

WWA72 Quarterly Summary



April 4, 2020
Everett, Washington

This is a quick summary of the January 4th Area Quarterly. Please see the full minutes, when they are sent out, for detailed information.

Minutes from the January 2020 Quarterly were approved.

Area Appointed Trusted Servant Candidate qualified and accepted:

- Web Chair Mary T.

Treasurer's Report approved.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION:

COVID-19/Coronavirus – what are we as an Area, Districts & Groups doing to support alcoholics in our communities? What more can we be doing?

- Our groups are putting notes on their meeting room doors with information how to access the online meetings.
- Our meeting is online but someone waits at the parking lot of the old meeting space and will “share” the online meeting from their car to anyone who shows up for a meeting.
- In Pierce County (and other counties) some groups still meet following the Governor's protocols for “essential” workers. Some people feel that this is a misinterpretation of “essential” workers and actually harmful to AA and alcoholics. Others pointed out that each group is autonomous and can decide for themselves.
- There has been a lot of unity during the Governor's “shelter in place” order. There have been full day workshops on how to host online, Concepts workshops, speaker conferences.
- Maybe Area 72 could have a live Google Doc with all of the Zoom meetings and only DCMs could have editing access. GSRs could let the DCMs know about edits to online meetings. Hackers are not targeting AA, they are targeting Zoom.
- My home group meets via Zoom. We have left our meeting info with the church for people who may be looking. We correspond via email and will be having a virtual potluck!



- With all of the new online meetings, we are now reaching more home bound people.
- We haven't been collecting 7th Tradition but have directed people to contribute to Intergroups, Area, and GSO online.
- A lot of people call asking how to get their court slip signed, how to install Zoom, how to do 7th Tradition, how to do 12th Step calls.

OLD BUSINESS:

Area Newsletter – Ad Hoc Committee Report: Looking at how to best serve the Area via the Newsletter content/format/frequency. Discussion, Suggestions? Solutions?

- The purpose of our committee was to make recommendations for consideration by the Area of the **content**, **format**, and **frequency** of the Newsletter. And any other issues that might be brought forth during our meeting discussions and findings.
 - **Content:**
 - Newsletter needs to be more eye catching.
 - General Service content in it is vital as are Area Service Events and Area Fellowship Happenings.
 - Special Section: “Coffee Corner” Things like: History Pieces, Past Delegate Wisdom, OSD Stories, etc., as well as Hispanic Reports/Stories, to be translated to English.
 - **Format:**
 - Some of the committee thought it would be good to have the Newsletter online while others like the feel of the Newsletter in their hand. In the end we all agreed there was a need for both printed and web versions.
 - Current editing Software can be problematic. The newsletter is printed in pages of 4. This is required for formatting and printing purposes. Having options as fillers like history or OSD Stories would be helpful to prevent blank spaces.
 - Quantity must be a 1000 print run at current print source, to keep costs down. *Consider other print company sources in the future for lower costs. Some other Area Newsletters print on 11”X17” paper and fold to 8.5” X 11”. This would possibly be more costly due to the added weight. (Newsprint is lightweight and inexpensive).*
 - **Frequency:**
 - Continue Monthly both printed and web versions!
 - Compiling articles/reports - late Submissions - 15th is the Deadline. Editor is encouraged to delegate helpers, editing is incredibly difficult and time consuming.

Questions and suggestions are welcomed. Contact pi@area72aa.org.

Discussion:

- No comments or questions.

Area Communications Practices: Ad Hoc Committee Report: Auditing our communication practices using the GSO Communications Audit as a guideline. Discussion, Suggestions? Solutions

Internal:

- We have created a questionnaire and survey to be distributed to the area committee, quarterly appointed meeting, district meetings, group business meetings and individual members.
- We have divided up the area into 4 quadrants; North, Peninsula, Central & South, we will ask 4 districts from each grouping to participate, DCM's will distribute the survey at the district meeting. There will be a supplemental Q&A conducted with the district committee at the same time. DCM's will compile a report & return to their contact person on this committee. There will be a separate focus group conducted in each geographical grouping (up to 4).
- GSR's will distribute the same survey & conduct the same Q&A at their business meeting & return both a report of the Q&A and the completed surveys, to DCM. DCM will forward to their contact person on this committee.
- A member's survey will be conducted at the Pre-assemblies

External:

- We will recruit the CPC, PI, Treatment & Corrections chairs from 4 districts in each quadrant to reach out to treatment centers, public entities & professional organizations, institutions & correctional facilities. Together we will develop a questionnaire to ascertain the perception of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 72 by the agencies we serve.
- All of the data will be compiled & rendered into comprehensive, understandable charts & graphing. This information will be presented at the area assembly with recommendations from this committee.

Discussion:

- A survey was attempted during the online Quarterly but it did not work for everyone so it was decided that the ad hoc committee chair, Bill DCM 12, would email the survey to DCMs.
- One of the threats to our communications effectiveness occurs during the rotation of positions. Appointed positions are determined in December for a position that starts in January. That is not a lot of time to get up to speed. Some servants are better at "training" their replacement better than others. Perhaps the Handbook

could have a best practices section for handing over a service position to an incoming servant.

- Area 79 has a process called “Transitioning” where the incoming trusted servant is given all the notes and archives for their position going back several rotations.
- The last survey that we were given for our GSRs did not have enough time allowed and the response was poor.
 - That is a good point. This survey will come out after this Quarterly and we will be collecting data until September. That should be enough time to get the data in.
- As a new GSR it is hard to figure out where I belong. There is not enough communication to understand Area and GSO. Perhaps we could do something online to help GSRs with understanding Intergroups, Area, and GSO and how they work.

If you have questions contact dcm12@area72aa.org.

Discussion Topic 1: How do I encourage diversity of opinions and experience, and engage/foster communication at the group, district and area levels?

- This topic comes from my experience at an Assembly two years ago. I felt a lot of discontent and condescension. I did not feel that the upside down triangle was being represented well in the Area. GSRs and DCMs don’t invest enough in voting for the Elected Trusted Servants.

Discussion:

- What is the process for outcomes of an Area inventory like the one we had at the January Quarterly? What happens with the items we identified at the inventory?
 - After the January Quarterly, an email was sent to the entire Area Committee (this includes DCMs) asking if a District or individual wanted to add a discussion topic to the agenda regarding issues raised at the inventory. No one directly responded to that email. But, the Area has indirectly incorporated a lot of elements related to those issues into business, most notably in the GSR schools and committees.
- It is important that we make people aware of the conversations we are having at the Quarterlies as a way to get them interested in what is happening and hopefully in attending.
- We need to be sure to make the under-represented voices heard. Call on the Spanish speakers instead of waiting for them to volunteer.
- What, as an elected, can I do specifically? If I had specific suggestions I would implement them. I want to help but I need direction.

- Maybe we need an ombudsman (*an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against maladministration, especially that of public authorities.*) for people who feel disaffected. An “official” sympathetic ear. This could be a good position for a Past Delegate.
- We need to emphasize the importance of the minority opinion.
- Area 72 is blessed with the level of dedicated service and commitment from the bottom to the top of the Area. I am a Past Delegate who moved to Pennsylvania. I am welcome to attend business meetings and sit in the back but my experience is not called upon and I am not allowed to participate.
- When I felt I wasn't being heard, it was because I wasn't talking. When I felt I wasn't involved it was because I wasn't making myself available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion Topic 1: In October 2018 a motion was passed to publish an updated version of our Western WA Area 72 history book. The Our Stories Disclose III (OSD III) Committee has been conducting pre-sales since October 2018. We had anticipated meeting our pre-sales target to fully fund the book by December 2020 and move to product in 2021. Currently we are at 51% of pre-sales target. We would like to discuss how the Area would like to approach the current shortfall of pre-sales and funding to produce the OSD III book.

- **The OSD III Committee feels there are a variety of options which include:**
 1. Delay publication of Our Stories Disclose III until we reach the projected 1,500 pre-sales. This means that the book would not be available for distribution at the 2021 Assembly, as planned.
 2. Order fewer box sets based on pre-sales money collected. During the 2018 Pre-Assemblies we showed a graph with different ideas including estimated costs at 1,500 and 1,200 books, along with an example of 1,000 books with Area contributions covering the difference.
 3. Prepare a motion for the October 2020 Assembly asking the Area to fund the shortfall between pre-sales and the cost of publication.
 4. Other ideas from the body?

Discussion:

- This is not a good time to ask for money. People are stressed out about personal finances. We should delay publication.
- We should delay because we are in a historic time and we should add these stories.
 - This book has been in the works for several years. We accepted stories from 2002 – 2018. We have received several hundred stories. Chapters are written and being

edited. A lot of work has gone in to creating a history book. This is not a meeting guide, it is a history book that captures 2002-2018.

- We could put a small section in the current workings that mentions COVID-19
- This is not a discussion about the books content. It is about publication. We do not have to panic over this situation. If there is a massive shortfall, we can work with the publisher to decrease the amount of books we have ordered to lower the cost and make up the difference from Area funds. Let us not forget that the current history book has brought several thousand dollars above printing costs to the Area.
- Every year, after our expenses are paid, this Area gives a lot of money to GSO. We can afford to help with publishing.
- Can we do an ebook to lower the costs?
 - The Area was surveyed and chose a hard cover book.
- If you can afford a pre-sale purchase: <https://area72aa.org/our-stories-disclose-3rd-edition/our-stories-disclose-3rd-edition-pre-sales/>

Discussion Topic 2: How can we improve spiritual parity between the different language communities within our area?

- This originally came out of the Area inventory and use of the translation equipment by districts and committees. The Language Steering Committee was tasked with solving the problem of equipment available for use. It morphed into an us and them discussion. We want to talk today about how to be inclusive of everyone regardless of language. It is important for people who speak Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean etc. to be able to participate in Area level discussions. By motion, we only provide for Spanish and ASL interpretation. There are many tools available that can help us not to just translate the English to another language but to make it not an “English” meeting but just an AA meeting.

Discussion:

- Online meetings make ASL interpretation much easier and a much larger deaf population can attend.
- We are in the middle of this transition. When I look back a few years at how far we have come with making translation and interpretation available I can see how far we have come. We need to keep moving forward but we have made a good start.
- We need to reach out more. Maybe an English speaking District could host a Spanish speaking meeting?
- Does Zoom allow closed captioning?
 - Zoom itself, does not support cc but there is a plug-in available that can be used for minimal cost. You would just have to find a plug-in to use with Zoom. Some other

online platforms do have cc and it is fairly good. A person can also be assigned to do the closed captioning as the meeting is going.

- At the last Quarterly we were all invited to a Spanish meeting with English interpreters. Only two English speakers showed up. In Hispanic culture, when you are invited it is considered an affront if you do not attend. You will be invited a second time but if you do not attend a second time, you will not be invited again because it is obvious you are not interested. If we want more participation from the Spanish speakers, we should be more interested in them and what they are doing.

Floor Motion: We move that WWA72 will cohost the Pacific Northwest Conference via Zoom or other online forum in 2020. **PASSED**

- **Existing PNC Motion:**
 - 15.1 WWA72 to rejoin the Pacific Northwest Conference by participating in the hosting rotation and financing the participation of The Delegate.
- **Why?/Background**
 - Diana, Chairperson for Area 92-Eastern Washington, has asked the Areas who are in the hosting rotation for PNC if we are interested in cohosting PNC this year via Zoom or other online forum in 2020.
 - There was no PNC scheduled for 2020 as PNC is not held on years that the International Conference is held (every 5 years). The International Conference has been cancelled for 2020 due to health concerns.
 - WWA72 is in the rotation to host PNC in 2022 and if body decides to cohost a virtual PNC in 2020, this would not impact our place in the normal hosting rotation.

Discussion:

- How can we decide when there are other Areas involved?
 - The Areas collectively will decide. We are just agreeing to participate or not.
- Why is this a motion instead of a discussion topic?
 - Because we need to decide now. If we choose to do it, it will likely happen before we meet again.
- Is there enough time to organize it?
 - Yes, because this is online. The only things that need to be done are creating topics for discussion and finding speakers.
- Would we hold this before the General Service Conference?
 - It traditionally occurs after the Conference and we would more than likely keep this schedule.
- This is a great idea! People are disappointed by the ICAA being cancelled and this gives people something to look forward to.

- ❖ Motion to join online PNC as a co-host: PASSED
- ❖ Minority Opinion: None

Closed with Responsibility Statement at 5:58pm.