number of online services (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts) with little information on the long-term costs to maintain these (we know how much it costs to develop them initially but with no income other than contributions there is little information on we support the costs associated with each). Motion to move this forward to the assembly was approved. [Vote]
13. Motion that Area 72 eliminate registration fees for all area business meetings. This was a specific motion to reverse Area motion 90.2 which established a fee for all participants in the annual area assembly. There was a two-page document supporting this motion with the main points being that the registration fee is a barrier to participation for some groups and the Area probably has enough money each year to support the assembly (or offset the cost) through current group contributions. This motion created a lot of feedback and the most people I saw go to the mic (included many who did not for any other discussion). Members for the motion:
 - a. there are no dues or fees for AA membership so this should extend to business meetings.
 - b. We are double dipping the groups via area contributions then asking them to pay again for assemblies.
 - c. Although the registration states that the fee is strictly voluntary and no member will be denied participation due to lack of fee, we are still pressuring members to pay by having a fee.

Members against

- a. Not sure if this is problem that needs to be solved by completely removing motion 90.2. There are probably other ways to address.
- b. Groups should be budgeting for supporting their GSR to attend assembly. The decision to send a GSR to the assembly should represent their group conscience and 7th tradition is part of that group conscience. There are offers from many districts to support GSR attendance and other solutions if a group cannot afford to pay.
- c. Not sure if Area can support the fees for all attendees, the motion is unclear on the cost now and how it will impact the Area finances. The alt treasurer came to the mic and presented info that this would negatively impact our operating funds based on what host committees spend right now to conduct assemblies.

There was much more information and discussion. In the end the vote was taken and only a handful of the members present voted to move this to the assembly. The larger majority (more than 90%?) voted against. This killed the motion for the assembly in October and it will not come before the groups. District 36 voted not approve/no. [Vote]

14. Adjourn [Vote]

o Secretary - Edd A. reports that after two months of medical issues he's back and grateful to be of service.

o Treasurer - Glenda R. Not present; Treasurers report was emailed.

We are waiting to approve treasurers report until next month when Treasurer(s) are present.

o Alt. Treasurer – Patrick, not present.

o Registrar - Tami B., reports having updated some of the service positions for the district@ distribution list. They are as follows, Bridge the gap (BTG), Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information (CPC/PI), Registrar and Treatment. Still need to reconcile, update the group email forwarders. Some have GSRs but meetings are not on the schedule. There is around twenty forwarders that need to be verified. There are numerous groups that are active but have no contact emails for them. It will take someone physically to attend a meeting to get an email address. Also, need to find out what Friday night meeting is on the website but not on the schedule. Registrar and Web chair agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss how to coordinate changes to forwarders and any other reconciliation that will be done.

Notes from the Inventory



District 36 Inventory
2023.docx

● Pause for the Seventh Tradition

o “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”

o District 36 PayPal link was added to the chat.

● Committee Chair Reports

o Accessibility – OPEN

o Archives – OPEN

o Bridge the Gap/Treatment - Josh L., Not present

o Corrections - Natalie C., reports continued working with her contact at Echo Glen. Trying to get a panel together to speak to the general population, but things are tight recently as they have a treatment cottage anymore.

o Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information (CPC/PI) - David B. and Vinnie, Not present.

o Eastside Intergroup Representative - Kent C., Not present.

o Events - Dale D. Not present.

o Grapevine/Literature - Linda Z. Not present.

o Third Legacy – OPEN

o Web and Digital - Virgil O. reports that the website is running good, please inform me of any changes that need to be made.

o Young People in A.A. – OPEN

- Old Business

o Hybrid meeting equipment update, would like the district to purchase a speakerphone and Mike is donating a camera for the hybrid meeting. Tami made a motion to the group to buy a speakerphone and the motion was passed unanimously. Will discuss the other equipment/accessories at the next meeting.

o When/how to complete questions for District Inventory (questions we did not get to). One question a month? It was agreed to address the 5 missed questions, one per month with a time limit for discussion, 10 minutes each. DCM and Alt. DCM will make a list of priority inventory questions that need to be addressed and bring to the group for discussion/feedback.

o When/how do we review the info, we have from district inventory. Also review one question a month?

- New Business

o Gratitude dinner planning, need to start thinking about planning for this year. Need to figure out who is going to host. Natalie will reach out to Elizabeth. Virgil asked if we had the venue reserved. Edd will contact RAY H. about a notebook.

o GSR participation in October Assembly; Now is the time to get registered!!

- GSR Reports

Danny K., from Snoqualmie Stag, meeting is doing well. Regularly 20-25 members. All positions are filled. Secretary position just renewed on a 6 mos. rotation.

Natalie C. from HOW women's group Tuesday night at North Bend community church. We have 6 to 7 regular members and some newcomers that attend. Every other week we do a dinner from 5:30 – 6:30 PM in the community for pre meeting fellowship. On alternate Tuesdays the church is available from 5:30 to 6:00PM for a 12 step study. Also on Wednesdays HOW has the meeting on Zoom at 7-8PM.

- Announcements, Natalie C. is on the planning committee for the Northwest Fellowship of the Spirit, NWFOTS, or some refer to as FOTS, Got to NWFOTS domain for the conference schedule and date information.

- Responsibility Statement

o "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible."

- Reminder for next District 36 Business Meeting o Tuesday, August 1, 2023 in Fall City and Zoom