

2019 PRAASA Remote Communities Round Table Notes

Saturday March 2, 2019

Chair: Paul T

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There were eight attendees at the roundtable. The roundtable was opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. We then went around the room and introduced ourselves. In attendance were Paul, Justice, Sarah, Kim, Sherry, Jackie, Marilyn, and Gary. We then asked for one topic from each person and then went over the topics.

- 1) Military Community
- 2) MS/Homebound
- 3) Search out Remote Communities or wait for them to come to us?
- 4) Navajo Women – Navajo People
- 5) What can we do to get with those who cannot get to a meeting
- 6) Hispanic Women/LGBTQ getting kicked out – Atheist/Agnostic meetings

- 1) Military Community. Can see other races, but hard to see other vets. Contact the bases and see if they want help, and if so, what can we do? One problem is access to the bases. Only active military or vets are allowed on bases. Chaplain corps may be a good place. What can we do about those that are deployed? Awareness of vets circumstances after being discharged.
- 2) Atheist/Agnostic Community. Big discussion here about meeting in the Toronto area being de-listed by the local intergroup as they are not “AA” meetings anymore. The Area threatened to de-list the intergroup, and that seemed to bring everyone around. One person (a DCM) shared on a similar situation that occurred in his district. A local Atheist/Agnostic meeting had started up in his district. It was brought to his attention, and he put it on the agenda for the next district meeting. At the meeting, there was discussion about this meeting. The DCM then asked if anyone had attended the meeting or if there was a representative from that meeting there. The answer was “No” to both questions. The DCM said that he would look into the situation. He attended the meeting several times, and some others did as well. During the next meeting, he shared his experience and also shared some of Bill’s words about inclusivity and diversity. The meeting is now a listed meeting in his district.
- 3) One member shared about her attempt to help on the Navajo Reservation. She periodically goes to the reservation and buys jewelry, and during the sales she hand out pamphlets. She mentioned her frustration that there we no meetings listed for the Navajo in places such as Kayenta. She is pretty sure that there are meeting there. How do people know where the meetings are if they are not listed? What more can be done to help the Native Americans, in particular the Navajo. One of the others there mentioned that what he has found that helps is the spiritual recovery that needs to take place for recovery to

occur. AA is not the only way that this can be done, as there are several Native American recovery programs. He also mentioned “adopting-a-meeting.” Getting several of her AA friends together and go down and attend a meeting for several weeks. They will get to know the locals and may then be included in where the meetings are.

- 4) MS/Homebound/Skype. It was mentioned that Area 2 uses Zoom, a free conference application that includes visual, for their assemblies. Someone monitors the screen, and when someone “Zooming” in wants to speak, the Chair is notified and the floor is given to that person. They also conduct voting this way. Another person mentioned “FreeConferenceCall.Com” which is free communication software for conducting conference calls. It was mentioned that Area 3 uses this application. This could also be used for those who are homebound, once it is set up.
- 5) Search them out (Remote Communities) or Let them come to us. It was mentioned that the Founders did search them out, but times have changed. May need to display the need for help in a potential remote community then address the issue then.

The Roundtable closed at 11:30 PM with the Responsibility Declaration.

For Reference: Area 3 Remote Communities Business Card.

To foster unity within the fellowship of Area 03 by creating an awareness of the needs of alcoholics in remote communities. To assist those who are unable to make it to regular face-to-face meetings on a consistent basis. Members may be faced with travel or geographic challenges or may face barriers such as language, cultural considerations, and/or anything else that could separate a person who needs A.A. from our lifesaving program of recovery.