

HMB Area 48 check-in conference via Zoom 4/1/20

Tammie opened the meeting at 6:09 pm after some internet connectivity difficulties.

Delegate Tad:

Delegates' conference is still in flux. May be held by videoconference.

"Zoom-bombing" is a thing. Meetings held via zoom should have privacy settings and someone who knows how to eject persons. One group has double passwords to keep people out. [But see more discussion, below.]

Chair Tammie:

Tad is considering having a zoom conference to review the questionnaire for delegates on the weekend of April 11. Tad may want to divide into 2 hour-long sessions. Tammie intends to sit in on other Area meetings to see how those go on zoom.

Guy:

People have been calling with problems meeting. He has received questions as to whether there will be a May voting assembly or if it will be canceled. Right now the May Assembly is not canceled but it seems we will have to cancel. Maybe we will hold it in an online format.

Tammie:

Area 50 person asked about Informational Workshop. That is up in the air.

Gretchen — Records:

Has been updating Records with online meetings and closed meetings. Has been in contact with all district registrars. Temporary closure status is completed. She has added zoom meetings, changing records to online meetings.

Has distributed form for people who want to change meetings to go to GSRs. The form is posted on Area website — is better than email which does not always have all of the needed info she needs. Question to Gretchen about confidential directory contents & discussion.

449 records in temporary closure

840 Area records total

115 meetings are online or by telephone

Adam — Treasurer

Upgraded to Quickbooks 2020 — old version was from 2016 and support was going away. Finance committee okayed this purchase. There are currently 3 user licenses — Adam and Kate are using. Adam installed an upgrade in speed to his laptop, twice as fast. He sent tax info sent to tax person.

Kate and he are working on re-doing the financial records of Area.

aahmbny.org/meetings — green indicates actually meeting but on zoom.

Online meetings — has buttons to get to meeting

Kate — Alt Treasurer

Meeting schedules sold out; received all seed money back.

Working on budget for 2021. Met with committee at Fellowship Day and got about 70% through draft. Will follow up with finance committee to schedule zoom meeting to finish. To be prepared for May assembly.

Working with Adam to set up automated report in Quick Books. Optimistic it will work out.

Committee chair reports

Diane – Accessibilities

Sent out info to chairs; has not yet heard back from any district chairs.

Matt – Bridging the Gap

Teleconference scheduled for tomorrow; invites to district chairs. He will work to develop a database.

Sally – CPC

Conference call on 4th Thursday

Not well attended

But good conversations; talked about delegate questionnaire.

PSAs are being run on the local radio stations

Was asked to do interview at hospital; will do post-virus.

Carl – Corrections

All corrections work is shut down. No response from DOCS. He assumes no one will get into prisons until at least after April 17. Assumes county jails are similarly closed.

Delores – Grapevine

Announces free access at online meetings. Suggests we announce also at meetings

Steve – Literature

Has been quiet. He set up bank account for orders to use once GSO reopens.

Cathy – Newsletter

Holding off on project of mailing postcards to people who received newsletter via mail. She has been sending out notices.

Saturday is the deadline for submission to the newsletter this month.

Kevin – Treatment

Sent emails to district treatment chairs. Many people apparently are not using their district email addresses. Directory does not seem current. Has some contact info.

Was contacted by a treatment facility and was asked about clients logging into zoom meeting for them. Have to figure out privacy logistics to comply with HIPAA restrictions. Would like to compile speaker pool to provide these meetings.

Was invited to District meeting in Amsterdam. But won't be going.

Will be happy to attend district meetings if they are being held on zoom.

Suggested to use dummy gmail account in setting up Zoom meetings to give others access so you don't have to be host each time with your personal email address.

Hawk – Website

Online meetings are due to efforts of Gretchen and Adam.

Website stats of March: — 16,970 log ons

2300 page views

160% increase

Most people coming to website are looking for meeting finder.
Hawk is following Adam direction's on updates to website.
Area Convention in November. Is happening unless we hear otherwise and he has starting workin on this. Convention will be at Quality Inn in Oneonta. Room charge is \$79/night

Working on banquets 30-35 dollars. Dave S is program chair. Matty is taking over registrations. Hawk expects he will be treasurer. Brenda and Cindy are hospitality
There is some entertainment already lined up; expect encore of Tamster AA Jeopardy; Cathy and Delores — skit; band that performed a couple years ago.
He needs greeters & help with registration, hospitality and all committees.
Districts 4, 8, 14 should be coordinating.

Tammie — asked about hotlines
What are they doing?
District 9 has answering service w/ numbers of AAers to call — referring to AA HMB website

DCM Reports

Dana — District 1

Hotlines — CDCO, which serves 5 districts, is closed. Calls are being forwarded to volunteers according to schedule they were already signed up for, so no lapse in coverage. Emails are also being checked and there have been a lot of emails.

District did zoom test meeting last week; worked okay. Will soon hold District meeting on zoom.

No outreach in jails or treatment centers. Invited Kevin to come to district meeting. Have active treatment chair in District.

AA is in the news in sympathetic presentation, including reports of Zoom bombing, risk of relapsing, and news of meetings online.

Keith — District 2

Working on obtaining location for June 13 Joy of Service day. He is suggesting outdoor venue such as a park.

Cathy — District 4

District is generally not interested in technology. Sent out grapevine info (links?) to GSRs. AAs are not going in to treatment/hospital.

Shane — District 7

Initial scramble to collect info: the records keeper had to step down temporarily, and Tara has agreed to do for short term. Looking for records keeper.

District has been meeting weekly on zoom. Committee chairs meet every Thursday night.

District meeting is next Wednesday and will be on Zoom.

No zoom-bombing in Ulster County meetings. Will discuss at district meeting.

Anthony — District 3

To hold District meeting by zoom.

Matt — District 9

Held district meeting on zoom. Fewer people attended than usual but good. Passed budget and finalized service manual. Productive and fairly normal meeting.
8 meetings on line. Some are still open meetings. He intends to reach out about ending live meetings.

Chris – District 11

Have been updating meeting lists. Had zoombombing episode.
District meeting on Tuesday will be on zoom.
Starting online meeting at Cornerstone. How to contact institutions about options to set up zoom meetings.

Kate – District 13

Some meetings are meeting in person; there is a concern about newcomers. They are encouraging people to stop meeting live. Internet access is somewhat limited.
District meeting this week.

Tara – District 16

District meeting will be on zoom later this month. DCM Allen has been reaching out to GSRs to find out meeting status. Allen is working with answering service about where to direct callers to meetings. They are working on upgrading website. Treatment and Corrections are on hold.
Signs are posted on doors of meetings that have closed: where to find online meeting. Some AAs are waiting in front of the door to greet newcomers and redirect them. They are calling old-timers who do not have Internet access; also tracking down newcomers. Raised the issue of Accessibility - phone access for meetings; voice for website.

Kelly – District 17

Most meetings are zoom meetings. Young people were meeting in person along with one other meeting; she is trying to stop this. Had some delays in getting online meetings listed; the District Records person was AWOL, but getting back in gear. First zoom district meeting coming up this month.

Tammie opened up meeting

Suggested topics:
Conference for Delegate's Day of Sharing via zoom?
May Assembly via zoom?
Only \$5 more/month to increase zoom to 300 participants
Physical location for May Assembly it was noted is close (cramped).
Some votes can probably be delayed.
Suggested that we see how Delegates Day goes on zoom to then make decision about May Assembly; let's not cancel yet.

Zoom meeting ideas:

Suggestion was made to turn off virtual background to prevent obscene posting by Zoom bombers.
Host can remove someone.
Suggestion to distribute password. Concern expressed about blocking newcomers if there is a password
Waiting room may help.

Tammie brought up subject of Tradition 7 — that we need to think about. Some groups may have to pay rent later.

Tammie suggested GSRs should be reaching out to members about contributing — send money. Individuals can contribute by sending a check to District and Area.

Venmo okay? Account is attached to a person. Tad said one group has a virtual basket— has PayPal account. Venmo can be linked to a group's bank account (is part of Pay Pal).

Tammie announced **next meeting** will be:

May 6

6:30 pm

She will send out reminder.

Meeting ended at 7:52 pm after group recited Responsibility Pledge.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise R. Area Secretary 