

**MINUTES OF AREA 40 ASSEMBLY
APRIL 8 – 9, 2016**

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Alcoholics Anonymous Area 40 Spring Assembly, April 8 – 10, 2016, Lewistown, MT

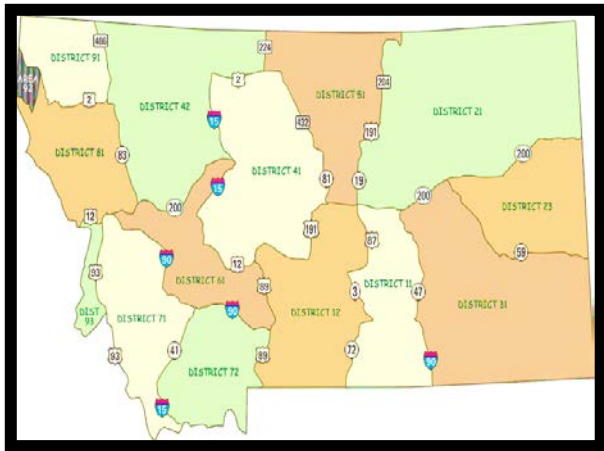
GSR AND DCM WELCOME SESSION FRIDAY NIGHT 9:00 – 10:00 PM

The following is the Power Point presentation given by Libbie L., Delegate:



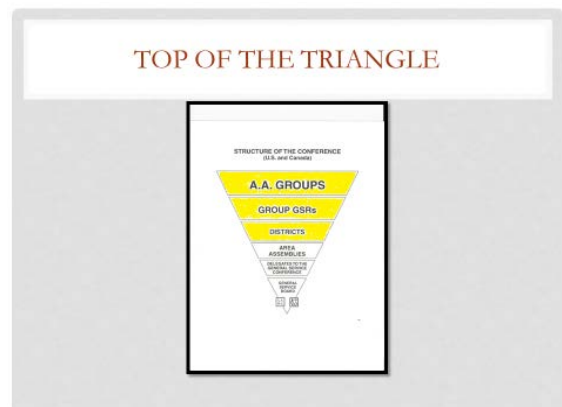
Find an Assembly Buddy
Open with the Serenity Prayer
Read
Traditions and Concepts

Start with the Service Structure of the Conference for US and Canada.



The infamous upside down triangle. This top of the triangle represents the largest group of participants, and that's YOU!

What are we going to do this weekend?



Act like animals in the zoo??

Reminded to clean up after ourselves and no outside food!



Relax like we're on the beaches of Haiti or look for romance??

No, we're going to work hard and leave each other alone....



Yes! We're going to get some work done!



Dream of going to NYC??

I hope so! Someone in this room is going to be delegate someday.



WEEKEND SCHEDULE	
Area 40 Spring Assembly Agenda Yogo Inn – Lewistown, MT April 8-10, 2016	
FRIDAY SESSION	
8:00-9:00	Sapphire Room: GSR and DCM Welcome Session – led by the Delegate. Snowy Room: Area Standing Committee Chair Welcome Session – led by the Area Chair and Area Advisor. Sapphire Room: A.A. Meeting – (back by popular demand: David O. chair).
9:15-10:00	
SATURDAY SESSION	
7:30-8:00	GSR's and visitors sign in with your District's DCM. (DCM's please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than noon.)
8:00-9:00	Welcome—Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Housekeeping Roll Call, Passed Actions of last Assembly — Area Secretary Financial Highlights — Area Treasurer Orientation to the Assembly — Delegate DCM Reports (5 min. Hard stop at 9:00 am, to be continued in the afternoon)
9:15-12:00	Standing Committee Meetings:
	Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy.....Kendall Room
	CPC/Trustees.....Chokocherry Room
	Corrections/International Conventions.....Moccasin Room
	Finance.....Gypsum Room
	Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC).....Room 252
	Literature.....Judith Room
	Public Information/Report and Charter & Website.....Snowy Room
	Treatment/Special Needs/Agenda.....Room 150
	(Committee Chairs—if your committee does not finish its business during this session, please notify the Area Chair)
9:15-12:00	Workshop.....Sapphire Room

Agenda/Schedule that we follow was prepared by the Area Chair/Alt Delegate

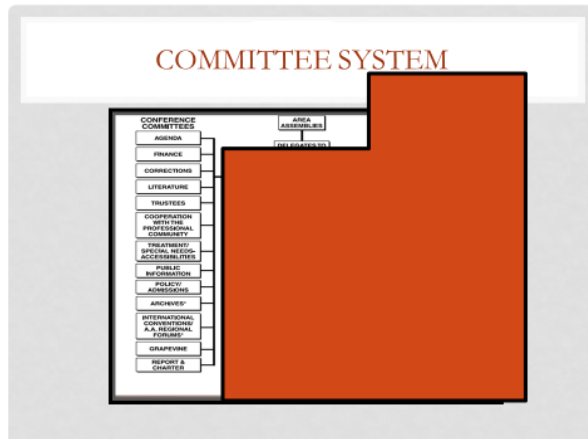
When you return to this room in the morning, our Area Secretary, Julie R, will have placed placards on the tables for each district. There will also be sign in sheets on your table. DCM's make sure anyone attending from your district gets signed in. This includes voters and visitors. We use this list to get voter numbers and tabulate quorums. We will be punctual, so be ready to roll at 8 AM. Start with a welcome, Committee meetings and workshops in the morning. GSRs can decide to attend any of

these. DCM's and DR's go to their assigned committees. Lunch Break

Then we finish up DCM reports and the Floor assembly concludes the afternoon. Break for dinner then start the floor assembly again. GSR and DCM breakouts in the evening.

Sunday morning again promptly at 8 AM! Round up and Intergroup reports, past delegate and delegate sharing, then finish our business.

Remember that we loosely follow Robert's Rules of Orders to conduct our Business Meeting.



Our Area and the Conference is organized through a committee system. Your Districts and Groups may be too.

There are Conference (Delegate) and Trustee Committees, most correspond to each other.

At the Area Level there are Chairs for each of these Committees with secondary assignments. Delegates are assigned to a committees as well. Some have secondary assignments.

In our Area, one of our first functions is to meet in our committees then come back to the whole body with recommendations.

At the GSC, these committees meet early in the week and determine what Agenda items they will to bring to the floor. My assignment is Trustees.

So, how do these items get on our Agenda?

AREA 40 AGENDA SUBMISSION & DEADLINES	
Spring February 1st	Fall July 1st
<div> <div>AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL FORM</div> <div> <div>(1) Describe the proposal.</div> <div>(2) List the proposal benefits.</div> <div>(3) Cost Estimate.</div> <div>(4) List additional background material included with the proposal.</div> <div>(5) How the proposal will be tracked.</div> <div>(6) Why the proposal should be considered.</div> <div>(7) Final comments.</div> </div> </div>	

Can be submitted by anyone

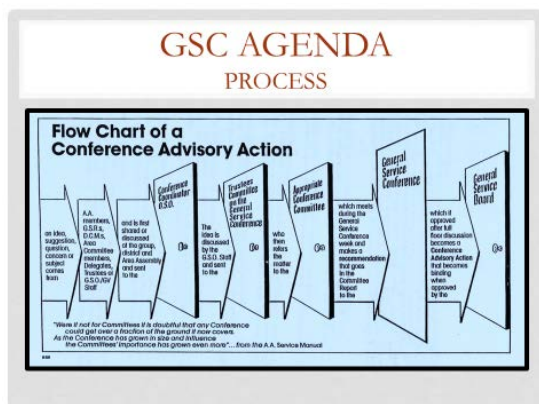
Area 40 Agenda Proposal Form-Available on the Website

Deadlines February 1 for Spring, July 1 for Fall

There are four Area 40 agenda items for discussion at this spring assembly. Background is available through your DCM.

Each committee will report back on their Agenda and what was discussed at their committee meeting. This happens during the Floor Assembly.

So how do these GSC Agenda items get to us?



Remember that Agenda items can be submitted by anyone. Process and format can vary. Sent to the Conference Coordinator at GSO

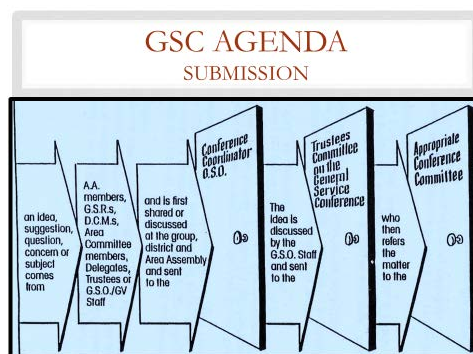
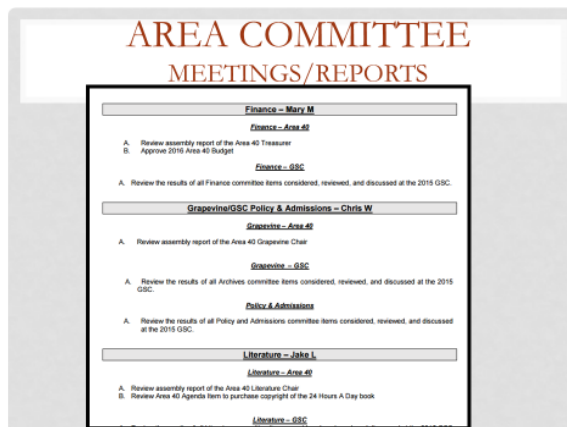
The Coordinator then sends it to the appropriate Trustees Committee which decides which items go on the Final Conference Agenda

Deadline for submission is December 15

The Trustees Committees meet quarterly. They decide the final GSC agenda at their January Board weekend.

Once again this year, the Delegate chairs joined their committees and participated in the meetings, previously they were there only there as observers.

Area 40 distributes the Final Agenda and background material to the Area Committee and DCM's through the Delegate and the Area Chair



Deadline for submission is December 15

The Trustees Committees meet quarterly. They decide the final GSC agenda at their January Board weekend. Once again this year, the Delegate chairs joined their committees and participated in the meetings, previously they were there only there as observers.

Area 40 distributes the Final Agenda and background material to the Area Committee and DCM's through the Delegate and the Area Chair.

The floor Assembly then proceeds with all participants having a vote.

Some of the Agenda items won't move forward from the committees (*took no action*) or are decided in committee without a floor vote (*additional consideration*) or they are brought to the floor and decided with a vote (*advisory action*).


Any agenda item can be brought for a vote, so I will be asking for sense of the area on certain items

LANGUAGE OF THE CONFERENCE

Took No Action

Additional Consideration

Advisory Action



11. Conference sessions

Conference members meet annually for six days. They review reports on activities of G.S.O. and on General Service Board, and on service needs all over the world.

They also review significant trends and developments in AA. Each Conference member is encouraged to act as a representative of AA, not just one area.

Discuss

Review

Explore

Consider

throughout the weekend. The language of *discuss*, *review*, *explore*, doesn't always mean not voted on, but *consider* may indicate an increased chance for a vote.

Conference members also review reports on activities of GSO, GSB, and on service needs all over the world.

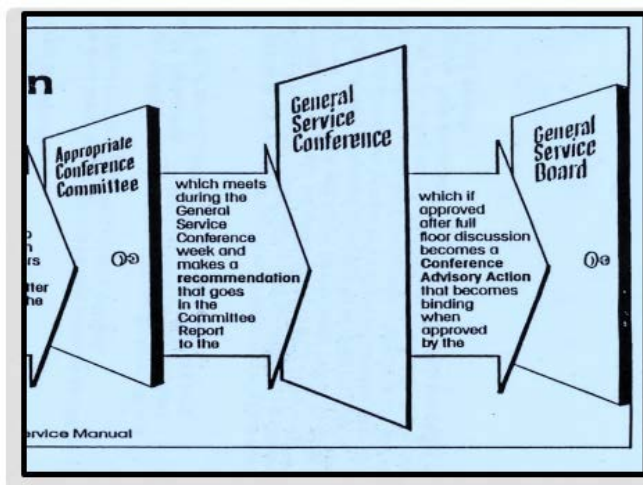
Each is encouraged to act as a representative of AA, not just one Area.

Then if approved after full floor discussion it moves on.

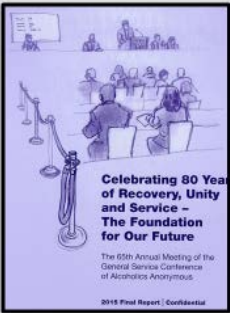
What happens then?

It goes to the GSB (21 Trustees) which has the final say. (Not illegal, is feasible, etc.)

It becomes binding when approved by the GSB.




DELEGATE AND FINAL CONFERENCE REPORTS



Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service - The Foundation for Our Future

The 65th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

2015 Final Report | Confidential

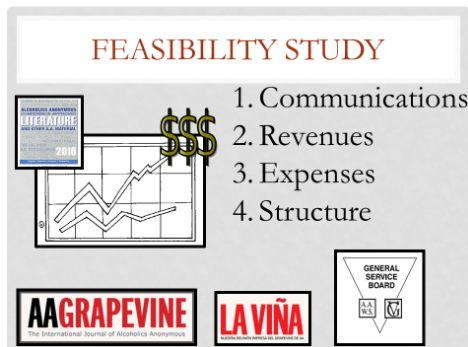


Schedule Your Delegate Reports

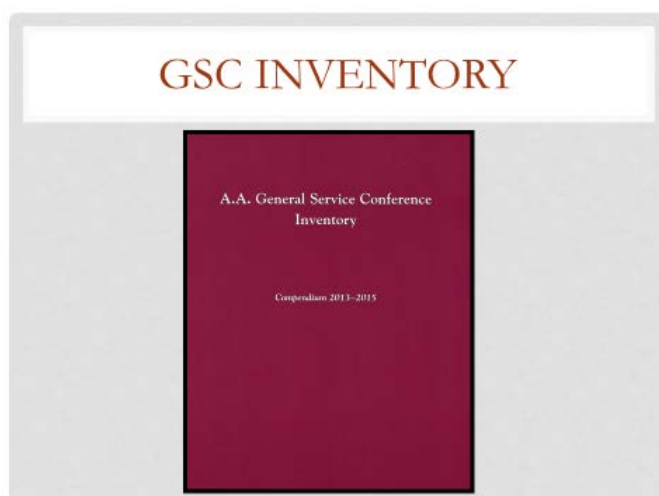
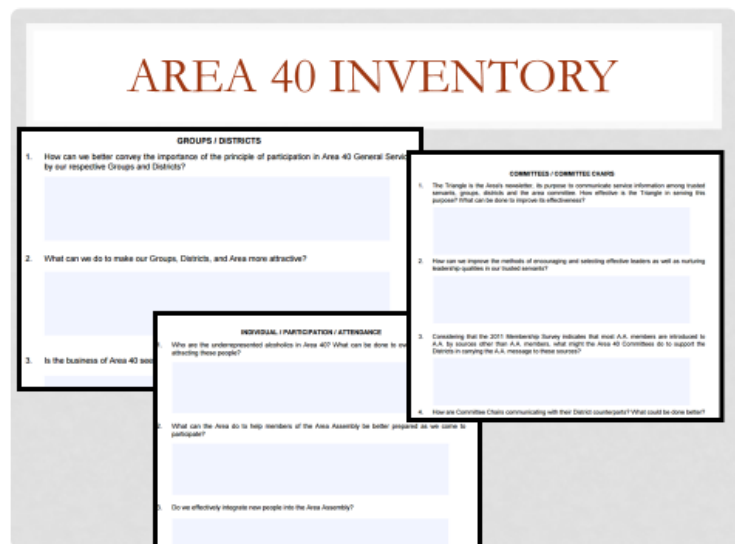
After the Conference, the GSR's and DCM's are responsible for making sure that group members are informed about what went on there and are made aware of the full range of Advisory Actions. (The Outcomes) I will come and tell you all about it.

This fall we will have the 66th Final Conference Report to distribute.

Workshop at the Conference and I want your feedback.
4 questions about the Feasibility of our current Structure



More Feedback that I want/need from everyone
Thanks to Sharon and the Ad hoc committee
Copies available on the website
Let's use this information to improve Area 40. Make some Agenda items



Let's use this information to improve the GSC process.
Again, Agenda items

The Area Standing Committee Chairs also held a welcome session led by Alex M., Area Chair, and Sharon S., Area Advisor.

SATURDAY SESSION 8:00 – 9:00 AM

The Assembly was opened by Alex M., Area Chair, at 8:00 AM. Alex welcomed everyone and covered a few housekeeping items. The 12 Traditions were read by Chad and the 12 Concepts were read by Margaret. Julie R., Area Secretary/Registrar, called the roll.

ROLL CALL, PASSED ACTIONS OF LAST ASSEMBLY (Area Secretary, Julie R.)

AREA 40 OFFICERS		Attendance	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Delegate	Libbie L	X	1	
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	Alex M	X	1	
Secretary	Julie R	X	1	
Treasurer	Mary M	X	1	
Archives	Mike D	X	1	
CPC	Paul L	X	1	
Corrections	Jay T	X	1	
Grapevine	Chris W	X	1	
Literature	Jake L	X	1	
Public Information	Luke S	X	1	
Treatment	Jessica E	X	1	
Triangle Editor	Tim M	X	1	
DCM's				
11	David O	X	9	3
12	Dave R	X	3	1
21	Maryann A			
23	Todd M	X	4	
31	Kathie B		4	
41	Grant M	X	11	2
42	Kurt K	X	4	
51	Karen T	X	3	
61	Rebecca S	X	13	13
71	Roxie B	X	8	
72	Ted O	X	11	2
81	Margaret P	X	11	
91	Jeanie S	X	7	5
93	Vic M	X	11	3

Non-Voting Officers				
Area Advisor	Sharon S	X		1
Area Archivist	Earl F			
Area Webmaster	Brandon M	X		1
		TOTAL	111	31
			QUORUM = 74	

Secretary's Report -- 2016 Area 40 Spring Assembly

Good morning! Welcome to the Spring Assembly! My name is Julie and I'm alcoholic. And I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

When I call your name please answer "here." (Roll Call)

?? (Thank you for your patience in with seating...We did the best we could with the information you provided for attendance. We have 128 seats for districts at 8 tables and I tried to keep districts together as best I could.)

To save a little time and, maybe confusion, I've included a note in your DCM folders regarding the contents. Included is your district's attendance sheet, which needs to be back to me this morning, and the Group Information Sheets. If you have any questions, please ask me at the break. I brought last year's Western U.S. AA Directory with me if you'd like to see it or check how groups are listed. The deadline for getting changes to me in time to be included in these directories is May 1st. But beyond that, incorrect mailing addresses cost our fellowship time and money. Please help me keep this information current.

I'd like to thank all the Chairs and DCMs who have already e-mailed their reports to me and remind those who have not to please e-mail them or provide 2 hard copies to me before the end of the Assembly. I also ask that each committee meeting, workshop and breakout session leader please appoint a recorder to provide me with the notes or minutes taken during that meeting. If your committee brings a recommendation to the floor, please give me a written copy prior to presenting the motion. Reports are limited to 5 minutes and floor comments limited to 3 minutes. When the timer rings, (ring the timer) please close your sharing...or you will get the cow bell! (ring the bell)

On the tables in the back are two plastic "ask it baskets." Please use these for any questions you have or want discussed tonight during the DCM and GSR break-out sessions. Then tomorrow, please drop off your name badges in the box so we can reuse them in the fall which saves expenses. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Lastly, here are the motions passed at the 2015 Fall Assembly:

From the Archives Committee:

"Modify page 30 of the Area 40 Policy & Procedures Manual to allow for a 5 minute report by the Area Chair." **MOTION PASSED: 67 FOR, 4 OPPOSED, 5 ABSTAINED**

From the P.I. committee:

"That Area 40 adopt changes to the Webmaster position and create an Alternate Webmaster position as set forth in the attached description." Two friendly amendments were accepted to remove the 3rd bullet under Alternate Webmaster requirements and to change the wording in the last bullet to read: **"Selected & mentored by Webmaster... selection subject to PI committee approval..."** **MOTION PASSED: 72 FOR, 0 OPPOSED, 3 ABSTAINED**

From the Finance committee:

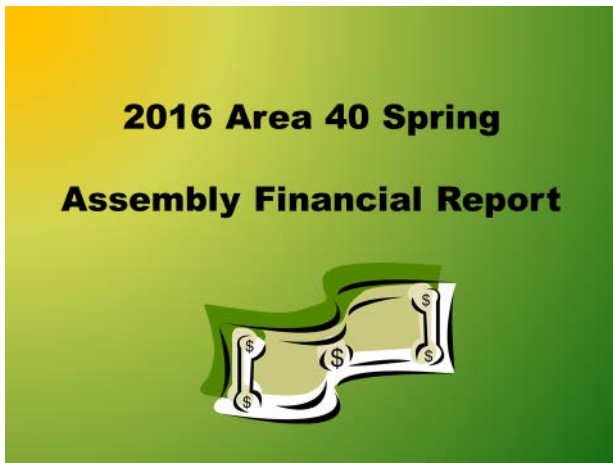
Recommended the 2016 Budget in the amount of \$30,210.00 **MOTION PASSED: 74 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED**

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

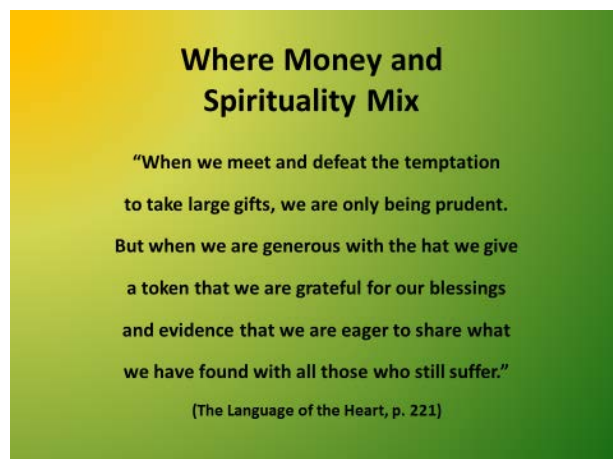
Julie R.

Area 40 Secretary/Registrar

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (Treasurer, Mary M.)



Hello everyone, Mary Alcoholic and the Area 40 Treasurer.
Thank you for trusting me with the Area 40 Finances.



How Area 40 Did Financially 2015

Area 40 2015 Budget = \$32,210.00
 Registered Groups in Area 40 = 271
 Actual Expenses \$29,531.00 / 271 Groups
 \$109 Cost per Group / \$5.31 Cost per Member
 2015 Groups Contributing To Area 118/271 = 44%
 2015 \$ amount contributed from Groups To Area \$25,379
 Individuals, Districts, Triangle = \$2,160
 Total Income for 2015 = \$27,539

Number of groups and members are based on data from 2015 Final Conference Report which corresponds with what our registrar, Julie, shows for groups in MT registered with GSO. We ended up spending \$2,000 more than we took in last year. In 2014 we took in about \$2,000 more than we spent. According to the 2015 Final Report of the 65th General Service Conference, there are 271 registered groups in Area 40. If all the groups contributed to Area 40, and if we spend our entire budget, the amount needed from each group would be \$111.48. In 2015, 118 groups (44%)

sent contributions to Area 40 and helped support those groups that could not or would not contribute.

Where Are We At Financially

of Groups Contributing To Area 1st Quarter
 62/271 or 23%

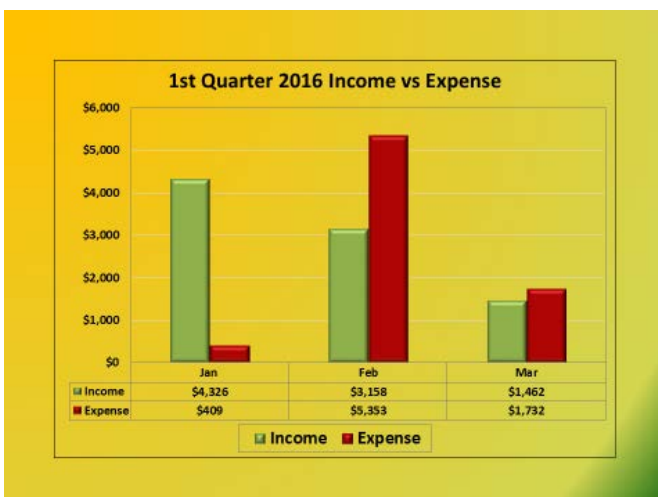
\$ amount contributed to Area 40 1st Quarter
 \$8,946

\$8,946 X 4 Quarters = \$35,780

Area 40 2016 Budget = \$30,210

(Hotline and Assembly Expense will be over Budget)

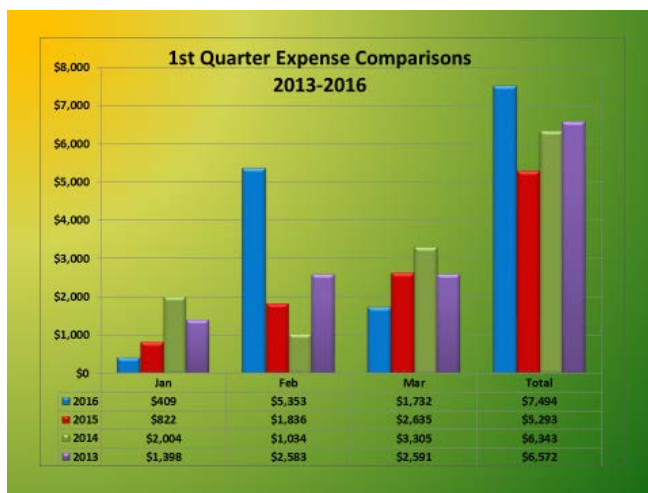
Group contributions for the first quarter of 2016 were very generous. This \$8,946, from 62 groups. (Dollar amount is up from last year with just about the same number of groups participating)



Here is a chart for the 1st quarter on income and expense. We didn't spend much in January and groups were very generous. This is common with groups that do or some groups do yearly, quarterly, or semi-yearly splits.

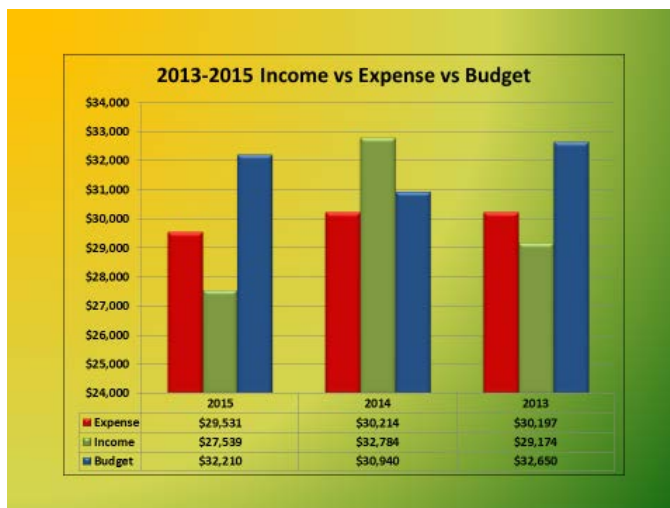


Total Contributions include districts, individuals, and triangle subscriptions. We are up from last year's first quarter. Remember the mail was held up last year red columns. The 800 number and Area Assemblies will end up over our budget this year. Financial reports are on your tables and some are back by the coffee. (Checkbook balance is \$21,800, Prudent Reserve is \$10,070, leaving us an Operating Balance of \$11,730)



Here is a four-year expense comparison for the first quarter. Our expenses are up this year so far mainly due to paying deposit for our Assembly and our 800 number had to get caught up due the problems we had last year with billing delays.

Here is how total income and expense looked for the past three years. We have not gone over budget. You can see in 2015 contributions were down from previous two years along with expenses slightly down. I expect travel will be up this year for committees, which is typical for 2nd year of rotation.



My Opinion

The only real budget line we may have underestimated is our hotline expense for 2016.

Monthly base for hotline will be \$227. So $227 \times 12 = 2,724$. We had come up with \$1,500 based on previous years and up until August 2015. Luke is working on our bills with AnswerNet. The other budget item may be Assembly but that may only be a couple hundred dollars over. Group and District Contributions are up thus far this year from last. I am not too concerned, God's got us. Thank you, From the Area 40 Treasurer

ORIENTATION TO ASSEMBLY (Delegate, Libbie L.)

Good Morning Everyone! My name is Libbie L and I'm an alcoholic. It continues to be my honor and privilege to serve with you as the Area 40 Delegate to the 66th General Service Conference. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Spring Area Assembly. Welcome first time attendees. Not here last night, get an assembly buddy.

I would like to extend warm greetings to everyone in attendance. Thank you for being here to serve the Area, your groups, your district, and the alcoholic who still suffers. Your participation is vital. We are here this weekend to share and make decisions about Area 40 business and to give me a sense of the area for the General Service Conference. Alex will chair the meeting following our set agenda. Our practice is to be punctual, so our meetings will start on time.

We had a great Welcoming Session last night; I covered some basics about the Service Structure, and reviewed our agenda and assembly practices. We'll briefly review that this morning. Here is a quick rundown of the weekend. We will start with DCM reports until 9 AM sharp. Any remaining DCM reports will be this afternoon. The Standing Committee meetings will start at 9:15. Rooms are assigned. Committees meet until noon. DCM and DR appointments are the same through the whole rotation. It is imperative to have your district's positions filled on those assigned committees, remember, they are voting members! All committee meetings are open, and all who attend are encouraged to participate. Our past delegate Bob H will be leading workshops here in this room for those who don't attend the committee meetings. Thank you to Sharon our immediate past delegate and current area advisor for her presence here. Earl H and Scott W had plans to be here, but surgery and a car accident got in the way. Our best wishes to both of them. I hear they are on the mend. Break for lunch, and then we will reconvene promptly at 1 PM when we'll finish up the DCM reports. 2 PM starts the floor assembly and the fun begins. It is Alex's responsibility to see that the meeting flows smoothly and effectively. He will loosely follow Robert's Rules of Order. Everyone will have the opportunity to share and discuss items presented by the committee chairs.

Here are some general guidelines for sharing from the floor:

- People wishing to speak line up at the microphones and the chair will call on them in order
- Introduce yourself at the microphone each time you speak (name, service position, district)
- Each person may speak for 3 minutes (hard stop when the time goes off)
- Everyone who wishes to speak will have a turn before anyone may speak for a second time, full discussion should take place before the vote
- Everyone is entitled to and should, express their opinion. However, if it has already been stated, it is not necessary to repeat it
- Every is asked to refrain from clapping or cheering when people share, pro and con, in order to encourage, not discourage those who may have opposing opinions or facts
- Voting is by a show of hands
- Listen with an open mind, particularly to those who speak on the other side of an issue from you

We will vote on Area 40 items and I will be asking for a sense of the area for selected GSC items. Many won't require much feedback or discussion. Our goal is to cover the entire agenda succinctly with everyone having their voice.

We break for dinner, and then the Floor Assembly reconvenes from 7-8:45. GSR and DCM breakout sessions will be from 9-10. Thanks to Bob and Sharon for leading those.

Sunday morning starts bright and early and promptly at 8 AM. Our business will include Round Up, Intergroup, WCRAASC reports, past delegate sharing and a Delegate's report from me. We'll finish up the floor assembly, pack it up and head home ready to share our excitement for AA service.

Feasibility Report-I have questionnaires to fill out. I want your feedback. I will be participating in a workshop that will go over all of this at the GSC and I want to tell them what you are thinking.

Group Commitment

We gather as part of Alcoholics Anonymous, one body with many members, who through the gift of our sobriety are brought together into this place for our continuing work.

We desire to be a humble community, celebrating and listening to the God within all of us as we serve others in this world. To this end, we value each person who joins us in this goal and seek to recognize the light in each one of us.

Therefore, this weekend we will agree:

- To Assume the best intentions of all persons who participate in our discussions
- To Come together in a spirit of love and prayer for each other
- To Be patient and kind to one another
- To Speak honestly
- To Practice humility with a willingness to learn and grow
- To Listen carefully to one another
- To Respect views we may not agree with-especially those not the majority view
- To Respect the wisdom that comes from being a body together

We rejoice in the multiplicity of people, gifts, ideas and experiences at this Spring 2016 Area Assembly. Now, back to Alex and we'll get this party started.

DCM REPORTS (see attached)

SATURDAY SESSION (cont.) 9:15AM – 12:00PM

WORKSHOP (Held concurrently with standing committee meetings)

Three Legacies Condensed (Led by past Delegate, Bob H.)

Attendees participated, with questions and discussion, in a workshop with the following outline as conducted by Bob H.:

See addendum at end of PDF

SATURDAY SESSION (cont.) 1:30 – 2:30PM

DCM REPORTS (cont.) (see attached)

FLOOR ASSEMBLY – COMMITTEE REPORTS, MOTIONS & DISCUSSION 2:30 – 8:45 (excluding breaks)

ARCHIVES (Area 40 Archives Chr., Mike D.)

REPORT:

Hello everybody, it's great to be back at our Area Assembly and I'm excited to see all of you here! So far this spring has been great, and very busy as always. There's always so much going on this time of year, and I can't wait to hear what you all have been up to. We've got a lot of interesting business at hand this weekend, and it's always a joy working it through shoulder to shoulder with you folks.

Since our last assembly I have had a lot going on in my personal life, as well as my service life. Over the holiday season I took the opportunity to work on our assembly evaluation review, knowing that spring would bring us plenty of new business. Also over the holidays I ran into an old timer whom I had been waiting for a visit from so I could get his story for our oral history collection. I spent the next couple months tracking down a handful of others from around my neck of the woods who had not yet been approached. I have always been absolutely fascinated about our history ever since the first time a sponsor began to share it with me out of the Big Book. The recounting of our pioneer's experiences in the beginning is what made this thing real for me, because I didn't know what to think about Alcoholics Anonymous prior to then. So I absolutely love getting the chance to sit down with anybody who has some history to share with me about our fellowship's growth here in Area 40. When they share their individual experience of recovery, the continuity of our message is clear to me. This is where archives comes to life, and has a great value for 12 step work.

In February I was invited by the South Central Montana Intergroup to give an archival presentation of our area's history at the founder's Day Celebration in Billings on March 19th. This turned out to be a great opportunity to do some further research and update the "Billings Story" utilizing a couple past versions of the story, along with some stories shared from old timers, a few old Grapevine articles, and a handful of local group histories. The process has also left a few questions in my mind to pursue.

Earl also came down and brought a display from the archives. I got a few more contacts for oral histories, and a few old-timers who would like to add to some of the group histories as well. I would like to take the opportunity right now to encourage those of you here to find out if your group has recorded a group history. Please don't let your group's story fade away with the old timer's, get a hold of me or Earl, we would love to help you with this! I had an enthusiastic new group archivist approach me for guidance on how to get started, and we have had a few chats since. Pretty soon we will be having more fun together digging through some forgotten treasures!

Most recently I got in touch with a member from the Hi-line who has been sober 45 years, and has a handful of friends who were there when he came in, and are still active. We are trying to coordinate a gathering so we can have a fun reason to get together, enjoy each other's company, and swap some good old stories! It's going to be an Archives Party! I bet you never thought you'd hear those two words together, but I have to tell you that there just isn't any other way to put it. Archives work is so much fun when you get down to it. So why not think about helping us preserve our legacy? I promise, you will not

regret the past, nor will you wish to shut the door on it!

In Love with Service,
Mike D.
Area 40 Archives Chair

ARCHIVIST REPORT: (Area 40 Archivist, Earl F.)

Greetings Area 40. I have asked Mike to give this report in Committee as well as to the General Session. I regret not being able to be there for this Assembly and seeing everyone. I want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, prayers and good thoughts. It is tough getting old.

Your Archives are dry and secure. Our landlords have built a new facility to the south of ours that has provided certain environmental benefits. As we are no longer the farthest south buildings, we have a little more protection from the wind. One detriment of the construction has been an increase in the dust due to the construction traffic. This is an issue that I fight constantly, but I can use it for benefit, as I clean, I can also inventory items and get me closer to the goal of being inventoried by the end of this rotation. I believe our rent is paid until July and Mary has informed me that the power company has made an adjustment to the budget billing of our electric bill, approximately \$20/ month. We have added some new tapes to our collection from a friend from Hamilton. I have recently purchased a digital recorder to do Archival recordings with and I can also transfer tapes to it then to Archival cds so that I have another form of preserving our archival recordings. I am doing well on supplies and materials, with no anticipation of any major expenditure for the next year.

I attended three events last fall. The Havre Mini-conference with a display and presentation. I also attended the Fall Round-Up in Kalispell and the Pockets of Enthusiasm in Helena. This has been a very busy spring with personal things, but I have been able to attend the Southcentral Montana Intergroup Founders Day event in Billings a few weeks ago and am planning on being at the Spring Round-up in Missoula in early May.

I want to remind everyone to please include me on your mailing lists or send me copies of your minutes, correspondence, committee notes or activity flyers. If I can be of service in any way, please let me know. I am kicking around a few Ideas that have come to light recently, and I might bring them forward for consideration or discussion at the assembly this fall.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:
(No notes received)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the "suggested agenda framework for area assembly" be modified to include the triangle Editor's report to take place Saturday morning directly following the financial Highlights. **MOTION PASSED: 92 FOR, 1 OPPOSED**

RECOMMENDATION:

That we define the scope of the Inventory Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

- plan and facilitate Area 40 Inventory
- collect and report results
- suggest items to be discussed or considered

MOTION PASSED: 88 FOR, 9 OPPOSED

RECOMMENDATION:

That we form an ad hoc committee to find another venue for the fall 2017 Assembly, and report back to the Fall 2016 Assembly. **MOTION PASSED: 100 FOR, 0 OPPOSED**

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (Area 40 CPC Chair, Paul L.)

REPORT:

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Paul. I am the Area 40 chair for the CPC and Trustees committee for this rotation. I am honored to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity.

The Agenda items from the GSC regarding the 4 pieces of literature pertaining to the work of the CPC are very thought provoking and enlightening about where Alcoholics Anonymous has come from and where we are heading. I look forward to working with the other members of the committee on these agenda items.

As far as being the chair of this committee I have not been very busy, but things are looking up.

- I recently participated in 2 of the Pre-Assemblies in Missoula and Boulder.
- District 72 is hosting a workshop on "Sponsoring Your Professional". I will be speaking at this. It is scheduled in Bozeman on April 30 from 2:30 to 4:30. Flyers about this event are on the Area 40 website. Morgan, the CPC Chair from District 72, has been working very hard with her committee to organize this.
- Dan F. from District 51 approached me about some difficulties with members of the local judicial system in regards to what A.A. *Does* and *Does Not* do. We think that a workshop may be the best way to share this information. We hope to hold the workshop later this summer.
- The coordinator of the Family Medical Residency program for Western Montana has contacted us about a presentation about what A.A. has to offer. This will be scheduled soon.

If there are any other districts or groups in Area 40 that would like some information about what Cooperation with the Professional Community means and what we can do please let me know. I am willing to participate in any type of event that would help inform professionals about the message that A.A. has. It is important that we continue to carry the message to non-alcoholic professionals about who we are and what we can offer to the alcoholic interested in recovery.

Yours in service,

Paul L. Area 40 CPC Chair

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Start at 0915

Area Chair Paul L.

Attendance: Margaret P – District 81 DCM/Voter; Derek A – Helena/Voter; David O- District 11 DCM/Voter; Troy – Bozeman; Sara P – Kalispell; Melanie K – Absarokee/ Voter; Chad – Blackfoot River; Nicole – Kalispell; Martin N. – Dist. 41, Alt. GSR

Welcomed by Paul followed by Introductions of Committee

Explained “How it works”

Area 40 voting members of the committee: Dave O, Margaret P, Melanie K, Derek A

All others may participate.

Assembly report was read.

Discussion took place among the Committee members on what each District and Group were doing relating to CPC work.

Paul L (Area Chair of CPC) will participate in a workshop in Bozeman on April 30th from 2:30 – 4:30. Information is on the AA website.

The workshop will be addressing “Sponsoring your Professional”.

Havre area 51 is having some issues with the judicial system (referring nonalcoholics) at this time.

Education to judges on what AA does and doesn’t do. In the CPC Kit there are templates that can be used. Explain difference of open/closed meeting.

A Few years ago a workshop was held in District 91 and invited professionals (Who are Professionals? Psychiatrists, Counselors, Medical Professionals, Judges, Corrections, Veterans, and Clergy.) Committee Chairman: A letter was sent out to the community to invite the audience intended. The workshop was 2-3 hours long and food provided, etc. The cost was around \$1300 dollars, reserved funds were used.

Agenda items: 11 items to consider

CPC:

A. Consider discontinuing the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.”

- 46 Pages long (too lengthy and dated)
- Intended audience will not look at it (medical professionals)
- Captured in other literature
- Will be kept in Archives

Reviewed by committee

Discussion: Margaret – Will pamphlet be kept in digital form? Unsure and Paul will look into, thinks it will be in Archives and will be accessible.

B. Consider adding text regarding AA and medications to the pamphlet “If you are a Professional”

“No AA member should play Doctor

Reviewed by committee

- Referred already in another pamphlet “AA and Other Drugs”
- Outside issue, health care provider direction

C. Consider adding text to the pamphlet “Is there an alcoholic in the work place” regarding AA as a resource for small business.

Discussion; Don’t over define,

Business of any size.

Suggestion: add Owner/Manager and take out organization

D. Review draft revision of the pamphlet “How AA Members cooperate with Professionals”

Reviewed by committee

Discussion on pg. 10 #7 Less fearful and rigid to add less rigid – Conjunction junction
Is it worth putting out pamphlets, use of digital instead?

E. Review contents of CPC kit and Workbook

Reviewed by committee

New York committee- reaching intended audience and keeping current of the 37 items in the kit, doing a good job.

TRUSTEES:

A. Review resumes of candidates for trustees- We are unable to see these

B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of AA, Inc

C. Review slate of directors of AA World Service - Have served as delegates or trustees before

D. Review slate of AA Grapevine Inc.

9 names on slate take as a whole, if one is rejected they ALL are. Carol B from Billings is on the slate.

E. Review report from the trustees committee

There is a problem to get people to volunteer or expand pool of candidates. How to notify about vacancies that more people would see. 17-18 bullet points to expand. Discussion May be increase the numb of Class B trustees

F. Consider option presented by the trustees committee on Nominating regarding the unexpected vacancy of Regional Trustees

A trustee passed away and everyone else carrying the load. The option presented looked good.

Respectfully submitted, Sara P.

CORRECTIONS (Area 40 Corrections Chair, Jay T.)

REPORT:

I'm Jay and I am an Alcoholic serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair,

On Oct. 6th I made a book order totaling \$2449.60. On Nov. 15th I went to District 72 Bozeman for a Workshop for Bridging the Gap, Corrections and Treatment. On March 12th went to District 11 Billings, March 19th to District 81 Missoula and April 2nd to District 71 Boulder for the Pre-Assemblies. In Boulder I got cleaned out of Big Books all but one case, I have 12x12's and Daily Reflections. Made another order on April 4th totaling \$2525.10. There is an Orientation for Montana State Prison on May 21st Applications in by May 6th. Also have a Mini Conference on Sept.17th. Need to get a hold of Lee G. only 25 people from the outside can go both men and women. Time is 12:30 to 6:30 dinner will be served. You can find all of this on the Area 40 Web Site. I have attached Pink Can records to my report. I also have it on a thumb drive if anyone wants to download it to your laptop. Like to thank all the members of Area 40 for the contributions to the Pink Can. Balance is \$1211.39. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Area 40 Corrections Chair. Jay T.

Pink Can Expenditures								
Date Ordered	Order				Amount			
10/6/2015	10- cases of soft cover Big B	Books = 200 books			\$1,492.00			
	1- case Daily Reflections	40 books			\$385.60			
	2-cases + 20 pocket 12X12	100 books			\$572.00			
					(\$2,449.60)	Total of Book Order		
					\$920.84	Current Balance		

Date given	Date deposited	Source	Amount		
10/7/015	10/9/2015	Anaconda Traditions Group-Anaconda	\$50.00	Additional Contributions	
			\$970.84	Current Balance	
10/18/2015	11/1/2015	Control is an Illusion-Butte	\$30.77		
10/25/2015	11/1/2015	Thompson Falls Group-Thompson Falls	\$45.35		
10/29/2015	11/1/2015	Candlelight AA Group-Helena	\$20.00		
10/29/2015	11/1/2015	Whitefish Group- Whitefish	\$124.00		
10/29/2015	11/1/2015	Missoula Womens Group-Missoula	\$55.00		
10/29/2015	11/1/2015	Missoula Womens Group-Missoula	\$43.55		
10/11/2015	11/1/2015	MondayKeepItSimple,MakeItFun Group-Misso	\$65.00		
			\$383.67	Additional Contributions	
			\$1,354.51	Current Balance	
11/5/2015	11/6/2015	Whitefish Group-Whitefish	\$123.00	Additional Contributions	
			\$1,477.51	Current Balance	
Expenditure	Date	Shipping	Amount		
USPS	11/20/2015	Books	(\$12.65)		
			\$1,464.86	Current Balance	
Date given	Date deposited	Source	Amount		
11/15/2015	11/24/2015	Talk Story Group-Hamilton	\$158.00		
11/15/2015	11/24/2015	Control is an Illusion-Butte	\$33.00		
11/15/2015	11/24/2015	Last Chance Group-Helena	\$59.83		
11/15/2015	11/24/2015	Anaconda Traditions Group-Anaconda	\$50.00		
11/15/2015	11/24/2015	Last Chance Group-Helena	\$70.22		
			\$371.12	Additional Contributions	
			\$1,835.98	Current Balance	
12/5/2015	12/9/2015	Missoula Womens Group-Missoula	\$69.00		
12/5/2015	12/9/2015	The Whitefish Group-Whitefish	\$120.00		
			\$189.00	Additional Contributions	
			\$2,024.98	Current Balance	
Expenditure	Date	Shipping	Amount		
USPS	12/18/2015	Books	(\$39.80)		
			\$1,985.18	Current Balance	
Date given	Date deposited	Source	Amount		
12/15/2015	1/14/2016	Control is an Illusion Group-Butte	\$24.00		
12/20/2015	1/14/2016	Last Chance Group-Helena	\$20.63		
1/7/2016	1/14/2016	Candlelight AA Group-Helena	\$18.00		
1/7/2016	1/14/2016	MondayKeepItSimple,MakeItFunGroup-Miss	\$52.00		
1/7/2016	1/14/2016	Missoula Womens Group-Missoula	\$50.00		
1/11/2016	1/14/2016	Anaconda Traditions Group-Anaconda	\$179.25		
1/14/2016	1/14/2016	The Whitefish Group-Whitefish	\$132.00		
			\$475.88	Additional Contributions	
			\$2,461.06	Current Balance	
Expenditure	Date	Shipping	Amount		
USPS	2/5/2016	Books	(\$12.22)		
			\$2,448.84	Current Balance	
Date given	Date deposited	Source	Amount		
1/29/2016	2/10/2016	Last Chance Group-Helena	\$35.49		
1/30/2016	2/10/2016	The Whitefish Group-Whitefish	\$116.00		
1/30/2016	2/10/2016	Early Bird Group-Polson	\$79.82		
1/31/2016	2/10/2016	Missoula Womens Group-Missoula	\$52.50		
			\$283.81	Additional Contributions	
			\$2,732.65	Current Balance	
2/13/2016	3/8/2016	Control is an Illusion-Butte	\$27.92		
2/20/2016	3/8/2016	Last Chance Group-Helena	\$26.40		
3/1/2016	3/8/2016	Anaconda Traditions Group-Anaconda	\$50.00		
3/3/2016	3/8/2016	The Way Out Group-Hamilton	\$39.25		
3/3/2016	3/8/2016	The Whitefish Group-Whitefish	\$98.00		
3/5/2016	3/8/2016	Missoula Womens Group-Missoula	\$42.00		
			\$283.57	Additional Contributions	
			\$3,016.22	Current Balance	

Date given	Check #	Date deposited	Source	Amount			
3/18/2016	1283	3/18/2016	Promises Group-Butte	\$514.23			
3/18/2016	2063	3/18/2016	Control is an Illusion Group-Butte	\$26.00			
3/18/2016	3648	3/18/2016	Anaconda Traditions Group-Anaconda	\$50.00			
				\$590.23	Additional Contributions		
				\$3,606.45	Current Balance		
3/31/2016	5233	4/6/2016	Last Chance Group-Helena	\$33.91			
3/31/2016	1286	4/6/2016	Promises Group-Butte	\$42.13			
4/5/2016	1590	4/6/2016	Missoula Women's Group-Missoula	\$54.00			
				\$130.04	Additional Contributions		
				\$3,736.49	Current Balance		

Pink Can Expenditure							
Date Ordered	Order			Amount			
4/4/2016	2-Cases Spanish Big Books=40 Books			\$342.00			
	10-Cases Big Books=200 Books			\$1,492.00			
	2-Cases+10- 12x12=50 Books			\$305.50			
	1-Case Daily Reflections=40 Books			\$385.60			
				(\$2,525.10)	Total of Book Order		
				\$1,211.39	Current Balance		

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Corrections – GSC

- A. \$70,000 max for the new video. Question asked “How can we vote on a video we can’t see?”
Answer: Trust Libbie
- B. We talked about needing more women this spring where last fall it was men. I read a letter from Tracie P., Southwest Region: “I have the disease of Alcoholism. I have been in and out of AA since I was 18 year old. I am now 42. I have been in and out of prison since 1999. Amazingly, prison has saved me from myself repeatedly. All that can happen has happened. I have surrendered and I know without a doubt if I drink again I will die. I am learning to love myself so I can love others and I am also learning why I drank to begin with. My goal is to make the AA way of life my life. I want to live and enjoy life without the use of alcohol. I am looking forward to hearing from a member from the Corrections Correspondence Service.”

International Convention/Regional Forums

- A. We had only one person who had been to one. All we came up with is getting out more information on what it is about.
- B. All we know is that it lost money. But it did a great thing for C.C.S. and a lot of men are in touch with men in AA on the outside.

I’d like to thank all of you who were here for your help: Ana K., Denny S., Alan S., Dave R., Lyle V., Shawn N., Bill G., Pat G., Terri C., Jenni F., Nancee G., Todd M., Robert F., who also took notes. All committee members were there. In service, Jay T., Area 40 Corrections Chair

FINANCE (Area 40 Treasurer, Mary M.)

REPORT:

My name is Mary M, an alcoholic and Area 40's Treasurer. The time is now to be thinking about who is willing to stand for Treasurer at the Fall Assembly. I am available for any questions you may have on this great opportunity to be of service to our Area.

The checkbook is balanced as of March 31, 2016 and bills are getting paid. I did an audit on 2015 finances and had some PI hotline and directories mis-categorized and have corrected those. "We" went a bit out of budget on some areas. Directories really do cost quite a bit. The cost of Assemblies has definitely increased. However our prudent spending of our delegate and some other areas are under budget.

Thus far this year, Luke has been busy trying to straighten out the hotline bill and I have been trying to keep up. The bigger budget items I have paid are the delegate share to the General Service Conference. We are starting over with 2016 directory expenses for listings in yellow pages. New this year is that I paid a deposit to the Yogo Inn in February to secure this assembly and committee chairs have done some travel.

I had the pleasure of participating at the 2015 Fall Round in Kalispell on 'Understanding Self Support' at a panel workshop, with a little help from my friends. I attended the Missoula and Boulder pre-assemblies. Thank you Don M for attending the Billings pre-assembly representing the finance committee. These events help me so much for getting informed before coming to this Assembly. I appreciate everyone's time and knowledge of the agenda items.

Thank you to all the groups, individuals and districts that have contributed 7th Tradition funds to Area 40. So far 62 groups have contributed. There is a wonderful document that Lori F originally put together around 5 years ago referred to as *"Self-Support at the Area Level"*. It is a short version of the power point presentation given on Saturday morning. This document is updated and available on our website under Forms and Other Docs. I also have hard copies of this document at the back of the room along with the first quarter Budget vs. Actual by Line Item and Budget vs. Actual by Committee/Project. Some people have found these documents useful as a tool for deciding on their group splits.

Please note that the address for group contributions is: Area 40 Inc., P.O. Box 2046, Whitefish, MT 59937. Also, make sure your contribution checks are made out to Area 40, Inc. I am not passing the 7th tradition basket around the assembly, but if you would like to contribute, there are baskets by the coffee.

I hope that all AA members of your groups have an opportunity to see the finance reports and know they have a voice how we are spending our 7th Tradition. Let me know how I can be of service or better communicate to the Area 40 fellowship on our finances.

In service,

Mary M, Area 40 Treasurer

7:06 PM
03/31/18
Accrual Basis

Area 40, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual by Line Item
March 2018

	Mar 18	Budget	Jan - Mar 18	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Individual contribution	10.00		35.00		
Group Contributions	1,461.50		8,946.07		
District Contribution					
Hotline	35.86		35.86		
District Contribution - Other	0.00		500.00		
Total District Contribution	35.86		535.86		
Roundup Contribution	0.00		550.00		
Triangle Subscriptions	45.00		165.00		
Total Income	1,552.36		10,231.93		
Expense					
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00		(0.98)		
Travel Expenses					
Gas	88.19	470.00	234.37	540.00	2,415.00
Mileage	40.70	160.00	118.06	190.00	1,338.00
Meals	171.47	365.00	247.72	405.00	2,395.00
Lodging	515.60	650.00	560.60	695.00	6,115.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	50.00	900.00	880.40	900.00	1,100.00
Area 40 contribution to O&C	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Total Travel Expenses	865.96	2,545.00	3,631.15	4,330.00	14,963.00
Rent					
Archives storage	0.00	0.00	231.00	250.00	3,500.00
Meeting space	0.00	0.00	874.24	880.00	3,520.00
Total Rent	0.00	0.00	1,105.24	1,130.00	7,020.00
Literature Expenses					
Lit purchases (not svo manuals)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Total Literature Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Photocopies / printing					
Background information	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	100.00
Photocopies / printing - Other	250.00	275.00	750.00	825.00	2,330.00
Total Photocopies / printing	250.00	275.00	750.00	875.00	2,430.00
Dues, registration, fees	0.00	0.00	36.00	0.00	52.00
Postage	57.62	50.00	243.52	195.00	595.00
Supplies	0.00	140.00	34.47	200.00	740.00
Telephone					
Directory Listings	0.00	350.00	139.59	520.00	2,400.00
800 Number	403.00	0.00	1,399.37	500.00	1,500.00
Total Telephone	403.00	350.00	1,538.96	1,020.00	3,900.00
Miscellaneous expense	155.88	160.00	155.88	160.00	310.00
Total Expense	1,732.46	3,520.00	7,494.24	7,910.00	30,210.00
Net Ordinary Income	(180.10)	(3,520.00)	2,737.69	(7,910.00)	(30,210.00)
Checkbook Balance	\$21,800.27				
Prudent Reserve	\$10,070.00				
Operating Balance	\$11,730.27				

7:07 PM
03/31/16
Accrual Basis

Area 40, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual by Committee / Project
March 2016

	Mar 16	Budget	Jan - Mar 16	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Unrestricted					
Program Services					
Spring Assembly	0.00	0.00	-874.24	-1,020.00	-5,000.00
Fall Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5,000.00
Regional Service Conference	-657.05	-1,500.00	-1,503.45	-1,500.00	-1,500.00
Delegate Expenses					
Area 40 share to GSC	0.00	0.00	-1,600.00	-1,600.00	-1,600.00
Other Expenses	0.00	-55.00	0.00	-95.00	-400.00
Other Expenses NYC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-400.00
Roundups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-600.00
Travel expenses	0.00	-175.00	0.00	-175.00	-1,900.00
Total Delegate Expenses	0.00	-230.00	-1,600.00	-1,870.00	-4,900.00
Area Chair Expenses	0.00	-90.00	0.00	-90.00	-600.00
Archivist Account					
Archivist Display & Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-300.00
Archives Storage	0.00	0.00	-231.00	-250.00	-3,500.00
Total Archivist Account	0.00	0.00	-231.00	-250.00	-3,800.00
Literature Chair					
General literature purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-200.00
Total Literature Chair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-200.00
Public Information Chair					
Area Hotline Expenses	0.00	0.00	-1,030.84	-500.00	-1,500.00
Directory Listings	-403.00	-350.00	-542.59	-520.00	-2,400.00
Total Public Information Chair	-403.00	-350.00	-1,573.43	-1,020.00	-3,900.00
Website	-155.88	-160.00	-155.88	-160.00	-160.00
Triangle	-307.62	-300.00	-873.52	-900.00	-2,400.00
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	0.00	-75.00	0.00	-100.00	-400.00
Committee Chair Travel	-208.91	-815.00	-543.70	-1,000.00	-2,200.00
Computer Hardware/Software	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-150.00
Total Program Services	-1,732.46	-3,520.00	-7,355.22	-7,910.00	-30,210.00
Management and General	0.00		-20.00		
Unrestricted - Other	1,552.36		10,111.93		
Total Unrestricted	-180.10	-3,520.00	2,736.71	-7,910.00	-30,210.00
Unclassified	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	-180.10	-3,520.00	2,737.69	-7,910.00	-30,210.00
Checkbook Balance	\$21,800.27				
Prudent Reserve	\$10,070.00				
Operating Balance	\$11,730.27				

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Thank you to Peg for taking notes. All committee members were in attendance and four visitors

Finance – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Committee reviewed my report and agreed that I would read report.

Finance – GSC

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

Committee reviewed Area 40 Contribution of \$1,600 for our Delegate to the GSC and agreed we were ok with this amount. This is a standing agenda item at the GSC.

B. Review the Conference approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A Members.

Committee reviewed the one time bequest amount of \$5,000. We discussed that it is a few years till the normal increase that happens 7+ years typically.

C. Review the Conference approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A Member of \$3,000.

We reviewed this agenda item. We were for increasing last spring assembly to the \$5,000. This agenda item came out of committee at the 2015 GSC to approve and failed on the floor.

D. Discuss material from A.A.W.S. Self-Support Committee.

The committee really liked the new flyer 'Your 7th Tradition Contributions, Carrying Our Message Beyond Your Home Group' Simple and easy to understand. I am going to read a letter from Chet P, who is on the Board of Directors at GSO. The flyer is available on aa.org website.

E. Review Self-Support Packet.

Committee reviewed the packet and loves it. We thought it would be nice to add the new service piece from agenda item D. above to be added to the packet.

GRAPEVINE (Area 40 Grapevine Chair, Chris W.)

REPORT:

Hello Area 40, my name is Chris W. and I am an alcoholic.
It is a pleasure to be able to serve Area 40 as the Grapevine and La Viña chair.

I want to invite all of the area to renew your subscriptions or start a new subscription to the Grapevine Magazine, our meeting in print.

The winners of the grapevine challenge are Missouri for the Grapevine and Delaware for La Vina.

I have recently signed up for the Grapevine daily quote in my emails and use them to have inspiring and thoughtful conversations. The daily quotes is fun and a great way to start your day. Forward them on to your sponsees.

This winter I was invited to participate in the Flathead at their annual "Into Action" weekend. I held a work shop where we talked about what type of topics we would like to see in the Grapevine. Many members shared why they chose these topics. We had several submissions which included letters, drawings and a collage.

A fun fact from an archived Grapevine news, from the Did You Know section, in 1979, the GSC recommended that:

"When feasible, groups consider bulk orders as a means of making the Grapevine available."

Grow your Grapevine is a new fun challenge. The Area with the greatest number of Arbor Cards submitted will be featured online and in the magazine. Get together with your friends, your home group, as a group of groups, district or area to complete as many activities as you wish. Go online at aagrapevine.org to learn more, get your arbor card, and activity ideas.

Upcoming events scheduled at this time are Founders' Day event in District 41 where I have been invited to conduct a workshop.

I want to thank my committee for a great break-out this weekend. We had some great conversations and input on how to help Grapevine Grow.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
In service, Chris W.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:
(No notes received)

LITERATURE (Area 40 Literature Chair, Jake L.)

Hello everyone,

My name is Jake L. and I am an alcoholic. It has been a pleasure to continue to serve as the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair. Our literature is an effective mechanism to spread the message of recovery to the still suffering Alcoholic. I want to thank everyone who attend these Assemblies and help keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive. I'd like to express my deep gratitude and thanks for the opportunity to serve for something that has added so much to my life. Thank you to the participants who attended the literature committee breakout for their lively discussion and input.

I continue to maintain a detailed inventory of the literature we have in stock and replenished this missing and low items, mostly pamphlets. Feel free to help yourself but please remember these are provided by Area 40 and feel free to contribute.

Please feel free to visit the Area 40 literature display 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. Our literature is an important mechanism for carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The feedback of this Area, and all the others like it, are vital. You can also find all kinds of information at AA.org and our own www.aa-montana.org. If you, your group or district have any questions please ask me, and I will do my best to get them answered. I am here to serve Area 40, so if your group or district have an event that you would like to showcase the Area 40 literature display, please let me know.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 40.

Jake L., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

Note: Buy some Large Print Service Manuals

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Literature 2016 spring committee meeting - 4/9/2016

Committee members:

D41 GSR - Lee T

D11 GSR - Joan C.

D42 GSR – Dwayne C.

Area 40 Literature - Jake L. D72

Attendees: Tony 72, Jake 91, John 61, Melinda 72, Bobby 93, Susan 93, Scott 72,

Gary 91, Grant 71, Jeff 11, Matt 81, Dan 91

- A. Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous
 1. Treated as a translation, added in addition to the current literature inventory, a supplementary version.
 2. Apparently a number of people bring dictionaries.
 3. A lot of self-admitted fear but I think everyone agreed we need to look at it from a different perspective.
 - i. Could a plain version reach a significant population of alcoholics with English as a second language?
 - ii. Will it help the still suffering alcoholic?
 - iii. Are there better uses of the money for more effective translations?
 - iv. Will the translation change the spirit of the message?
- B. Review A.A.W.S. report on "pagination" of Conference-approved digital books

- a. We reviewed the report which is still a work in progress.
 - b. Committee was strongly in favor of keeping this active
- C. Revision of pamphlet "AA for the Woman"
 - a. Two stories will be retained and 3 will be added. Not included in the background.
 - b. We reviewed the pamphlet.
 - c. Need to get rid of "uniqueness"
 - d. Put in a statement about broadening our feelings of "uniqueness"
 - e. These pamphlets are very helpful to some members
- D. Review progress report on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic"
 - a. We reviewed the report.
 - b. Important pamphlet
 - c. Needs updating
- E. Review progress report on the development of literature for A.A.'s with mental issues and those who sponsor them.
 - a. We reviewed the report
- F. Development of a plan for the systematic review of A.A. recovery literature.
 - a. We reviewed the plan.
 - i. One comment of note was whether or not we should include a standard publishing guide for the "special focus" literature and include the "special statement – Now we are all special together".
 - b. Good solution to keep literature up to date and on track for audience
- G. Review revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services."
 - a. We reviewed the report.
- H. Consider request for revision to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."
 - a. We reviewed the request.
- I. Consider request to update the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions; Illustrated"
 - a. We reviewed the request.

PUBLIC INFORMATION (Area 40 PI Chair, Luke S.)

REPORT:

I am very happy to say that our hotline is functioning beyond all expectations.

Katelyn, the general manager at AnswerNet, started in late November sending e-mails for every call that was made to our statewide hotline call. It gives the caller the option of leaving their name and the option of leaving their number. It lists what city they are calling in regards to and if they would like meetings or a volunteer. It also lists the time and date of the call, how many attempts it took to reach the volunteer, who the volunteer was they tried, who it was they successfully reached, and in some cases after fifteen minutes they stopped attempting waited 15 minutes and reattempted the process. I made the lovely journey from Kalispell to Billings while following all speed limits. I was able to sit with Katelyn as she explained the whole process and some talk of what kind of motorcycles we enjoyed riding. I expected a big corporate answering service and was very impressed with their professional but small office. I believe with all my heart that our answering service is in good hands.

As always, please program the number into your phones, 248-2337, so you don't screen a suffering alcoholic call, like I may or may not have done in the past. Our volunteer stats for February were 1

volunteer reached in 4 attempts and has caused overages for in this month and others. PLEASE, district Public Information chairs, update your volunteer lists! Since I sent out a report that we were dropping the ball on this our numbers have improved. Our monthly should be 225\$, but we have went over every month. Our high bill was over 350\$.

I was invited by James from District 41 to attend the founder's day event in Great Falls. I look forward to participating in some great recovery in Great Falls. I signed 4 contracts with Northwest Directory Publishing and a couple with Dex Media. I also attended 2 pre-assemblies and viewed the love for Alcoholics Anonymous in our beautiful state.

In love and service Luke S.

REPORT: (Area 40 Triangle Editor, Tim M.)

Triangle Area 40 report - Spring 2016

The following is the Triangle schedule for 2016, the current number sent by USPS and associated costs:

Issue	Topic	Article Deadline	Number sent	Cost	Number returned	Cost of Returned
January	Area 40 Inventory	1/8/2016	300	\$308.51	7	\$4.41
February	I Am Responsible	2/10/2016	300	\$307.96	1	\$0.49
March	Spring Pre-Assembly	3/9/2016	296	\$307.62	1	\$0.49
April/May	Spring Post-Assembly	5/8/2016				
June/July	Free at Last	7/1/2016				
August	Fall Pre-Assembly	8/9/2016				
September/October	Fall Post-Assembly	9/1/2016				
November/December	Gratitude	11/1/2016				
Totals			896	\$924.09	9	\$5.39

As of the beginning of April, our paid subscriptions are up from 14% a year ago to 18% currently. With the help of our Area Secretary Julie, we have also been cleaning up the Triangle mailing list which has resulted in the volume and cost of returned mail going down. So far this calendar year we had 9 Triangles returned compared to 28 last year at this time.

Groups, please use the Group information form that can be found on the Area 40 website under Forms and Other Documents > Existing Group Information Update Form to keep your group address current.

Finally to all - Please contribute both articles and subscription to Your Area 40 Newsletter!

Thank You,

Tim M.
Triangle Editor

REPORT: (Area 40 Webmaster, Brandon M.)

Greetings Area 40, my name is Brandon and I am an alcoholic.

I currently have the privilege of serving Area 40 as your webmaster.

I am happy to say the website is doing just fine and despite my best efforts has not been broken.

I have received a lot of emails from members within Area 40 with new events going on. Those events are on the website 'Calendar of Events' – keep an eye out for new events going on in/around Area 40. The meeting lists are staying fairly up-to-date. We have had a few questions regarding where certain meetings are at, as the information on the website is incorrect. DCM's please make sure that whomever you have designated as the Meeting Admin for your district is keeping these online lists up-to-date.

Now for some statistics that some may find valuable:

Number of meetings listed on-line:	863
Number of 888 Volunteers:	794
Average # Website hits / month:	17,650

The majority of the website traffic continues to be focused on our meeting lists, just another reason why keeping this list as accurate as possible is of the utmost importance.

Towards the first part of 2016 we had a rash of spam emails make it through our filter and get delivered to those who use our email system (DCMs / Area Committee Chairs / BTG Chairs) I have taken actions to reduce the amount of spam that makes it through. This seems to have curbed the spam, if you are seeing more of it, please let me know. I can be reached via email at webmaster@aa-montana.org

Last assembly (Fall 2015) this body voted in an alternate-webmaster position, to be chosen by the webmaster with final approval coming from the PI committee. To date, I have had one person express interest in the alternate position, but due to them having a current position as a standing committee chair at the Area, I advised them to wait until that commitment was completed and then we could discuss the alternate webmaster position. Other than that one person, no one else has expressed an interest in the alternate webmaster position.

Once again, I am thankful to Area 40 for allowing me to continue to serve Area 40 as your webmaster.
In service,
Brandon M

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

PI Committee Notes -
Area 40

- A. Went over Luke's PI report. It was extremely well written and noted that hotline contributions were to be sent to the area treasurer.
- B. Brandon gave report on website. We get 15,550 visitors a month. Talk to DCM and update your volunteer list for hotline.

- C. Triangle- Area 40 agenda item proposal form. It was brought up that if we put Triangle on website it could be free. Brandon will look into this. It was brought up that we might have to use PayPal because we have to use an external payment service. Only 9 Triangles returned, so please keep mailing address current.
- D. Short form of concept proposal. Discussed if they could make changes to the proposal. Gerry wrote the proposed short form of the concepts. Margaret made motion to forward to Area 40. It was seconded. Good discussion was followed. Vote was taken and motion passed.

Webmaster establish with the ability to subscribe and pay for Triangle via website and to utilize payment plan through area website. Passed 5-0.

GSC

- a. Find AA near you was changed to AA near you local resources. Website visits in 2014-9,442,223. Website visits in 2015 12,789,345.
- b. That a proposal be developed for the implementation of both a Google for nonprofit account and a twitter account for carrying the AA message to public. Lots of discussion on how to do it and how to do it with anonymity.
- c. Review tracking of P.S.A. "Doors." 239,554,233 impression and 8.6 million dollars of donated media value.
- d. "Tengo Esperanza" be centrally distributed and tracked at a cost not to exceed 40,000\$. Discussion of how it had remained the same for 10 years. The P.S.A. "I THOUGHT" be discontinued because it wasn't in HD.
- e. They want to reconsider an advisory action that made it so you couldn't do full face videos. It was requested because you need a full face for the deaf to read facial expressions.
- f. Reviewed kit and workbook.

Report and charter

- a. Add definition of "service manual" in the Service Manual.
- b. Nowhere on the chart does it indicate that after the fourth ballot "The candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn.
- c. A new section was added to chapter 9 on local forums.
- d. Due to lack of time this is the item reviewed in committee.

Peggy H., District 71 PI chair.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Area 40 Webmaster establish the ability to subscribe and pay for the subscription to the Area 40 Triangle Newsletter via the Area 40 website, utilizing an external link to an online payment service."

MOTION PASSED: 95 FOR, 3 OPPOSED

RECOMMENDATION: (presented and passed in Sunday morning session)

"That Area 40 forward the following agenda item to the General Service Office, requesting that it be placed on the 2017 General Service Conference agenda: *Please consider the proposal that the short form of the "Twelve Concepts for World Service", adopted by the 1971 GSC, be revised to better reflect their description of the general principles of service work as they apply to the entire service structure of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous*" **MOTION PASSED: 84 FOR, 5 OPPOSED**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

GSR BREAKOUT 9:00 – 10:00 PM (Led by past Delegate, Bob H.)

Opened with the Serenity Prayer. Bob shared some of his story, then started off with question basket:

Question from floor: how to find alternate GSR?

Ideas: sponsor in, request help

Q from floor: problem with having lack of attendance at business mtgs.

Ideas: a bit of deception to get them there; bring up “this is what I want to do & why”; take people to other meetings to get acquainted & develop relationships, then involvement happens; change length of time others are assisting in group service areas, then rotate; change name from “business mtg” to “monthly group conscience meeting”; put agenda concerns on a clip board for next meeting; we have a potluck just before the business meeting; read “The AA Group” pamphlet for good information; sponsors can send sponsees to GSR for service work ideas; make members feel welcome & invited; share service work as part of sobriety; schedule on the most attended day, e.g. Wednesday, & get whole group involved in service work including old-timers; “self-support” includes more than money, it is also personal involvement, i.e. opening the meeting; keep discussions on topic, maybe using a 3 min. timer; ask for help/experience from someone with a lot of sobriety.

Q from basket: Am I allowed to pick an alternate GSR?

Ideas: It’s up to the group conscience; choose trusted servants carefully; rotation is important; have two signers on accounts; keep each other accountable; it’s all about the home group

Q from floor: Do we have the “right of decision” as a GSR?

Ideas: Yes, but keep the group’s wishes in mind; the GSR has the trust of the group; pray to leave ego at home & remember it’s about what is good for the group and helping the next guy; if new information comes up that changes what the group decided, explain to the group when reporting why changed your vote

Q from floor: How do we remove a terrible GSR?

Ideas: Must communicate with him/her

DCM BREAKOUT 9:00 – 10:00 PM (Led by Area Advisor, Sharon S.)

Question: How do DCMs get feedback from their groups with a short turn-around time?

Ideas: Hold a special meeting; DCM is a conduit, can’t chase people down to make them read info but can make sure interested people receive info; Attend the pre-Assembly; Offer opportunities to get/give info; Attend WCRAASC; Know/learn about the groups in the district to be able to vote as a responsible & educated trusted servant; Be available

Q: Does the DCM vote his/her conscience or the results of voting from the district?

Ideas: Have “Right of Decision”; Have been elected “trusted servant”; Sometimes receive new or additional info; Have a responsibility to report back

Q: How to address volunteers who don’t fulfill their service commitment?

Ideas: Discuss with sponsor; Frustrating to have a high turnover & can affect ego; District guidelines can allow for voting someone out when there is no attendance or report for 2 months

Q: How to get people interested in the business of AA and its importance?

Ideas: Can be tough if people don't show up & the DCM does the majority of the work for the whole district; Attend meetings to be known to the groups; Practice the simple courtesy of responding to e-mail; Hold a GSR "school"; Rotate the location of the district meeting & provide food; encourage service sponsorship

Q: Does anyone else not feel capable of doing the job?

Ideas: Remember no one is perfectly qualified; Ask for help; Be honest; Spirit of rotation; Commitment; There is a wealth of knowledge available from others

Q: What to do when someone identifies as an "alcoholic/addict?"

Ideas: Ask the person to help with "Singleness of Purpose" at the district level; Ask "why are you here?"; Address it according to guidelines or as it concerns other groups

OTHER REPORTS SUNDAY 8:00 – 8:30 AM

WCRAASC REPORT (no copy received)

2015 FALL ROUNDUP REPORT (Kacie N.)

The 2015 Fall Round Up was held October 9, 10, and 11 at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell. We had three tremendous AA speakers, a wonderful Al-Anon speaker, and several life-changing workshops. Our entertainment chair hosted the most well-attended Round Up dance since the early 60s and we were able to offer a Marathon Meeting any hour you could want one. Our registered attendance totaled 287 including 43 Al-Anon members.

Avoiding concern that we could possibly become the seat of perilous wealth and due to a speaker flight snafu and free coffee for all, we managed to just come out even financially with enough of a final balance to pass on \$1300.00 to the Missoula Spring Round Up and \$200.00 to Al-Anon.

It was an honor and a genuine pleasure to serve as the chairperson for this event. I was blessed with an incredible and tremendously dedicated committee who worked hard to create, what I humbly believe was the best Round Up experience yet!!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Kacie N.

2016 SPRING ROUNDUP (Dist. 81 DCM, Margaret P.)

Thank you in advance for receiving our Area 40, 2016 Spring Roundup report.

May 6, 7 and 8, the dates of our Roundup, is rapidly approaching and the Fellowship is invited to add to the torrent of paper registrations filling our mailbox. Alternatively, you can conveniently register and pay on-line at the Roundup website. I will provide both mailing address and website at the end of this report. I hope you will take a moment to redistribute this information in your respective groups and districts.

The Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula, 200 S Pattee St, Missoula, MT, is an excellent choice, as our venue it is a fairly new property located near Missoula attractions in the thriving downtown district of Missoula, located just walking distance from parks, libraries, shopping, dining and recreation. As reported at Fall Assembly the committee chose the theme "Age of Miracles", page 153 of the Big Book. "It may seem incredible that these men and women are to become happy, respected, and useful once more. How can they rise out of such misery, bad reputes and hopelessness? The practical answer is that since these things have happened among us, they can happen with you. Should you wish them above all else, and be willing to make use of our experience, we are sure they will come. The age of miracles is still with us. Our own recovery proves that!"

Since our last report we have resolved all matters concerning venue and accommodations, have all the workshops panels filled and published a Roundup program. This year we are continuing with a tradition of providing child care onsite. Two adjoining rooms are reserved for childcare, and a suite for hospitality. The hotel has graciously extended our special room rate to April 13 – but you will have to call to make your reservation. Please carry this message back to your districts and groups and remind them to use the code ROUNDUP when making their room reservations.

We have had several fundraisers to attract attention of the Fellowship to the Roundup and provide a financial buffer for unforeseen events. The chili cook off in November and Sweet Sensations generated over \$1,500 dollars and raffles for an attractive quilt hand-crafted in the theme of the Roundup by Rusty L. and a drawing to harvest a farm raised bison are adding to that.

Funds forwarded from the Fall Roundup are sincerely appreciated and indications are we'll be able to forward monies to this year's Fall Roundup. As of this date we are carrying a prudent reserve of cash. Our objective is to honor the Area 40 Fellowship by organizing an effective and inviting atmosphere for the 2016 Spring Roundup and to enthusiastically carry the message of recovery and unity to alcoholics at large.

So in the spirit of Unity, Service and Recovery please allow me to extend a heartfelt invitation to our Area 40 Spring Roundup, at the Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula. May 6th through 8th. Just think steps five, six, seven, eight.

Registration forms along with the \$32 dollar fee can be mailed to:
Missoula Roundup
PO Box 7504
Missoula MT 59807

Or register and pay online at ru40.org.

Hotel accommodations are:
Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown
200 S Pattee St, Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: (406) 721-8550
Special Room rate code: ROUNDUP

2016 FALL ROUNDUP REPORT (Dist. 72 DCM, Ted O.)

Greetings from the Bozeman Roundup committee. Preparations are in full swing, we are looking forward to everyone coming to Bozeman and joining us Sept. 30-October 2. We have an amazing weekend planned with speakers including Joe C. from San Diego, CA, as well as Evelyn W. from Savannah GA. We are once again pairing up with District 8 Al-Anon. They have invited Randy K from Atlanta, GA, to be their speaker for the Saturday Al-Anon luncheon. The Bozeman Young Peoples group will be hosting a pool party and bingo night, as well as the usual marathon meetings, sobriety countdown and the ever popular old timers' meeting. There will also be babysitting available for the weekend, because why should we stop leaving our kids with drunks just because we got sober? Registration is available online at www.bozemanroundup.com, or you can always use the registration forms and do it the old fashioned way.

We look forward to seeing you all in Bozeman this September.

2017 SPRING ROUNDUP REPORT (Dist. 11 DCM, David O.)

Committee has started meeting. Carole B. is the chairperson.

INTERGROUP REPORTS

(no copy received from Billings Intergroup)

Flathead Valley Intergroup – (Raymona K. A., Dist. Liaison to Intergroup)

Hello from the Flathead Valley Intergroup.

The Flathead Valley has a vibrant and alive recovery community, in addition to great opportunities for service work and a strong service structure. There are so many events and activities between both the District and Intergroup, we never have a dull moment or much idle time. Our Intergroup takes responsibility for the local AA Hotline phone where calls are forwarded to, and answered by, real, live alcoholics of the recovering variety. We also maintain and provide printed meeting schedules for our entire district.

We are especially proud of having an attractive and informative website offering up-to-date meeting listings, activities and events in and around Northwest Montana, plus contact information, referral numbers and links to other districts with whom we work in cooperation. 26,000 unique hits to the site were registered in 2015 which averaged around 50 visits per day. Some of those are Calendar links being updated to people who have subscribed to the calendar.

Intergroup puts on numerous large events throughout the year including an annual Thanksgiving feast, monthly birthday meetings and the jewel in our summer crown, the Emery Bay Campout up on the Hungry Horse Reservoir. All of which you will find listed on our website. Currently we have a half dozen campouts listed, corrections orientation announcements, Fall Refresher events, men and women's retreats and more on our event calendar. Come join in the Flathead as we trudge, swim, hike, camp and barbecue the road to a happy destiny.

In grateful service,

Your Flathead Valley Intergroup Volunteers

PS – Intergroup has formed an ad-hoc committee to explore the possibility of a central office in the Flathead Valley. It's still in progress.

PAST DELEGATE SHARING 8:30 – 9:00

BOB H., PANEL 42 DELEGATE

Bob reflected that when he first started coming to Area Assembly, just the front part of the room was used. Coming to the Area Assembly in Lewistown is where he learned about service work. His sponsor didn't ask but "told" him to go.

He's been privileged to be asked to speak all over in places like Mexico and Kiev, Ukraine, where they were hungry to hear about service. Ukraine had one service office, really a bookstore, for the whole country. He had to get a good translator.

One of the pearls he was told: "Don't let the smell of the newcomer bother you; we're interested in their soul."

He thanked the Assembly for doing this service, especially continuing to carry the message into correctional facilities and psych wards.

DELEGATE'S REPORT 9:00 – 9:30

Delegate Report Spring 2016

Thank You. It has been another wonderful weekend, I feel prepared with your feedback.

Since Last Assembly

Distributed the Final Agenda with Background on the Area 40 Dashboard

Came out in mid-February

Participated in the "Into Action Weekend" at District 91

I gave a report on the Area Service Structure

Attended the WCRAASC

Bismarck, ND, I covered the CPC and Trustees Agenda

Thanks to- Grant chaired workshop & Margaret for giving her report today.

Thanks to all who attended, Area 40 had a good showing.

Attended Pre Assemblies

Billings and Missoula

Thanks to Alex for covering at Boulder Hot Springs

Submitted a candidate for a Class A Trustee

Visited Vancouver BC

Spent a week with my daughter at a conference for her and had a fashion consultation.

Coming Up

The General Service Conference: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts

Will be in NYC on April 14-24

Mary M is accompanying me

I will give a Presentation: Connecting with the Newcomer: *Homegroup-Where it Begins*

I serve on the Trustees Committee

We will be electing the West Central and Western Canada Regional Trustees
I will Present our candidate Scott W. and vote for our Region
I will Approve or Disapprove the slates which includes Carole B as a General Service Trustee

Address

Crowne Plaza Times Square
1605 Broadway at W 49th St
New York, NY 10019

Delegate Reports

Schedule Yours
5/7 Missoula Round Up
5/13 Wyoming Round Up/Moab
6/3 D93
6/11 Founder's Day
6/25 Grape fest-Helena
7/31 D91
8/6 D71 (Phillipsburg)
8/12-14 D12 Fireman's Point
8/26-28 Western Canada Forum in Kamloops BC
9/30-10/2 Bozeman Roundup

Fall Assembly

We will have Elections-groom and encourage your predecessors

Conclusion

Family

My Mom and Dad, Sister, Brother are now living close to me. My sister, brother, and I are now members of the same home group. What a gift.

From the Family Afterward pg. 123

Now and then the family will be plagued by spectres from the past, for the drinking career of almost every alcoholic has been marked by escapades, funny, humiliating, shameful or tragic. The first impulse will be to bury these skeletons in a dark closet and padlock the door. The family may be possessed by the idea that future happiness can be based only upon forgetfulness of the past. We think that such a view is self-centered and in direct conflict with the new way of living..... This painful past may be of infinite value to other families still struggling with their problem. We think each family which has been relieved owes something to those who have not, and when the occasion requires, each member of it should be only too willing to bring former mistakes, no matter how grievous, out of their hiding places. Showing others who suffer how we were given help is the very thing which makes life seem so worthwhile to us now. Cling to the thought that, in God's hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have—the key to life and happiness for others. With it you can avert death and misery for them.

Know that I am blessed with my belly button family and by all of you in my AA family as we share our experience and our skeletons. Misery Averted! I wouldn't have it any other way. Thank you all.

Libbie L Area 40 Delegate

FLOOR ASSEMBLY (CONT.) 9:45 – 12:00

TREATMENT (Area 40 Treatment Chair, Jessica E.)

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica E. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 Treatment Chair.

Our committee left last fall assembly deciding to combine our current service pieces to revise and update a BTG workbook that was created by a previous treatment committee. I've inquired with our archivist and past chairs to find out more history and I'd be happy to share with anyone at a break the progression of our committee's process. A subcommittee was hosted in District 41, where the DCM, Grant, Treatment Chair, Hugh, and BTG Chair, Lance, and I met, revised and compiled the draft document in December. I again want to acknowledge and thank them. With the help from the Area 40 Treatment Committee members Karen, DCM from District 51, and Teryl, Alt. DCM from District 71, we have presented a final draft to the committee. I want to thank everyone who has a hand in reviewing and contributing their ideas, thoughts, and support. These service pieces are available to your districts.

I was recently contacted by Montana Chemical Dependency Center, our state treatment facility, in which District 61, 71, 72, and 81 are currently bringing meetings and BTG presentations into the facility. The facility reached out to our fellowship to ask for big books for the facility. I inquired if they had a budget for our literature and was told they don't. I was also told that the members that are in the facility do not have the money to purchase them. In response to this, I reached out to the treatment chairs in those districts that are bringing meetings into MCDC and they have enthusiastically responded to the need bringing the petition to their districts. I sent out 10 books immediately to the facility and they have received them and sent us a thank you card.

I was invited to District 91 in January to participate in a Treatment Workshop. I was able to meet with their new treatment chair Friday evening. The Treatment workshop was hosted by the New Hope Group on Saturday which was well attended. Again I wanted to thank District 91 for inviting me. I would like to also remind Luke we all never went snowmobiling.

I want to thank all of the trusted servants across the state who have been carrying the message into our facilities and have been working hard to connect the men and women coming out of our facilities in to our local communities. I will use this platform to petition to all of you, the GSRs, to please grab BTG volunteer sign-up sheets and bring them to your groups. We have many cities across Montana but you may be the volunteer in a town that we still haven't filled on our Area Database.

I attended the fall Roundup and traveled to Bismark, ND, for the WRAASC. I was able to attend the preassemblies in Billings, Missoula and Boulder. I am anticipating to attend the spring RU in District 81 and the BTG workshop in Tucson this September, the weekend prior to the assembly. But besides these weekends I am available to come visit your districts. Treatment workshops are a great way to fire up our communities to get involved in some of our most important 12-step work.

This journey of serving in this capacity has been one of the most beautiful things I have had the opportunity to do in my life. I've been abundantly blessed in my life and cannot express my infinite gratitude for Area 40 for entrusting me to serve as your Treatment Chair.

Jessica E

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

Thank my committee, Karen, DCM District 51, Teryl, Alt. DCM 71, Joe, representative from Dist. 81.
10 participants

Treatment/Special Needs Area 40

A. Review Assembly report for the Treatment Chair

Over all we were very opinionated and discussed a lot of potential agenda items

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibility GCS

A. Consider removing "special needs" from conference committee on Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities name and throughout the committees' composition, scope, and procedure.

The goal is to reach a wider scope with carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic special needs is outdated and doesn't cover the whole group of people we are trying to reach. Accessibility is the better vernacular and an umbrella term referring to anyone who has difficulty getting to a meeting or understanding the message.

Voted on whether removing "special needs" from conference committee on treatment/special needs-accessibilities' name and throughout the committees' composition, scope and procedure. Unanimously voted in favor of removing the term

Add Notes: Should we be making the decision for a group of people that don't have their own voice. We aren't special needs so why are we making the decision for them?

It was then pointed out that this agenda item was brought from a special needs committee

We discussed different words than Accessibility including the word diverse and we wanted to make sure that any word we use is all inclusive and not contributing to our uniqueness.

Diverse needs/Accessibility was suggested by the committee. There was no action but the agenda item that came forward was to just remove "special needs" and keep accessibility.

B. Review contents of treatment committee kit and workbook

The committee reviewed. Discussed looking deeper into the kits and look into whether anything needs changing come back in the fall with agenda

Needed by July 1

Possibility to add more bridging the gap literature

C. Review contents of Special Needs- Accessibility kit and workbook

We reviewed the kit and discussed the possibility of a future agenda item to follow the action of the GSC in regards to agenda item A.

Agenda

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2017 General Service Conference

We reviewed the themes and we really liked-

B. Review presentation/ discussion topic ideas for the 2017 General Service Conference

We discussed the ones we liked which sparked a discussion of singleness of purpose and carrying the message to everyone.

We also discussed if we feel strongly about a particular theme/discussion then we need to bring an agenda item forth for the fall assembly

We can discuss potential themes/presentation and already have a list started for fall.

C. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form

We discussed a condensed, simpler form of the evaluation form and may put one of our committee members in touch with the conference coordinator to potentially review it more thoroughly and possibly make changes. Re-evaluate the questions to make sure they are effective? They asked us to review so here are our thoughts :)

Notes: Looking into transition towards an electronic version.

D. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

We discussed the report on the conference agenda process from the trustees committee.

Sense: that since it was in the agendas committee scope that is good that this is a continuing discussion and appraisal of how the agenda committees can have a weighted contribution on the agenda process to the trustees committee on conference by attendance at the board meeting.

Discussion: How can the delegates have more contribution of what gets seen from the agenda? The agenda committee wants more contribution when deciding what will be on the agenda then the usual-themes, presentations. They want to have a greater say in the actual agenda.

BTG book was revised to make more relevant to better reflect the area.

As the committee what would we like to do with this book? Do we want to make an agenda item?

Take back to our districts and possibly discuss an agenda item by July 1

GENERAL SHARING

Several announcements of upcoming events were shared including the Fall Refresher in Dist. 91 on Oct. 8-9 in Kalispell with Dorothy W., Past Trustee. Assembly adjourned at approx. 11:30 am.

DCM REPORTS

DISTRICT 11

Once again, a hearty HEY HO! on behalf of District 11 (THE FIGHTIN 11TH!) in Southcentral Montana. Again, District 11 is located between Highways 72, 3 & 87 to the west; Highway 200 to the north; Highway 47 and Interstate 90 to the east; and Wyoming to the south, covering approximately 7,000 square miles, including parts of Big Horn, Yellowstone, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Petroleum, and Treasure counties.

There are currently approximately 25 groups and 117 meetings per week in District 11, from the 6:30 AM Brown Bagger's meeting until the 10:00 PM meeting weekends at the 644 Group.

Approximately 55 unique people from 14 separate Groups attended our monthly District Meetings in 2015, with regular representation of 9 Groups by their GSRs. The District Committee Officers include myself (DCM), Katie C (Alt DCM), Don M (Treasurer), and Claire M (Secretary).

It has been a bit of a rocky road for THE FIGHTIN 11TH, in terms of willingness and continued commitment to serve, and what seems to be a learned and accepted culture of apathy and minimum

effort. We seek to cultivate a more old school, inspired perspective and proactive approach to activity and service work, emanating from a core of abundant gratitude.

Only 2 of our 7 Standing Committee Chairs remain the same after 15 months. We have had 4 Bridging the Gap Coordinators, 3 Corrections Chairs, 2 Grapevine Representatives, 2 PI/CPC Chairs, with months of inactivity in between. DCM Dave was elated at the March 2016 District Meeting, where all District positions were at last filled for the first time since June 2015. In almost presumed fashion, minutes after praising the District, the Archives Chair stepped down.

The April District meeting saw the adoption of District 11's first Policy & Procedures document, the culmination of a year and a half of work by Brandon M, Dave O, Don M, Mike D, Rick S, and Terry M. Thanks to all for your persistence.

District 11 saw fit to fund the DCM's travel to Bismarck for the 2016 WCRAASC, where I was again grateful to be in the great midst of so many brothers and sisters in service, eyes focused on our future; sharing experience, strength, and hope, especially in regards to program leadership; and learning about the GSC Agenda so that I might better help assist in the following weekend's District 11-hosted Pre-Assembly and do my part in a more informed group conscience overall. Thanks to Libbie and all the Area 40 Standing Committee Chairs who came to Billings for the cause.

District 11 will be hosting a Corrections Workshop, to include corrections professionals, as well as members of local AA. Come join us at the Big Horn Resort on May 21, 2-5:30pm. Contact Kacy K for more information. [dist11correctionschair@gmail.com]

We are looking forward to hearing from Libbie as we join our District 12 misfit brethren for another Fireman's Point, August 12-14. If you haven't made the trip, you should. Bookended by the always serious Spam Cook-off on Friday, and District 11's uncommonly hearty breakfast on Sunday, your soul-buds will thank you. Camp out or drive up! Get some!

The Spring 2017 Roundup will be in Billings, and we are already a few months into committee work on what promises to be a glorious event. Roundup Committee meetings are the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm at Perkins/Downtown.

So come on down and join us for any meeting any time, or at the District meeting on the second Saturday of the month at 10am at 2931 Colton Blvd, a space we share with the Southcentral MT Intergroup. The coffee and donuts will be waiting.

Dave O. A.A. Area 40 District 11 DCM dcm11@aa-montana.org 406.670.7107

DISTRICT 12

Hello Attendees of Area 40 Assembly;

My name is Dave R., I am the DCM for District 12, my Sobriety date is May 18th, 2008, and my home group is the Stillwater Group in Columbus MT.

District 12 has meetings in nine towns; Absarokee, Big Timber, Bridger, Columbus, Fromberg, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel and Red Lodge with a combined total of 31 meetings a week. If a person is willing to travel they can attend a meeting every night and even twice a day.

District 12 has two large functions yearly: the Mid-Winter Social, in Joliet, Mt., and Fireman's Point Campout in Columbus. This year's Mid-winter Social was held on February 20th, in Joliet and there was a reported estimate of over 200 attending (by far our largest to Date): The evening started with a short district meeting from 4-5 p.m. followed by a social meet and great mingling before supper at 6p.m. with the silent auction taking place throughout the evening. Overall it was a very good event and everyone helped out with set up, serving and clean up, this was much appreciated. Al-Anon speaker Bodil M. of Laurel, and the main speaker Kacy K. of Billings both did a great job. The potluck was 6 tables long with smoke pulled pork and smoked Brisket as the main course (suggestions for different main courses will be taken). This was a great event, and Districts 11 and 12 were well represented as always. The silent auction had a better than average turn out with many awesome items for people to bid on, the overall take from this event was about \$800.00 and the 7th tradition donations collected where in the amount of \$900.00 for a total Intake of over \$1700.00 which is a new record.

Fireman's Point Campout will be held Aug.12th 13th and 14th, with the Annual Great Spam Cook-off to be held August 12th @ 6p.m.; camp fire meetings/ and speaker meetings each day, the Annual Sober Old Biker poker run and meeting along The Stillwater River on Saturday starting 10a.m.-1p.m. and a pot luck dinner back at Fireman's Point at 6 p.m. and a camp fire Speaker meeting at 8p.m. followed by a resentment burning afterwards. Sunday morning; maybe District 11 will cook us breakfast again this year, (with Libbie L. to give her Delegates Report following breakfast clean-up.?)

BRIDGING THE GAP/PHONE LIST: We were able to add 20 names to Bridging the Gap Volunteer list for a total of 23, and more names were added to the Hot Line list.

DISTRICT 21

(No report)

DISTRICT 23

Hi everyone, I'm Todd M, District 23 DCM.

AA is alive and well in District 23 with 76 meetings per month. District 23 consists of Sidney, Glendive, Savage, Fairview, Culbertson

and Circle. Meetings are active in Sidney, Glendive, and Fairview.

Sidney has 2 registered meetings, Glendive has 2 registered meetings and Fairview has 2 unregistered meetings.

Sidney's Welcome Home Group hosted 2 summer BBQ's, a New Year's Eve Social, and a St. Patties Day potluck with corned beef and cabbage. The Monday Noon and Friday Noon groups are hosting a social on April 30th at the Richland Co. Community Center in the second floor conference room from 11:30 am till 6:00 pm. See the flyer on the Area 40 website for more information. The Lower Yellowstone Soberfest is Aug. 19, 20, and 21st. The guest speaker is Mary C. from Arizona. See flyer on the Area 40 website for further details. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Watch East has temporarily suspended outside AA meetings. We are working with the head of security to arrange a compliance training seminar. BTG has been in full swing to date with 56 connections being made. Outside AA meetings are being brought into the Richland Co. Jail. The men have meetings every Wednesday and the Women every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Thank You.

DISTRICT 31

(No copy received)

DISTRICT 41

Good Morning everyone, my name is Grant and I am an alcoholic. I am currently serving as the DCM for District 41.

Our only event since fall assembly was our annual New Year's Eve Bash where we has a GSR school, AA speaker, a raffle, a chili cook off and a DJ dance party.

I was grateful to be able to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. There were many excellent presentations on connecting with the new comer, connecting with AA as a whole and connecting with each other (which had my favorite part, Singleness of Purpose!) Staying pertinent in a changing world. I also had the privilege to moderate a breakout session on Accessibility / Remote Communities. So I would like to thank Libby for the honor of serving at that level and Margaret from District 81 for taking notes.

The Steps to Recovery Group is having its annual 12-Step Study on April 23rd presented by Mari G. from Canada. Her story is a hoot and I recommend everyone gets to see her speak at least once! There is a raffle, 50/50 snacks and drinks to be enjoyed, and fellowship! There are flyers on the back tables.

It looks like spring is trying to make its grand entrance and there are many events coming up in District 41. First is our Founders Day Celebration on June 11th and 12th. That's right folks it's a TWO DAY EVENT this year. We will have speakers, workshops, presentations, and a BBQ on Saturday with a Spiritual Speaker and continental breakfast on Sunday. There are flyers on the back tables, so please help yourself and save the date. We are going to miss not having our Delegates report with the PowerPoint this year because someone else beat us to asking her!

The Unity Campout is held near Monarch on the last weekend in June. It is an awesome event with speakers, BBQ's, fun and fellowship. Flyers will be on the website soon. I am also looking forward to the second annual Steps to Recovery and Singleness of Purpose Picnic in the park in July. And I really enjoyed last year's "Fun Raiser" Horseshoe Tournament and look forward to it this year in September.

All is going well in District 41, our chair positions are all full with folks that are working hard and doing great carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic in and out of the rooms. We will have to schedule a special BBQ District Meeting this summer to try and woo Libby out to Great Falls to give us her report from the 66th general Service Conference.

I would like to finish up with a great big thanks to all of you for your service! There are some agenda items this assembly that might get exciting so let's keep it civil! No chair throwing! I am grateful for my Higher Power and this opportunity to serve District 41 and all my fellows. Thank you in love and service Grant!

DISTRICT 42

All current meetings on State website

East Glacier Grizzly Group...Nice location, great people, stop and see them this summer, Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 PM

Browning...most nights at Treatment Center...7:00 PM located on south side of hospital, difficult to locate, ask at hospital for directional help.

Cut Bank...holding steady, help from Treatment Court

Shelby... holding steady, help from Treatment Court

Conrad...good numbers, steady turnout

Choteau...Struggling, most nights 2-3

Chester...no meetings

August...good meeting Fri. evening, not registered, will be registering

Dutton, part GF district, steady turnout, members from both districts

Kevin...not registered small meeting, trying to get going

Crossroads...few attendees, 1-3- State side, more on Fed side, usually 6-10.. hear that they should have stayed in the program, lots of inmates with AA experience.

Steady turnout to most groups, struggling some nights because of low numbers, Treatment Court sends most new attendees

(Kurt K, DCM)

DISTRICT 51

We have nine active groups supporting twenty-six meetings a week occurring in Hill and Blaine Counties as well as in Malta located in Phillips County. The 3rd Step Group sponsors a monthly feed and speaker meeting, usually suspended during the summer months. The Road to Recovery meeting also sponsors a monthly speaker meeting.

The District CPC chairperson formed an ad-hoc committee to contact professionals who make referrals to AA in the various communities. The committee grew out of a concern regarding professionals referring drug addicts to AA meetings. There was a decision at the district meeting to gently address the concern letting professionals know what AA does and does not do. The CPC materials have been very helpful.

The Havre area mini conference will be September 23 - 25. It's always a down home good time. There will be three campouts in the Bear Paws – June 10-11 at Mardens Campground; July 15-17 at Pagers Campground; August 19-21 at Lions "A" Campground. There's nothing better than sitting around a campfire talking AA. We have had several AA soirees in District 51 since the last Area meeting. With or without an official holiday it's always a good time when we gather together.

Two of us attended the Pre-assembly in Billings. It was informative and well done. Thank you Billings AA, Area chairs in attendance and Libby!

Our District meetings are the third Sunday of the month at 3:30 at HRDC 4 located at 2229 5th Avenue in Havre. If you're in town, don't hesitate to join us.

Grateful to have the opportunity to be of service. Karen T.

DISTRICT 61

Greeting from District 61.

District 61 has 52 groups from Elliston, Lincoln, Boulder, Helena and White Sulphur Springs. At our last district meeting, 30%+ of groups were represented. Our last meeting was a little low due to the sunshine. Welcome back to Carly who is now the District Treatment Chair.

Grapefest will be June 25 in Helena at the Wilson House from 2-6pm. Libbie will give her delegate report. Please come out. We have 26 people from our district here at the Assembly. We always overflow our table! The Corrections-Treatment workshop will be on May 21st at the First Pres Church on 11th and Rodney in Helena. That is 11 am – 3 pm. Please come.

Remember when you are thinking about the General Service Office, there is no us and them. There is only us.

Rebecca S.
District 61

DISTRICT 71

Hi my name is Roxie and I am an alcoholic and the DCM for District 71.

We, like many other districts, are large with over 75 meetings. We generally encompass an area from Butte down to the Idaho border, west to Philipsburg and east to Sheridan and all communities in between. Our District meetings are held in Butte on the 2nd Wed. of each month. These meetings attract a lot of people with an interest in service and I want to thank all our chairs, GSRs, and visitors who gratefully serve. I am especially grateful for the new chairs we have had to cover this year! We have a new Literature Chair, a new Archives Chair, a new Grapevine Chair, and as if that's not enough we have a new Treasurer! Truly, our Higher Power has had a hand in guiding these wonderful people to our District. We are blessed.

We take meetings into several institutions in this area meeting the needs of the still suffering alcoholics in treatment and in corrections. We are happy to report that regular meetings at the Butte-Silver Bow jail have begun again, after being on hold for a couple of years. We are grateful to all the dedicated servants who carry the message and we can always use more people to meet this growing need. In addition, our CPC/PI Chair is going to Dillon to carry the message to the medical community there next month.

We are doing something different for Delegates day this summer! A new member is hosting a campout in Phillipsburg the first weekend in August and we'll host the delegates report there on Saturday. We'll have fun, fellowship, and business all packed into one great weekend!

Finally, this last thing I have to report on is the start-up of the Round Committee. We will be hosting the Fall 2017 Round-Up on October 13-15 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort once again.

Thanks to my district and the area for giving me this opportunity to serve our fellowship.

DISTRICT 72

Greetings from District 72. Our district encompasses Gallatin, Park and Madison counties. There are currently 55 active groups in District 72, holding 84 meetings per week, everywhere from Wilsall to Cooke City and West Yellowstone to Three Forks. District 72 holds its monthly business meeting the last Saturday of the month at 5pm at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman. It's been a fairly quiet winter in District 72, we are looking forward to the summer and influx of visitors from all over the world.

The main thing going on in district 72 currently has still been the work of our joint PI/CPC committee, which has taken over twelfth step work at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. The new system seems to be taking hold. We are having much more luck in getting hospital staff on board and have been able to make contact with many suffering alcoholics.

Our district has seen a fair bit of turnover in the chair positions this year, the latest being our incredible CPC chair and our treasurer. We will muddle through, getting fairly used to it by now. That's what happens when you are in service of a fellowship of people getting sober and receiving great lives as a result. We all wish Morgan and Jason the best in Nevada.

Our corrections and treatment committees are as usual very busy, holding meetings at Montana State Prison, Gallatin County Detention Center, Watch, MCDC, and the riverside treatment facility.

The committee in charge of the Fall 2016 Roundup is in full gear. The roundup will be held on October 7-9th. And will be held at the Grantree Inn. There are flyers and registration forms on the table by the coffee.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

Ted O., District 72 DCM

DISTRICT 81

Hello everybody, my name is Margaret, and I'm an alcoholic...

Greetings Area 40!

District 81 is doing well over in our Western Montana mountains and valleys. Since the Fall Assembly, we have had the usual holiday special events - Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner and New Year's Marathon Meetings - which are hosted by individual groups and supported by District, and have been preparing for the Spring Round-Up on May 6th, 7th, and 8th at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula.

Our DCM for this rotation had to step down, and I have taken on the DCM duties. Our now former PI Chair, Justine F., who was doing a FABULOUS job in that position, has moved down the triangle to become our Alternate DCM. We are blessed with an almost full committee, but we are still missing that special someone to be our new PI Chair. We also just snagged a new Special Events chair and have high hopes that there will be more awesome sober activities in our district in the coming year!

I did attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference, affectionately known as WCRAASC, where I got a bird's eye view of attitudes and opinions of fellowship members in the region. After that, we hosted pre-assembly in March, which was well attended, and I want to thank the Area chairs that attended and shared their knowledge of the General Service Conference agenda items we will be discussing this weekend.

On average, we have an attendance of about 25 GSR's and District chairs at our monthly District meetings, which is on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-4pm. As I mentioned before, our chair positions are almost full. No controversy or excitement, which is a good thing! We have over 30 groups and an average of 10 meetings available a day.

Due to great leadership from Corrections and Treatment chairs, we are meeting our commitments at the jail, the prison and various treatment centers. Having been a District Treatment chair, I know what a challenge that can be, and I appreciate their efforts.

Special thanks in advance to Libbie for doing her delegate report at the Round-up - which will be given in record time due to the short time slot she's been given. So come to the Round-up in Missoula May 6th, 7th and 8th if you're interested in the short version of her delegate report.

DISTRICT 91

Greetings from District 91. We are located in the Northwest corner of God's Country and AA is alive and well. We have had a lot of activity since I've seen most of you.

We are host to over 80 meetings per week. Have had "The Fall refresher workshop" hosted by the Serenity Group. Hosted the 2015 Round-Up (which was a blast by the way.) Looking forward to seeing everyone in Missoula next Month. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's feasts and Alca-thons were hosted by District 91 and The Flathead Valley Intergroup. The Tobacco Valley Group hosted it's almost famous Christmas party and White Elephant exchange. The New Year brought about District 91's bi-annual inventory, which was very well attended and we are currently processing the results. February we hosted "Into Action" week-end. Workshops were focused on service. There was good participation and it's was great to have Hugh, Lance, Chris, and their driver (can't remember his name) from Great Falls, and Alex M. & Terry S. from Helena, and of course Christian P. for chairing the event. On to March where the Whitefish Group hosted the 27th Annual "Sober Ski" week-end. Good snow, good friends, and of course good food. If you've never been, it's usually the first week-end in March and skiing is not a requirement.

On the business side of things I was unable to attend WCRAASC. In North Dakota, but we are lucky enough to have Kacie N. in our District and she was able to attend and brought back all the info.

Also Big news the Alano Club purchased a new building. So we now have a much bigger Alano Club. It is located at 153 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell MT. There is a lot remodeling going on now, but when it's finished it's going to be great - maybe even a Central Office. Flathead Valley Intergroup is very active and works very closely with District 91.

Looking to the future. Lots of camp-outs and picnics. GSR service workshop in August. Elections at the end of August for our new 2017 District Committee. We stay busy trying to find new ways to help the

“still suffering alcoholic” whether that be the newcomer or the old timer. Or anybody in between. While insisting on enjoying life.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Jeanie S., District Committee Member-District 91

DISTRICT 93

Since last October, we have worked hard to increase attendance and participation at the district and area levels. It turned out that we mostly just had to ask: we held a potluck and GSR workshop in January that was attended by two dozen people, the district secretary sends out reminder emails before our monthly business meeting, I visited all of the groups in the district, and we started bringing food to meetings. So, friendly reminders and food. Oh, and GSR reports delivered in rhyme, using iambic pentameter. Well, just one GSR does that. For sure we are not a glum lot.

We will hold our annual Bitterroot Campout June 3 – 5 at Lake Como and Norm’s Picnic is set for July 16 and 17. Look for flyers on the Area 40 website.

In Service,
Vic M.
District 93 DCM

PASSED MOTIONS OF THIS ASSEMBLY

From the Archives committee:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the “suggested agenda framework for area assembly” be modified to include the triangle Editor's report to take place Saturday morning directly following the financial Highlights. **MOTION PASSED: 92 FOR, 1 OPPOSED**

RECOMMENDATION:

That we define the scope of the Inventory Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

- plan and facilitate Area 40 Inventory
- collect and report results
- suggest items to be discussed or considered

MOTION PASSED: 88 FOR, 9 OPPOSED

RECOMMENDATION:

That we form an ad hoc committee to find another venue for the fall 2017 Assembly, and report back to the Fall 2016 Assembly. **MOTION PASSED: 100 FOR, 0 OPPOSED**

From the P.I. committee:

RECOMMENDATION:

“That the Area 40 Webmaster establish the ability to subscribe and pay for the subscription to the Area 40 Triangle Newsletter via the Area 40 website, utilizing an external link to an online payment service.”

MOTION PASSED: 95 FOR, 3 OPPOSED

RECOMMENDATION: (presented and passed in Sunday morning session)

"That Area 40 forward the following agenda item to the General Service Office, requesting that it be placed on the 2017 General Service Conference agenda: *Please consider the proposal that the short form of the "Twelve Concepts for World Service", adopted by the 1971 GSC, be revised to better reflect their description of the general principles of service work as they apply to the entire service structure of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous*" **MOTION PASSED: 84 FOR, 5 OPPOSED**

THE THREE LEGACIES

We have a great heritage here in Alcoholics Anonymous. A heritage is something that you automatically have as a part of you when you join something. It requires no effort on anyone's part – it's just yours.

But a legacy is something different. It is something passed along by a document or proclamation of some sort. Thought and consideration go into it, and it also carries a responsibility with it to nurture and grow it.

This talk will be about the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous. Generally, when someone is asked to cover this topic – they shrink back thinking it is either too big a topic, or too complicated for them.

In fact, it is all very simple. We/I hope to be able to show you that today.

- 1) Many people think legacies are not for the individual – but for another group somewhere, or some folks in New York. However, if you look at them with a measure of spiritual understanding – they are quite simply for all of us.
 - a) In our Recovery Legacy we become unified within ourselves, individually
 - b) In our Unity Legacy we become unified with our fellows around us – our group
 - c) In our Service Legacy we become unified with our Higher Powers will for us in this world – which is stated as “being of maximum usefulness to God and our fellows.”

2) What happens in Recovery (The Twelve Steps)?

- a) *We begin to see life as it is – we see the problem (1-3)*
 - (1) We see the unmanageability of our lives with alcoholism at the center of it
 - (2) The realization dawns that we do not have a solution that works for us
 - (3) There is a critical need to find a Power that will guide us in a way that will provide us with a solution
- b) *We are presented with principles that help us understand what the roadblocks are to finding a solution (4-10)*
 - (4) Our first effort is to simply list what stands in our way
 - (5) Secondly we review this with someone to help us clarify our understanding of the roadblocks between us and our Higher Power
 - (6) We open our minds to new ways of living and operating in life
 - (7) We make a sincere request for the necessary power to move in a different direction in our lives
 - (8) An examination is made of where we need to repair past damage
 - (9) Clear and visible efforts are made to repair that damage
 - (10) There is daily practice of the tools we have used so far
- c) *Tools are provided for us to gain insight into what might help resolve the problem (11)*

(11) Having now cleared away the roadblocks that stand in the way of communication with a Higher Power – we can be guided in our actions as we move forward

d) Having discovered this – we are asked to share the way in which we found the solution with others (12)

(1) We are now in position to move forward with a message that comes to us from that Power – we have something we can bring to the group to share

3) What happens in Unity (The Twelve Traditions)?

a) We begin to see life as it is – we see the problem (1& 2)

(1) We learn that we cannot be the center of things – that we must simply be a small part of the effort

(2) There cannot be a single authority – we must all sacrifice our own desire to have our way for the Group Conscience – which ought to measure things by what is best for AA as a whole

b) We are presented with principles that help us understand what the roadblocks are to finding a solution (3-10)

(3) The alcoholics who seek help cannot be turned away – that is not a power that we have been given

(4) Just as the group cannot refuse and individual, groups cannot rule over one another – that is also a power we were not given

(5) As a group we need to focus on one thing only – that of carrying our experience to those who still suffer from alcoholism (difference between a meeting and a group – meeting is self-serving & a group has a primary purpose)

(6) Because we only have one purpose – we need not be linked with any other organization or institution because those kinds of things will interfere with our relationship with our guiding force – the Group Conscience

- (7) If we believe our actions are truly the guidance of our Higher Power through the Group Conscience – then we ought to validate that by paying for it ourselves. We become responsible for ourselves.
- (8) Since a Group Conscience is our guiding force, there is no need for any professional position to ‘manage’ some of the responsibilities. If the Higher Power is doing the guiding – then all the skill we need will be provided
- (9) Because we do engage in activities that require consistent action (i.e. money handling, event coordination, etc.), we can have entities that **coordinate** those activities
- (10) Since our focus is a simple and single one – we need not engage in any other discussions on any other topics other than the sharing of our experience with those who seek it

c) Tools are provided for us to gain insight into what might help resolve the problem (11)

- (11) Acknowledging that meeting our primary purpose will bring us into the public view – we want to ensure that the public also focuses on our message and not the messenger. That is the critical element for those seeking sobriety – not who, but what.

d) Having discovered this – we are asked to maintain an attitude that will allow us to continue on for future generations (12)

- (12) Just as we ask the public to focus on our principles – so, too, we require that of ourselves. We exemplify the old adage: “physician heal thyself”. Just as we learned individual humility in the Twelve Steps – we learn group humility in the Twelve Traditions. This places us, as groups, in a position to be the very best tool for our Higher Power

4) What happens in Service (The Twelve Concepts)?

a) We begin to see life as it is – we see the problem (1-3)

- (1) We understand that each of us holds a part of the responsibility for Alcoholics Anonymous



We have *delegated* the authority to make decisions to the delegates of the General Service Conference – to act on our behalf. Except for any change in the Twelve Traditions or the Twelfth Concept (our warranties). *Delegated does NOT mean that we gave it away – it is provided to them for safekeeping and appropriate use.*

- (3) We endow our trusted servants with the Right of Decision – so they can do their jobs. *However, we remember that with every right there is an equally large responsibility.*

b) *We are presented with principles that help us understand what the roadblocks are to finding a solution (4-8)*

- (4) We insist on the Right of Participation for those who will need to carry out the decisions of the Conference.
- (5) The Right of Appeal is established so that we will always have access to the opinion of the minority.
- (6) The Conference recognizes that the Boards have the same relation to them that they have to the groups – one of delegated authority,
- (7) We acknowledge that there are two things involved in operating our Societies offices and activities – legal requirements and AA principles. We must work to find the proper balance between them.
- (8) The General Service Board also recognizes the Right of Decision as it relates to the AAWS and Grapevine Boards.

c) *Tools are provided for us to gain insight into what might help resolve the problem (9-11)*

- (9) Good service leadership is critically needed at all levels (dimensions) of service. The Trustees are the primary service leadership.
- (10) Responsibility ought always be equal to Authority.
- (11) We ought always be very careful in selecting people to serve on boards and committees because they have a critical impact on AA

d) *Having discovered this – we are asked to share the way in which we found the solution with others (12)*

(12) The Warranties clearly spell out how we are to conduct ourselves in the world and how we ought to carry out our business.

5) **Some additional information to help us understand how all this fits together**

A) *Bill Wilson is said to have made the comment that we don't have 36 principles – what we really have is the same set of principles focused in 3 different perspectives. The perspective of the individual, the perspective of the AA group, and the perspective of AA in the world.*

B) So to repeat what I said when I started:

(1st) In our Recovery Legacy we become unified with our spirit.

(2nd) In our Unity Legacy we become unified with the spirit of those also on the journey of recovery in order to share it

(3rd) In our Service Legacy we seek to become unified with God's will for us as a society in the larger world

C) In addition, even before we had developed our second legacy, we were given **4 Gifts** by our friends in the world:

(1) The advice of our *Religious* friends was **No Preaching**

(i) This was about Humility – not superiority

(2) From our *Medical* friends came the suggestion **No Cure**

(i) This was about finding a power – not being one

(3) *Psychiatrists* were clear about **No Counseling**

(i) This was to be shared experience – not intellect

(4) And all the *Helping Professions* advised **No Pity**

(i) This was about identification – not superiority

D) Our *Heritage* from the Oxford groups has also been an influence. We don't often hear about their most significant contribution – **4 Principles**. They called them The 4 Absolutes – and so we decided not to adopt them because of the "Absolute" name. But I would suggest to you that those principles – **Honesty, Love, Purity and Unselfishness** – are at the core of every one of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

E) These means we have 8 points which encompass our AA world of principles.

Why is this so important today?

It is important because we have reached a point beyond which Bill and Bob's words alone can no longer guide us. We can't just "do as they said". In the same way, we cannot "do as the oldtimers did" in our Groups, our Districts or our Area. The times and conditions and the world around us have changed.

What we will need to do to survive going forward is to come to understand the principles that underpin each one of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts. We will need to study not only what was said and written, but examine the experiences that went into the writing and those 36 statements of principles in action.

We can no longer rely on our guidance to be on a signpost up ahead – just waiting for us to come along and read it. We will have to dig every bit as hard as Bill, Bob and the others early members did to learn how to proceed from here on forward.

This is why a district is so terribly important. Because that is the place where that kind of search must begin. Principles never change – they hold true in any situation. Actions, however, change based on the situation in which one finds oneself. Our districts need to lead the way in helping our members discover AA's principles.