

FALL AREA ASSEMBLY-SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013

WELCOME SESSION FRIDAY NIGHT 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

WELCOMING SESSION OUTLINE

- I. Serenity Prayer – Gerry**
- II. Housekeeping – Gerry**
- III. Icebreaker**
- IV. Breakout sessions**
 - A. Area Committee – with Area Chair**
 - B. DCM's and GSR's (breakout into one)– Sapphire Room with Sharon**
 - a) Overview of Assembly agenda and practices – introduction and refresher*
 - b) DCM's – building enthusiasm and participation in service at the district level*
 - (1) What is/are the district/groups in district doing well?
 - (2) What can the district do to help the groups with their primary purpose?
 - c) Anonymity*
 - (1) What can we do to affirm the 11th Tradition (per conference advisory action (Conference Report page 7 #17) “affirm that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: “at the level of press, radio and films.
 - (2) What else can we do, individually, our groups, the district to better honor our principle of anonymity?
 - d) 2011 Membership Survey – Introduction to A.A.*
 - (1) 34% are introduced to AA through another A.A. member
 - (2) What is/are your district or your group or you personally doing to be sure the suffering alcoholic gets to our meetings so we can carry the message of recovery in A.A. to them?
 - e) Concepts – The what? (no one chose this topic)*
 - (1) Choose two or three of the Concepts, maybe I (responsibility & authority), III (right of decision), V (right of appeal)
 - (2) Read and review The Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated and the concepts checklist.
 - (3) Discuss what you believe the principles are and how they apply in your district, your group, and for you personally.
 - f) Other topics of interest (maybe came out of icebreaker? - none)*
- V. Question & Answers**
- VI. Final Comments and Close with Responsibility Statement**

Questions asked at Ice Breaker

Meet the members in your group (someone take notes on answers to questions 2 and 3 and 4):

1. Introduce yourself: name (first and last), district, home town, home group, how long they have been sober
2. What is the best thing you personally, your group, or your district has done this year to carry to AA message to other alcoholics?
3. What would you like to do in the next 6 months to expand on that experience? Or
What else would you like to do in the next 6 months to better carry the message (personally, your group, or your district)?
4. What can Area 40 do to help?

Overview of Assembly agenda and practices (introduction and refresher)

- I. Acronyms
GSR, GSC, GSB, GSO, DCM, FNV
- II. Reports (status, progress, accountability & sharing)
 - A. District committee members (DCM)
 - B. Treasurer
 - C. Roundups, intergroups, delegate
- III. Committee meetings and workshops
 - A. Committee System
 1. Members (voting)
 2. Report
 3. Recommendations
 - B. Workshops
- IV. Fellowship New Vision (FNV) presentation
- V. Floor assembly
 - A. Chairperson – Gerry R
 - B. Robert's Rules of Order – loosely
 - C. Guidelines (How the General Service Conference Operates)
- VI. All meals and lodging are no-host
- VII. Regional Trustee-Andrew W
- VIII. GSR and DCM breakouts (ask-it-baskets)
- IX. Sunday morning – more of the same (quorum)

Gerry R, Area Chair/Alt Delegate, chaired the Welcome Session for the Area Standing Committee Chairs. All chairs present. Also present were Area Webmaster, Area Advisor, Area Archivist. 9:15-10:00. It was discussion about how we each communicate within the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and how we might improve upon that in order to help us be of better service to the still suffering alcoholic.

SATURDAY SESSION

8:00 AM Area Chair / Alt Delegate, Gerry R., opened the assembly with Serenity prayer, Traditions were read, Concepts were read.

AREA CHAIR/ALT DELEGATE GERRY R

Greetings Area 40,

At the end of this assembly we will stand at the halfway point of our service rotation. Time has a way of moving quickly past us and, as always, we are challenged us to make the most of each opportunity we're given to serve those around us and those who are looking to find us. I commend everyone for their service thus far and offer my support for any future efforts to help carry the message.

In preparing the agenda for this Assembly, I am reminded that it is, now, only once every four years that we get the opportunity to have an agenda that is focused primarily on addressing issues within Area 40 itself. Our main focus during spring assemblies is the General Service Conference agenda. During the fall of every even year, we have our election assembly, and, as a result of our decision three years ago we conduct an area inventory every fourth year during a fall, non-election assembly. Of course, we can have Area 40 related agenda items at any of these other assemblies, but we also have other matters to deal with that require our time and attention. The assembly this fall is our opportunity to take care of things at home.

We have seven Area 40 generated agenda items in front of us this assembly and, as usual, it's anyone's guess as to how we will ultimately deal with them. This is what I've always enjoyed about this process – there's not a single person here who can predict how the group conscience will act on these items. You may get lucky guessing one or two, but there's always a surprise outcome waiting for us each assembly. Which item will it be the surprise this time?

This summer held an unexpected opportunity for me to serve our fellowship. As most of you know, our Delegate Sharon suffered a fall after breaking her hip. I was able to assist her in giving her report at the District 61 Grapefest. I'm sure that it was her determination to serve that helped her recover quickly and she was able to resume giving her reports, unaided, in short order. She has since mended well and is back in service and is with us here this weekend.

I enjoyed attending the West Central Regional Forum in Bloomington Minnesota a couple weeks ago and was pleased to see a good turn out from Area 40 at the event. By my count there were ten of us along with several past servants of Area 40 who have moved elsewhere in the region but continue the great habits of service that they learned while here with us.

Since we last met, two members of our committee had to resign their positions. Peg H. our P.I. Chair, and Bob T. our Literature Chair, each notified me that they had to step down for personal reasons. I thanked them both for their great service to Area 40 and wished them well, as I'm sure we all do. Consequently, we welcome two new members to our committee this weekend. Luke S. from District 91 is our new P.I. Chair, and Nick D. from District 12 is our new Literature Chair. Please help me extend a warm welcome to these gentlemen and wish them well in there efforts to be of service.

That, said thank you all for your service to AA and the still suffering alcoholic and, as always, what a joy it is to be sober today, and what privilege it is to be of service. Thank you for both.

In Service

Gerry R, Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate

SECRETARY/AREA REGISTRAR MARY M

ROLL CALL, PASSED ACTIONS SPRING ASSEMBLY 2013

ROLL CALL

AREA 40 OFFICERS		Attendance	Voting Members	Non Voting Members
Delegate	Sharon S	X	1	
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	Gerry R	X	1	
Secretary	Mary M	X	1	
Treasurer	Libbie L	X	1	
Archives	Kira A	X	1	
CPC	Serena R	X	1	
Corrections	Lee G	X	1	
Grapevine	Sam B	X	1	
Literature	Nick D	X	1	
Public Information	Luke S	X	1	
Treatment	Brandon M	X	1	
Triangle Editor	Erin G	X	1	
DCM's				
11	Mike D	Alt DCM Dave O	10	5
12	Daniel M	X	3	
21	Joe G absent	Steve T	1	
23	Mary C-M	X	2	1
31	Kathie B		2	
41	Chris W		10	
42	Beth Z absent	Duane C Stood In	2	
51	Dan F		3	
61	Karla B		14	5
71	Betty P		5	
72	Ray M		9	4
81	Sherry C		9	1
91	Paul L		9	2
93	Kevin C absent	Alt DCM Mike M	6	3
Non-Voting Officers				
Advisor	Terry S			
Archivist	Earl F			
Webmaster	Alex M			
TOTAL			Voting 97	Visitor 22
Quorum=65				

We had 6 past delegates in attendance.

SECRETARY REPORT

Hello everyone and welcome. Thank you for helping me in the spring to get the minutes out in my 30 day timeline. I need you all to get your reports to me asap due to my travels in two weeks from today.

DCM's: Your attendance sheets that are on your tables need to be back to me no later than noon today. I use the count from these sheets to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCM's or their alternate, GSR's or their alternate, and most Area Committee Chairs and Officers. You will have up to 5 minutes to give your reports on the floor today. Please be mindful when the timer goes off.

Remember, all reports this assembly must be sent to me and I would prefer e-mail. If you need to submit your report in hard copy, I will need two copies, one is for the Triangle editor. In addition, I will need copies of the minutes from all the committee meetings, workshops, and breakout sessions. If there is a motion coming out of committees, I will need a copy of those before they are presented to the floor.

Please do not forget to send me you group and district changes in chair positions. I will be doing a presentation at 1:00 today to hopefully help explain what Fellowship New Vision (FNV) is and why I need you to help me update group, district, and Area 40 positions.

I have change forms here with me and you can also download them from our Area 40 website.

There are Ask It baskets in the back for submitting questions and topics to be covered in the GSR and DCM breakout sessions tonight.

Please see me this weekend and I will try and answer any questions you may have.

Here are the motions passed at the Spring 2013 Assembly from the Archives Committee on Area 40 Structure & Policy:

- The Archives Committee recommends that G7.6 in the Area 40 Policy & Procedures manual be revised to read as: "The Literature Committee will provide contacts and/or resources on how to order A.A. literature requested by Area Committees."
- Committee unanimously in favor.

Motion passes 89 For 2 Sustained 0 Opposed

- The Archives Committee recommends that the Area 40 archives repository be moved from its current location in Helena, MT, to 107 Mountain View, Ennis, MT 59729.
- Committee unanimously in favor.

Motion passes 89 For 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M, Secretary / Area Registrar

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS LIBBIE L

<p>Good Morning all. First and Foremost, Thank you for your generous support of Area 40. This short Power point is a quick rundown of the state our Area 40 Finances.</p>	
<p>We start with something better than gold, Fresh huckleberries along the trail. Truly lifesaving to a very out of shape hiker.</p>	
<p>Language of the Heart page 350 AA's Tradition of Self Support October 1967 Bill states, the purpose of all of our services is to make more and better 12th step work possible, however that needs to be done. And that the costs to do that are a collective obligation. Through self-support, we all will foot the bill.</p>	

As treasurer/finance chair, I am the custodian of the Money Traditions, 6, 7 & 8. And I would like to take a moment this morning to remind you of them.

An AA group can bind itself to no one.

AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members.

Our usual twelfth step work is never to be paid for. Love the single beds.

So on to the tables and graphs.

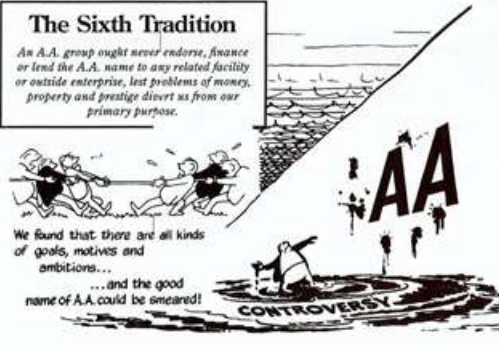
The Money Traditions

The Sixth Tradition

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

We found that there are all kinds of goals, motives and ambitions...

...and the good name of A.A. could be smeared!



The Seventh Tradition

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

"Passing the bucket" at meetings is our way of meeting our responsibility for the work of A.A. Our own contributions support the group, the General Service Office, and all A.A. activities

As active alcoholics we were always looking for a handout—in one way or another...



Part of our personal recovery came in making ourselves into responsible human beings



The Eighth Tradition

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.



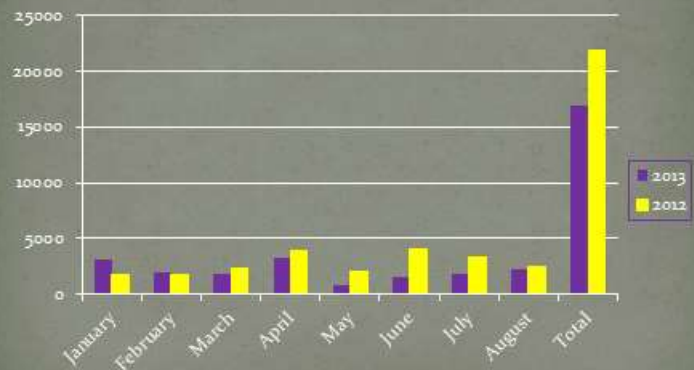
Through August 2013

Income Comparison 2013-2012

	2013	2012
January	3199.55	1821.63
February	2017.48	1791.00
March	1892.05	2354.79
April	3291.67	3890.09
May	844.95	2123.90
June	1613.97	4092.63
July	1787.04	3283.46
August	2294.96	2540.88
Total	16941.67	17433.14

Through August 2013

2012-2013 Income Monthly Comparison



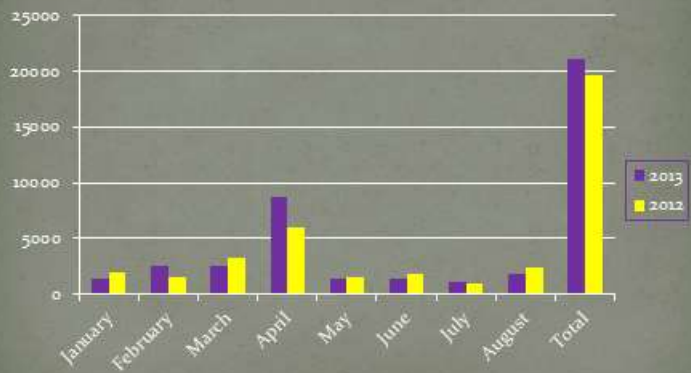
Through August 2013

Expense Comparison 2013-2012

	2013	2012
January	1398.30	1917.01
February	25982.59	1586.46
March	2590.93	3266.96
April	8729.36	6028.83
May	1351.59	1537.13
June	1463.57	1777.87
July	1174.48	1036.66
August	1873.58	2430.79
Total	21128.40	19581.71

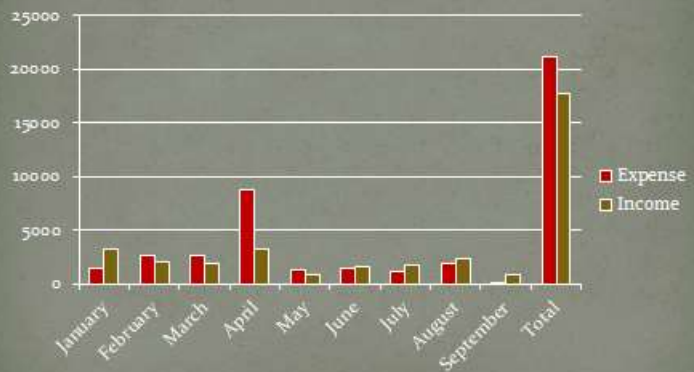
Through August 2013

2012-2013 Expense Monthly Comparison



Through September 15, 2013
So we have spent more than we have taken in in contributions

Expense vs. Income 2013



Another way to look at those numbers.
With pie.

Year to Date
Budget

\$20,490

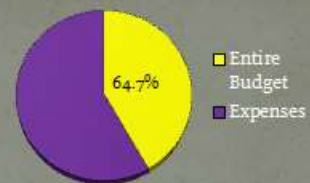
Year to Date
Expenses

• \$21,128.40

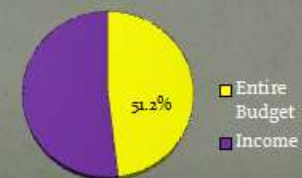
Year to Date
Income

• \$16,941.67

Expense



Income



After the first 8 months of our fiscal year, our finances are stable. The operating bank balance is \$3551.00, 1500 more spent compared to 2012, 500 less in contributions compared to 2012 \$4200 more spent than contributions, income vs expense 2013, 640 over budget. We are about \$1400 ahead on our Archives Rental payment(Paid thru April 2014) which skews these numbers some. So, we are not into our prudent reserve, but we have gotten a little behind in our self-support. Adjusting for the archives payments, we have still spent more than has been contributed, and have contributed less than last year. So don't forgot Area 40 when your groups are doing your splits.

During the Assembly, there will be 7th tradition baskets passed and a basket for coffee donation. Thanks for your support in this. There is a display in the back with info and contribution envelopes. There is also a copy of this report and a copy of a Self-support workshop ppt that I can share with any of your groups or districts, in person or electronically.

Obviously this isn't any of us on the committee, but I am sure we will have a lively discussion. Come join us.

How Are We Doing?

- We're spending more and contributing less as compared to this date in 2012.
- We are spending more than is being contributed.
- We are slightly over budget for expenses.

Assembly Expenses



Budget 2014



Stay Tuned

It seems we can find AA everywhere we look.... If we look.
Thank you and I'll see you again at the end of the assembly.



ORIENTATION DELEGATE SHARON S

Good morning! My name is Sharon S. and I am an alcoholic and I get to serve as your Delegate. Welcome you to the 2013 Fall Area Assembly.

I would like to recognize and welcome people here for their very first Area 40 Assembly. If this is your first Area 40 Assembly, please raise your hands? Thank you for being here with us, to serve A.A., your group, your district, your area and the alcoholic who needs us.

We are here this weekend to share and make decisions about Area 40 business, hopefully to help carry the message of hope and recovery to alcoholics who still suffer.

Gerry R. will chair the meeting; he will follow the agenda and it has been our practice to be punctual, so sessions will start on time.

We had a great welcoming session last night. We're going to have a little quiz on a few things.

Quiz ...

1. According to one of our pamphlets, what may be the most important job in A.A.? GSR
2. What does that Acronym stand for? "General Service Representative"
3. G.S.C. – General Service Conference
4. G.S.B. – General Service Board
5. There is someone in this room who serves on the General Service Board. What is that person's title and name? - West Central Region Trustee, Andrew W
6. Before Andrew, how many past Area 40 delegates have served as Trustee? 0
7. A.A.W.S. – AA World Services
8. There is someone in this room who serves on the A.A. World Services Board. What is that person's title and name? - non-trustee director, Carole Boerner
9. Before Carole, how many Area 40 members have served on either the A.A.W.S. Board or the Grapevine Board? 0
10. G.S.O – General Service Office
11. FNV – Fellowship New Vision

Robert' Rules (loosely)

12. Concept V talks about "Right of Appeal". This principle is applied in the assembly when the chair asks for _____. (minority opinion)
13. What is considered "substantial unanimity"? 2/3 majority (66.666%) of the votes cast
14. When listening to minority opinion about a vote in which you voted on the prevailing side (in favor if passed, opposed if failed), what motion would you make if you changed your mind? Motion to reconsider
15. During floor discussion and debate, is it necessary to go to the mike to state a fact or opinion that has already been expressed? No
16. How many voting members must be present to vote? Quorum or 2/3 of the voting members.

A few Grapevine questions:

17. What year was the Grapevine first published? 1944

Listen carefully:

18. Which of the following represent AAGV's contributions to the Fellowship?
 - a. The first bid for the General Service Conference
 - b. The AA preamble
 - c. Original essays on the 12 Traditions
 - d. 150 cofounder's articles & 16 stories in the Big Book
 - e. All of the above
19. Which of the following describe how the Grapevine magazine finances its operations?
 - a. Fundraising parties and events
 - b. The General Fund
 - c. Subscriptions and product sales only
 - d. All of the above
20. Which of the following is NOT included in a Grapevine online subscription?
 - a. A searchable online magazine (GV & LV)
 - b. Grapevine Story Archive
 - c. Fashion tips for meetings
 - d. New stories every day
 - e. GVR and RLV pages
 - f. Audio Grapevine

Before I turn this back over to Gerry, are there any questions about the agenda? Do all the DCM's and district representatives know which committee they are sitting on?

Okay, thank you for showing up for this assembly!

DCM REPORTS

(DCM District's 11, 12, 23, 31 gave reports starting at 8:45 – 9:00am)

DISTRICT 11 MIKE D. DCM (DAVE O, ALT DCM GAVE REPORT)

Hello Everybody, and greetings from District 11! We currently serve 26 active groups who are registered with GSO. Our District includes Billings, Lockwood, Huntley, Hardin, Crow Agency, all the way over to Roundup, and everything in between. Our monthly business meeting takes place on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00am in the basement of 2931 Colton Blvd Billings, MT. (Except next month due to the Fall Roundup landing on the same weekend, so we moved it to the 3rd Saturday!)

Our District launched right into action directly following our Spring Assembly! Our Archives Chair, Mindi D, held an Archives Workshop on May 25th which Earl F, Kira A, and Joe H so kindly came down to present at. Thank you for all of the great information, which gave us some useful ideas in our undertaking of sorting our Archives to begin to create a policies and procedures document! Kira also was able to record 2 local old timers stories. The same day, Billings oldest registered group, the 644 Group, celebrated 40 years in their present location with a BBQ and special meeting. We were able to hear some perspectives from a few folks who were new members at the time the building was built, and participated in that effort!

On June 8th we hosted a Unity Day Celebration in Billings which consisted of; AA Delegate's Report from Sharon, Al-Anon Delegate's Report from Connie W, a BTG workshop by Dave O, a Corrections workshop by Rose H and her committee, a CPC presentation by Serena, a BBQ, and last but not least: Sunset Speaker Panel by AA Speaker Andrew W, and Al-Anon Donna E. We had lots of Fun and Fellowship in between, so thank you to all who participated and made this a great service event!

Our committees have all been busy, and active carrying the message through their service around the District. Our new BTG Coordinator has established a network of volunteers who have had close to 20 community contacts come out of the Watch Program, and is constantly working on establishing an active outgoing system with our local facilities. Our Corrections Committee continues to carry the message into the Yellowstone County Jail, the Montana Women's Prison, the Alpha House Men's Pre-Release, and Passages Women's Pre-Release. We will be having a long awaited volunteer orientation at the County Jail Oct 22nd at 7:00pm. Our Hotline Chair Jeff M just had a major surgery, is recovering well, and is currently doing a big annual update to the hotline contact list. Our CPC Chair Luis R answered a call out for help at a juvenile reform school which resulted in our District voting not to take on a commitment at this time to bring meetings in. Luis found a group who was eager and willing to carry the AA message into the New Day Ranch themselves. The district is somewhat split on this, so I guess we'll see what happens! We have a new Grapevine chair, Carla H, thank you for rising to the occasion!

We have most recently created an Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the feasibility of holding an annual PI/CPC presentation to local professionals. And of course, our Fall Roundup Committee has been meeting every other week as the weekend quickly approaches, tying up all the loose ends and going over every last detail to make this upcoming Roundup a great one to remember. We hope to see you all there!

Thank you all for supporting us in our efforts to stay sober, and help others to achieve sobriety!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D. DCM 11

DISTRICT 12 DANIEL M. DCM

Hi. My name is Daniel and I am an alcoholic. I represent District 12 which includes groups in Absorakee, Bridger, Big Timber, Columbus, Fromberg, Harlowtown, Joliet, Laurel, and Red Lodge. We meet every third Sunday of the month at 4pm @ Laurel Home Group, and welcome visitors. We have enjoyed an active summer in AA, and had a wonderful gathering at the Fireman's Point Campout in August. We heard from speakers "Horse thief" Charlie from Kingman, AZ, and Brett H. from Shepherd, MT, and counted 774 years of sobriety at our Saturday night speaker meeting. We heard our delegate give an inspiring report, and rode our motorcycles to Nye for our third annual SOB poker run and meeting by the river. We returned to camp for a feast of the best BBQ of the year with Dave R. from Columbus, and burned resentments at the campfire with Brian P. from Columbus. We wrapped up the weekend with Sunday morning breakfast thanks to our friends in district 11.

We look forward to seeing our fellowship again at the Midwinter Social in February at the Joliet Community Center. This is always an evening of great food, fellowship, and features a silent auction, and speakers. These events are always great opportunities for newcomers to experience AA out of the rooms, and offer a glimpse of the life that we enjoy in sobriety. They also give old timers a chance to see the fellowship grow around them, and to share experience, strength, and hope. Thanks for helping me stay sober.

DISTRICT 21 JOE G. DCM - NOT PRESENT - NO REPORT SUBMITTED

DISTRICT 23 MARY C-M DCM

Meeting Updates

Sidney & Glendive continue to be the most active with the most meetings.

In October Monday Noon Group change from Open Topic / Discussion to a Big Book Study

Wednesday Fairview Meeting has changed from a Big Book Study to an Open Topic / Discussion

Glendive 12 to Life has changed to meeting Tues – Wednesday- Thursday @ noon

Women's Open Discussion Meeting will start again in October

Lower Yellowstone Soberfest was held 3rd weekend in August; there were approximately 40 in attendance. Sharon S. came up & presented her delegates report. We appreciated her taking time to come up.

Sidney Welcome Home Group is hosting its costume optional Halloween Party October 26th a flier will be placed on the web shortly with location & time. If you are in the area please come fellowship.

Sidney Welcome Home Group is planning it's first Founders Day Campout at Richland County Park – a flier will be placed on web as we get details worked out.

New 12 Step Work:

As the result of a conversation I had during Fall Assembly 2011, with a women who came up & informed me that her grandson was in jail at Dawson County & could not get an outside AA Meeting – I brought the information back to the Glendive Group & asked that they look into the matter. During Spring Assembly 2012 the new GSR from Glendive came with us & we discussed the issue again. Pete K. made it his priority to get the wheels in motion. Pete & Scott W our Corrections Chair got the ball rolling – Pete had to return to California so Scott kept the wheels going. There was a volunteer training on Sept 4 – it was attended by Scott W & Robert from Glendive. Background check information was completed & they are waiting on results.

Continuing 12 Step Work:

Sidney continues to take meetings to the men & women every Wednesday at Richland County Jail. Women Meeting has been consecutive since October 2012 with only 6 meetings cancelled.

Men's meetings are sporadic.

As Bridging the Gap Coordinator I continue to take meetings to WatchEast the 3rd Friday of each month. The meetings are well attended. I receive about 2-4 request per meeting; that being said at least 2 of the cards are filled out incompletely. I am working to rectify this issue.

Mary C-M District 23 DCM

DISTRICT 31 KATHIE B DCM

Hello My name is Kathie DCM for District 31.

I started as Alternate DCM the beginning of this year and became DCM in May when Martin had to resign. We will miss him.

We had a good start, visited Broadus and Forsythe.

We had a fabulous potluck and delegates report June 5th.

And then I resigned as District 31 DCM .

With the encouragement of our past delegate Corrina and help from our Area Delegate Sharon I have recently re-assumed my commitment with a promise to fulfill this position to the best of my ability.

We are currently in the process of making contact and updating group information with al the groups in our district.

And that's really all I have to report.

Thank you

Kathie B District 31 DCM

Hard stop at 9 am

WORKSHOPS

(For those not attending committee meetings)

9:45 – 10:45 “*Sponsoring Your Professional.*”

Led by Past Delegate Carol B.

Professionals that helped us get to AA:

- Treatment counselor
- Wife/Friends
- Corrections professionals
- Mental Health professionals
- Adolescent Detention Facilities
- Job Corps
- Employee Assistance Program

What we’re currently doing to sponsor professionals:

- Volunteer to help with treatment programs (present panels for ACT classes).
- Let Dr. that we’re in AA.
- Meetings in in the jail – guards know us our drinking lives.
- Let Minister know that in AA.
- Invited Probation and Parole to AA BBQ with AA speakers.
- Place literature outside courtrooms
- Talk to judges, conselors, police

What more can we do?

- High school counselors could be worked with more.
- Two camps of treatment professionals – people who are well versed in the steps and those who aren’t. We could notice who are in which camp and help those who don’t have knowledge of AA
- Be respectful of the professionals
- Give phone numbers/contact information to Pastors and Ministers

10:45 -11:45 “*The Home Group*”

Led by Past Delegate Mark S.

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

The Fellowship New Vision Database

Fellowship New Vision Database

- FNV is GSO's contact database.
- FNV enables GSO to communicate with members of A.A. and service entities in the U.S., Canada, and around the world.
- The **Area Registrar** updates information for our area into the database.

Advantages of FNV Database

- Group Information sheets can be produced for an entire area.
- Information can be sorted by certain criteria, such as by district, status, city, or specific service numbers, and language.
- Spreadsheets and mailing labels can be produced from the information stored in FNV.

How GSO Uses FNV

- Compiles mailing lists & creates directories.
- Reports the number of active members and groups.
- Maintains addresses for the AA structure & its special entities.
- Updates area group & position records. (via the Area Registrar)
- Stores the history of actions taken in service positions.

This is a user-friendly process if
only everyone cooperates!!



What We Need from DCM's

- Collect information from GSR's and pass on to the **Area Registrar** (me).
 - Changes in positions such as GSR, Alt GSR, District chairs, DCM, Meeting information.
 - Rotations changes.
 - Contact information updates.
 - Formation of new groups or disbanding of old ones.

How to Update Information

- Log on to the Area 40 Website to download the forms. I also have some on the back table.

District Information Update Form

New Group Information Form

Group Information Change forms

<http://www.aa-montana.org/committee.php>

Contact Mary M,
Area 40 Registrar:

mary128@centurytel.net

HOME PAGE

FIRST PAGE WHEN I LOG INTO FNV

A.A. General Service Office

Home Group Search Individual & Position Search Location Search Downloads Add New

Service # Search # Show Options # Hide Options

Impersonate [icon] You are logged in as: [suppervmr](#) Logout

Work with Groups

NOTE: Your Area has 2 groups with a Status of Incomplete and 3 groups with a Status of Unknown. These groups will not receive mailings until they are marked Active. An Active group must have a Primary Contact for mailing and at least one Meeting Day and Time. To update any information, please select the correct status link below to view the group search results.

Groups that might need your attention:	Count
Status:	
New Groups:	0
Pending Active:	2
Pending Inactive:	1
Incomplete:	2
Unknown:	3

[Search for Groups](#)
[Add a Group](#)

Work with Individuals & Positions

[Search for Individuals & Positions](#)
[Add an Individual](#)

Announcements

Welcome to Fellowship New Vision.

Please watch this section of the FNV Home page for announcements of interest to all Area Record Keepers.

- *****ATTENTION ALL FNV USER'S- The New FNV User's manual is now available on the FNV database. To print the manual select the "Downloads" link from the FNV toolbar.**
- *****Updated Group Sheets Templates***** Both templates have been updated to correct formatting problems. Please note when previewing your output that the first page is blank- which was necessary to ensure that each group starts on a new page. You should delete this page before printing.
- *****ATTENTION All Users of FNV***** All Exports now create files that can be directly opened in Excel!!! No need to open Excel and use the Import/Data option. Simply save your export and double click on the file or click the OPEN button in the Save File dialog box.
- **Did you know that A.A. Members can now contribute ONLINE?** Look for "A.A. Member Contributions ONLINE" on the A.A. Website or visit <https://cob.aaes.org> and Pass It On!
- For assistance using FNV to manage your Area's records, contact the GSO Records Department at (212) 870-3406 or gsosupport@aa.org.
- For technical questions or to report a system problem, notify FNV Support at: gsosupport@aa.org.

RIGHT NOW IN AREA 40

- THERE ARE 289 ACTIVE GROUPS IN AREA 40
- TWO NEW GROUPS
- TWO GROUPS UNKNOWN DUE TO NO CONTACT INFORMATION

HOW TO SEARCH FOR A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL

A.A. General Service Office

Home Group Search Individual & Position Search Location Search Downloads Add New

Service # Search

Impersonate: You are logged in as: **supprvrmgr** [Logout](#)

Search For: Groups

Group Name:

Area:

District:

City:

State/Province:

Group Status:

Group Language:

Enter your criteria and click Search

COMPLETED
FNV
FORM

A.A. General Service Office

Home Group Search Individual & Position Search Location Search Downloads Add New

Service # Search

Impersonate: You are logged in as: **supprvrmgr** [Logout](#)

Group Information

Group Name:

District:

City:

State/Province:

Group Status:

Group Language:

Group Contacts

Primary Contact:

Service Position:

Address:

Group Meetings

Meeting #1:

Meeting #2:

Meeting #3:

Meeting #4:

Meeting #5:

Meeting #6:

Meeting #7:

Meeting #8:

Meeting #9:

Meeting #10:

THERE MUST BE A VALID STREET ADDRESS IN A CONTACT'S RECORD.

[illegible]

For Now.....

DCM Reports District 41, 42, 51, 61, 71, 72, 81, 91, 93 (1:25– 1:30)

DISTRICT 41 CHRIS W - DCM

Hello from District 41,

District 41 consists of central Montana mainly in Cascade County and extending to the east to include Lewistown, to the north Fort Benton, and to the south city of Cascade. Currently there are meetings 7 days a week in Great Falls, which is the majority of our district. We have women's meetings and men's meetings. There are plenty of Book study meetings and many open discussion meetings. If you are an early bird, meetings start as early as 6:30 am. For those who like later meetings there are daily meetings which start from 6 pm to 8:30ish pm which including two candle light meetings on Saturday evenings.

This summer we had a successful founder's day celebration with record attendance. We were pleased to host our Delegate Sharon S in August who shared the delegates report and her experiences as delegate, Thank you Sharon. We had a great turn out for the Unity campout in Monarch, MT.

Our district was able to send me to the West Central Regional AA Forum in Minneapolis Minnesota. That was one spiritual experience including a local speaker meeting which was the biggest I had ever been to and was close to 300 people if I were to guess.

District 41 is growing by leaps and bounds with new motivated people, eager to learn how all this service stuff works and most importantly carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering Alcoholic. Our district meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. so if in the neighborhood stop in.

Most importantly I would like to take a minute and thank all those who are examples of service for me and for all my district committee chairs and GSR's who were able to make the commitment to attend this assembly. Thank you and God Bless.

DISTRICT 42 BETH Z. – DCM (DUANE TEMP DCM GAVE REPORT)

Good morning everyone, My name is Duane C and I am an alcoholic,

Today I am temporary DCM for District 42. Our DCM broke a finger and maybe some hand bones a few days ago and had to have the bones reset, so she didn't come here this weekend.

I didn't have time to contact the other groups in the district but the last I heard all meetings had less people through the summer. Because of job situations some of our people went to North Dakota to work.

The prison in Shelby is doing good with its meetings. Attendance is up from last month. We are going to have 2 more orientations this year but I don't have dates yet. Anyone interested in being a volunteer leave me your name and telephone number.

I believe our Delegate, Sharon S, will be coming to District 42 in October and that will be a good time. Come join us the third Sunday of the month.

Shelby is going to have a Christmas party in December. Will have flyers out.

Choteau will be having it annual New Year's Eve party again. This year at the Stage Stop.

Valier held its Lake Francis Roundup the end of July but attendance was down from last year.

Thank you all, Duane C

DISTRICT 51 DAN F – DCM NO REPORT SUBMITTED

DISTRICT 61 KARLA B. - DCM

District 61 DCM Report for 2013 Fall Area Assembly

Welcome from District 61. My name is Karla and I am an alcoholic.

District 61 includes the communities of Boulder, Helena, Elliston, Townsend, Lincoln, White Sulphur Springs, and everywhere in between. We have over 40 groups and over 100 meetings per week.

District 61 serves 3 correctional facilities plus MSP and 3 treatment centers plus MCDC in District 71.

Currently, all District chairs are filled with the exception of our Treatment Chair, but we anticipate having that filled soon.

District 61 hosted the Grapefest in June, where Sam B and Sharon S attended. Sharon was on Skype due to an injury. Thanks to all who stepped up to make this possible. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the different flavor of Sharon and Gerry R tag teaming the Delegate's report.

Our summer events also included the Last Chance Group's campout outside of York, the Wilson House Golf Tournament, the Wilson House Luau, as well as softball games each weekend. We also hosted a Treatment/Corrections workshop which was attended by a judge, probation officer, the prison warden, the Area Corrections Chair and many others. The Helena Alano Club celebrated their 33rd year this summer with a picnic.

Our upcoming events include the 15th Annual Common Grounds, hosted by the Last Chance Recovery Group on October 19th, Attitude of Gratitude on November 23rd at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, and Pockets of Enthusiasm in the spring. Look for flyers for these events on the Area website, www.aamontana.org.

If you are in the Helena area, please join us for a meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Yours in Service,

Karla B District 61 DCM

DISTRICT 71 BETTY P - DCM

Hi my name is Betty and I am an alcoholic and DCM for District 71. We have 32 groups and 80 meetings each week in our district which includes Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Alder, Lima, Melrose, Opportunity, Philipsburg, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, and Whitehall. Our district meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month in Butte with an average attendance of 10 – 15 people. We keep a schedule of AA meetings held within institutions that are in our district on our mini-website. Other districts participate in the institution meetings.

We had our Delegate's Day picnic in Anaconda on Aug 3rd. Our Roundup committee is busy preparing for the spring 2014 roundup at the Fairmont Hot Springs on May 2nd – 4th. Flyers are available on the back table.

Thanks to Paul in District 91 for sharing their process and information from their district inventory. We used the same inventory questions and had a very enthusiastic, useful, and productive session. We are now looking at how we can implement some of the ideas that came up from the inventory.

Yours in service, Betty P., DCM District 71

DISTRICT 72 RAY M – DCM NO REPORT SUBMITTED

DISTRICT 81 SHERRY C. - DCM

District 81's home is in Missoula but covers the area north to Polson and west to Thompson Falls. The majority of groups in our District are growing with a few groups perishing such as the Alberton Group and possibly the Saturday Night Live Group in Missoula. The Polson Camporee was fabulously successful with the number of folks attending increasing this year again.

I'm delighted with our crew of District Chairs. We have created a new District Chair for Bridging the Gap. That chair is held by our former Treatment Chair, Margaret B. Corrections has run the maze of jail requirements and is now taking in 2 meetings a night on both Mondays and Thursdays to both the women and the men. We continue to recruit new people to serve at the district by voting them into the Grapevine Chair position but our current Grapevine Chair, Courtney B., is unaware she is caught in the web of District service yet.

The District meeting held in Thompson Falls was well attended and the 7th Tradition was double what it normally is for a Missoula District meeting. I think we should take the District meeting on the road more often if we're going to get those kinds of bucks.

We are bidding a sad farewell to our Alternate DCM, Grant M., who is relocating to Great Falls. We will miss his service. The District is looking for a Roundup Chair for the Spring 2016 Roundup to be held in Missoula. I hope to fill these positions at our November District meeting.

Our upcoming events include a Halloween party, costumes optional, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

YIS,

Sherry C

DISTRICT 91 PAUL. - DCM

I am an alcoholic and my name is Paul.

I would like to express my gratitude to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous for their program of recovery that has given me a new life and hope. I would also like to thank District 91 for allowing me to serve as their DCM.

Like the other Districts in Montana we cover a large territory; from the Canadian border to halfway down Flathead Lake and from Glacier Park heading west halfway to Libby.

We have 18 active groups of which 11 have GSR's and are active in the District. There are 115 meetings a week in District 91. I have the good fortune of being able to attend meetings at nearly every group in the District as well as attending some of their monthly Group Conscience meetings. District 91 holds their monthly business meeting on the last Sunday of the month from 3 to 4:30. The location of the meeting changes monthly and is hosted by the different groups. We average 25 people at our District meetings, with good participation by the GSR's. District 91 supports meetings to the Wilderness Treatment Center and Pathways Treatment facility. We have revitalized the meetings in our county jail, purchased a box of Big Books and subscribed to 4 Grapevines that are taken to the jail monthly. We are still trying to fill the CPC Chair although I have been trolling hard. I think it is now time to hook up the down rigger and go deeper.

Following our May District meeting we had a potluck and did a District Inventory. We had come up with 12 questions to address based on other inventories and AA literature. We broke in to 4 groups and answered those questions. Afterwards we came together and reviewed them and commented on them. The results of the inventory were shared at the next District meeting and we are in the process of addressing some of the ideas brought out of the inventory.

In June we had a rather unique Delegates Day. Terry and Gerry came over to Kalispell. Steve the GSR from the Flathead Valley Serenity Group brought in his laptop, big screen TV and computer savvy and connected with Sharon via Skype. We had the good fortune to be able to interact with Sharon on Skype and had a very informative experience hearing about what went on at the General Service Conference.

We have developed a written set of guidelines for our District based on the AA Service manual, the policies and procedures of Area 40 and a service outline developed by past Delegate Robbie S. In the past this information was passed on in an oral tradition. With the diversification of the District Committee and the increased presence of new GSR's we felt that some written explanation of how we do our business in District 91 would be helpful. After much review and many drafts these guidelines were passed by a substantial majority of the Groups in July.

Over the summer many of the groups hosted campouts and picnics, all of which were well attended. The social aspect of AA is alive and well. Next month the Fall Refresher will be held at the Creston Grange Hall, Mark S. will be one of the speakers and in February the District will be hosting Into Action. Hope to see you there.

This fall I was able to attend the West Central Regional Forum in Bloomington, Minnesota. A Forum is different than a conference in that this is where some of the staff from the General Service Office come to explain some of what they do and to answer questions anyone may have. It was a great event and very informational. I would encourage anyone that has the opportunity to attend a Forum.

For additional information about our local events check www.aa-kalispell.org.

Yours in service, Paul L. DCM District 91

DISTRICT 93 KEVIN C. – DCM (MIKE M ALT DCM GAVE REPORT)

My name is Mike M. and I am an alcoholic. I serve as alternate DCM for district 93, located in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana. District 93 extends from Lolo to Conner and consists of 16 groups that host roughly 29 meetings each week. Most of our committee positions are filled at the district level, although CPC and PI positions seem to be perpetually vacant. Highlights of District 93 activities since the Area 40 Spring 2013 Assembly include our annual Bitterroot Picnic and Campout at Lake Como in June and Norm's Picnic on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River in July. The Florence group also hosted a BBQ in August. Finally, the Darby group sponsors a "Howling at the Moon" potluck each month on an evening coinciding with the full moon, for those who like to "get their werewolf on". On the whole, our meetings are well-attended and the need for AA is growing in Western Montana (as elsewhere). We are here to serve our brothers and sisters. Finally, District 93 wishes to thank Earl F. for filling in to represent Sharon at our campout.

In grateful service,

Mike M.

FLOOR ASSEMBLY/COMMITTEE REPORTS, MOTIONS, AND DISCUSSION

ARCHIVES/AREA 40 STRUCTURE & POLICY – KIRA A 1:50

Archives Chair Report

Thank-you for allowing me to serve as your Area 40 archives chair. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out what my niche in this position could be. What could I do to be of service? What could I do that might be useful in the future. A few months ago the idea finally came to me—old timer interviews.

Now, old-timer interviews are relatively common, and as most old-timers have already done taped speaker meetings, I decided to go a different route.

I am interested in what AA was like in the past.

- How were meetings conducted?
- How were the old-timers, and newcomers, treated?
- How about young people, and what was considered young?
- If there was sponsorship, what was it like?

My focus is comparing and contrasting how each AA community functioned. By AA community I mean Helena, Bozeman, Great Falls, etc.

I have a very specific list of questions that are not deviated from during the interview. After getting a signed copyright release, I tape each interview and then transcribe them into a Word document. Once I've completed a certain number of interviews in a community I'll group all the responses together for each specific question for my final report. This grouping makes everyone's responses easy to compare and contrast and see as a whole. This report will be the accumulation of my work as your Area archives chair and will be submitted at the fall assembly in 2014.

This project will hopefully provide a tangible resource that people can flip through and inspect at their leisure. Audio files are indispensable but I believe the written format will make it easier to use by all.

One thing that is clear from the interviews is the differences in memory and perspective between individuals. I have received polar opposite responses, even from people who sobered up in the same group.

The transcribing portion of this process is incredibly time-consuming and is my limiting factor. My computer doesn't have the necessary specs (nor does my recorder, I think) to download the various programs available on the internet. I also opted against using a service to transcribe for me for reasons of anonymity and financial resources. So, it's a lot of coffee, a stiff back and some very cramped hands for me.

When everything is said and done, I feel this project could have wonderful results and might be useful for future AAs, especially those who don't have the time and/or resources to listen to hours of speaker tapes. My final report should put large amounts of information into one concise, easy to read document.

Thanks for letting me be of service,

Kira A

Archives Committee Report—Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair

- See report

B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist

See report below

ARCHIVIST REPORT -

Hello everyone, my name is Earl F and I am an alcoholic, currently serving as the Area 40 Archivist. A lot has happened since we last talked this spring. I took a display to the Area 40 Spring Round-Up in Bozeman on the weekend of April 12, 13 and 14.

Upon returning home after the Spring Round-Up, I contacted our new landlord, Bedrock LLC, and entered into a commercial lease with them for Unit # 26 in Valley Trades Center, 107 Mountain View, Ennis MT 59729, as the new repository of our Archives collection... After a little framing and sheetrock some painting and cleaning, the facility was finally ready. There was a total expense of \$614.76 in the renovation and the utilities have been from \$12 to \$15 per month depending on how much time I have spent there. We scheduled a move to be held on June 15th and began announcing it at local meetings.

By this time it was the end of May and I had some events scheduled that I was asked to participate in. Over Memorial Day weekend I attended an Archives workshop hosted by District 11 in Billings. Kira, Area Archives Chair, conducted an Archival Interview with two old-timers from District 11 and Joe H, District 41 Archives Chair, gave a presentation on the District collection and his storage techniques. I gave a presentation on group histories and encouraged participant to document the histories of their home groups. On June 8, I attended the Founders Day Event in District 41 at Ryan Dam outside Gt. Falls. I took a small display and gave a short presentation on the history of AA and the early days of AA in Montana. There was a great potluck and I was able to visit with a lot of members and make many new friends. On the way back home, I stopped and loaded as many boxes as my truck could hold from the Repository in Helena and hauled them to Ennis. The following weekend 6-15-13 I had some help and a U-Haul trailer and after completely packing up the old repository and loading it into three vehicles and the trailer, the Archives were headed to their new home. I want to thank the dozen or so AA members from the Helena Groups who showed up to help with the move, and a special thanks to Gary Eubank and Gerry Robinson for the use of their vehicles and for making the drive to Ennis and helping to unload the collection. It was a fun but exhausting day and everything made the trip except a little shelving unit that we donated to the Second-hand store next door in Helena. I am sure this was a melancholy day for Gerry as I know he had put a lot of time and effort into the Archives and it was hard to see them move. The total cost of the move was \$105.48. On the weekend of June 22 and 23, I attended the District

93 Campout at Lake Como outside of Darby. It was a relaxing weekend and I seen a lot of old friends and made many new ones. There was great food at the pot-lucks and wonderful fellowship at the meetings and campfires.

The summer and fall has been very busy at work and at home so I haven't worked a lot on the Archives collection and don't have it all unpacked yet. I have been receiving the minutes and flyers from several of the Districts, but not all of them. Please include me on your email lists and make sure that I receive a copy of these documents. I have a box for each District in the Area for documents, correspondence, and information. Please make sure that I get copies of these items.

I have been invited to attend the Fall Round-Up in Billings the second weekend of October and participate with a display and a short presentation on the history of Round-Ups in Montana. That should be fun.

I want to encourage you to stop by this display during breaks and after sessions. I have a power point slide show on the history of AA, information on some of the early groups in AA and also a guide to use for writing a history of your home group. I would encourage you to find the oldest members of your group, schedule visits and try to learn as much history of your group as possible, write it down and make copies for your District Archives Chair or send a copy to me. I would like to put together a collection of the Group Histories for as many groups in Area 40 as I can, please help me do this.

I have had a few requests for information about items that are part of our collection and I have dealt with them according to Area 40's Archival Sharing policies.

As I am learning my new position, I have been slow at getting my responsibilities done. I have revised the Policy and Procedures Manual and sent the changes to our Area Advisor for review and will get a copy to the Webmaster for publication on the Area 40 Website. I don't think there are any changes to the Past Actions Documents from the Spring Assembly.

If I can serve you or your group in any way, please don't hesitate to ask. My schedule is very open.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Earl F

Area 40 Archivist

C. Discuss Archives work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

- Discussion was brief because the committee spent most of their time on the Area 40 Structure & Policy items. One individual expressed concern that she didn't know what she was supposed to do as an archives chair at the district level. It was explained to her that the issue was at a district level and not something that we would not be able to spend much time on because every district is different.

Area 40 Structure & Policy

A. Consider the request that Pink Can funds be used to supply Grapevine Inc. literature, in addition to AAWS literature, to alcoholics that are detained in a facility in Area 40 as a result of law enforcement action.

In favor:

- The Grapevine is AA's meeting in print and might be useful in giving inmates ideas on how to run meetings

- The Policies & Procedures manual already states that the Pink Can fund is to be used to supply AA literature—the Grapevine is AA literature. There are no “technical restrictions” at this time saying that the Grapevine is excluded as AA literature.
- Some facilities won’t allow AAs to bring personal copies of the Grapevine in to the inmates, rather they require that it be a subscription sent directly to the detention center.

Opposed:

- The Pink Can isn’t even AA so each district should make their own decisions on how it should be used, not the Area.
- The consideration’s language should be softened, it gives the feeling that the Area is telling the corrections chair what he should be doing.
- Buying subscriptions for facilities would become very expensive, very fast, especially considering that the Pink Can fund is approximately \$200.00 at this time.

Motion: *The Archives Committee recommends that Pink Can funds be used to supply Grapevine Inc. literature, in addition to AAWS literature, to alcoholics that are detained in a facility in Area 40 as a result of a law enforcement action.*

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 opposed. Substantial Unanimity requires 3 1/3 people so the motion died in committee.

It was pointed out that other books are available, not just magazine.

B. Consider the request to modify Area 40’s Policies & Procedures to reflect that the Bridging the Gap program is appropriate for use in all treatment and corrections facilities in Area 40.

- This item would require rewording and/or additions to both the Corrections and Treatment job descriptions in the P&P.
- The Bridging the Gap sign-up sheet already has both options to choose from.
- There are other programs available for corrections such as “Corrections Connections” that could be utilized—though this program is not in Area 40 at this time.
- The wording should express cooperation between both committees so as to not place more work upon either committee.

Motion: *The Archives Committee recommends that: The Treatment Facilities Committee, in coordination with the Correctional Facilities Committee, will maintain contact lists, directories and other tools important in helping individuals to “bridge the gap” from treatment and/or correctional facilities to the larger AA community.*

Motion committee passed 5:0

Assembly 85 for 10 opposed Motion passes

Discussion from the floor:

Has Area considered a chair position for Bridging the Gap?

Might be a great Area Agenda item.

Will this change the structure?

Same work? Not just about maintaining list.

Karla B explained the motion and how the Area website works for the list.

Gerry asked Kira to set aside and go over again with her committee. We voted anyway. Passed

C. Consider the request that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore possible solutions to the problem of some Area committees not having all of their appointed members present at the Area Assembly and available to participate in the decision making process of the committee.

- The Area has gone through this issue on several levels and is now focusing on the committee meetings—this is a good item to look at.
- The decision will be whether or not the archives committee or an ad hoc committee will address the issue. An ad hoc committee is like one committee checking on another committee [Archives]
- This proposal falls under Archives Committee duties, so it will stay within Archives.

Resulting decision: *The Archives Committee will explore possible solutions to the problem of some Area Committees not having all of their appointed members present at the Area Assembly and available to participate in the decision-making process of the committee. The Archives Committee will then report back to the spring 2014 Assembly.*

D. Consider the request to form an ad-hoc committee to investigate the specific changes that would need to be addressed at Area Assembly in order to accommodate members with special needs.

- An ad-hoc committee doesn't have to look at this, we could have questionnaires asking what we have done right or wrong.
- The hotel is ADA compliant—it's our responsibility to do the rest.
- The person with the disability is also personally responsible—if accommodations need to be made we can do so if informed in advance.
- The ultimatum wording is undesirable as it essentially says if they won't accommodate us then we'll leave.

Motion: *The archives committee recommends that the treatment committee develop a survey related to special needs accommodations and report back to the spring Assembly in 2014.*

Assembly 75 For 14 Opposed Motion passes.

Discussion from the floor:

- Restrooms at Yogo not accessible by wheelchair. Paul L addressed motion and why he submitted agenda item was to develop a survey and bring the survey back to Area Spring Assembly.
- This involves another committee. Since when do we tell other committee from a committee what they will do.
- Brandon M is on board at Treatment Chair, which addresses special needs, and respects that Archives sent the motion out and directed it to special needs.
- GSO has information on issues with special needs.
- Minority opinion heard. Reword, take out word 'survey'

Vote to reconsider to vote - Majority 48 to 34

Redussion:

- Don't want to get rid of motion. People want to move on this.
- Lets get back to motion
- Can we do a floor action? YES
- Did we bring issues to Yogo? Gerry has spoke about a couple things with the Yogo.
- Maybe we should change schedule when not so many things going on at Yogo. Sitting on beds for committee break outs etc. We have outgrown the facilities.

Call for the question / made and seconded

Re-vote on Motion as it stands: 51 For 35 Opposed. Did not receive substantial unanimity. Motion D dies.

Motion amended on the floor: *The archives committee recommends that the treatment committee develop a mechanism to ascertain special needs accommodations and report back to the spring Assembly in 2014.*

Motion committee passed 5:0

Assembly 88 For 2 Opposed Motion passes

1. Floor Action made by Sherry C, District 81 DCM

Motion that Area form an ad hoc committee of 3-5 individuals to investigate other venues from the Area Assembly that are centrally located and special needs accessible and bring back recommendations to the Spring 2014 Area Assembly

Made & Seconded Saturday 4:00 pm

Archives—GSC

A. Review the results of all Archives committee items considered reviewed and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

- The 75th Anniversary Commemorative Big Book will be published and available in April 2014 in English *only*.
- The video *Markings on the Journey* will be revised at a lower price—originally estimated at \$7,100.00 but approved at \$5000.00.
- Archival audio clips will be selected by the discretion of the trustees' Committee on Archives and G.S.O.'s Archivist for placement on the AA website, AA.org.

2013 Fall CPC/Trustees Report

I'm Serena R, alcoholic. Welcome to the Fall Assembly! I am honored to be your Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Chair/Trustees as a secondary assignment. Due to my active participation in AA, my life has been extremely full.

The Area 40 CPC Committee is made up of 5 members: Myself as Chair, DCM's from Districts 91 (Paul L) and 31 (Kathie B) and a District Representative from District 42 (Bud) and we had no one from District 11 represented on the Committee. These people are the voting members in the Area Committee Structure.

It has been a busy summer!

I went up to District 91 (Kalispell) at the beginning of May with the District 72 CPC Chair (from Bozeman) for a PI/CPC Workshop. There were about 20 alcoholics present and lots of food. Luke did a fantastic job reviewing PI work and we had healthy discussions amongst everyone in attendance.

At the beginning of June, in District 11 (Billings) I attended their Unity Day and gave a CPC overview workshop to about 10 alcoholics. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to hang around for fellowshiping but there were some good discussions and questions.

Just earlier this month, September 12th, I attended a CPC presentation at Alcohol and Drug Services in District 72. The District CPC Chair (Hannah W.) introduced CPC to the group of professionals and alcoholics; some working at ADS and some at other positions that come in contact with alcoholics. There were about 35 people in attendance and about 2/3 were professionals!

I would like to continue to visit as many Districts as possible over my rotation and spread the word about CPC work.

There are several upcoming CPC events in District 72. On September 20th, there is an AA panel for the MSU nursing students. AA will cooperate with Alanon talking about what the program is and isn't, then sharing experience. There is another workshop on October 19th for AA Members about what CPC work is and "how to sponsor your Professional". This will be a panel with Q&A format. All are welcome and I have flyers available.

CPC Chairs - Please keep me informed of any CPC events in your Districts and I will do my best to get the word out or attend.

I will continue to work with my committee and the CPC District Chairs, especially in our CPC Committee meeting at Area Assembly, to further outline our plan to get more professionals information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Remember that there are Power Points available to use at workshops or luncheons. The first is geared toward professionals and the second is one that Libby made to use for AA's doing CPC work. Let me know if you'd like copies. They are titled:

Let's Be Friendly with our Friends (GSO)

What is this PCP Committee Anyway? CPC Workbook Workshop (Area 40)

As I continue in my rotation as CPC Chair, I hope to spread the message that non-alcoholic professionals have been an integral part of our history and that it is my responsibility to let them know what we can offer. Thanks for helping AA and I to do that.

In loving service,

Serena R

Area 40 CPC Chair

CPC/TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

AREA CPC CHAIR: SERENA R.

ROLL CALL:

Name	District	Service Position
Serena R.*	72	Area 40 CPC Chair
Randy B.		GSR
Eric G.	61	CPC Chair
Terry S.	61	Area Advisor
Lee T.	41	Alt. DCM
Rick M.	11	Alt. GSR
Dave R.	12	CPC Chair
Luis R.	11	CPC Chair
Kristen C.	81	GSR
Angie F.	81	GSR
Paul L.*	91	DCM
Bud W.*	42	CPC Chair/GSR
Kathie B.*	31	DCM

CPC MEETING MINUTES

Serena gave her report describing activity in Area 40.

CPC Area 40 Committee Notes:

Area 40 Business

A. We had 13 in attendance at the CPC/Trustees Committee Meeting. I reviewed my report and we had lively discussions about CPC work in Area 40. I have many action items and things (Emails) to follow up on.

B. Some things that we thought could be improved in Area 40 include:

- Getting Power Point presentations out to more people in general and to all of the CPC District Chairs
- Improve upon communication up/down and side/side about getting information out to the fellowship about CPC work in the various Districts – more sharing of information across the Area.
- My own technical challenges could be improved upon ☺

Some things that we are doing well in Area 40 include:

- Workshops (plug Sponsoring your Professional Workshop in Bozeman October 19th)
- Generating more interest in CPC work
- Learning more about the concept of Sponsoring your Professional

GSC Results CPC

A. We reviewed the General Service Conference Results for CPC.

We reviewed and discussed the Advisory Actions for CPC and one thing that was discussed was any financial implications of our decisions. For example: new or revised pamphlets. We reviewed the Additional Considerations for CPC and this inspired more good discussions back to what we are and could be doing in our Area. I encouraged people to take some of the Power Point presentations and Sponsor your Professional packets I had printed. Everything was taken and I have a list of emails to send stuff to people.

GSC Results Trustees

A. We reviewed and discussed the Advisory Actions for Trustees – most of which described who is doing what. In our Area we have both Andrew W. as a Class B Trustee and on the AA Grapevine Board and Carol B. on the AA World Services Corporate Board.

We reviewed the Additional Considerations where Terry S. was very helpful in describing the proposed plan regarding the Interlocking Directorate and 14 Initiatives. We reviewed and discussed the Floor Actions and Actions that didn't result in Conference Advisory Actions.

I would like to thank the Committee for such an amazing Committee Meeting! And I would like to thank Kathie from District 31 for taking notes.

Area Corrections Chair Report – September 21, 2013

Things have been busy in the corrections shop. Montana State Prison continues to hold weekly meetings on both the Low Security Side and at the Work Dorm. Meetings are not currently available on the High Security Side. MSP held a volunteer orientation on May 25th. We added three new AA volunteers. There is another orientation scheduled for today, September 21st but only one AA is scheduled to attend. We hope to get more AAs scheduled to attend the next orientation on January 18th. We currently have 42 AA volunteers. We have begun to establish the Bridging the Gap program at MSP (6, 3 out of state) and we are announcing to inmates that they can get an outside sponsors if they ask. Currently we have connected 6 inmates to outside sponsors. Current MSP volunteers cannot correspond with inmates which makes that process a little more difficult.

I attended the Corrections/ Treatment workshop sponsored by District 61 on June 8th. I had the opportunity to finally meet and speak directly with Warden Kierkegard and Terrie Stefalo the Religious Activities Coordinator. I found both the Warden and Terrie very open and engaged in our work and committed to supporting our efforts in whatever ways they can, given their circumstances and their priority of security first. We discussed the potential for re-establishing the mini-conferences we used to run twice a year. Terrie was excited about that possibility and I am slowly working with her on that. We also discussed the possibility of conducting a Big Book weekend like they had at the Women's Prison last fall. She was open to the idea since some of the religious groups are able to conduct weekend retreats. Staffing is a problem but as they re-fill staffing slots, it might be easier to pull off. From our conversation, they have changed the requirements for inmates attending AA meetings to be the same as for those attending religious activities.

The Women's Prison continues to have meetings. After the Big Book weekend they conducted last fall, the facility has begun to have speaker meetings. Another Big Book weekend is scheduled for this fall.

Meetings have begun at the Riverside Facility for adolescent females thanks to efforts from the women in Districts 61, 71 and 72. Scott W. District Corrections Chari in District 23 has been working with the Dawson County Regional Prison to get meetings started there. From my understanding, weekly (at least) meetings are being held at most other facilities (MASC-Missoula, Crossroads Correctional-Shelby, START-Anaconda, WATCH West-Warm Springs, WATCH East-Glendive, Cascade County Regional Prison-Great Falls, Elkhorn-Boulder. There are currently no meetings at the Pine Hills School for Boys in Miles City.

I sent out a Facility Fact Sheet to all the District Corrections chairs trying to gather up to date information on correctional meetings across the state. I hope to have some of those returned soon so I can begin to update our statewide information.

I was able to attend the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest in beautiful Makoshika State Park and was able to visit with district officers Mary and Scott about corrections work in District 23 and about how the Pink Can works, particularly for smaller districts with multiple statewide facilities along with local jails.

I was able to attend the West Central Regional Forum in Minnesota at the beginning of the month. The person staffing the corrections desk at GSO was not there but I got to meet Area Corrections chairs from 4 other areas in the region and hear what topics relevant to corrections work are currently being discussed within the fellowship.

Karla B. from the Area Corrections Committee brought up the question of how Corrections is included in the Area BTG program. I spoke with Brandon M., Area Treatment Chair to make sure the BTG program is working as it should and that both treatment and correctional facilities are included. It seems like it is working in practice. So Karla B has submitted an agenda item that is on the Structure and Policy agenda at this assembly to clarify that reality in the Area Policies & Procedures manual.

I finalized the District Corrections Chair map. A couple of districts don't have a corrections chair so the DCM serves in that capacity. I have not heard from one district.

With the Pink Can we started the year with \$2,695.86. We have received \$733.70 in contribution year to date. We have spent \$3,270.15 to buy literature for correctional facilities in the Area leaving the Area Pink Can Fund with a balance of \$159.41. That is not enough to buy a case of soft cover Big Books.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Lee G Area Corrections Chair

Area Corrections Committee Minutes – September 21, 2013

Committee members – Karla B, District 61 DCM; Betty P., District 71 DCM; Kevin, C., District 72 District Representative; Scott W., District 23 District Representative

Others in attendance: Ray O., Lisa O., Gary E., Casey A., Jeff M., Dale K. Pam S., Nikki, T., Justin H., Geoff D., Brian W.

Corrections

Corrections Report: Lee gave his Area Corrections report (see report).

Discuss Corrections Work in Area 40. Review what is working and what might be improved

Orientation processes at county facilities: The group discussed the new orientation process at the Yellowstone County Detention Center (YCDC) with an ID card and how it compares to other districts and facilities. Most county facilities have similar processes. Some of stricter and more organized than others. Most have an application process. Some have an orientation. Some have restrictions in terms of background checks and length of sobriety. Some districts have had trouble getting into juvenile facilities. There used to be an ID card system at Montana State Prison but that has changed in recent years.

How to get AAs involved in corrections work: People had many suggestions on this topic. We need to state clearly defined processes for orientations and commitment. Sponsorship is the biggest way to get folks involved; if you are sponsored into service, you usually continue what was modeled for you. We should provide regular updates on how corrections work is going, what the needs are, deadlines, trainings, etc. Not one standing announcement that ends up sounding like oral wallpaper, but change it up so folks stay interested. These should happen at the group, district and area levels. We should encourage testimonial articles in the Triangle from inmates who first heard the message while incarcerated and from AAs who can share how important corrections work has been in their recoveries. The number one reason people contribute to charities and volunteer is that they are asked so we should make more specific targeted requests of people to get involved rather than a blanket announcement that everyone can ignore. Someone suggested scheduling standard workshops at every Roundup that included Corrections, Treatment, PI and CPC volunteers so they can share their experience and potential volunteers can ask questions and learn about the opportunities available in the various areas.

Issues with running meetings: What do you do with attendees who are disinterested, disruptive or distracting? Many folks set a strong tone to begin with. They don't hesitate to kick someone out of the meeting if they are disruptive because this is life and death stuff to us. If they are quiet but disengaged, maybe they will eventually hear something. It helps to have a written format and a regular structure so folks know what to expect and the inmates can help police the meeting themselves because they know what is expected. Don't hesitate to set a limit on behavior and call people out if they disrupt the meeting.

Area Agenda Item – Using the Pink Can funds to buy Grapevine Literature: Most people were not against it if there were adequate funds in the Pink Can. If the funds are limited the group was in favor of prioritizing AA's basic texts rather than Grapevine literature. But those books and magazines are good to have available for inmates to read and learn from, particularly if they don't have enough meetings coming into the facility. There are plenty of Grapevines floating around the fellowship that we should be providing those anyway instead of buying subscriptions of the Grapevine for facilities.

Area Agenda Item – Including Corrections in the Policies and Procedures regarding the Bridging the Gap program: Lee explained the motivation for this motion and that he had talked to Brandon, Area Treatment Chair about this issue. They are in agreement that it should pass. Everyone seemed to be in favor of it since it was more formalizing the practice that already exists.

Review the results of all Corrections committee items considered, reviewed and discussed at the 2013 GSC: Lee read through the background materials

Advisory actions:

The revised pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals" was approved.

Additional considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections continue their thorough review of all Corrections materials.
- The committee discussed how to engage A.A. members in corrections service and shared about the opportunities to highlight the current available corrections literature through local area and district Web sites.
- In discussing difficulties in engaging A.A. members in corrections service, the committee recognized that some A.A. members who have not been incarcerated may feel they have nothing to offer in corrections service. The committee requested the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department and the trustees' Committee on Corrections to incorporate text in the Corrections Workbook section "Ideas to Stimulate Corrections Twelfth Step Work Within A.A." to reassure all A.A. members that they can participate in corrections service by sharing A.A.'s basic message about getting and staying sober.
- The committee discussed available resources in support of local corrections' Twelfth Step work and suggested:
 - that the committee secretary gather sharing on ways that areas fund A.A. literature for incarcerated alcoholics for an article in *Box 4-5-9* and other service materials;
 - that corrections committees be encouraged to use La Viña as a valuable resource for Spanish-speaking A.A. meetings and members inside correctional facilities.
- The committee reviewed a sample Letter of Introduction to Correctional Facilities, a sample Correctional Facility Fact Sheet, and a sample A.A. Program Plan for Correctional Facilities, and requested that all three samples—with suggested changes—be added to the Corrections Workbook at the next printing.

- The committee suggested that in cases when the Area Corrections Committee is inactive, communications from the G.S.O. Corrections assignment requesting prerelease contacts or outside support for correctional facility A.A. meetings be forwarded to the delegate.
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook, and suggested that the service piece “Suggestions for Using the A.A. Grapevine Magazine (or La Viña) as a Tool in Corrections Service” be updated and considered for inclusion in the Workbook.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Review the results of all International Conventions/Regional Forums committee items considered, reviewed and discussed at the 2013 GSC:

The three cities below should be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2025:

Montreal, Quebec; St. Louis, Missouri; Vancouver, British Columbia

Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers will be invited to attend the 2015 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

Additional considerations:

The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:

- Using locally created “save the date” flyers to encourage attendance and participation.
- Emphasizing that you do not have to be involved in General Service to attend a Regional Forum.
- Making Regional Forums more prominent on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.
- Continuing to include information about Regional Forums in *Box 4-5-9* on a regular basis.
- Encouraging local host committees to include food, treats and A.A. meetings as part of the hospitality.
- Providing additional service opportunities for local A.A. members at each Forum.

Pink Can Report								
Pink Can Contributions								
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount		
12/13/2012		2/8/2013		District 91		\$2,000		
12/27/2012		2/8/2013		Transfer from Pink Can balance		\$625.32		
1/4/2013		2/8/2013		Anaconda Traditions Group		\$31.10		
1/4/2013		2/8/2013		Missoula Women's Group		\$39.44		
						\$2,695.86	Starting Balance	
Pink Can Expenditures								
Date Ordered		Order		Facility		Amount		
3/14/2013		1 case - Big Books, 12x12, D		Montana State Prison		\$429.40		
3/14/2013		1 case - Big Books, 12x12		WATCH East		\$274.40		
3/14/2013		2 cases - Big Books		District 11		\$285.60		
3/14/2013		2 cases - Big Books		District 71		\$285.60		
						\$1,275.00	Total of Books Ordered	
						\$1,420.86	Current Balance	
Pink Can Contributions								
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount		
2/19/2013		4/1/2013		Traditions Group - Anaconda		\$50.00		
3/1/2013		4/1/2013		Tuesdays @ 8 - Bozeman		\$85.66		
						\$135.66	Additional Contributions	
						\$1,556.52	Current Balance	
Pink Can Contributions								
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount		
4/4/2013		4/22/2013		Wednesday Noon Group		\$62.00		
3/30/2013		4/22/2013		Traditions Group - Anaconda		\$50.00		
						\$112.00	Additional Contributions	
						\$1,668.52	Current Balance	
Pink Can Contributions								
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount		
4/22/2013		5/3/2013		District 93		\$50.00		
4/22/2013		5/8/2013		Welcome Home Group		\$25.00	Additional Contributions	
						\$1,743.52	Current Balance	
Pink Can Expenditures								
Date Ordered		Order		Facility		Amount		
5/7/2013		1 case - 12x12, Daily Reflec		District 71		\$332.46		
5/7/2013		1 case - Big Books, 12x12, 2		District 72		\$367.49		
						\$699.95	Total of Books Ordered	
						\$1,043.57	Current Balance	
Pink Can Expenditures								
Date Ordered		Order		Facility		Amount		
5/13/2013		2 cases - Big Books		District 11		\$331.30		
						\$712.27	Current Balance	
Pink Can Contributions								
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount		
5/28/2013		6/11/2013		Traditions Group - Anaconda		\$ 50.00	Additional Contributions	
						\$762.27	Current Balance	

Pink Can Report Continued

Pink Can Contributions							
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount	
6/20/2013		7/2/2013		Traditions Group - Billings		\$ 50.81	Additional Contributions
						\$813.08	Current Balance
Pink Can Contributions							
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount	
6/28/2013		7/10/2013		Hamilton Women's Discusion		\$33.47	
6/30/2013		7/10/2013		Wednesday Noon Group		\$75.00	
						\$108.47	Additional Contributions
						\$921.55	Current Balance
Pink Can Expenditures							
Date Ordered		Order		Facility		Amount	
7/17/2013		1 case - Big Books, 12x12		Montana State Prison		\$318.30	
7/17/2013		1 case - Big Books, 12x12		WATCh East		\$318.30	
						\$636.60	Total of Books Ordered
						\$284.95	Current Balance
Pink Can Contributions							
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount	
7/17/2013		7/25/2013		Traditions Group - Anaconda		\$50.00	
6/6/2013		7/25/2013		District 11		\$30.20	
						\$80.20	Additional Contributions
						\$365.15	Current Balance
Pink Can Expenditures						\$9.00	Service Charge
7/31/2013						\$356.15	Current Balance
Pink Can Contributions							
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount	
7/24/2013		8/21/2013		Darby Group		\$100.06	Additional Contributions
						\$456.21	Current Balance
Pink Can Expenditures							
Date Ordered		Order		Facility		Amount	
8/30/2013		1 case - Big Books, 12x12		START/Warm Springs		\$318.30	Total of Books Ordered
						\$137.91	Current Balance
Pink Can Contributions							
Date given		Date deposited		Source		Amount	
8/30/2013		9/19/2013		Zootown Happy Hour Group -Missoula		\$21.50	Additional Contributions
						\$159.41	Current Balance

2. Floor Action presented by Sheri W, GSR Hamilton Group, District 93

That the Area Chair and/or an ad hoc committee serch for facilities that would accommodate our Area Assembly's needs in a more thorough way. (not only in terms of "Special Needs", but also thae general needs of all attendees for lodging, eating, meetings etc. Also they would negotiate with the Yogo Inn for such improvements, present their recommendations at the Spring 2014 Assembly and get a vote on a morion at that time as how to best move forward when out contract with Yogo Inn ends.

Made & Seconded Saturday 4:35pm

FINANCE – LIBBIE L (4:35-4:45)

9 people in attendance.

Voting members present: Libbie L. chair, Sharon S. Delegate, Gerry R. Area Chair, Duane C. alt.DCM 42, Desiree G DR 51. Thanks to Rebecca S for taking notes and to all who attended.

Finance – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Libbie L. read her report to the committee and answered all questions from them. See full report below.

2013 Fall Assembly Finance Report

As you heard earlier, finances are stable as 2/3 of this budget year has passed. Our spending is outpacing our contributions, so we must be wary of that. I continue to receive and spend money as required. The check book still balances. Even through the end of August, it has been necessary to remind people of the new mailing address. It will be important to make sure all groups know this address as the post office will discontinue forwarding mail after 1 year. Everyone is encouraged to check the website and the Triangle for monthly expense reports and for all correct mailing addresses.

I have a display that is in the back of the room that explains some of our programs and reminds us of all the services we have asked for that our contributions must fund. It also displays information on ways to contribute to GSO. There are contribution envelopes and Area 40 address labels there too. Take a look at the power point printed in back. I encourage you to have a Self-Support Birthday party in your district. I will get more finance reports copies out. Remember that it is posted on the website every month.

As chair of the finance committee, I have many responsibilities. As always, in the role of treasurer, I will pay the bills, deposit contributions, reconcile the bank account and produce expense reports. Most of our work at this Fall Assembly involves the 2014 Budget.

I chair the Finance Committee meeting and I am grateful to all who attended. The budget will take up most of our time, but as you saw in the finance report power point earlier, I want to remember throughout this rotation that I am also the steward of the *money traditions*, (6, 7, & 8.) It is my responsibility to be their guardian and to share them with all of you.

From page 221 Language of the Heart, Bill W. writes:

Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility-one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.

I continue to be confident that we will carry the AA message by funding Area 40's vital services. We worked very hard in committee to make sure that these services that we are funding are *sufficient* and prudent. We appreciate your support.

B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Triangle Chair

Erin G. read her triangle report to the committee and answered all questions.

Triangle Report:

There are over 300 Triangles sent out at each mailing. The Triangle is sent to GSRs, members of the Area Committee, Delegates in the West Central Region and to individuals who have paid for personal subscriptions. So far we have produced 6 issues this year at a cost of about \$290 per mailing. The Triangle is scheduled to produce 8 issues per year. So, you can expect two more to hit your mailboxes in 2013.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Triangle. I appreciate how many articles and suggestions I have received. It is fun to work with the people who supply the quotes, the people who submit articles and the lady who edits the Triangle before each issue goes to print. If you would like to contribute something on a service-related topic, please let me know. All I ask is that submissions are under 500 words in length.

I have found it to be somewhat difficult to keep an accurate mailing list. When a GSR moves to a new address, or is no longer the GSR then this may cause the Triangle to be returned to sender. For every Triangle returned to sender Area 40 pays about \$1.65. When I get a Triangle back, then I take that name or group off the mailing list. If that group sends in a form to update their address, then I add them back on the mailing list.

Has your GSR moved? Are you a new group? Does your group have a new address or GSR? If so, I'd encourage you to update your contact information with me. I can take your information today. Or, you can fill out a Triangle Change of Address Form. There are 289 registered, active groups in Area 40. I mail Triangles to 246 groups. If you are one of the 40 groups who do not receive a Triangle—please see me. This means Area 40 does not have your group's updated contact information. We also mail to 13 correctional facility groups and are working on getting them in the Women's Prison, too.

The Triangle is mailed to every registered group—regardless of if your group pays the \$10 subscription fee. A \$10 subscription fee covers a year of Triangles. If your group hasn't paid a subscription fee in a while, I welcome you to send it in to the Triangle PO Box address listed on the Area 40 website. The address is also listed on every Triangle mailed out. (This is the PO Box 1266 address in Missoula.) Of the 246 Groups on my mailing list—I have 9 marked as those who have paid their subscription fee. Thank you to those who groups who paid. ☺ Speaking of addresses, the PO Box 1266 address is JUST for the Triangle newsletter. This address is not for the Area 40 Treasurer, or for the Pink Can funds. If you would like to send contributions to someone besides the Triangle—you can find a list of addresses on the Area 40 website and also in every Triangle. This will help us send your contributions to their desired destination.

I have seen an increase in personal subscriptions throughout the year. Some of them have been accompanied by nice notes. Thank you for your subscriptions—and your kind words.

Overall the Triangle has been going well. Each issue requires A LOT of work and the mailing list often feels like a losing battle; however, a lot of articles are being submitted and the issues are going to print on time.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Erin G.

- C. Prepare and propose the 2014 Area 40 Budget with consideration of additional expenses incurred should any or all of the agenda items in other committees that have expense factors pass.**

See attached budget report.

Motion to approve 2014 Budget

Made & Seconded

The Assembly voted unanimously to recommend the proposed budget of \$31,140.00.

For 84 Opposed 0 Motion Carries

D. Discuss Finance work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

The committee had a brief discussion on ideas and experiences to promote Finance work in Area 40. This includes giving a self-support birthday workshop. (Power point available from Finance Chair)

Finance – GSC

Review the results of all Finance committee items considered, reviewed and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about funding the Conference.

Consensus was that the conference is a budgeted expense. Suggested Area contributions to support their delegate started in 1969 with an increase to \$1600 last year. If the fellowship was self-supporting, we would get all funding from groups and members and GSO wouldn't have to ask for this. We have gratitude for what our conference does. We benefit and have a voice because our delegate attends. We are in agreement with sending the minimum contribution of \$1600. [Spring Assembly 2013](#)

B. Review Self-Support Packet.

The committee reviewed the contents of the self-support packet.

Discussion amongst the committee and visitors concentrated on the good information that we have available in the packets. The fellowship has to be informed that the packets are available and that we be able to get them if requested. [Spring Assembly 2013](#)

C. Review report on self-support from the trustees' Finance Committee.

The committee reviewed the report from the Finance Committee's subcommittee on self-support.

We reviewed the report which discusses how we can improve and survive as a fellowship. It contains 8 points or suggestions to stimulate discussions and solutions to our age-old problem of non-self-support. Some of these points are; using the International convention in 2015 as a platform, adding to the sponsorship pamphlet and hiring a consultant. We are in agreement that this is not a hot topic agenda item, but the survival of our fellowship does depend on solutions. [Spring Assembly 2013](#)

63rd General Service Conference April 21-27, 2013

No Advisory Actions on Finance

Additional Considerations on Finance

The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and felt an increase was not necessary at this time; the committee reviewed the report on self-support from the trustees' Finance Committee and urged that the work of the Self-Support subcommittee continue.

2014 Approved Budget (Report was given 7:50-8:20pm after Trustee Sharing)

	<u>Jan - Aug 13</u>	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Proposed</u>
Unrestricted			
Program Services			
Spring Assembly	4,083.10	4,750.00	4750
Fall Assembly	0.00	4,750.00	4750
Regional Service Conference	734.75	1,320.00	1700
Regional Forum	0.00	1,700.00	0
Regional Trustee	0.00	370.00	0
Delegate Expenses			
Area 40 share to GSC	1,600.00	1,600.00	1600
Other Expenses	503.48	500.00	600
Other Expenses NYC	101.43	250.00	350
Roundups	0.00	400.00	300
Travel expenses	<u>1,625.36</u>	<u>1,250.00</u>	2000
Total Delegate Expenses	3,830.27	4,000.00	
Area Chair Expenses	261.62	750.00	750
Archivist Account			
Archivist Display & Travel	400.01	500.00	500
Archives Storage	<u>5,520.00</u>	<u>4,200.00</u>	4000
Total Archivist Account	5,920.01	4,700.00	
Literature Chair			
General literature purchases	<u>334.79</u>	<u>150.00</u>	150
Total Literature Chair	334.79	150.00	
Public Information Chair			
Area Hotline Expenses	1,059.50	3,000.00	2400
Directory Listings	<u>1,317.03</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	1700
Total Public Information Chair	2,376.53	4,500.00	
Website	155.88	160.00	160
Triangle	1,762.09	3,500.00	2880
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	256.12	500.00	500
Committee Chair Travel	574.88	1,200.00	1500
Computer Hardware/Software	0.00	150.00	150
Conference/Phone Calls	<u>102.26</u>	<u>150.00</u>	200
Ad Hoc Committee	0.00	0.00	<u>200</u>
Total Program Services	20,392.30	32,650.00	31140
			10380

2012 spent 26337.03	Contributions	32048.42
2011 spent 34107.70	Contributions	24215.69
2010 spent 26441.86	Contributions	30192.05

Grapevine Chair Report

I hope everyone has had a chance to read the new issues of the Grapevine, “Keeping AA Safe.” There are some outlandish articles telling of experiences of predators in meetings of AA. I have recently have been to a few meetings where this particular grapevine issue was featured. Over all, all of the issues of the Grapevine have been a very informative cross-section of AA thought while remaining consistent with our primary purpose. It continues to be an honor to be a small part of this world wide movement. Grapevine Inc. has put out another collection book called, No Matter What. In the face of diversity, drinking is not an option. Through serious illness, ugly divorce, or death of relatives, the stories in the new book tell how members use the tools of the program to get through. I would like to invite Group and District literature chairpersons to work with their GVRs to order Grapevine books for for Group members to purchase. Seeing the books themselves is a powerful sales tool. Also to combine a Grapevine with newcomer packets. A little more personal than a pamphlet sometimes.

At the Spring assembly, it was brought to my attention that there sometimes is a voting problem within committees. Assigned positions of the DR or DCM are not being filled or substituted properly so that accurate voting can take place. As far as I know there is nothing in place with Area 40 to address such issues. Secondly, I have never understood why, if requested that Pink Can funds could not be used for Grapevine literature. Short stories are a great benefit to inmates and the like. Just a few issues that are going to be discussed at this assembly that our Chair has pried out of me for agenda items.

Grapevine Committe Report

Present: Sam B., Carla T., Carla H., Steve T., Chris W., Doyle F., Marty S., Jim H.

Voting members Jim, Chris, Marty, Steve and Sam.

Sam had the new book-No Matter What which is \$10.99

Sam attended the Grapefest in Helena in June.

Sam had articles written by District 61 members submitted and published in the Grapevine.

To e-mail Sam grapevine@aa-montana.org

Comment:

The Mexican version seems to do better than our La Vina. How long do we continue to try to make La Vina work when there is a competitive version that does better?

What is the logic in printing this if someone else does this better?

Grapevine committee comments:

Try to get every group to subscribe to Grapevine.'

Put an old Grapevine with the list of names given to the newcomer

Pass out subscription forms at functions and ask people to give them away until they are gone.

Purchase subscriptions for correction facilities and treatment centers. Send old Grapevines to the correction facilities and treatment centers.

Put boxes in the Alano Clubs so people can drop off their old Grapevines so the Grapevine chairs can distribute them to these facilities.

Some correctional facilities won't allow Grapevines to be brought in. This is where a subscription would maybe be accepted.

Donate a subscription to the local libraries.

Talk to the Groups about buying literature in addition to Grapevines

Get numerous Districts together to purchase \$500 or more to get 20% discount.

Sam is going to recommend that Grapevine publish a Grapevine book with stories by incarcerated members for incarcerated members (or anyone interested).

Put Grapevine books in correctional facilities and treatment centers, not just actual Grapevines.

West Central Regional Trustee Sharing – Andrew W 7:00-7:45 pm

What is it like to be Trustee? Started as a GSR, now serve on the Grapevine Board as a Class B Trustee. Was interesting time to enter this level of service. Combining A.A. World Services and A. A. Grapevine was on the agenda. This would have made my job have three hats.

Class B (alcoholic) is a 4year term, Class A (nonalcoholic) 6 year term, takes longer to get it because they have not been true the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous like Class B's have.

Grapevine is in the black but will not last. Subscriptions are down.

Questions from the floor: Is LaVina still needed here? Spanish community does subscribe in US to LaVina, it is just a small community-economy of scale. LaVina would need to sell 20,000 subscriptions to break even. They are budgeted to lose \$70k this year.

Do you have to travel a lot now? Trustees at Large do not travel as much. I travel more local or when asked to come to an Area in our region, they pay. GSB pays for travel otherwise.

Finance-pension act was needed and was able to be increased. Shipping cost of our literature is now for orders over \$500

Why do we still have seven nonalcoholic trustees? It is a benefit to be friendly with our friends. They are professionals referring people to Alcoholics Anonymous.

LITERATURE – NICK D (8:30-8:40)

Area 40 Literature Chair Report

Hello Area 40, my name is Nick D and I'm an alcoholic. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Area 40 as your Literature Chair for the remainder of this rotation. I was asked by our Area Chair Gerry R. if I would be willing to stand for the Literature Chair in August. I agreed to make myself available after checking with my wife, there was no reason to call my sponsor as I knew what his response to question would be. One week later Gerry called to see if I was still willing to serve and here I am.

I am looking forward to working with all the members of the literature committee members as we look at the District 81 agenda request to revise AA's Questions and Answers on Sponsorship and the other items on our agenda.

The outstanding Area 40 literature display is in the back of the room, and I hope you will take some time to look at all the AA approved literature that is available to the fellowship. And for you "digital drunks" we also have E-Book information on the literature table that you can surf though. You can also find all kinds of information at AA.org and our own www.aamontana.org

If you, your group or district have any questions please ask me, and will do my best to get them answered. I am here to serve area 40, so if your group or district have a event that you would like the Outstanding Area 40 Literature Display at please let me know.

Once again thank you for allowing me to serve the fellowship that has transformed my life.

Nick D

Literature Committee Minutes

Present: Janet (Lit Chair, District 41), Joe H., Kristen M. (Lit Chair, District 61), Dan H. (Lit Chair, District 71), Nick D. (Lit Area Chair), Sue O. (Lit Chair, District 81), Daniel M. (DCM, District 12), Claudia B. (GSR, District 61)

1. The Committee reviewed the Literature's Chair's report that will given to the Assembly.
2. Committee considered Area 40 Agenda Item to revise AA's "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" pamphlet. Change was brought forward by District 81.
 - We read through reasons given for making the change
 - Discussion was held regarding possible change.
 - Pamphlet was revised in 2004, 2005, 2010, and it was suggested that another revision may not be necessary due to recent revisions.
 - It was suggested that sponsorship is important topic and that revision of pamphlet will facilitate the re-visiting of the topic and encourage discussion of it.
 - It was pointed out that it is not clear what the changes would be to wording of the pamphlet.Motion by Sue, Seconded by Janet: Committee to take no action and to refer agenda item back to District 81 for further clarification.
Motion was unanimously approved by the Committee's voting members.

No Floor Discussion

3. We reviewed how literature work is going in Area 40
 - In order to receive free postage on lit orders, order must be \$500 or more, previously \$250 or more. This is causing some hardship for smaller districts who do not order large amounts of literature. Several options discussed. Possible for districts to pool their orders; possibility to establish distribution centers throughout the state; possibility to use courier services.

Respectfully submitted by the Literature Committee Chair,

Nick D

GSR BREAKOUT (9:00-10:00pm)

Mark S, Moderator

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

1. Is the GSR the absolute leader of the Group? No, but they do have the Right of Decision.
2. Is it fair to think that older members are more important to share and to do service?
 - Opportunities are available for all of us.
 - When older members do service it inspires others.
 - Some Old Timers rest on their laurels and don't participate
 - Sometimes Old Timers don't do what they talk about
 - Service can save your life.
3. How are Groups dealing with e-cigarettes?
 - Our Group Conscience banned them.
 - Incorporate the conscience of the group in the meeting format.
 - What about chewing tobacco?
 - Consult the facility owners and respect their wishes.

4. If no one steps up at rotation time should I continue in this position?
I don't want to separate myself from other service people.
Be responsible to your group but true to yourself.
Do you want the group not to have representation?
Rotate on not out. Take a position at the next level of service.
Be a good servant to AA.
5. How does your group do splits? Pie charts or expressed needs of the service entities?
Some use the pie charts exclusively
Some use pie charts with adjustments to the squeaky wheel
We should throw the pie charts away.
Look at the entity budgets and follow the group conscience.
6. Has your group ever used its Prudent Reserve?
Yes, it was needed to move.
7. Our group is having problems with some younger members or nuisance members texting leaving litter cross talking and being disruptive in meetings. What can we do?
Try to correct them or ask them to leave.
Lock down the meeting
Make them the yard police as a service position
Watch out for predators.
8. What can I do as a GSR to keep people in Service positions?
Sponsorship-encouragement.
Include and empower, show them we have a common solution.
Be helpful and not critical
Have Business parties with cake.
Don't guilt people, the group should try its best to pick the right people.
Have co-chairs and get more people involved.
9. How can we reach out to the Native American community?
Make them more comfortable in meetings.
Don't let AA become confused with Federal Programs.
Encourage them to look for similarities not differences.
Start out one on one or with small groups.
10. How much should a GSR delegate to others in the group?
None.
What about Alternate GSR's
It is ok to ask for help but not pass the responsibilities
11. I am a new GSR and our group has no business meetings and no direction, What can I do?
Any group member can call for a business meeting
Try to make some slow changes and see what happens.
Be gentle, the group might be set in its ways.
Trust that you are doing the best that you can for your group.

DCM BREAKOUT (9:00-10:00pm)

Carol B, Moderator

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

IS AA IN YOUR DISTRICT SAFE?

1. Does anyone have experience promoting AA as a safe place to go?

Sponsorship

Avoidance

Bring up safety as a topic to talk about

Talk to individual causing harm

2. Can you ban someone from a meeting or all of AA?

Agenda Items

Group Conscience

Women stick together

Men act as barricade for the man

Men with men, women with women

3. What is the procedure for getting committee chairs starter kits? (e.g. guidelines for correction chair duties/responsibilities.)

Some of the DCMs stated that the workbooks/materials are purchased from the AAWS literature catalog. We also thought that the GSO may provide these items to them without charge.

As far as guidelines, some districts have guidelines as far as duties.

4. Does anyone get notification from the Area Treasurer about which groups contribute to Area from their splits. Not necessarily including the dollar amount.

GSO, in the past, provided the Delegate a list of groups contributing to the General Service Board.

It hasn't been the practice for the Area Treasurer to provide such information but it was suggested speaking with Treasurer to see if she would make it available upon request.

SUNDAY SESSION

8:00am Libbie announced 7th tradition and passed around the basket.

Nick D thanked his Literature Committee members

8:05 Roundup Reports

Bozeman Spring 2013, Butte Spring 2014 NO REPORT SUBMITTED

Fall 2014 Great Falls, Save the Date!!

Area 40 Fall 2013 Billings Roundup Report

The Fall Roundup will be held on October 11th through 13th at the Crowne Plaza in Billings, MT. A block of rooms for the Roundup will be held until October 4th, I would encourage you to book your room soon.

All of the speakers are confirmed: Jim M from Long Island, NY, Steve L from Brentwood, TN, Heather H from Minneapolis, MN and two Al Anon speakers: Paul G from Highlands, NJ and Steve F from Billings, MT.

We will also have presentations by the Area 40 Archivist Earl F & our Area Delegate Sharon S will give her Delegate's report.

Fliers for the event are on the Area 40 website and located in the back of the room. Carole B will gladly accept your registration this weekend.

I also wanted to take a moment and thank the committee. They have worked hard to assure a great Roundup and we look forward to seeing everyone in Billings next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry N

Roundup Chair

406-652-6503

Intergroup Report

District 91/Flathead Valley Intergroup Report for Area 40 Spring Assembly:

Our Intergroup Business meet is held the last Saturday of every month at 6:30pm at the United Methodist Church at 117 2nd Street West Columbia Falls, Montana. After the Business meeting Intergroup hosts a monthly Birthday Meeting at 8:00pm to celebrate valley wide sobriety accomplishments followed by cake and fellowship.

Intergroup has 13 Chair positions which are filled. All current Chairs are very passionate, dedicated and active people in sobriety within the Flathead Valley willing to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Intergroup provides the AA meeting schedules for the entire Flathead Valley from Eureka all the way to Elmo Montana. The schedules are also available via our website which is aa-kalispell.org, in June we has 673 visits on our website, July 707 and as of August 16th 3335 visits. Our website also posts any open service positions available on a District and Intergroup level as well as flyers for any Valley wide events. Intergroup also has a toll-Free Hotline which is (888) 607-2000, in which for the month of August we had 34 inbound calls and 2 outbound calls. On October 26, 2013 Intergroup hosts an Annual Halloween Event which is held at the Stillwater Grange Hall in Kalispell, MT. On November 30, 2013 our Annual Thanksgiving Event will be held at the Stillwater Grange Hall in Kalispell, MT in which anywhere from 100-200 people are in attendance, Annual Alcathon for New Year's Eve through New Year's Day, and on August 23-25th we just conducted our Annual Campout at Emery Bay in Hungry Horse, in which 10 groups were represented, 150 people in attendance, 3 meetings, 2 speaker meetings and a fabulous pig roast.

Chair: Nikki T.

Co-Chair: Peggie

Trustees: Del G., Fred H., and Alida W.

Archivist: Fred H.

Hotline Chair: Alida W.

Secretary: Jamie

Treasurer: Ralph.

Web Chair: Larry P.

Entertainment Chair: Daniel

Schedule Chair: Victor

Campout Chair: Jamie

Thanksgiving Chair:

New Year's Alcathon Chair:

We are alive, strong and continue to serve alcoholics in need.

Nikki T. Intergroup Chair District 91

West Central Regional Forum Sept. 6-8, 2013 Bloomington, MN Hosted by Area 36 Paul L

I am an alcoholic and my name is Paul, I am the DCM from District 91, my home group is the Whitefish Group.

I attended the recent West Central Regional Forum in Bloomington, Minnesota representing District 91. I have been to 2 West Central Regional AA Service Conferences but this was my first Forum. There is a distinct difference between a Forum and a Service Conference. In a Forum members from the General Service Board, the affiliate boards, the General Service Office and the Grapevine leave the comfort and coziness of New York City and come to the sticks to talk to us about what they do. It was a great opportunity to meet the people that work for us in the General Service Office. I discovered that it is not THEM or THEY that are trying to subvert the program of Alcoholics Anonymous or impose their own evil agenda; but rather, it is Mary Clare and Julio, John, Joe and Phyllis working hard to protect the legacy of Bill W. and Dr. Bob, to help AA groups continue to carry the original message of Alcoholics Anonymous in these changing times. They are real people doing the best job they can with the resources at hand. There were Class A Trustees like Terry and David, oh David, poor David, it was his first Forum and he learned a lot. One of the things that I finally learned is the difference between a Class A Trustee and a Class B Trustee.; as you heard yesterday, "Class A stands for Amateur and Class B stands for Boozer."

There were about 10 of us from Area 40 attending the Forum. All together there was about 200 people. Andrew W did us proud as the host and moderator of the event. The Forum consisted of presentations by the Trustees and the staff at GSO followed by General Sharing Sessions where questions were answered about their presentation or anything else in general. Some videos were shown that are available from the General Service Office and there were 2 sessions of workshops. Across from the meeting room was a room that had a copy of nearly every single piece of Literature published by AAWS and the Grapevine. They also had copies of the Big Book in all the different languages that it is printed in. Pretty impressive.

Some of the Delegates from the West Central Region shared on a variety of topics, the nugget that I was able to take away came from the Wyoming Delegate "Primary Purpose doesn't mean sitting in a meeting waiting for someone to come in the door."

There was some discussion about the huge increase of shipping costs. This is particularly apparent in this region of small remote groups that are barely able to band together and make a \$250.00 order to get free shipping, making the minimum \$500.00 for free shipping is unobtainable for them and a hardship. The people from GSO said they would look at it to see what could be done.

The final item I got from the presentation by Phyllis H was that GSO does not solve your Groups problems, the ultimate solution is an **Informed Group Conscience**.

There was also a review of the financials and member stats; GSO's cost per member is \$6.43, yet the average member contribution annually is \$4.67. Only 42% of the groups contribute to GSO. As you heard from Terry, each of us can make a small contribution and this problem would be resolved. There was also a discussion about the amount of time (and expense) in running down the source of some financial donations. If someone is making a donation to AA it is a good idea to attach a Groups AA number to the check so that GSO knows that it is from an AA member and not an "outside Contribution".

Finally there were some workshops that were very topical. I attended the one on Special Needs....I had been limiting myself to thinking of only mobility impaired special needs but we talked about the blind AA member, the deaf and TBI member. Lots of good ideas. One of the requests I heard was the placement on AA events flyers of the availability of American Sign Language interpreters at the event.

Some of the other Workshop topics included: "Welcoming the Newcomer," "Sponsorship," "A.A. and Advancing Technologies," "Primary Purpose--Tradition Five," "The Spirit of Rotation--Principles before Personalities" and "The A.A. Group: Where it Begins."

The other workshop I attended was "Communication in A.A.: Connecting the Group with A.A. as a Whole." They talked about "Attraction for Service and Participation"....to phrase it not like this; **"Why don't you come into service?"** instead; *"Why don't you come into service?"*

In summary the Forum was a good way to gather information about some of the inside workings of AA. The humanity of AA. And what is good about AA.

Past Delegate Sharing Carol B (8:25-8:40)

I was selected by resume review for a non-trustee director of the A.A.W.S. Board.

What am I doing for AA as a whole? 1990-1993 there was a spike in membership and has flat lined since then and that bothers me. What are we doing to reach out to those who need us? Am I making fun of fellow AA members or do I razz people and think it is ok? Do I get offended and not say something? Do I follow through with commitments? I need to act better at the back table. Respect opposing views and voice opposing views. People that come out of the hat on votes, God allows us to embrace the person that is selected rather than be negative. Go to groups that need help. Watch for someone that looks like they seem lost and talk to them. Trying kindness with others and sponsee. Respect right of decision- example is in our home group. Put as much effort in helping others as complaining about them. (what are you doing to help).be hopeful for newcomer and women I sponsor.

Past Delegate Mark S (8:40-8:55)

Mark talked about what it was like at Area Assembly before the committee system was in place. Use to be smokey and the loudest person got the job done. I worked for an oil company in Oklahoma, went to law school in Arkansas. Sponsor was from Arkansas and got me into service.

Share experience, strength, hope rather than tell someone what to do.

Mark talked about past delegates and the great people in service we get to meet.

Maybe someone has the answer of the flat line in AA. Shared a bit about minorities in AA and how a black women in Arkansas told him it was for white people.

Stop special interest groups, we are all AA and we are all responsible and live up to that. Participate in GSR breakout.

Help the seven reservations in Montana.

No answers, but we are at least talking about it and that's a start.

DELEGATES REPORT SHARON S (9:00-9:35)

My name is Sharon S. and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and responsibility to serve as your delegate to the 63rd and 64th General Service Conference. You prepared me well with pre-assemblies and the Spring Assembly and then, after participating in the conference, I am responsible to reporting back to you what we decided.

Thank you Andrew, Carole, and Mark for your sharing. You reminded me of parts of my own story. I got to Alcoholics Anonymous hoping you would help me to not drink when I decided to not drink, and to help me drink the amount I planned to drink when I did drink. I didn't expect what has happened. I was afraid to ask to be considered a member of the group. When they needed someone to do a phone list, I volunteered, and by the time I handed it out I felt like I belonged. Later I was invited to participate in the district PI/CPC committee. Thank goodness for that invite; if they had waited for me to volunteer, I might not be here today. More recently, when Carole was the delegate, she invited me to the Board weekend. It was there that I understood that I would continue to serve A.A. I try to invite people along, as was done for me.

My experience at the conference was a good one. Andrew mentioned use of the "Unity Statement"; perhaps this attitude of the spirit of unity is beginning to infuse the conference and the boards. I felt this at the conference. We didn't all agree, by any stretch; but, for the most part, people behaved well and disagreed without being disagreeable. There were floor actions when members disagreed with committee decisions; some we, as a body, agreed to discuss; some we decided to not discuss at this conference.

Thanks to the districts who hosted delegate's reports and thanks to those of you who were able to attend one. I am not going to give my entire conference report here, but will cover a few of the agenda items toward the end of the report. I brought the final Conference Reports with me and have places some on each district table. If you didn't get one, please see me at the break or after we close so I can give you one.

The months since we last met have been interesting. I had a very good experience at the General Service Conference and some of the best times of the my year have been with you as I've travelled around the state giving my Delegate Report. The first reports were scheduled in June, with a trip to Miles City for a great potluck and report, then Missoula for Unity Day and made my report there. Then, I had major slow down. Thanks to Gerry, our Alternate Delegate, we made a report at District 61's Grapefest. Gerry really deserves kudos for coming up to speed in record time! I called him on Tuesday, sent him a copy of my report Wednesday, visited with him Friday about questions and he gave a great report on Saturday. Thanks to our friend Sandy K. from Big Fork and a higher power who makes things possible when I think they are impossible, I was able to be there via Skype. The next scheduled delegate report didn't fare so well. Terry S., our Area Advisor, was on his way to the District 93's Campout at Lake Como the next day to cover the delegate report there, but encountered a deer. So we were not able to do a report there. The next week, Gerry and Terry drove to Kalispell to cover the delegate report there. Thanks to Steve S. who got all the technology set up for me to give my report there, via Skype from the rehab center! I didn't have any more reports scheduled in June or July, and got the okay to drive 2 days before the report for District 71 in Anaconda. August was busy with reports in Laurel (District 12), Great Falls (District 41), Makoshika State Park (District 23), Glendive (District 21), Glasgow (District 21), and Bozeman (District 72). I got to attend the Havre Mini Conference this month and made a report to at the District 51 meeting there. I plan to visit District 42 in October and will visit with Kevin and District 93 to see how I can connect with them.

I also got to attend the West Central Region Forum a couple of weeks ago. Thank you Paul, for a great report. You covered everything very well. I won't repeat that except to that if you haven't attended a forum, try to do it some time. The next one in our region will be in the fall of 2015 in Casper, Wyoming. Get in the car! I'll even make you some buttons: Get in Car; Get in Truck; Get in the Van.

Just one thing I do want to share. It was very good to meet our new Class A Trustee, David Morris, who will be our Treasurer. He is an accountant with a very strong financial background, but says he is not a numbers guy, but a theoretician (Wikipedia says this is someone associated with theory as opposed practical aspects). He gave a good financial presentation, one we could mostly understand. He has family members who are sober in A.A. and attends open meetings, so he is no stranger to A.A. He speaks well and isn't afraid to make mistakes or be wrong, I think he will be a great addition to the board. Interesting tidbit, we spend quite a bit of money processing contributions. When you send contributions to GSO, be sure to include your group number, this saves time consuming research in processing! We go to great lengths to assure we are not accepting contributions from anyone other than our members.

About the increase in shipping charges and the financial impact that has on the smaller groups, districts and areas, let your concern be known. The more of us that write letters to AAWS, the better chance that the decision will be visited.

Before I close, I want to mention just a few of the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations from the conference.

- General Service Board proposed plan regarding the AAWS and Grapevine Board....the Trustees Committee did not support the proposed interlocking directorate. Short story: we did not even discuss, let alone vote on this. I liked the work the Trustees Committee did on this item; taking no action except to say they did not support it.
- There will be a 75th Anniversary Edition of the first edition, first printing of the big book to be published in April 2014. I will pass information along to everyone when it is ready. It will be sold from April 2014 through the International Convention in July 2015. Stay tuned, next year we may be deciding whether to do French and Spanish versions, too.
- We recommitted the spirituality pamphlet, entitled "Spiritual—Not Religious" to the trustees' Literature Committee for additional discussion, primarily a dislike for the suggested title. We'll be discussing this pamphlet again next year.
- The current formatting requirements for la Viña will continue, but will likely be discussed again next year with more information about options for new formats and perhaps a better definition of 'spiritual parity'.
- My favorite— corrected a typo in the service manual in Bill's essay on leadership. It's been there since 1962!! It just goes to prove: We're not perfect; we make mistakes. Sometimes we correct them quickly, sometimes it takes us a long time to see them and get them corrected. (the story of my sobriety)

I had a great time at the Conference. You prepared me well, I was able to listen and, eventually, vote for what I thought was the best for A.A. A couple of times I changes my mind! I will serve as Alternate Chair of the Agenda Committee and Chair of the International Conventions, Regional Forums Committee at the 2014 Conference.

Thanks for your cards and letters and prayers at the conference, and during my hospitalization this summer. I appreciate you so much and am honored to be trusted to serve you.

Yours in Love and Service,

Sharon S. Panel 63 Delegate, Area 40 Montana

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND REPORT AND CHARTER LUKE S (10:05-10:35AM)

PI chair report

The gift of desperation brought me to Alcoholics Anonymous and has currently filled the Public Information chair for area 40. I am honored by the opportunity to serve on the area 40 committee. Once again Erin G. gave me inspiration and just like in my early recovery when she was attending my home group and I saw her quit smoking. I said "Hey I bet I can do that" So I did. Paul L asked me if I was willing to serve as the area 40 PI chair and I said "Erin is serving on the area 40 committee" and I thought "Hey I could do that" So thanks Erin for the inspiration to serve on the area 40 committee.

My service position asked for quick action on getting contracts signed and I had 5 different NDP contracts to sign and have them sent out in 3 days. AA has shown me how to take actions even if I don't know exactly what I'm doing. I have recently signed one more contract and in July I signed 5 more NDP contracts. I met with Paula H. and Gerry in Missoula to retrieve the P. I. stuff in May. I once again learned be careful what you ask for, because I got to put on a PI/CPC workshop in district 91 that I requested earlier that year. Serena did a great job at the workshop and made it hard to follow her opening presentation, but we all learned something that day with the participation from district 91. I have reached out to all the DCM & apos;s in our area to put me in contact with their PI chairs and offered them a chance to let me wow them with a breathtaking PI workshop. I have had the chance to meet some great trusted servants from around the state and a very active woman by the name of Katelyn (District 72 hotline chair) has kept me on my toe & apos;s.. I met an old timer who wanted to be of service again and wasn't afraid to take the actions.

My Least favorite part has been the hotline. I have tried my hardest to get some sort of a working relationship with the general manager, but have seemed to gain no progress. It seems like answnet was ready to fall apart at points. After the conference call i participated in this summer, i learned of some misfires with the answering service. I learned from Gary H of Hamilton, MT that someone had called and kind of got the runaround. Seemed the operator wanted to only give the person meeting scheduling and Then was referred to a crisis line instead of being patched through to another alcoholic.. To make matters worse they were given a number to daycare center in Missoula. This prompted me to test the hotline out and see what happened. It worked pretty well for me and i had a chance to talk to the operator and tell her why I called. The operator said that lots of people call for just for rides and not even to an aa meeting. She informed me that that her general manage trained them to give the crisis number to extreme cases. So my next goal was to talk to debra the general manager. We had a nice conversation were I talked mildly about the issues and confirmed some of the issues as well. I wanted to build a relationship with her so I kept the talk small and short. I talked to some of my trusted servants and they didn't like the crisis line procedure and the attempt to detour people looking for rides. Which prompted me a week later to write her a email on july 17 and a second one Aug 1st and make a phone Aug 20. With no return call or email to this day. I had requested a bill and a wanted to talk about this crisis number issue. So I called the answnet corporate office and now am dealing only with greg bloom the regional sales manager and got this crisis number recommendation deleted. Greg was interested to hear back from me after area assembly and I look forward to working with him in improving our answnet service. I successfully forwarded the answnet bill to all the DCMs recently and Finally got Libbie off my back by doing my service position and getting her an answnet bill.

I emailed Alex on how are hotline volunteer signup page is going and he reported 625 volunteers in area 40. Thank you alex..

Luke S Area 40 PI

PI Committee attendees- Scott S. District 91, Connie R. District 23, Mary M. District 23, Ray M district 72, Tom D. district 61,

Jeff C. district 91, Bryan F District 51, Rachel C, district 41, Tom F district 61, and Alex M area webmaster. All my voting members were present.

C) Consider the request to add Montana A.A. Intergroups as entities that can Submit events to the Area 40 Webmaster for inclusion on the calendar of the Area 40 website.

-The committee voted to table this consideration until the spring assemble to get more input from the intergroups. We hope to have an intergroup rep or 2 show up to the assembly next spring.

D) Consider the request to update the AA service manual to better reflect how GSO, the areas and districts utilize the Fellowship New Vision program (FNV) in regard to reporting and sharing group information-for submission as an agenda item at the 2014 General Service Conference.

- the committee voted 4-0 in favor of this motion - the motion that came out of committee was as follows. "Public Information committee requests forwarding the request to update the AA service manual to better reflect how GSO, the areas and districts utilize the Fellowship New Vision program (FNV) in regard to reporting and sharing group information_ for submission as an agenda item at the 2014 General Service Conference.

Motion made and seconded: Assembly - 85 For 1 Opposed Motion passes

E) Discuss Public Information work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

- The discussion included Mary talking about putting meeting schedules in local hotels! Mary also talked about making business cards as well for public information. Scott talked about trying to put together a panel for a public meeting! Andrew talked about PSA s and their use at the local TV stations and to ask for them to be played and try to not demand it.. It was also discussed that the Public information handbook has lots of information about how to do this. We talked about answernet as well and how address the problem with our service that is being received. The committee recommended I attend a training session to maybe give some small input on the process. So I will be reporting back to Greg Bloom and asking about the training session.

Public information -GSC

-Confirmed that the wording of the 11th tradition was sufficient to include internet the way it is currently stated.

-They approved the use of digital literature with a report being made in the 2014 GSC on the progress.

-NO action was taken on making a PSA out of the 5 young peoples video.

-Living in chaos has risen from the grave after the trustees committee had suggested it for retirement. It still serves it's purpose!

-PSA Tengo Esperanza was kicking some but by tracking and distribution numbers.

-social media page is still a no go and the report on it was reviewed. It doesn't jive with our tradions.

Report and charter

-the typo in leadership in AA on page 37 of the service manual is to be changed from uniformed to uninformed.

-Chapter Nine of the AA service manual is going to gain a description of the duties of the AA General Service Board Chairperson.

-page S23 with be getting some text on the principle of rotation and its spiritual aspect.

-They area highlight will be professionally edited ad published, while still having the full substance of the GSC.

-The committee voted to have the FNV program gain some service material on its special abilities.

Area 40 Treatment Chair Report – Fall 2013

Greetings Area 40, my name is Brandon M and I am an alcoholic. I currently have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Treatment Chair. Shortly after the spring assembly, I was invited by David O, BTG coordinator in District 11, to help with a presentation at their Unity Day workshop. David had already been in contact with a BTG chair in Maryland, and was forwarded a power point presentation outlining their BTG program. Dave did an outstanding job of making some small changes to the presentation to make it more in-line with District 11 and Area 40's new online BTG program. Unfortunately, I was only able to assist Dave prior to Unity Day, as once again I had to make another trip for my job. I do want to thank both Dave O and all of District 11 for inviting me to Unity Day, and I hope they will accept my apology for not being able to be there the entire day.

Other than District 11, I have not had an opportunity to assist other Districts in that fashion, I hope that after this weekend everyone is fired up; as I am more than happy to travel around the state and offer my assistance in any way, shape or form.

Last month, I received an email about a BTG workshop in Chicago? – I was unable to attend the workshop, and I owe an amends to members of Area 40 as I was selfish and did not pass on that information to other who may have had the ability or desire to attend a workshop like that.

In service,

Brandon M

Area 40 Treatment Committee Meeting

I want to thank everyone who participated in the committee meeting this weekend. There were 12 AA members present, with representation from Districts 51, 81, 61, 31, 41, 91, 23, and 72. All 4 of the committee members were present as well. A big thank you to Carly G from District 61 for doing an excellent job as secretary for the meeting.

Treatment / Special Needs – Accessibilities – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment Chair (see attached)
- B. Discuss Treatment work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.
 - a. We had plenty of discussion around the BTG program in Area 40.
 - i. BTG contact cards are not filled out completely. Jessica from Dist. 72 has been taking the cards with her to the different facilities and making sure they are being filled out correctly – perhaps others would find this helpful.
 - ii. Is there a need for an actual BTG chair position at the Area level?
 - iii. Using the BTG power point presentation Dave O (Dist 11) put together using the presentation from Maryland, to help AA members in BTG better understand BTG – will forward presentation to BTG chairs in the districts.
 - iv. Some districts are having issues coordinating with their district treatment/corrections chairs with regards to explaining BTG to the facilities. Would be a great opportunity to get involved with PI/CPC chairs as well and have a joint presentation to those facilities.
 - v. Where can I get contact cards for BTG. GSO has contact cards, and some BTG chairs have created their own version of the contact card to be handed out – changes to the card include adding the Area Hotline and BTG chair contact information.

- vi. How can we better communicate with the treatment facilities the importance of BTG program. Dist 61 puts on a workshop for professionals (parole officers, judges, treatment facilities, etc) perhaps other districts could do something like that.
- vii. Stress the importance of BTG with districts and AA members in Area 40 – perhaps getting back to Area workshops
- viii. District 31 would like to start getting back into Pine Hills and are requesting help from the Treatment and/or Corrections Chair

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.
 - a. Page 8 Final Conference Report – No recommendations.
 - b. Pages 58-59
 - i. Reviewed the report on the Spanish and French translations of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* and expressed the need for audio visual materials to have improved sound production in the future.
 - ii. DVD version of the pamphlet “A.A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs” for matted for blind, deaf, learning challenged – some concern that a DVD in ASL (American Sign Language) serves the needs of French or Spanish language-based members.
 - iii. Bottom of page 58 and top of page 59 have some ideas on how Special Needs/Accessibility committees and communicate the various ways to make meeting places accessible to all alcoholics; as well as ideas on how groups and prepare in advance for the arrival of deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics.

Agenda

- A. Review the results of all Agenda committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.
 - a. Page 6 – It was recommended that the theme for the 2014 General Service Conference be: “Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World.
 - b. Page 6 cont. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2014 General Service Conference:
 - i. Living in the Heart of A.A
 - ii. Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility
 - iii. Passing It On Through Sponsorship
 - iv. Participating in Our Common Welfare through Contributions
 - v. Inventory – A Guiding Tool to Our Future.
 - c. Additional Considerations:
 - i. The committee reviewed and agreed that the Conference Evaluation Form was adequate, and that no changes be made at this time.

Floor Actions presented to the Assembly (10:55-11:45am)

Floor actions 1 and 2 were withdrawn from Saturday and two new ones were presented for clarity.

#3 Floor Action (Amended - previous #1):

Sherry C, District 81 DCM, Sheri W, GSR Hamilton Group, Carly G, District 61 Alt DCM

Carly G presented

That the Area form an ad hoc committee to investigate other venues for the Area Assembly that preferably centrally located and special needs accessible; and bring back recommendations to the Spring 2014 Assembly for a vote at that Assembly.

Made and Seconded

Comments from the floor:

What are we trying to accomplish? Investigate what is out there.

Todd from District 23 is willing to drive farther to have better venue for special needs accessibility.

Earl asked that they consider a time line for this and be informed before Spring Assembly, Feb 1st deadline.

Sheri W wanted to be sure to keep in mind location of facilities be centrally located.

Carly G is not a voting member today. Sherry C presents 3rd Floor Action again. Gerry forwarded all discussion to approve 3rd Amended Floor Action.

Made and Seconded

86 For 3 Opposed 1 abstained Motion passes

#4 Floor Action (Amended - previous #2):

Sherry C, District 81 DCM, Sheri W, GSR Hamilton Group, Carly G, District 61 Alt DCM

Sheri W presented

That the Area Chair present Area's concerns over Special Needs accessibility and meeting room accommodations to the Yogo Inn and report the Yogo Inn's response to the Spring 2014 Assembly.

Made and Seconded

Comments from the floor:

Did we talk to the Yogo Inn with our concerns?

Last evaluation on the Yogo was around 1998.

Can't this be an agenda item assigned to a committee?

How we do agenda items is up to the chair. Check on GSO Special Needs.

Motion: Call for the question. Seconded

Vote for end of discussion: 90 For 0 Opposed

Friendly amendment to #4 Floor Action: Area Chair to meet with ad hoc committee to find out what happend.

Made and Seconded

Comments from the floor:

Isn't this redundant?

Motion to Decline to Consider the 4th Floor Action, seconded

62 For 18 Opposed 5 abstained Motion passes.

No minority opinion **Off the Floor**

GENERAL SHARING (11:45-12:00)

There were upcoming event announcements. One man shared his 3 years sobriety with us.

ADJOURN 12:00

Gerry asked Andrew W to leading us in "Declaration Statement" to close the Assembly

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M., Secretary / Area Registrar

2014 SPRING ASSEMBLY APRIL 11-13, 2014