

## **AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY 2010**

**SEPT 18 & 19, 2010**

**AT THE YOGO INN**

**LEWISTOWN, MT**

### **Welcome to the Assembly**

Terry S., Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, opened the Assembly at 8 AM with the Serenity Prayer. The 12 Traditions were read by Shanette from district 61 and the 12 Concepts were read by Brandi from district 81.

**Roll Call** was taken by April, the Area 40 Secretary. There were 14 of 14 districts present with 112 voting members, and 42 visitors for a total of 154 attendees at the 2010 Fall Assembly.

### **Orientation to the Assembly- Carole B., Area 40 Delegate**

My name is Carole B and I am an alcoholic. It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your Delegate. Welcome everyone. I especially want to welcome all the newly elected General Service Representatives (GSRs) and everyone attending his or her first Area Assembly. Would everyone who is attending his or her first Area Assembly please stand up. I must tell you that, from the time I was told I was missing out and needed to wash the coffee pot continuing to this moment, serving AA has saved my life.

All of us are here because at one time, we stumbled into the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous. In other words, at some time in our past, we were all still suffering alcoholics. The purpose of AA is to recover from alcoholism AND to help others to recover. This is not a self-help program, it is a helping others program. The purpose of this weekend is to discuss what Area 40 can do to help carry our message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic. I think sometimes I get wrapped up in budgets, debating whether something is cooperation or affiliation, or how I get that group to conform. Then, I lose sight of that we need to do good work to help the still suffering alcoholic. I recently listened to a judge sentence someone to 20 years in prison for vehicular homicide while driving under the influence say "You owe your life to self-improvement and helping others." I wondered if AA had ever reached out to him as a friend of AA. I wondered if any of us ever had coffee with the person headed to prison. I challenge you to think about this as we conduct the business of Area 40 over the next day and a half.

Today, most of us are here as trusted servants. My sponsor has taught me to not assume I know the meaning of words. Trust - reliance, hope for future, holding of another's property, commit to safe-keeping. Servant – a person who performs duties for others, a devoted and helpful follower.

That being said, I am going to briefly orientate you to this assembly. The first thing that happens following this orientation is that members of the Area Committee will give their reports. This includes the Area officers, Area committee chairs, all of the district committee members, and the standing,

On-voting service positions, Area Archivist, Area Web Master, and Area Advisor. Listen carefully so that you can ask them questions during breaks. You may even want to invite them to visit your district or have a suggestion for helping the still suffering alcoholic.

This is an election assembly and much of our time this weekend will be devoted to electing the next rotation of Area officers and committee chairs, our trusted servants. This will begin with an orientation to the election process and a posting of nominees for delegate led by our Area Advisor, Andrew W. The first part of the short form of Concept IX states "Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable at all levels for our future functioning and safety." I'd encourage all of you to read or re-read Bill's piece on leadership in the Service Manual supplementing his piece on Concept IX.

As Andrew will more eloquently explain, the positions of Delegate and Area Chair/Alternate Delegate are chosen by the Third Legacy. I have heard and wrongly ribbed those not chosen from the hat "that God chose the Delegate". Today, I do not believe this at all. I believe that God is involved such that we're ok with the results the hat provides.

In Area 40, we are organized on a committee system based on the committee system used at the General Service Conference. After the election orientation and nominee posting, we will have all of the standing committee meetings concurrently. Feel free to attend any of the committee meetings or to attend the Workshops that will be held in this room while the standing committees are meeting. The committee meetings are led by the Area Committee chairs except for the Finance Committee, which is led by the Area Treasurer. Each committee discusses the items on the agenda for that committee. The committee will discuss these items and choose to make a recommendation or choose to take no action. When taking a vote in committee, only the members of the committee vote.

After lunch we will commence with the election process. Once the Area elections are over (either before or after dinner), we will begin our floor assembly where we meet as whole to hear the committee reports. The committee chair will present the committees report on each agenda item and then we will have a chance to discuss the item. If the committee makes a recommendation on the item we will take a vote following the discussion. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum (two-thirds of the voting members present). By past action, a vote must receive two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be considered to have passed. There will also be time for minority opinion after a committee recommendation is voted on. The purpose of minority opinion is to help ensure we have an open discussion on each issue and that no voice is squelched in the process.

One piece of advice I have for those of you who are new to Area Assemblies is to be active participants. Take part in the discussions. Please ask questions if anything is unclear. You might find that many others share your confusion. In the interest of saving time, if someone else has already expressed your opinion, it is not necessary to repeat it. If, however, someone else has not expressed your opinion, please go to the mike and share it.

We will close today's activities with breakout sessions for DCMs and GSRs that will be led by past delegates. Please feel free to place any questions you have for these sessions into the appropriate ask-it-baskets located at the back of the room.

Tomorrow we will hear reports from the Roundups, Intergroups, and the Service Workshops. This will be followed by past delegate sharing from Ed M. and Maryann W. Next I will give my delegate's report and then we will conclude by finishing our floor assembly.

Finally, a reminder to get things started: we ask all of the GSRs to sign in with your District Committee Member (DCM). Your DCM will turn the sign in sheet to the Area Secretary, April. This will enable us to determine how many voting members are present and to determine the number of votes required for a quorum, which is two-thirds of all voting members.

Thank you all for being here. I hope you enjoy your weekend at the assembly.

Yours in love and service,

Carole B., Delegate

Panel 59, Area 40

### **Area Committee Member Reports**

#### **Area Chair/Alternate Delegate- Terry S.**

Since our Spring Assembly, I've visited and participated in meetings, business meetings and events in Districts 11, 21, 31, 51 and 61 (my home district). I am scheduled to visit District 72 next week. DCMs, if I can be of service at your business meeting or event before the end of the year, please talk to me this weekend. If I can, I will be glad to suit up and show up.

Coming attractions: You'll hear during this Assembly about events around the Area between now and next spring's Assembly, including the Fall Roundup in Butte at the Copper King the first weekend in October. There is also an Additional Regional Forum this year, in Rapid City, S.D., on Nov. 12-14. In 2011, our spring and Fall Assemblies will be here at the Yogo, on April 9-10, and then on September 17-18.

Both 2011 and 2012 have some special events for our Area, including Regional events. In 2011, we'll have a Local Forum, June 18 in District 41, Great Falls and June 19 in District 31, Miles City. On September 22-25, 2011, the National Archives Workshop is in District 61, Helena. In 2011, the West Central Regional AA Service Conference will be in Northern Minnesota, on the first weekend in March, and the West Central Regional Forum will be in Iowa, on the second weekend in September. And, as we all know, the 2012 West Central Regional AA Service Conference will be in Area 40, in Billings, District 11, in early March. So next rotation will be busy and fun!

This morning, after these reports are finished, and we take our first coffee break, our Area Advisor will give us an orientation to the election procedures we will use this afternoon, and make sure we have the names of our candidates for our delegate on the board. Then, our committees will hold their meetings. While the committees are meeting, we will have three half-hour workshops, here in this Assembly room.

If you're not a voting member of any of our committees, you are still welcome to attend and participate in any of the committee meetings. Otherwise, please do attend the workshops here.

Each of our committees will be reviewing 2010 GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations, and No Action Taken items, in each committee's primary and secondary service responsibilities. By the time we get the GSC full report, it's usually too late, and it sure was this year, to get any specific items about what the GSC did in the spring on our Fall Agenda. So, we have an agenda item in each service area, basically asking our committees to look at what the GSC did. If something spectacularly good occurred, they can point it out to us. And, if something really unfortunate occurred, that our committee believes is not in the best interests of AA, they can point that out, too. If the committee concludes that the Fellowship needs to have next year's GSC reconsider that item, they can bring us, the voting members of this Assembly, a recommendation, so we can take a group conscience and vote on that recommendation.

I am not suggesting that something happened in Rye, NY, this spring that justifies sounding the alarms. But, if any of you feel strongly about something that was or wasn't done at the GSC, our committee this morning that will look at that action or lack of action, is your chance to speak out about it.

After lunch, we will hold our elections. Then, whenever the elections are completed, our committees will report to us on what happened in their meetings, and make recommendations for actions on their agenda items that they believe are necessary.

There won't be a report this fall on the 2012 W.C.R.A.A. Service Conference in Billings. The 1st report on that event comes next spring, from the host committee chair.

After our elections, our new delegate elect, consulting with our current delegate, Carole, will appoint the Chair for our Area 40 host committee.

All weekend at this Assembly, in committee meetings, workshops and breakouts, and on the floor of this Assembly, please share the thoughts, feelings and ideas of your groups and districts. If you are not a voting member of this Assembly, share your views, as a member of this Fellowship in Area 40. Please be sure all our voices are heard, and please listen to all the voices that share, including or maybe especially to the voices who disagree with you.

The collective conscience of Area 40 speaks here. The will of our Higher Power B God as we understand God B is expressed through the group conscience of Area 40, in this Assembly, in our sharing and our votes about everything we address this weekend.

Thank you for the chance to serve as your Area Chair. It has been amazing!

Terry S., Area Chair

### **Area Secretary- April A.**

Good Morning everyone, my name is April and I am an alcoholic.

As Area 40 Secretary I have a few requests to make of DCM's, or their alternates, and Area Chairs I would like to ask that you have the attendance sheets completed and handed in to me by our 9:30 coffee break. I would also like to request that all reports be e-mailed to Sharon, the Triangle Editor, and me. If you don't have e-mail please give a written copy to both Sharon and me. Please don't forget that I need the reports from today's committee meetings as well.

As veterans to the Area Assembly, I am sure you are aware of the 5 minute time limit for Area Chair and DCM reports and the 3 minute time limit for comments from the floor, I do have a timer and I am not afraid to use it!

There are Ask It baskets in the back for submitting questions and topics to be covered in the GSR and DCM breakout sessions tonight. Don't be shy, its anonymous!

Area 40 Agenda items and recommendations from the spring 2010 Assembly are:

**From the Archives Committee: Consider in light of the principle of self-support; funding the Area Archivist to attend the 2010 National Archives Workshop in Macon GA, September 23-26, 2010 for the purpose of accepting seed money for the 2011 event, as well as the workshop banner, total expense not to exceed \$1500.00. Vote: 91 For; 13 Opposed, item passed.**

**After more discussion, a friendly amendment was made to the above committee's motion." That everything above the \$1500.00 seed money is put in Area 40's coffers."**

**This was seconded. Vote: 74 For; 29 Opposed. (69 is a quorum) Motion with friendly amendment passed.**

**From the Structure and Policies Committee: Consider forming an ad hoc committee to develop a qualifications section, similar to that in the A.A. Service Manual, for each Area Service position, proposed qualifications to be considered at the Fall 2010 Area Assembly for inclusion in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures.**

**Vote: 89 For; 11 Opposed. No minority Opinion.**

**From the Literature Committee: Consider eliminating the Lending Library (audio and video cassettes) currently maintained by the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair, depositing the tapes in the Area 40 Archives.**

**Vote: 87 For; 12 Opposed (66 is quorum) motion passed. No minority opinion.**

**From Conventions-Regional Forums Committee: Consider District 11 and 81's bid to host the 2012 WCRAASC. Vote: 60 for District 81 (Missoula) and 50 for District 11(Billings). Not a substantial unanimity. We went directly to the hat to make the decision. -District 11 (Billings) was chosen to host the 2012 WCRAASC from the Hat.**

**From the Public Information Committee: That the current process of billing each district for the AnswerNet calls made to their district is discontinued and the following process adopted: The Area 40 PI chair will forward the itemized bill from AnswerNet to the Area 40 treasurer for payment up to the amount of \$250.00 a month. In the event the monthly itemized total amount is over \$250.00 the Area 40 PI chair will bill each district on a prorated basis.**

**Vote: 81 For; 5 Against. Motion Passed. Minority opinion was heard.**

**A motion to reconsider was made and seconded. Vote to reconsider: 20 For; 66 Against. Motion to reconsider failed. Vote stands.**

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Area 40 secretary for the 2009-2010 rotation, I have had a good time and it has helped keep me sober

Respectfully Submitted,

April A, Area 40 Secretary

### **Triangle Editor- Sharon S.**

Hi everybody. My name is Sharon S; I am an alcoholic and your Triangle editor. It's my job to publish the Area's newsletter which helps groups, committees and officers to communicate with each other and to help us to better carry AA's message to those who need it.

Groups (and individuals) are encouraged to subscribe to the Triangle, for \$10 a year. By past motion, groups receive the Triangle whether they subscribe or not. The August-September issue of the Triangle was sent to 262 groups. Seventy (78), or about 30%, were paid subscriptions. There are also 18 paid individual subscriptions and complementary issues are sent to the Area Committee, DCM's, West Central Region Delegates, and other newsletters in the region.

There are 30 groups on the mailing list with invalid addresses. As we enter into this period of rotation of service positions and new GSR's are elected, please encourage and support them by helping them communicate the information to our Registrar or the GSO and to the Triangle editor so they can receive information from us! The post office is getting more precise about addresses, so please be sure the address you give us is deliverable!

We use National Change of Address (NCOA) files from the post office to check our addresses (this is a requirement for the bulk mail permit) and "return service requested" to receive notification of undeliverable mail. I try to communicate with the group contact and/or the DCM when I have invalid addresses so we can get them corrected. If the NCOA determines the address is invalid, or I receive an invalid address notification from the post office, the Triangle is NO LONGER mailed to that address, so the group is not receiving it. DCM's, I've placed a mailing list on your table. It includes any recent Triangle returns and identifies groups with invalid addresses that I have not been able to resolve.

I have subscription forms if you want to subscribe or your group wants to renew its subscription. There are some on the back table and I have some with me.

I will be doing a brief workshop on the Triangle at 10:30 ... right here in this room. If you are not attending a committee meeting, please join us. Throughout this rotation I have been concerned about whether the Triangle is useful to the groups in Area 40. The Triangle took its inventory in 2009, but I am not sure the responses are representative of the groups of Area 40 as a whole. Although money certainly isn't the only way to measure value, I think it is important to consider. Triangle expenses were about 9% of the Area's expenses for the last few years, is this money being well spent? I am hoping to gather information that will be helpful to the incoming Triangle editor as they serve their two years. I have extra copies of past issues of the Triangle which I'll use in the workshop. I'll put leftovers on the back table after the workshop.

It is almost 2 years since I got that call from the then-Area Chair asking if I would be willing to serve as the Triangle Editor. I had a response common for me ... I have other plans! I did pause, ask for a little time to give my answer, and get direction from my sponsor (pray) and God and here I am! I can honestly say that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way and have enjoyed working with this Area Committee; what a great bunch of alcoholics!! My life has gotten better these two years as a result ... THANK YOU!! I want to thank every one of you who contributed articles and/or offered encouragement and support. She is not here today, but I want to thank my proofer ... she has helped get every issue finalized when I can no longer see errors (she offers this service in other areas of my life, too!); and I want to thank Alex, our Webmaster, for ALWAYS being so responsive when the anonymity protected version is ready to be posted to the Area web site.

One last bit of encouragement, if you have not already decided to accept a nomination for Triangle Editor, please reconsider. YOU WILL NOT REGRET IT!

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

### **Area Archives- Tim H.**

Hi my name is Tim H and I'm an Alcoholic and Area 40 Archives Chair

This summer has been somewhat uneventful. I have spoken to the Archivist on a couple of occasions concerning the upcoming Archives work shop in Helen and updating the Policies and Procedure manual. I would like to thank Gerry for making those adjustments to the manual. During one of our discussions Gerry mentioned to me that although Area has allotted a substantial sum of money for the Archivist over the last two years. It should be noted that these funds are allotted for the upcoming Archives work shop in Helena. He was also funded to carry the Archives to Districts and AA events not including Round Up's. And that funding for the upkeep of Area 40's Archives is done on a donation basis. He also informed me that he could use some donations. So I would like to ask the Districts and Groups to consider supporting the up

keep of our Archives by sending Gerry donations. Now that the need for funds has been made aware of I am sure the fellowship will respond.

I would also like to thank my committee for the work they did over the past two years. And for the input given by those who sat in on our committee. I would just like to add that Archives are cool. I'm sure everyone knows this but I just felt like saying it.

I wish I could convey in words what it has meant to me to be of service to Area 40 and the fellowship as their Archives chair I can't. But I know that everyone in this room knows what I mean and how I feel. At what point have I paid back what has been given to me by AA. It is a debt will never be paid and I pray that I will always be willing to serve AA in any capacity that the fellowship sees fit.

In Service

Tim H

### **Corrections- Mary S.**

My name is Mary, your Area 40 Corrections Chair and I'm an alcoholic,

Montana State Prison has re-opened the meetings and is requiring that each district let Pat, the contact person, know who will be attending the prior Wednesday to each AA meeting. Getting used to the routine was a little tough but we worked through it. The orientation trainings are held in September, January and May of each year. The paperwork due for the September training is past due so volunteers can apply (and or) go to the one in January. Pat would like to emphasize that after going through the orientation the volunteer must wait for MSP to review the paperwork submitted. The orientation does not automatically clear each person. Pat extended this message to the Assembly. *"MSP is very grateful for the efforts of the volunteers that come to the prison to put on AA meetings. These volunteers give hope to those who don't otherwise know where to turn. The inmates appreciate and respect people in recovery and need that role modeling. The AA volunteers I've worked with have been some of the nicest people I've ever met. Thank you!"*

*Could you make sure every district has a corrections chair and pass the names of each along to me  
Thanks again! "*

We have received a somewhat steady flow of contributions and what I can tell it seems to be the same groups contributing. Our current bank balance is \$508.21. The accounting department at GSO has \$5,174.66 of Area 40 contributions ready to spend for literature. Get a hold of me if your district needs some Pink Can literature.

Our Committee is happy to announce that we were granted the Local Forum for June 18 and 19th of 2011. The Forum will be located in Great Falls on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and in Miles City on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We have extended invitations to Ken B., the West Central Regional Trustee and Jim M. who is currently

serving on the Corrections assignment. Both are happy to participate. Our work will begin soon to prepare for our area event. If anyone wants to help with the Forum please let me know and we will give you a job.

Lastly, I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in standing for the Corrections Chair position. I can say that I have learned a great deal and it has enriched my sobriety. I would be more than happy to share with you the responsibilities that go along with this position.

Thanks, Mary S

### **CPC-Virginia R**

My name is Virginia R., I am an alcoholic. I am once again delighted to be reporting to you as the Area 40 CPC chair. I have enjoyed this position a great deal and have gotten to meet many new people as I have visited different places in Montana

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I was invited to the District 81 Founder's Day celebration. Their district CPC committee presented a workshop in which different people explained how CPC work had enriched their lives. Following that, Carole B. and I attended their picnic and, after playing volleyball all afternoon, learned that I am not as young and as agile as I once was.

On a suggestion from one of our committee members, we will be presenting an agenda item this week end. In addition to CPC, we are also responsible to present to you information on the Trustees Committee. The people who serve as trustees in Alcoholics Anonymous give much of their time and resources. When their numbers are decreases for any reason, an unbelievable amount of work is left to the remaining trustees. We are therefore going to propose that a contingency plan be put into action to admit replacements for those trustees who are unable to serve.

I would strongly encourage any of you who are able, to participate in the Area 40 service structure. The opportunities for personal growth are boundless. I apologize for not having consistent access to e-mail while serving. Without that, I have often been unable to participate in a timely fashion and have been less effective than I would have hoped... I have thoroughly enjoyed this position, however, and have gotten to meet people and learn a great deal. I would love to offer my assistance and encouragement to the next area 40 CPC chair.

Yours in Love and service,

Virginia R.

### **Grapevine- Rich K**

Good morning, my name is Rich, I'm an alcoholic and your Area 40 Grapevine/Policy and Admissions chair. This has been an interesting rotation and I have enjoyed being of service to the Area. I have learned some very interesting things about service work and about my own assets and limitations. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve.

The big news for the Grapevine this spring and summer has been the Grapevine survey. Starting from a simple request for information that generated a multi-question survey, the General Service Board has been proactive in gathering as much information from the fellowship as possible so that good decisions can be made regarding the future of the Grapevine and La Vina. Area 40 posted a Grapevine survey on our website and let it be known within our Area. Over the summer I had a surveys being returned in a steady trickle with surveys coming from several points in Montana and also, to my surprise, from several out of Area places, including North Carolina, Illinois, and Colorado. Surveys are also available at the back table. I encourage all of you to fill one out if you have not. My intentions for our committee meeting will be to review the surveys as our last order of business, probably starting after lunch. Please have them to us before that time. A quick glance at the surveys has led me to believe that some thoughtfulness and care has been taken in filling out the surveys.

I have also placed a CD player at the Grapevine display with headphones. The Grapevine has many CD's available and our area receives CD's from the Grapevine. I have opened up a few of those packages and placed them on the table. Please feel free to listen to these CD's for a few minutes during our breaks using the headphones. Some of you might be pleasantly surprised at the quality of the wonderful stories available on CD from the Grapevine, I know I have been.

It looks to be an interesting weekend.

Respectfully,

Rich K.

### **Literature- Lori F.**

Hello. My name is Lori F. and I am an alcoholic. I am honored to serve as your Area 40 Literature Committee Chair. I'd like to welcome everyone to the fourth and final assembly of this rotation. Wow – where did the last two years go!

I did not place a literature order prior to this assembly for a few reasons. Just like last year, it was unlikely that the new service manuals would be printed in time for me to receive them before the Fall Assembly. I also did not have enough replacement inventory to order to avoid a shipping charge. I am sure the new Literature Chair will have the new service manuals for the spring assembly. You may, of course, also order them through your district or intergroup. In addition, because I did not place an order, I did not get any Literature Catalogs. I have placed copies of the Order Form near the literature display in the back. The Literature Catalogs have not changed this year and are available on the AA Website for viewing, downloading and saving, or printing.

As always, I have set up Area 40's Literature Display at the back of the room. Take a look at the display and feel free to take a pamphlet or a contribution envelope. Everything else, including the books, audio-visual materials, and directories are for display only and not for sale. Please leave these materials on the tables for others to enjoy. If in doubt, please ask before taking anything from the display. I also strongly suggest that you avoid setting beverages on the literature tables for obvious reasons.

In late July, Carole sent out an email with a survey about electronic delivery of AA Literature attached. She asked that people forward them to me to compile. In addition to the survey appearing in the last Triangle, I sent a subsequent reminder email last weekend. As of this writing, I have received six responses, including my own. I am not sure the responses I received represent the conscience of Area 40, so I am asking that all of you fill out this four question survey this weekend and turn it in to me. This is an opportunity to make your voice heard and participate in the AA decision making process. For your convenience, I have placed several copies of the survey on each table. I hope to get enough responses to actually compile into some useful information for Carole to send on to the GSO. I will happily share the results in the next issue of the Triangle as well.

As we look forward to our elections this afternoon, I thought it would be useful to share the section of the pamphlet "The AA Group – Where it All Begins" which deals with the principle of Rotation:

*"Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed.*

*To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth – a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.*

*Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us 'to place principles before personalities.*

*Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. 'status' at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise – we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed."*

Finally, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Literature Committee Chair for this past rotation. I look forward to finding out what my Higher Power has in mind for me next.

Yours in service,

Lori F., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

**PI- Tim M.**

This year has marked a dramatic change in requests for me to come to districts to speak with the main focus for these invitations being to explain the Area Hotline number. Last year I visited five districts and this year I had one requests. It was to come to Valier to speak at their Round-Up in late July but the primary reason was not the Hotline albeit I was asked to address some questions and concerns about it after I finished. Their concerns however seemed more in the area of how to get members to cooperate

and participate than on the hotline itself. I would like to believe the reason for the decrease in invitations was not due to the word getting out that you may want to think long and hard before you invite the current PI Chair to your district, but for the following:

- The billing problems were resolved at the beginning of my rotation thanks to a large part by the past PI Chair and Treasurer. Thank You Sean and Curt!
- The system itself is structured and functioning much better,
- The number is widely published in directories, newspapers, meeting cards etc.,
- Districts have cut their Answering Service costs due to the savings that has resulted from using the statewide number rather than going it alone. I guess one more example of how the “We” benefits the “All”. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage districts and groups to pass on some of the money they are saving due to the utilizing the Area Hotline to Area so we can be assured it is self-supporting,
- Due to the action voted on and passed by this assembly in the spring the billing process has been streamlined,
- And ultimately we are positioned better than we were in Area 40 prior to the creation of the Area wide hotline to be there for the still suffering Alcoholic when they reach out for help.

There has been one outstanding question and concern about just how much use the hotline is actually getting since we do not get a detailed accounting of each call the number receives from AnswerNet and to do so would be cost prohibited. I can tell you that in District 61 they are still using a Qwest number that is forwarded to the 1-888-607-2000 number and the Qwest number did provide a call count and in June alone of this year there were 90 calls forwarded from their local number to the Hotline number. I also sat across from a person just a week and half ago at a meeting that mentioned that he was there solely because he made an AA contact through the hotline that gave him a ride to the meeting

How to sum up what all of this means, it means that the fortunate person, and I mean that in all sincerity, that takes over the Area PI chair position in the next rotation should have more time to focus on other areas of Public Information and continue the committees responsibility of carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program.

I would like to especially thank the other members of the PI Committee and to thank you for giving me this opportunity over the last two years to be a part of, rather than a part from.

Tim,

Area 40 Public Information Chair

## **Treatment- Paula H**

Good Morning, my name is Paula and I am an alcoholic, also the Treatment Chair for Area 40.

First, I would like to commend everyone who is involved in service at any level. In the Treatment arena, service entails helping someone newly out of treatment integrate into AA, attending meetings in outpatient and inpatient treatment centers, arranging for the previous two items to happen, contacting treatment centers to inform them about what AA is and is not, starting new meetings in treatment centers, keeping the District and Area chairs, delegate and General Service Conference informed about what is going on in a particular service area, reporting back to Area, District and local AA members what is going on in other localities, arranging workshops where AA members and treatment personnel can learn about AA and Treatment! Wow, that's a lot of work! Thank you!!!!

I would like to welcome Margaret B, the new Treatment Chair from Missoula, District 81; Fred P, Bridging The Gap (BTG) Chair from Butte, District 71; Jessica E, BTG chair from Bozeman. District 72; and Phil T Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) Coordinator from Helena, District 61.

Have you checked out our Area's web site lately? Under meetings by district is an awesome map that Alex created digitally for us. The District Treatment Chairs and DCMs helped get that map redrawn. It is much more accurate than the one we have been using. It will be a great help in figuring out where to send contact cards for BTG. Thank you, Alex!!!

>From Bozeman, District 72's June K reports that many AA members are attending the WATCH program every 3rd Friday as evening service work is more convenient for people. They are thinking of picking up another Friday because patients are so grateful, it makes them want to give more. She says it is hard to cover MCDC because meetings are in the middle of the day Friday, but they manage to have at least 4 to 5 persons go (WOW!). Jessica E is the new BTG Coordinator. She has been gathering and distributing interest cards to AA contacts.

Dee G, Treatment Chair for District 61, has compiled a handbook of rules, procedures and applications for the facilities that District 61 serves; MCDC, Elkhorn and Boyd Andrew, Minor In Possession (MIP) and Outpatient. Each member of the District 61 Treatment Committee, along with Area Treatment and both the Area and District 61 Archives, will receive copies.

Anne B of Helena, District 61, is giving a workshop on Special Needs and AA at 11:30 this morning in the big conference room. She will discuss just what special needs are, how it affects our meetings and meeting places, and how we can reach out to those with special needs. I hope you will attend this breakout if you don't already have a committee commitment. By the way, September's issue of the Grapevine is dedicated to people with special needs.

Jamie S, District 51's Treatment Chair, has been blessed with a healthy baby boy, Anthony! He was born about 3 weeks ago and joins 2 other small siblings!

As we come to the end of this rotation, I want to thank you and my Higher Power for allowing me to serve. I once went to another service organization's annual meeting. At that meeting, the "higher ups" in the organization spent a lot of time patting themselves on the back. Not once were the thousands of volunteers who spent, collectively, millions of hours per year, mentioned or thanked. In AA, our inverted triangle is a true measure of the work that is done in service to AA. I thank you!

Yours In Love and Service,  
Paula H., Area 40 Treatment Chair

## **DCM Reports**

### **District 11**

Good morning my name is Colby and I am an Alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to report from District 11. It seems only yesterday that we were all gathered together as this current rotation was making there introductions and getting acclimated to our new roles as trusted servants. It has been an amazing journey working for you and with you as your trusted servant representing District 11.

District 11 has remained steadfast in our efforts to build consensus and unity since the spring assembly.

I am pleased to report and wish to thank all of our District 11 groups for their generous support to rebuild our depleted operating budget and prudent reserve balances. Today our contributions exceed our prudent reserves by nearly 50%; we are challenged and committed to take the necessary actions to continue the work. All our committees are reporting activity and enthusiasm. Regular business meetings with action and results including several opportunities to serve our community are being pursued. A renewed interest and commitment in our PI/CPC, Corrections are showing signs of much promise and hope. Our work has just begun with much enthusiasm and continued commitment to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The Area 40 Spring Roundup was a great success and well attended. The roundup committee worked hard and the results were evident and confirmed by everyone's participation and attendance. Thank you members of Area 40 our hats are off to you.

Average attendance has been steady at our regular business meetings with 12-13 GSR's present, a nearly 60%+ overall participation in the Billings areas including Hardin and Lane Deer and Roundup.

District elections have been conducted and all positions have been filled. Thank you all for your participation and willingness to serve. I wish you all much continued success in your new roles. We are working hard to continue to build unity within the district and the question has been asked "What does District 11 do for our local home groups and carrying the message". I believe that we have responded with enthusiasm. District 11 is conducting a "Unity Day" (October 10th) in the next several weeks with the participation of local groups to discuss our "42 Spiritual Principles". It should be an interesting and exciting event. Additionally, we have secured dates, times and locations for two "Local Forums" in June 2011 both in Miles City and Great Falls. I hope to see you there. We will be conducting our district inventory in December; hopefully this will set the stage for the new rotation.

Our local groups are all doing well with many reporting increased attendance such that meeting times and frequency have been extended to accommodate the need.

Meetings are being conducted at the local jail and correctional facilities as well as the psych center on a regular basis. Several new opportunities have been solicited by other local organizations to have meetings conducted and these are being addressed and I am hopeful we will be able to accommodate their requests.

This has been a growing experience for me and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your District 11 trusted servant. My interest and commitment is ever present to continue to serve, I am blessed beyond merit. My prayers and thoughts are with our incoming rotation members, which in the "Spirit of Service" that they may be guided and directed in such fashion to continue to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, in its undiluted form.

Respectfully submitted,

Colby D., DCM, District 11

## **District 12**

Greetings Area 40,

My name is Nick D and I am an Alcoholic, and serve as the DCM for District 12. I apologize for being unable to fulfill my service commitment to District 12 and Area 40 in person this weekend. I would like to thank Sandy for stepping up in her service to District 12, and filling in for my absence.

District 12 boundaries are Laurel to the East, Big Timber to the West, Harlo and Broadview to the North and the Wyoming boarder to the South. We have eleven groups that makeup District 12.

\*Absarokee Group, Absarokee

\*Bridger Group,

\*Clarks Fork Group, Fromberg

\*Harlowton Group, Harlowton

- \*Hays Group, Absarokee
- \*Joliet Group, Joliet
- \*Laurel Home Group, Laurel . Laurel also has a new Women's meeting on Thursday's at 6:PM
- \*No Name Group, Columbus
- \*Now Group, Big Timber
- \*Rock Creek Group, Red Lodge
- \*Stillwater Group, Columbus.

Of these eleven groups, five are actively participating in District 12. There are thirty-three meetings held weekly in District 12. Attendance remains strong and is well supported by newcomers as well as our many old-timers. District 12 is still well funded by our groups even in these difficult times.

We hold our District meetings at The Laurel Home Group located at 201 1/2 E. Main St. We meet the third Sunday every month at 4: pm.

District 12 holds two events each year the first is the Mid-Winter Social, it was held on Feb. 20. We had karaoke, good food, good fun and fellowship. We also had a silent auction that was well supported. We would like to thank Melinda and Curt W. from Bozeman for sharing their experience, strength, hope and the solution with us. We had a real good turnout, thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event a success, also all those who attended. The second event for us is Firemen's Point Campout on the world-famous Stillwater River. It was held on Aug. 20 thru 22. We had a potluck followed by a campfire speaker meeting both Friday and Saturday. Friday nights speaker, Mike from Harlow shared his experience strength and hope with us. Saturday we enjoyed Carol B. and the Delegates Report. We had a great turn out for her report. Then we all sat around and enjoyed another fantastic AA potluck, BB-Q Dave out did himself once again. Then to fire, we heard from two excellent speakers from Rapid City SD. Greta H. Kicked off our campfire meeting, Mike H. followed her. Both speakers carried a strong message of recovery, service and unity. I would like to thank Sandy A., BB-Q Dave, Big Steve, Monty O. and the countless others for all your hard work. On behalf of District 12 I would like to thank all that participated to make this event a success.

As my service, commitment as DCM comes to a close I almost feel like I finally getting the hang of my job and it time to let someone else serve. Due to family, business and a sober life I will be unable to serve in any Area 40 positions in this upcoming rotation. I would like to thank all that stand for your willingness to serve Area 40 and AA, and to all who will be elected, congratulations.

In closing, I would like to thank District 12 and Area 40 for the privilege of allowing me to serve in this rotation, as I owe everything to the grace of GOD, strong sponsorship and you, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous!

In love and service,

Nick D, DCM DISTRICT 12

## **District 21**

DCM D.21 composed of Wolf Point, Poplar, Plentywood, Glasgow, Culbertson and Scoby.

We experience many challenges in our district. We are small in population and we are somewhat off the beaten track. Yet don't give up on us now! We are beginning to put AA on the map here in NE MT. Here are some of our successes:

- Glasgow has 10 meetings a week, including a women's only group and a candlelight. Wolf Point, Poplar and Plentywood each have two meetings a week.
- We continue to have regular district meetings with increasing representation of our groups.
- I am and will continue to visit our groups. I am continuing to work on our electronic newsletter.

We celebrated our sobriety during our "Wild West Soberest" (August 27-29). Terry and his wife joined us for the event. I asked Terry to do a workshop on spirituality and money. Carol joined us to talk about the conference.

## **District 23**

Perpetual Regards from the Sunrise District:

I'm Mike M and I am an alcoholic. The past five months have seen the number of the District's groups grow. There are (6) Groups, (5) registered: The Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group; in Glendive: the Life Again and the 12 to Life Groups; and in Sidney, the Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Groups. And (1) unregistered in Fairview, the Young People's Second Chance Big Book Group.

The Savage group remains small but steady. Many people are traveling from the surrounding area to support that group and read from the Big Book every Wednesday.

The Fairview Young People's Group meets on Monday Nights. I am impressed with Zach D., the 18, now 19, year old that took the bull by the horns to start this meeting up.

Each group in Glendive meets three days a week.

Between the two (2) Sidney groups, meetings are held four (4) days of the week. Attendance has been steady. During the summer, area AA's have come together for (3) picnic's. The Monday Noon Group features a luncheon, prepared by J. Scott W., on the last Monday of the month. If in Sidney on that day, stop on by for a meeting plus lunch on Scott.

Since the last assembly we have held (1) District Picnic/Meeting.

The Lower Yellowstone Sober Fest was held August 20, 21 and 22nd at the Lion's Youth Camp in Makoshika State Park. The event was attended by folks from Bozeman to Dickinson to Wyoming. An informative Archive Workshop was held. The Speakers were inspirational. Participation for the Karaoke afterwards was much better than last year. Thank you Tim A. for DJ duties.

Lastly, I would like to thank District 23 for allowing me to serve. Beyond doubt, seeing old friends, making new ones, and the passion of AA I see at these assemblies helps my recovery immeasurably. Thank You so much.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yours In Fellowship and Recovery

Michael M., DCM-Dist. 23

### **District 31**

We have had two district meetings since SPRING Assembly.

Colstrip: Large group attendance. Following our last district meeting, Gerry our Archives put on a wonderful and informative presentation. Colstrip has meetings Mon and Wed at 7:30 PM and Sat mornings with the first Saturday being a birthday meeting.

Forsyth district meeting was okay, but few in attendance, the date may have been a problem. Carole, our delegate gave her presentation. Population varies from 2 to 10 at the 3 meetings per week.

Jordan (Soda Group) lost 50% of its membership when one person relocated. If you want to attend a meeting there you need to call ahead.

Baker has low numbers, meets Wed nights.

Ekalaka and Broadus are inactive at this time.

Miles City Both the We Care Group and Unity Group remain very active, they have out- of- towners and is generally the best place to sober up. There are meetings daily.

Terry has an ad hoc meeting on Tuesday and may soon declare themselves.

Yours in Service,

Neil T.

### **District 41**

I am Lee and I'm an alcoholic—DCM for this Area's District 41. From time to time we have had past DCMs visit our District meeting which is held downtown in Great Falls. A few rotate on to Area positions for a while, a couple of them occupy current District 41 chair positions. We had one this past month who was asked to sit in during our rotational position election process. After participating in some discussions he applauded our efforts concerning the way we were conducting District. It was so much of what he had dreamed of attempting during his rotation. While improving our efficiency at the monthly business meeting this group is truly mindful that the direction of AA is in the hands of their home group members. I would like to say that we are merely growing in our service awareness. That

we have grown as a matter of fact due to our *own* efforts. But this would not be accurate. I have to compliment all the DCMs and committee chairs throughout the Area that have provided a glimpse into what happens at their District meetings, invited us to their functions, showed up to share at workshops and traveled with trusted servants throughout this West Central AA Region. This rotation's group of trusted servants have led by example through email efforts, hospitality while we have been on the road, and sharing during teleconferences. As for studies about genetics and alcoholism: what a great family! We have been blessed, however, with a strong sense of kinship and a family bond that goes beyond typical "flatlander" ties or DNA predictabilities.

Our District spirit is bringing in all sorts of new participants. Throughout the years every once in a while a new group of people take interest; curious with a conviction to be of service to our groups. While relatively late in this rotation I have witnessed the onset of a current wave. Many were here last Assembly, and all are willing, open minded, and ready to do the work at hand. Our attention to Roundups and the advent of our Spring Roundup is the unity binding effort our GSRs are focusing on at this time. Hosting the upcoming 2011 Spring Roundup, however, is a later report. Elections, chair responsibilities, budgeting for and determination of projects within each chair: these are the points we have been considering while becoming aware of our responsibility. We have been looking around us to build participation, but more importantly we look to rotating *on* not *out*.

Like the warranty in A. A.'s 12<sup>th</sup> Concept suggests: Leadership by example is what I have found with *this* Area family. I have relied on and developed a close relationship with our Delegate and Alternate Delegate this rotation. Their example of leadership is one that has depended upon love as an essential quality while adhering to spiritual principles as indispensable tools. Their support for the Area Chairs, DCMs, their home group members and each other reminds us of a simple formula that really works.

In the past our District has had positions that just wanted to "bail" at the end of the rotational term. It reminds me of a past Delegate's message. Robbie S. on rotation called for support of our service chairs, DCMs and GSRs:

Let's do our part to ensure that no one feels so isolated or so drained at the end of their service rotation that they [just] want out...

With the newly elected servants at our Districts and here in Area we should remember to continue with our love and support for those newly elected. These months ahead before rotation takes place in our Districts and for our Area Chair positions we are provided with the greatest opportunity to practice the "we" part of our fellowship. For our District allowing me to serve and the help and support of these Area Chairs, and past service workers, if you could help a guy like me—one who was convinced that he would be of little or no service to others—by opening my eyes and heart to carrying on the efforts of this world wide Fellowship of hope and recovery, then I know you can be of support to this great group of trusted servants in their new capacities, as well.

Lee T (District 41 DCM)

*"Together we can. Together we grow." Ref. Area 40 Great Falls 2011 Spring Roundup Theme*

## **District 42**

Good morning everyone.

My name is Gerry L and I am an alcoholic, DCM for District 42 North Central Montana.

We currently hold meetings in Shelby, Choteau, Valier, Conrad, Cut Bank, Browning, and Chester. We also have meetings at Crossroads Correctional Association in Shelby. Attendance is good, growth is slow but visible.

Valier has cancelled the Lake Francis Roundup for next year. We will plan another get together of some kind to be announced at a later date.

If you happen to travel through our area, please come see us. We always love having visitors.

Great to be in service

Gerald L.

## **District 51**

No report submitted.

## **District 61**

Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson Counties

Hi, my name is Tom D and I'm the alcoholic DCM for Area 61, and I'm glad to be in Lewistown and sober. There was a time when that was an unusual combination.

I have every reason to believe that AA is alive and well in District 61. Some years ago when my sponsor mentioned how many AA meetings we had in the District, one newcomer gasped: "Gosh, the drinking problem must be awfully bad here." My sponsor's answer was "No. The solution is that good." Our most recent meeting flyer shows 102 regularly scheduled AA meetings a week in District 61, which doesn't count meetings at the Helena Prerelease Center, the Jefferson, Broadwater and Jefferson County Jails, the Elkhorn Treatment Center, various outpatient centers and the Helena Area Parole and Probation Office. It also doesn't count the thousands of micro or mini-meetings that take place every month at Safeway, Albertsons, Costco, Vann's and Wal-Mart, or the twenty or so meetings every month of various district committees, nor does it count the meetings folks from District 61 take into MCDC, the state prison and the Watch program. We have thirty groups, twenty -eight of which are registered with GSO, and most of the time we have more than 20 GSR's present and voting at District meetings.

In the last year we again celebrated our annual Treatment and Corrections workshop, which has now become somewhat of a tradition – I think we're working on the fifth one now. But, I'm an alcoholic: I can't count reliably after one.

Shortly before it was scheduled, I had a call from someone in Billings who wanted to know if we could bring our workshop down there, and I said I'd be glad to have some of the people who've been working on it down there to show them how. She said, "Oh, no. I'm calling from the District Court. We don't want to learn how to do a workshop, we'd like you to come down and do it." I tried to explain that bringing our sheriff, our police chief, one of our judges and a few local drunks down to Billings wouldn't work very well – that maybe somebody in Billings AA should do it. But that offer still stands: if anybody would like to put on a treatment and corrections workshop in their own district would like to know how we did it, just give us a call. It's been a lot of work, but it's been a lot of fun, and like most service projects that reach beyond AA to our non-alcoholic friends and critics, it may serve to make this a better world for still suffering alcoholics, and maybe a better world for those who still suffer because of somebody else's alcoholism, but mostly it benefits the people who do it. If that holds true, next year is going to be a wonderful year for us: we start off with the treatment workshop in April, then in the fall we will have the National Archives Workshop, The Fall Roundup and our fifty-something Attitude of Gratitude. Four statewide AA get-togethers in one year is quite a lot for a town of forty thousand people.

That's because the recovery is so good. If you look around Helena, Montana, you'll find all sorts of community projects and programs, and if you look at who's doing the heavy lifting, the chances are nine out of ten it's some ex-drunk. Think of that! Helena, Montana is a better place to live and raise your kids because of a bunch of recovering drunks.

District 61 was in good shape when I rotated in. In spite of my best efforts, it still seems to be, and I know it will be in good hands next year with Anne and Rebecca. I'm looking forward to my new position of being the Past DCM, which requires me to come to meetings, sit in the back, and try to look awake and wise for a whole hour once a month.

It's good to be of service, it's good to be sober, and it's good to be among so many friends. Thanks for letting me be of service.

## **District 71**

Hello, my name is Kevin M. and I'm an alcoholic. We have a few people here today representing District 71, which is located in Southwestern Montana. Our district consists of towns ranging from Butte/Anaconda to Dillon and back up to Drummond. We have an active district that has twenty three A.A. meetings a week held. Typically, there are 10-15 people in attendance at our district meetings. Our meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at St Anne's school in Butte at 7:10 p.m.

As far as service work goes we are blessed to be able to represent A.A. in schools, treatment facilities, M.S.P., S.T.A.R.T. & W.A.T.C.h. programs, Warm Sprigs meetings (civil/forensic), C.C.S., Montana Youth Challenge program at Western Montana College, and the Butte jail. The times and places of these meetings our located on the Area 40 website. Fortunately, we have a new treatment chair; his name is Dan H. He has taken the bull by the horns and is doing a great job. We plan on getting back into the bridging-the-gap program at M.C.D.C.; however, I think it is best that we be patient and do not put the cart before the horse.

Our district decided to purchase a computer. So far everything has run smooth and hopefully it will be a proficient asset for District 71 in future.

We had a great time with Carol B. when she presented her report at Delegate's Day. Our campout was held at Willow Spring's Campground west of Anaconda on August 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. There were lots of laughs and fun.

It is time for A.A. rotations. It has been an honor to serve my district and service work has definitely at times helped keep me sober. Thank you and we'll see you next time in Lewistown!!!

IL&S

Kevin M. / District 71 DCM

## **District 72**

This has been a fairly quiet six months for our District. No drama, no trauma.

Our CPC/PI committee had a display downtown in a prominent location.

We have a new Women's Prison coordinator, which will be helpful.

PI, CPC, Institutions, and Corrections, have all been keeping busy reaching out and making visits.

We appreciated Carole's Delegates report in June, thanks for making the drive to come fill us in.

We have been discussing the Primary Purpose Budgeting, and the consensus seems to be that we find it an interesting idea to investigate further.

We have brought an AA group back to MSU; it meets on Wednesdays at noon, and is called the We Are Not Saints group.

District 72 is hosting a workshop on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 1-4pm called **Building Sobriety Bridges: Reaching Out to the Native American Community**. This workshop is to share ideas on this topic, before we head over to Rapid City for the Special Additional Forum in Rapid City.

We just had our 2-year District elections, & we have a great new group of people coming in.

My successor is Cathy J., who has previous DCM experience and will be awesome. We currently have 79 active meetings in District 72.

On a personal note, I just wanted to say how much I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as DCM, and to participate at this level of service. I feel really privileged to have been able to attend the West Central Regional Service Forums and Fall Regional Forums for the last two years, as well as meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones at our Spring and Fall Assemblies.

## **District 81**

Greetings from District 81 in the heart of the Montana Rockies. My name is Dan and I'm an alcoholic. It is an honor and a privilege to be here at my last Assembly as District 81's DCM.

There are 48 Groups in District 81 with 92 meetings per week in the following communities: Alberton, Arlee, Clinton, Frenchtown, Haugen, Hot Springs, Missoula, Noxon, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Ronan, Seeley Lake, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior and Thompson Falls. Our District Business meetings are well attended and we have an enthusiastic group of committee chairs and GSR's. We had elections last month and filled all our district positions but two, and they will be filled at our next business meeting. District 81's fellowship understands the importance of the service structure and there is no lack of willing servants to step up and do whatever it takes. We've elected Rob H. as our Fall 2012 Roundup Chair and he is busy forming a committee. For those of you who attended the Spring 2009 Roundup in Missoula, you know that we put on a great roundup. We hope to see you there!

As always, special events are a key focus of what we do in District 81, and since we met last spring we've been busy. We had an AA basketball tournament on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We had a very successful two-part Founder's Day event June 12<sup>th</sup>. We had our best turnout ever and I'd like to thank Carole B., Virginia R. and Paula H. for attending and sharing at our workshop. We had the Insist on Enjoying Life River Float July 25<sup>th</sup> on the Blackfoot River and it was great fun. We had the Summer Sober pot-luck picnic on August 7<sup>th</sup> which was very well attended. The Solutions Group had their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on August 8<sup>th</sup> with great speakers and an awesome pot-luck. Polson AA hosted the Sunlight of the Spirit Camporee at Camp Marshall Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. And of course, there was the International Convention in San Antonio, which was an awesome experience for those of us who were lucky enough to get to attend. It was wonderful to see so many of you from Area 40 there. It's not too early to start planning to attend the 2015 International in Atlanta. I hope to see you all there. There will be many of us from District 81 at the upcoming Fall Roundup in Butte and are looking forward to attending your event.

The "unofficial" special events in District 81 are very important also. We have an enthusiastic and vibrant fellowship in our district and they insist on having fun. There were numerous sober softball teams playing in league competition, volleyball games, birthday parties, bonfires, river floats, camping trips, bowling, golfing, movies, and the list goes on. It's so important to show the newcomer that we can have fun in sobriety. It's such a blessing to get to practice our singleness of purpose by just having fun together.

I couldn't give this report without sharing my gratitude for this amazing opportunity to participate in service with all of you. I need to give a big thanks to the fellowship for teaching me so much about how to "play well with others". When I was in grade school, my teachers always checked the box that said "needs improvement" in that category. I'm sure that contributed to my alcoholism. I'm also very grateful to the trusted servants of District 81. You have made my job very easy and a pleasure to do. I'm so blessed to have had this experience with you. For those of you that are going to continue service into the next rotation, I know you'll do an awesome job and District 81 is in good hands. To all of you here at Area 40, you've taught me so much. You are all great examples of how to be of service to others, thank

you. I'm excited about our upcoming elections. This is my third time experiencing this process of AA elections. For those of you that are new to this process, I hope you enjoy it. I hope you get to see what it means to "go to the hat"! It will be fun to see what God has planned!

Yours in love and service,

Dan K

## **District 91**

Isn't this an awesome journey? It has been and continues to be an honor to serve. District 91 still reaches from Eureka to Elmo. There are 21 active groups with 8-10 groups regularly attending our monthly district meeting. It is held at 3 PM the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month with rotating meeting room locations.

District 91 has been a busy place this summer. Things kicked off on May 23 with Carole B. and her delegate report. Of course there was a great BBQ and lots of food as well.

Numerous Campouts, picnics, softball games and general fellowship abounded. Several of our District members attended the International in San Antonio.

The election process has begun. Sam B has been elected DCM and Larry H is alternate DCM for the next rotation. The rest of the committee chair elections will soon follow.

Our Fall/Winter slate includes my home group's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at our annual Fall Refresher, the Women's retreat, Thanksgiving get-togethers, and Christmas and New Year's Alkathons. District 91's Into Action Weekend is Feb 18-19, 2011. This get to know your district event includes speakers, workshops and, of course, food. Come join us if you can.

Celebrating AA's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in San Antonio at the International Convention was certainly the highlight of my summer. I saw and heard endless examples of willing to go to any lengths at every turn. I was struck by how much easier I had it. I am ever grateful that this Area, my District and my home group made those lengths shorter.

I came across these paragraphs in the pamphlet *Do You Think You're Different?* which was the topic of the convention meeting where I shared. It is a great description of what I get from my participation at these Assemblies and from AA service in general.

*We have found it unwise to limit our AA circle to folks exactly like ourselves. Segregation gives our "uniqueness" an unhealthy emphasis. We find it more enjoyable and more healing, to get into the mainstream of AA life and mingle with everybody else, not just "different" people.*

*Here we are. We are all different. We are all pretty special people. But we are also ALL alcoholics and all sober in AA together. In this, we are more like each other than different. Here in AA, we find the shared humanity that enables us to live out our widely differing lives and pursue our separate and individual destinies. You are welcome to join us.*

You are welcome to join me... and I hope you do.

Thanks for keeping me sober,

Libbie L., DCM District 91

### **District 93**

Hi everyone, my name is Eric and I am an alcoholic. It has been a pleasure to serve District 93 as their DCM for the last twenty months. As my term comes to a close I reflect on the many people around me that helped this alcoholic. Other DCMs like Dan K. from 81 who made my lack of computer knowledge bearable, Libbie L. from 91 who was a great help putting together the Pre-Assembly, and staying up until Midnight at the last Assembly talking with Jennifer W. from 72 and Lee T. from 41 about issues in our own Districts and around the Area. Then there was the Area Delegate and Area Chairs who I could count on to get answers and guidance to my questions and problems. Also I would like to thank those who took time out of their busy schedules to visit us with workshops, Q and A sessions, and Carole to give her Delegates Report. And last but not least I would like to thank those in District 93 who served in this rotation as District Chairs and GSRs! As for what's been going on in our District we had our annual campout at Painted Rocks and the yellow orb actually showed up for two out of the three days. This year's campout was a great success. We even went international with a guest from Canada and national with a member from Pennsylvania. Our auction with our awesome auctioneer Bryan raised over six hundred dollars which brought the District back into the black. Thank you to all who donated those precious heirlooms for the auction and to District 81 for coming out to donate and campout with us. At the July business meeting we voted in our Policy and Procedures Guidelines and decided to cancel our local phone service and go with the Area AnswerNet number only. This will save us at least 27.50 a month and my hope is that we can contribute some of these savings to Area for the AnswerNet bill. On a sad note, the Experience Strength and Hope Group has closed its doors due to no attendees which brings us to 14 Groups and three meetings. Please check out our updated schedule on the web for locations and times. And finally, we got off to a great start electing our District Chairs for the next rotation with only CPC vacant and Secretary and Special Events needing a confirmation. Congratulations to those elected especially Jay T. our new DCM and we hope to see you out and about in the Bitterroot soon. Yours In Service, Eric D. DCM 93.

### **Area Archives- Gerry R.**

Good morning. My name is Gerry and I'm an alcoholic. I also have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Archivist. As always, I would like to extend a warm welcome, to old friends, new friends, and soon to be friends, with a special welcome to anyone who is here attending their very first Area Assembly.

Okay, I have a lot to cover and April wouldn't accept my bribe for an extra two minutes on the timer so, hold on, we're going to try to get it all in any way. This has been a busy year for the Area 40 Archives. Since we last met, I have traveled with a display to Billings for the Spring Roundup hosted by District 11. In June, I attended a Founders Day event in Bozeman put on by the Resentment and a Coffee Pot Group along with others. Later in June I traveled to Colstrip where I set up a display and gave a Power Point

presentation on the history of AA. In August I was invited to the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest at Makoshika where I again set up a display and did the Power Point presentation.

Last weekend I attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NAI-AA convention in Las Vegas where I was invited to present the Area 40 Archives display. At this time, I would like to relay to the Area 40 Fellowship the gratitude of the NAI-AA Committee and many, many of the event's attendees, all of whom greatly appreciated your generosity in allowing your display to travel to their event.

This weekend I am, of course, standing right here in front of you, with a small display set up behind me. On Wednesday of this week, I travel to Macon, Georgia to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National AA Archives Workshop, where I will be handed the proverbial torch to bring back to Area 40 where we will be hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NAW next September in Helena. I will present a report on our planning committee's progress later this weekend, however, at this time I would like to mention that we do have registration flyers for the 2011 workshop available at the back table as well as on the Archives display.

Upon my return from Macon, I will begin preparations to set up a display at the Fall Roundup in Butte, then, later in October, I will travel again to Bozeman for a district sponsored event there. Finally, District 61 has asked that I give the Power Point presentation at a workshop sometime in November, and I suspect there will be an invitation coming for the Attitude of Gratitude, although I've yet to receive it.

I would like to say thank you to everyone involved with all the events I've just mentioned, I cannot name you all here, but let me just say, Well Done! to each and every one of you! I cannot adequately express my gratitude nor the excitement I feel about the growing interest in Archives in Area 40.

Now, some amends. I was asked to locate the results of the 1992 Area 40 inventory for use as background material for an item on this Assembly's Agenda, this took some time to accomplish and I would now like to make amends to Neil D. of District 11 for the long delay. I will do a better job next time Neil. Thank you for your patience.

Also, one of my duties as Archivist is, every two years, to work with the Archives Chair and Area Advisor to update the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual and the Past Actions Document. This was done in 2008 and, although I forwarded the results of the Policy and Procedure update to the Area Webmaster, Alex, in a timely fashion, I neglected to send him the Past Actions Document until just a few months ago. After doing so, I realized that I somehow had sent him an incomplete update and could not locate the completed version on either my computer or in hard copy. Long story short, I dropped the ball. Since making this discovery I have, in the course of doing this year's scheduled updates of these documents, gone back and recompiled all the information for the 2008 update and included it in the current one. I've forwarded copies of these proposed updates to Tim H. the Archives Chair and Andrew W. the Area Advisor. The Archives committee will be reviewing them during their breakout later today. I have no explanation for my error other than simple oversight. I should have been more attentive and thorough, but was not. I will make every effort to do a better job in the future, and if anyone has suggestions for me that will help, I am willing to listen to them.

So, the first half of my report covered “progress” and the last half was about, “not perfection.” I believe that about covers it.

What a joy to be sober today. What a privilege to be of service. Thank you for both.

Gerry R

Area 40 Archivist

### **Webmaster –Alex M.**

Progress report on the sites redesign and porting over to PHP MySQL is as follows. The admin sections of the website, login, meetings and 888 administration pages are finished. I am about 90% done with the new design. The AnswerNet interface and meeting listings for users are still in development.

I am thinking that I will wait and roll it out in time for the new rotation this coming January. Could do it sooner but the timing in January seems right.

Yours in service,

Alex M

Area 40 Webmaster

### **Orientation to Elections- Andrew W.**

At this time Andrew went over Concept 9 for the Assembly. “Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous”. He also explained the Third Legacy Procedure used for electing our Delegate, Alt Delegate, Secretary, and Treasurer. He explained what a Quorum was and what constituted a substantial unanimity.

Andrew then polled the Area Committee for persons willing to stand for the position of Delegate; Terry S. Current Alt Delegate; Sharon S. Current Triangle editor; Tim H. Current Archives chair; Lori F. Current Literature chair; Colby D. Current DCM Dist. 11; Lee T. Current DCM Dist. 42; and Dale G. Dist. 81 were willing to stand for **Area 40 Delegate**. We then heard each of their service histories. Voting will commence after lunch.

### **Workshops-**

“Triangle Inventory-What Do We Want From Our Triangle?”- Sharon S.

“Archives- Methods and Means”- Joe H.

“Specials Needs Participation-What to Think About” - Anne B.

## Lunch

### **Election of 2011-2012 Area 40 Delegate and Committee commences**

Having polled the fellowship for **Delegate** candidates and having heard their service history, we were ready to go directly to voting.

After following the Third Legacy, **Terry S was elected as Area 40 Delegate** on the 4<sup>th</sup> vote.

Those willing to stand for **Area Chair/ Alt. Delegate** were Tim H, current Archives chair; Lori F, current Literature chair; Tim M, current PI chair; Sharon S, current Triangle Editor; Colby D, current DCM Dist. 11; Lee T, current DCM Dist.42.

Following the Third Legacy Procedure, after the 4<sup>th</sup> vote, the fellowship voted not to have a 5<sup>th</sup> ballot but rather go to the hat, **Sharon S was chosen as Area Chair/Alt Delegate.**

Those willing to stand for **Area 40 Treasurer** were Colby D, DCM Dist. 11; Lori F, current Literature chair; Lance B, Dist. 31.

After following the Third Legacy Procedure, **Lori F was elected as Area 40 Treasurer** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> vote.

Those willing to stand for **Area 40 Secretary** were Linda B, current Treasurer; and Paula H, current Treatment chair.

Following the Third Legacy Procedure, after the 4<sup>th</sup> vote the fellowship decided not to have a 5<sup>th</sup> ballot and instead go to the hat. **Linda B was chosen as the next Area 40 Secretary.**

The remainder of positions are nominated from the floor and elected with a simple majority by a show of hands.

### **Archives Chair:**

Joe H. – New **Archives chair**

Jennifer W.

Libbie L.

Colby D.

**CPC Chair:**

Libbie L.—New **CPC chair**

Paula H.

**Corrections Chair:**

Terry H.—New **Corrections chair**

Bill G.

Dan K.

**Grapevine Chair:**

Gary E.—New **Grapevine chair**

Connie R.

Dan K

**Literature Chair:**

Deb C.—New **Literature Chair**

Dennis O.

**PI Chair:**

Paula H.—New **PI chair**

Colby D.

**Treatment Chair:**

Tom D.

Colby D.—New **Treatment chair**

**Triangle Editor:**

Lee T.—New **Triangle Editor**

Dan K.

**Break for Dinner**

## **Area Committee Reports**

### **Treatment/Agenda:**

Thank you to the committee members, Dan H, District 71, Tom D, District 61, Laura S, District 21 and to all who participated. Thank you all for you input and support.

### **Treatment**

Item A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on Treatment Agenda items at the 2010 General Service Conference. We found no items Area 40 needed to be concerned about.

The committee reviewed the items and went through the Treatment Workbook and Kit. Paula distributed extra workbooks and AA Treatment Guidelines.

We also discussed Special Needs; what some of them are and how we might make our meetings and meeting places more welcoming.

### **No discussion.**

Item B. Discuss information to provide to the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.

Again as most of the committee was new, Paula said she would give the incoming Chair every available help.

### **No discussion.**

### **Agenda**

Item A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on Treatment Agenda items at the 2010 General Service Conference. We found no items Area 40 needed to be concerned about.

The item stated what the theme and presentation/discussion and workshop topics for the 2011 General Service Conference will be.

### **No discussion.**

Thank you for allowing me to serve. It has been a privilege!

Paula Hofmann  
Area 40 Treatment Chair

## **PI/Report and Charter:**

Since we were limited by time and had a multitude of agenda items to cover we went through the majority of the Advisory Actions for PI and Report and Charter. We then hit the highlights of the report by the PI Chair in the final report from the General Service Conference along with the Additional Consideration and No Action taken. The majority of the items we covered were in agreement with what came out of our committee at the Spring Assembly. I also suggested that the three other voting members of the committee that were present, (Eric Dist. - 93, Nick Dist. - 12 and Mike Dist. - 23), along with the other fourteen people that attended the meeting review the Final report for PI and Report and Charter, along with the minutes from our committee from the Spring assembly, and get back to me if they felt there was anything glaring and we could poll the other members of the committee to see if it should be elevated to an agenda item for the Spring 2011 assembly item.

### Public Information

- A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Consideration and No Action Taken on PI Agenda Items at the 2010 General Service Conference.

**No discussion.**

- B. Discuss information to provide to the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.
  - a. Encourage them to read through the material provided in the PI Kit especially the PI Workbook.
  - b. Provide them with the binder I have been keeping on the Area Answering Service that contains the following:
    - Summary of things to consider and what needs to be done,
    - AnswerNet contacts,
    - Past Bills,
    - History of the Area 40 Answering Service,
    - Ad-Hoc Committee notes

**No discussion.**

### Report & Charter

- A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Consideration and No Action Taken on Report & Charter Agenda Items at the 2010 General Service Conference:

**No discussion.**

## **Finance:**

Thank you to my committee members for their attention and work on the Finance committee. Those in attendance for this assembly break-out meeting were Carol B, Terry S, Jennifer W, Doug D, Brandon M, Betty P, and Lance B. Special thanks goes out to Jennifer for her meticulous note taking for all the meetings of this committee.

Let's get into the agenda items:

- A. Review and discuss how Area 40 prepares and considers the Area budget for the upcoming year. There was a letter sent out with financial data to all area officers and standing committee chairs asking for input on their budgetary needs. The committee chairs' recommendation was the basis for the budget along with historical data. The budget we will be proposing is based on services we perform in enabling us to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We want the budget to be focused on services needed and executed, not just the dollar amount.

### **No discussion.**

- B. Consider and propose the Area 40 Budget for 2011. The Finance committee went over the draft budget and made minor changes. The final draft was presented to the assembly for approval. The 2011 Area budget was voted and approved by unanimous vote. The budget was set at \$35,459.94. A final copy of the budget will be included with this report. *(Per vote on agenda item under international conventions/regional forums there was \$900 added to the 2011 budget for monies to be used by the area forum committee to put on the local forum in Great Falls and Miles City. The newly amended 2011 Area 40 Budget will be 36,359.94. The prudent reserve will be 1/3 of this amount or 12,119.98 for 2011.)*

**Discussion: Q: Rebecca is the 1st column the actual and the middle column the proposed? A: Yes.**

**Q: Kay we only spent \$545 on literature last year? A: No, we only spent \$304.31.**

**Lori F: I am unsure if this is the time to bring up why we take a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition at the Assembly when it is in the budget. Is the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition figured in the budget?**

**A: We take the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition because we always have. There used to be a reason for it. It is included in the budget under "all other income".**

**Paula H: Please explain the new figure for the Area Hotline.**

**A: This amount is based on historical figures; \$1500.00 is more realistic and reflects our actual expenditures. The previous amount was set for worst case scenarios since we had no baseline to go by.**

**Vote to approve the 2011 Budget: 102 For; 0 Against.**

C. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations, and No Action Taken on Finance Agenda Items at the 2010 General Service Conference. Refer to pages 7, 8, & 63 in your final conference report.

**2010 G.S.C.—Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Reported**

***Finance***

**B. “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”**

**1. Consider request to replace the "pie charts" on page 12 with text such**

**as:**

***Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District; Area; G.S.O. and Intergroup/Central Office, if one services your district.***

FLOOR ACTION—That the request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix,” be recommitted to the trustees’ Finance Committee.

**2. Discuss request to include information about A.A. Grapevine.**

ADVISORY ACTIONS:

The following be added to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” where appropriate:

Q. Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine?

A. No. A.A. Grapevine Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

In the second paragraph on page 7 under the heading “How can groups participate?” in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”; the second sentence “(rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,...)” be changed to read “(for example: rent, refreshments, A.A.

and A.A. Grapevine literature,...)”

### **3. Consider request to add Seventh Tradition stories.**

ADVISORY ACTION—that the trustees’ Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

**Finance** continues on next page

Page 8

### **2010 G.SC.—Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Reported**

FINANCE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE 2010 GSC:

The committee reviewed and discussed input from the Fellowship concerning the 2009 Conference Advisory Action that the Trustees’ Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following: (1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? (2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions? The committee recognized that the majority of the sharing of the Fellowship was not in favor of a limit. The committee does not recommend that a specific limit should be placed on the use of literature profits to fund services. From all input gathered, the committee found that the Fellowship agrees with the Trustee’s policy on self-support which was affirmed at the 2009 Conference.

Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous

The A.A. spiritual principle of self-support enables us to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic with a shared sense of responsibility for our lifesaving work and without interference or financial dependence on outsiders. From our Fellowship's earliest days, the expenses of the General Service

Office, and the world services provided by it, have exceeded the amount derived from contributions of AA groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of AA literature. It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a prudent reserve fund. We hope that the day will come when AA groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.

The committee believes that more effective communication to the Fellowship as a whole is key to achieving this ideal and the committee has made recommendations to that end.

The committee discussed additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about Self-Support and forwards the following list of items to the 2011 Conference Finance Committee for further discussion:

1. Birthday Plan
2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet
3. Box 459 or Grapevine Articles
4. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit
5. Report Costs of Services to Members
6. Discuss Effects of Inflation
7. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web Site

**No discussion.**

- D. Discuss information to provide to the new Treasurer for the next rotation. A sheet of information was compiled for the upcoming Treasurer. The new officers have already started determining the Audit and transfer of funds to Lori F, our new treasurer. (*refer to items discussed and agreed on by the finance committee; notes included.*) Banking account rotation, using existing treasury account with First Interstate Bank, set up POBox, file yearly 990EZ and if needed the 990, use of professional tax agent may be needed, Tech soup information, Ready Talk info, preparing yearly budget to present in committee and assembly, updating software or hardware (if needed), use of Area 40 bank stamp, keep the Archivist updated with amount in restricted account, be a signor on Pink Can account and receive all monthly statements, Corrections' chair must report income and expenses in a report at assembly and kept by Area treasurer for tax purposes, audit of last rotation's treasurer's books, 7<sup>th</sup> tradition collection at area assembly, prudent reserve 1/3 of annual budget, amend budget and prudent reserve if action taken by assembly adds monetary items to the budget.

**No discussion.**

I want to thank each of you for allowing me to be of service as the Area 40 treasurer for this rotation and I look forward to January 1<sup>st</sup> and our next slate of trusted servants.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B, Treasurer

**Literature:**

First of all, I would like to thank the members of my committee: Sandy A. (filling in for Nick D.), Alternate DCM-12, Neil T., DCM-31, Matt H. (filling in for Mary M.), DR-91 and Deb C., DR-93. This has been an awesome rotation with great participation at all four assemblies. I would also like to thank the non-committee participants in the meeting today: Nick G., Phil H. and Joe L. I apologize if I missed anyone. The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by discussion of the agenda.

Our committee reviewed the actions and additional considerations of the Literature Committee at the General Service Conference and found that the Conference and our committee's spring assembly votes were in agreement four out of seven times.

The most disappointment was expressed over the non-action on the recommendation to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in AA."

On the whole, and in accordance with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition, our committee accepts with gratitude the conscience of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**No discussion.**

Thanks again for allowing me to serve this Area as the Literature Committee Chair. I enjoyed the experience and look forward to serving in my new position with the knowledge that the Literature Committee will be in good hands.

Respectfully submitted, Lori F.

**CPC/Trustees:**

Our committee meeting was well attended with a total of 12 AA members from several different districts. We briefly reviewed the advisory actions and additional considerations and found no surprises.

We also did a quick survey of those in attendance to determine whether anyone might be willing to stand for the Area CPC Chair position. Although no-one was interested at that time, we did our best to make this fun job an attraction.

In terms of the Trustees Committee, we have noted the fact that our General Service Trustees volunteer a great deal of time and energy to serve us. In fact, these people have frequently retired from their jobs to be able to do this.

Our concern arises when the usual number of 21 trustees drops below 19, as may occur to unforeseen circumstances. In that event, the remaining trustees divide the burden. We originally considered submitting an agenda item to develop a contingency plan if this occurs.

Since then we have learned that the General Service Conference is planning to conduct its inventory which is currently underway. Rather than submit a formal agenda item at this time, we would like to suggest that this be kept in mind as part of the inventory process.

**No discussion.**

Thank you again for allowing me to serve on this great committee for the past 2 years. And remember, my term is not finished for 3 1/2 months so you have plenty of time to invite me to talk to your district about talking with professionals!

Yours in Love and Service,

Virginia R.

**Grapevine/Policy and Admissions**

The Grapevine/ Policy and Admissions Committee met with nine people in attendance, including all the voting members of the committee and four nonvoters. A light agenda was dealt with. The items that were dealt with at the General Service Conference were discussed and no actions were reported.

The Grapevine survey was discussed and the response of the Area was discussed. All of the surveys will be forwarded to the Trustees for consideration during their deliberation of actions directed towards the operations of the AA Grapevine and AA Grapevine Inc.

Rich K

Grapevine Chair

### **Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums:**

- A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on Corrections Agenda Items at the 2010 General Service Conference

*We reviewed each of the General Service actions and non actions and we all agreed that each item looked ok.*

**No discussion.**

- B. Discuss information to provide to the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.**

Mary S. shared the job responsibilities as laid out in the Area 40 Policies and Procedures manual and shared personal insights that would be helpful to any possible persons wishing to stand for the position. There was discussion and some questions.

**No discussion.**

### **International Conventions-Regional Forums**

- A. Review and report the status of Area 40 request for Additional Local Forum (in Great Falls and Miles City in 2011 [Mary S. to provide background material to Committee])

*A full and updated report was given, fliers have been made, rooms have been reserved and our committee discussed the pertinent information at hand.*

**Motion:** Our committee recommends that Area 40 budgets an allowance of \$900.00 for expenses that will incur to put on the Local Forum.

**Discussion: Linda: Why do we need \$900 ? I thought forums were paid for by GSO.**

**A: The money would be for coffee, motel rooms, and gas to and from Miles City.**

**Scott W.:** I think we did propose \$500 for budget purposes. We didn't know for sure this was going to happen until about 6 weeks ago when we received the approval from GSO. This is not a Special forum, it is a Local forum. With Local forums the local committees fund them and GSO participates.

**Carole B.:** We didn't do this before we approved the budget?

**Libbie L: Will there be a fee or 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition taken to make money for this?**

**A: We can charge for coffee, take a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collection or charge a fee.**

**Carole B: Do you have a concrete idea about doing a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition or not?**

**A: No, we have discussed it but have made no firm decisions on what we are going to do yet.**

**Vote: 82 For; 5 Opposed. Motion passes.**

**Minority Opinion: Lori F: I know for sure we are holding the forum but before voting on this I would like to have a firm plan proposed on how we are going to collect money.**

**Sharon S: I would like to have a goal to be self- supporting.**

**Carole B: Ditto**

We look forward to working with the next rotation of trusted servants at the district and area level and are eager to get to work.

B. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on IC-RF Agenda Items at the 2010 General Service Conference

*We reviewed each item and were satisfied with each. We had no concerns.*

**No discussion.**

**Scott W: The committee has not come up with a plan to collect money because the financial requirements and restraints between the two facilities are so diverse; the committee is still working through the details**

### **Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policies**

A Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action taken on Archives agenda items at the 2010 General Service Conference.

**No discussion.**

B Discuss information to provide to the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.

The committee looked at these items and found them acceptable

**No discussion.**

### **Area 40 Structure and Policies**

A Consider request that area 40 sponsor 2-4 DCM orientations early in the first year of each rotation to be conducted by the new Area Advisor. The orientation would include a

discussion on the committee system, energizing districts, updating group information and the service structure.

Committee took no action. The committee felt that there were avenues already in place that could be utilized to accomplish this goal. Mainly Pre Assemblies also those districts could request this on their own.

**No discussion.**

B Consider Area 40 AD Hoc Committee's draft of Qualifications for Area Committee members

The Committee tabled this item.

**No discussion.**

C Consider request that the Area Chair form an ad hoc committee to establish a protocol for Area 40 to conduct an inventory of itself at the spring 2011 Area Assembly. Specifically, the protocol shall especially look at the effectiveness of the Area Assemblies and Committees regarding helping the still suffering alcoholic

The committee Recommends that the Area Chair form an AD Hoc Committee for the purpose of establishing a protocol and a time line for Area 409 to conduct an inventory of itself. This inventory to be held at an Area Assembly preferably a fall assembly. This was voted on and passed by the assembly.

**Vote: 110 For; 2 Against. No minority opinion.**

D Consider the request that Area 40 sponsor up to six individual's travel cost to the West Central Regional Additional Forum in Rapid City South Dakota, November 10-12 2010 including carpooling and room sharing where possible to keep costs down. At an estimated cost of \$250.00 per person (\$1500.00 for six persons)

Committee took no action.

**No discussion.**

Committee discussion included the timing of the request for committee action given the event timing being some 45 days from the present assembly. Discussion included the amount of funds requested and our current budget constraints. It was further discussed the notice of the additions forum has been know for some time and this recommendation may have gained more support had it been presented at the spring 2010 assembly allowing for greater consideration and discussion. It was also suggested that this may be considered as something to be addressed at the two upcoming local forums in June 2011

## **Business is finished. Coffee break!**

### **DCM Breakout Session-**

About twenty DCM's, soon- to-be DCMs and others participated in the DCM Breakout. Here are some responses to the Ask-It-Basket questions:

**Question:** Who votes for District Officers?

**Responses:** Some Districts limit the voting to GSRs only, committee chairs not having a vote; some allow Chairs, GSRs, but the DCM votes only as a tiebreaker; when a person has more than one position (GSR and committee chair) one vote is allowed; in any event guided by spiritual principles as they related to A. A.'s Traditions.

**Question:** Should last names be used in Delegate voting?

**Responses:** Doctor Bob's view indicates yes, we are to be anonymous, but not invisible— two ways to violate anonymity: the first is as the Tradition states in press, radio and films, the second is to become anonymous within the fellowship; many DCMs agreed that by this time in their service participation there are only a few that are not aware of other service workers last names.

**Question:** What would DCM's suggest for incoming DCMs concerning visits to groups?

**Responses:** Just do it—greet people, shake hands, and help them to feel welcome; a great opportunity to overcome pride, ego, and fear; the DCM may wish to call ahead to let the GSR know you are coming and, at the same time, find out what is going on with that particular group; special group events, birthday celebrations or potlucks are great times to get to know members and learn about District participation; find out when group business meetings are scheduled and attend; continued participation helps the District remain involved and available; enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm; invite all groups to send a representative, if for nothing else than to find out how their money is being spent; if someone from group is interested, follow up with a reminder call—their interest may be the beginning of the group's vital A. A. unifying participation. Welcome to incoming DCMs in attendance including Erin G. from District 81, Peggy H. from Dist. 71, and Cathy J. from District 72.

### **GSR Breakout Session-**

After a full day of elections and Area business, GSR's convened for a breakout with Ask-It-Basket questions,

moderated by Past Delegate MaryAnn W. Here are the questions and discussions:

**Question:** Anything more on sponsorship than what's in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers About Sponsorship"?

**Responses:** Develop sponsorship skills by being more active--ask sponsees to call daily, use the steps in the Big Book; use the Big Book--Chapter7 "Working With Others" as a guide; share what has been passed along through sponsorship.

**Question:** Would you recommend or discourage committee participation in your first year as a GSR?

**Response:** Yes, encourage participation.

**Question:** Do non-GSR's vote for district officers?

**Response:** Depends on district.

**Question:** What do you do if you have an old timer trying to micromanage your group?

**Responses:** Group Conscience; be an example of the Big Book and leave expectations of how others "should" behave at the door; use a timer or a visual reminder for other members to keep their comments short.

**Question:** How do we, as a group, deal with mentally disabled individuals who attend meetings?

**Responses:** All alcoholics should be included; remind group members of the Traditions; "the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking"; take a group inventory; hold a group conscience; read "How It Works".

Thanks to Jeannie R., Great Falls Women's Mustard Seed GSR, for taking notes!

## **SUNDAY:**

### **Round Up Reports:**

#### **2010 Spring Round Up: Billings**

No report submitted.

#### **2010 Fall Round Up: Butte**

No report submitted.

#### **2011 Spring Round Up: Great Falls**

No report submitted.

### **National Archives Workshop (NAW) Planning Committee Report**

The NAW planning committee has had 4 meetings since June and will be having our 5<sup>th</sup> on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month. Our initial focus was to develop a pricing structure for different parts of the event, with the goal of making it affordable for anyone who wanted to attend. I believe we've accomplished this. Our

second goal was to have a registration flyer ready for me to carry to this year's event in Macon, Georgia, to promote early registration from the regulars who travel to the event each year. We've done this. In fact, we have these flyers available for you this weekend at the back table and at the Archives display.

Our theme for the workshop will be "Mining our past, Minding our future." At this time I'd like to thank Jeff M. of District 61 for coming up with that suggestion. I'd also like to thank Jennifer W., DCM for District 72 who came up with the outstanding design for the flyer. She submitted a first draft which caught the committee's eye. She then answered questions by teleconference and patiently worked through several suggested revisions until coming up with, what I think is, a very classy flyer.

As I mentioned, Jennifer is from District 72. Area Archives Chair, Tim H. from District 91 will be attending upcoming committee meetings, and Joe H. Archives Chair from District 41 has attended our meetings with his wife Jeanne who is the State Archivist for Al-Anon. The point I make here is that this event is, and needs to be, an Area 40 supported event. I would like to thank these folks for being part of our committee, and would like to invite any of you who can, to come and help out with this truly unique event. District 61 has certainly stepped up and we have had great attendance at our meetings but, there's always room for more.

We invited Annah Perth, a representative from Stepping Stones in New York to bring an archives display and to give a presentation. She has graciously accepted our invitation and will be one of our featured guests at the event. We have other presenters and displays lined up for the workshop, and I will be contacting many more when I attend this year's event in Macon next week.

While in Macon, I will accept a check for seed money for our event. This seed money has traditionally been forwarded in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the next event host. I'll also bring back other workshop material that will help us to plan and hold our event.

As we move forward we will continue to line up presenters, develop the workshop program and make other necessary arrangements to bring this event together. We will have many hospitality positions available for those who are interested in meeting and getting to know AA's from around the country and Canada while helping them feel welcome during their stay. If you have any interest in helping out, my contact information is on the flyer, and I would love to hear from you.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Gerry R.

Area 40 Archivist

### **Intergroup Reports:**

**South Central Intergroup:** The South Central Montana Inter-group faces continued challenges. There are three (3) areas I want to report on; Participation, Funding, The Future.

### **Participation**

The SCMIG has experienced significant changes in the operating committee positions this year. Life happens and I believe we have now reached a point where we have stability in the committee and will move forward. The participation by the 36 groups in our area is not where we would like it to be; average attendance at monthly meetings is 6-10 IGR's. This core group has accomplished a great deal this year; Founders Day was a resounding success. It was well attended by members and even more encouraging was the participation of many of the local treatment centers and sober living facilities. The presentation of a big book to a woman with 3 days by a man with 31 years really brought the day into focus for us all. The Cooney Campout was well attended this year and continues to be a great fellowship event for our area. This is an area where we feel we can continue to grow and improve and god willing we will.

### **Funding**

We continue to be under our prudent reserve as an organization. We are currently at half of the funding that is outlined in our bylaws. This situation is being communicated to the groups through our newsletter and the representatives from the groups. The funding we do have is enough and we continue to work towards our prudent reserve. The book store continues to be fully self-supporting, providing a great service to the local fellowship.

### **The Future**

The future is full. We have recently voted to move from our current location to a building that allows us greater access and flexibility. We believe this will allow us to be able to better serve the fellowship. The move is revenue neutral for us and has the potential to actually help us in some ways. This move will be accomplished by early October. We are in the planning phase of a Christmas party with the facility already rented and paid for. The theme is "Giving back to the community-Anonymously". We are currently updating the bylaws of the organization, something that has not been done since 1992. We continue to reach out to the groups in the area for people who can fill our positions and grow the organization to better serve. The future is bright and full of hope that we can continue to serve the fellowship and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

**Past Delegate Sharing:** MaryAnn W. Panel 40, and Ed M. Panel 39; shared their memories, experience, and hope with the assembly.

### **Delegate's Report:**

My name is Carole B. and I am an alcoholic. I stand before you, honored, humbled, relieved, and saddened to be giving you my final report as your Delegate to the General Service Conference. It has truly been a privilege.

I want to congratulate Terry on being elected Panel 61, Area 40 Delegate. I also want to congratulate ALL trusted servants who were recently elected. This is a daunting responsibility and your lives will be forever changed.

Since the Spring Assembly, I've attended the General Service Conference, given my report 13 times reaching members from all 14 districts, and continued to correspond with Area 40, my fellow Delegates, and the General Service Office. It has been a truly remarkable experience.

I was honored to be asked by Ken B., West Central Regional Trustee, to participate in the Region's "Meet Your Neighbors" meeting at the 2010 International Convention.

Currently, AA is conducting two surveys: One Conference Approved then post Conference modified regarding the Grapevine and another from the AAWS eTechnology Committee regarding electronic formats of our literature. These are being collected by our Grapevine Chair, Rich and our Literature Chair, Lori.

Also, currently, Delegates, Trustees, and Non-Trustee Directors are planning the taking of the General Service Conference Inventory. I had lunch with the Chairman of that 17 member committee and he is extremely hopeful of the outcome.

November 12-14, the West Central Region's Additional Forum will take place in Rapid City, SD. Room reservations as part of the block are needed by October 14. I would encourage anyone who can attend to do so.

I will continue to be your servant as the Area Advisor and I am also looking forward to seeing how I can be helpful in my District.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve. I am extremely grateful to those of you who sent cards and well wishes to me at the General Service Conference. Thank you for the nice cards I received this weekend as well.

The best thing about the last two years has been spending time with you. Lee making me laugh at the Service Conference when I very much needed to laugh. I am a little worried since Lee and Terry thought a sign with a cow holding a baseball bat was an airplane and they were near the Minneapolis airport. Virginia, a critical care nurse, was also handy to travel with as I inhaled a whole plum while avoiding hitting a deer at 75 mph. In Fort Peck, we sang along with Hal the song "Big Book Glow". Watching Tim get excited when the hotline called me in Casper and we were able to help a still suffering alcoholic. Then there was the food, my God you feed me well.

I've put together a short slide show to express my love for you. Thank you for my life.

The new **2011-2012 Committee Assignments** were announced:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>DCM</u>	<u>District Representative</u>
Public Information	31 & 71	93 & 21
CPC	72 & 81	91 & 71

Grapevine	61 & 42	72 & 31
Archives	91 & 23	81 & 11
Corrections	11 & 21	41 & 12
Treatment	41 & 51	23 & 11
Literature	93	42 & 61 & 51
Finance	12	61

**We ended with a General Sharing Session.**

**We closed the meeting by reciting the "Responsibility Statement" together. Meeting is adjourned.**

**Travel safely!**

**Next Area Assembly is in Lewistown, MT at the Yogo Inn on April 9-10, 2011**