

MINUTES OF AREA 40 FALL 2017 ASSEMBLY

September 15-17, 2017

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Alcoholics Anonymous Area 40

Fall Assembly-September 15-17, 2017 -Great Falls, MT

Friday Session 8-10 p.m.

GSR and DCM Welcome Session - led by Area Delegate, Gerry R.

Area Standing Committee Chair Welcome Session-led by Area Chair, Paul L. and Area Advisor, Libbie L.

Saturday Session 8-10 a.m.

The Assembly was opened at 8 a.m. by Area Chair, Paul L. After some housekeeping announcements and the Serenity Prayer, the 12 Traditions were read by Mark from Dist. 93 and the 12 Concepts were read by Chuck from Dist. 11.

Welcome to the 2017 Area 40 Fall Assembly, by Delegate, Gerry R.

As many of you know, we are celebrating 75 years of service work in Area 40 this year, and, as I mentioned last night, this is also the first Area 40 Assembly to be held outside of Lewistown MT in over 40 years. So, this is a very special event for our Fellowship. We are so glad you're all here, not only to help us celebrate, but to help us carry out our part of that incredible legacy.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging some special folks here with us today. Would all of the first time GSR's, and anyone who is attending their first Area Assembly, please stand up? Thank you, I have heard other Delegates call you the "Lifeblood" of what we do here, and I agree. If you happen to wonder exactly what that means I've got a few synonyms that might help clarify. It means you are the spirit, the structure, and the substance of what we do here. The nucleus, the backbone, the core - I hope you're getting the feeling that you're important to us, because you are. Thank you all for your willingness to serve.

I'd like all the DCM's to stand so we can acknowledge your service. Thank you! Would you each grab your sign up sheet and wave it over your head? Folks, if you haven't yet gotten with your DCM and signed this sheet, please do so at your earliest possible opportunity. We're likely to vote on several matters in this assembly, and we need to have an accurate count of voting members so we can establish our quorum for the weekend.

During the course of this weekend, we'll hear reports from every member of the Area 40 Committee, with the exception of one, and that is our Area Advisor, Libbie. She is our most recent past delegate and I'd like to ask her to stand so we can acknowledge her and thank her for her years of service. It's also a good idea to show a little gratitude to the person who's in charge of making sure there's plenty of coffee available.

Some other important folks with us today are the rest of our past delegates. Will all the past delegates in the room please stand and be recognized. As I said at our last assembly, I am only beginning to understand the work that you all have put in to serve Area 40 and AA as a whole, and am so grateful for that service, and for your example. Normally, during the non-election, fall assembly of each rotation, we invite the WCR Trustee to be with us, but, due to a scheduling conflict, our Regional Trustee, Tom A., was not able to be with us this weekend as he is attending a board weekend in New York.

However, we were lucky to have had advance notice of this, and luckier yet to find a very special fill-in for Tom. Our guest this weekend is, Billy N., a past General Service Trustee who rotated off the board a mere two months ago. He'll have a chance to give us his full service history later, but I'll just mention now that he started in YPAA many years ago (not that he's ancient) and when he rotated, last July, he was serving as the Interim Chair of AAWS, one of AA's two operating corporations. He has a fantastic grasp of the history, the structure, and the principles, of Alcoholics Anonymous and we're lucky to have him with us this weekend.

Last spring, at the General Service Conference, I had an opportunity to see, firsthand, his passion for service, and I encourage everyone to feel free to approach him with any question, comment, or concern you have about our Fellowship, and he will be glad to talk with you about it. Please help me extend a warm Montana welcome to him now, and throughout the rest of our weekend together

Speaking of this weekend, we are here to serve Area 40, Montana, and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole by making decisions and taking actions that will help both to achieve their primary purpose of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic. Our agenda will follow a fairly standard format, designed to help us effectively and efficiently conduct our business, utilizing a committee system similar to that used at the General Service Conference. Our agenda for this weekend was put together by our Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Paul L. and he will skillfully guide us through it as we hear reports, address agenda items and share our collective experience, strength and hope with one another, while we establish and express the Group Conscience of this body in regard to these matters.

If you'd like to follow along on your copy, I will give a quick rundown of the what, when, where and some of the why of this weekend's agenda.

After I finish this orientation, Melinda W., our Area Secretary will call the Roll and read the actions taken at our assembly last spring. We'll then hear some current financial highlights from our Treasurer, Julie R., as well as reports from our Triangle Editor Mike D, and our Area Chair/Alternate Delegate Paul L. After these we'll hear DCM reports until our first break at 9:00.

After the break, you'll have a couple options for what you can do next. Each standing committee chair will convene their committee and begin addressing the items on their respective agendas. Those of you who wish can attend any committee and speak to those items during that time. You will be reminded while in committee that only the appointed members of that committee are allowed to vote in that committee.

For those who choose not to attend one of the committees, there will be a pair of workshops held consecutively here in the main room. One will be conducted by our Panel 63 past delegate Sharon S and the other will be conducted by Billy N. Believe me, he's not just here for show folks, we're going to work him pretty hard this weekend.

The workshops are scheduled to end by noon which is when everyone will break for lunch. If any committee chairs need extra time to finish their work after lunch, please let Paul know.

DCM's please have your signup sheets to Melinda by noon.

After lunch we will have a full assembly workshop on Fill-in-the-blank after which, we will finish hearing whatever DCM reports are left, and then I'll give a report on my trip to the General Service conference last spring and my activities since.

.Another quick break, and we will begin our Floor Assembly which will be facilitated by Area Chair/ Alternate Delegate, Paul L. Paul will gently apply Robert's rules of order as he helps us navigate our way through our agenda and he will have the final word on all points of order.

Each committee chair will come to the microphone and present their committee's thoughts about each item on their committee's agenda. Each item will then be open for discussion by this body and Paul will treat any recommendation made by a committee as a made and seconded motion. After a thorough discussion by this body, some items will require a vote. While everyone can discuss these items, only GSR's, DCM's, Standing Committee chairs, and Area officers can vote on the floor. If you choose to comment on any of the items, we ask that you go to the microphone so everyone can hear. You will not be recognized if you attempt to speak from your chair, my experience has been you might even get shouted at, in a friendly way of course. If you go to the microphone, you will have three minutes to make your point. If you go past three minutes, Melinda will end you ... STOP you, Melinda will stop you. It would be wrong to end you, right? If someone has already made the point that you want to make at the mike, and you feel a burning desire to repeat it – please don't. You will have a chance, later, to express your support or disapproval of an item by a show of hands. There is no point in for us to consider an item from one perspective, over and over again. However, if you have a viewpoint that has not yet been expressed, please, share it with us. It is vitally important that we consider each item from as many different perspectives as we can in our effort to develop a fully informed Group Conscience.

We will break for dinner which is on your own at 5:00 and meet back here at 7:00 when we'll hear a talk by Billy N. When he's done, we'll conduct a little more business, take a break, then have GSR and DCM breakouts to finish out the night. These breakouts will be led by Sharon S. and Billy N. and are a great opportunity to ask questions of them and your peers about service related issues. There are ask it baskets in the back of the room if you wish to use them.

Tomorrow morning will begin at 8:00 a.m. with Roundup and Intergroup reports, as well as a special report on the West Central Regional Forum. We'll have the opportunity to hear some great past-delegate sharing from Sharon S. and then we'll finish up whatever business we have left. Provided we have time, Paul will then open the mikes for some general sharing before we close and go home.

We will make every effort to be punctual throughout the weekend, and ask your cooperation. Please arrive on time and please, please, please be respectful and quiet down when asked. Also, as you move about the hotel and interact with people, including the hotel staff, remember that you may be their first example of Alcoholics Anonymous and we all want it to be an attractive one.

Enjoy your weekend, work hard, and thank you, for this amazing opportunity to be of service.

Fall Assembly 2017 Roll Call and Past Actions-Area Secretary, Melinda W.

AREA 40 OFFICERS		Attendance	Voting Members	Non Voting Members
Delegate	Gerry R.	x	1	
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	Paul L.	x	1	
Secretary	Melinda W.	x	1	
Treasurer	Julie R.	x	1	
Archives	Raymona K.	x	1	
CPC	Luke S.	x	1	
Corrections	Hugh M.	x	1	
Grapevine	Jake H.	x	1	
Literature	Lance W.	X	1	
Public Information	Tim K.	X	1	
Treatment	James W.	X	1	
Triangle Editor	Mike D.	X	1	
DCM's				
11	Robert K.	X	8	1
12	Gennifer P.	X	1	1
21	n/a			
23	Steve S.	X	3	1
31	Gene M.	X	3	1
41	Dawn B.	X	8	2
42	Kurt K.	X	1	
51	Bryan F.	X	3	4
61	Carol W.	X	12	9
71	Virginia C.	X	6	
72	Robert E.	X	10	
81	Ashley J.	X	11	3
91	Kacie N.	X	6	7
93	Nance G.	X	6	
Non-Voting Officers				
Area Advisor	Libbie L.	X		1
Area Archivist	Earl F.	x		1
Area Webmaster	Brandon M.	x		1
TOTALS			90	32

Secretary's Report -- Melinda W.

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

Each DCM has a folder which includes your district's attendance sheet, which needs to be back to me this morning by the first break. The attendance sheets are used to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCMs or their alternate, GSRs or their alternate, and the Area Committee. Please sign in with your DCM if you are here as a voter or a visitor. Also in your DCM folders are the Group Information Sheets. Each group in your District has a group information sheet in the DCM folder. Please check to make sure the information is accurate. Incorrect mailing addresses cost our fellowship time and money. This information is in the GSO data base and is used to mail information to groups including our Area newsletter, The Triangle. Please help me keep this information current. Thank you to all the groups that have already updated this information. I would appreciate these corrections be turned in to me by the end of the Assembly.

I have current copies of the group directories. This directory is one reason why we need to keep our information current. You can use it to look up contacts for other areas in the country you may be travelling to.

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. I would also ask that you list your voting members at your committee meetings in your reports. 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 next spring which saves expenses. Thank you!

Lastly, here are the motions passed at the 2017 Spring Assembly:

Motion from Finance Committee:

Recommendation: Send the Treatment Chair to the annual Bridging the Gap workshop in Minneapolis,/St. Paul on September 8-10, with airfare/hotels/meals not to exceed \$1500.00

Motion passed

85 voting members present 78 yes 2 no

Motion from the Archives/Structure and Policy:

The Ad-Hoc committee proposes with the approval of the Archives/Structure Committee, that we implement a plan on a trial basis until the 2017 Fall Assembly to allow for groups to discuss this plan and to allow the Finance Committee an opportunity to review this proposal as it could have a significant financial impact.

"Review the committee assignment, selection and replacement process." 81 voting members present

59 yes 12 no Table until Fall 2017 Assembly

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve the Fellowship that has given me more than I could ever give back.

Melinda W.

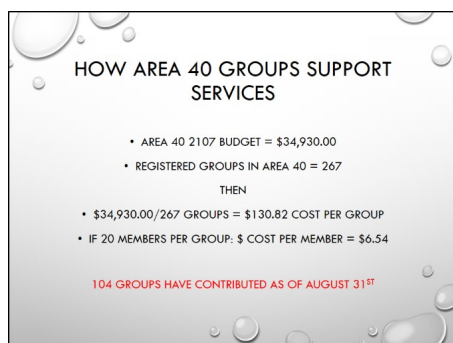
Financial Highlights-Area Treasurer Julie R.



Good morning! My name is Julie and I'm alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Treasurer.

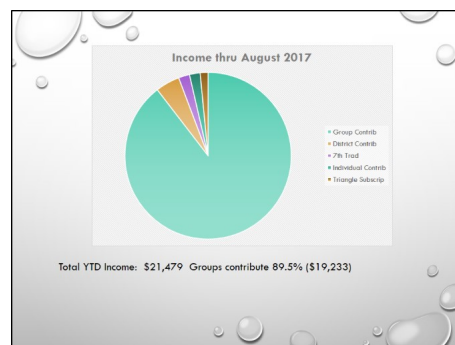
It's my pleasure to present some Area 40 financial highlights today. So I'm going to talk a little about income and expenses. Or, as we say in our program, self-support and 12th Step work.

When your group participates in AA as a whole by sending part of it's split to Area 40, your dollars support the services provided by our Area. And why should we support these services? To quote Bill W., "Every single AA service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible....Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that AA must everywhere function in full strength – and that, under our Tradition of self-support, *we are all going to foot the bill.*"



So how is Area 40 supporting its services? If you saw this presentation in the spring, these costs haven't changed much. What has changed is the number of groups participating. As of the end of March, 58 groups had contributed in 2017. Through August, 104 groups! That's almost 40% of the active groups in our Area.

Total YTD income through August is \$21,479. That came from several sources: groups (green), districts (tan), individuals (dark green), Triangle subscriptions (brown) and the 7th Tradition (or coffee basket) at Area Assembly (purple). But groups contribute the lion's share through their regular splits. By the way, I have put a plastic tub on the coffee table if you wish to contribute this weekend.

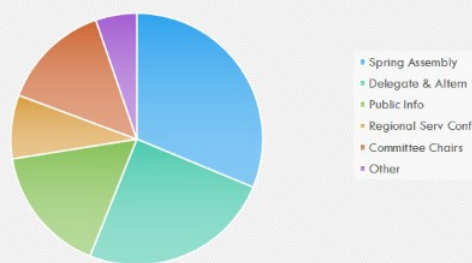


"But we do have expenses..."



"But we do have expenses..." And we are going to be talking about these expenses and voting on the 2018 Area 40 Budget this weekend. That is the main item on the Finance Committee agenda when we meet during the standing committee meetings this morning.

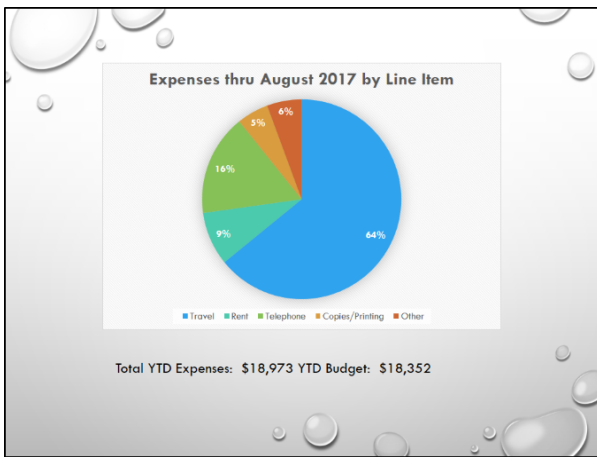
YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



Total YTD expenses: \$18,972 YTD income: \$21,479
Net: \$2,506

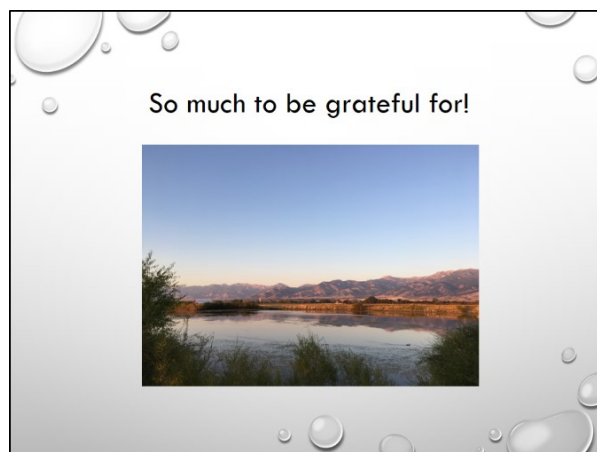
What expenses have your contributions paid for so far? The printed copies of the financial reports are available on your tables with more copies by the coffee (?). But, briefly, your contributions have insured we had meeting space for the spring Assembly where your voices were heard (\$5,927 in blue), your voices were also heard when the Delegate went to the GSC in New York, visited districts in our Area &, along with the Altern. Delegate, when they attended Pre-assemblies (\$4,710 in aqua). In addition, the phone continues to get answered when people call the 800 number (\$3,117 in green), the delegate & alt. delegate shared experience strength and hope at the Regional Service Conference in Cheyenne, WY (\$1,550 in orange), and Committee Chairs can carry AA's message to patients, prisoners, professionals and the public (\$2,668 in brown). Our Archives are preserved, our newsletter gets published, our literature is available and our website is kept up-to-date (other in purple). That's a lot to cover!

So our YTD expense vs. YTD income...Looks like Area 40 is self-supporting!



Another way to look at our expenses is by line item. As you can see, because we are a big Area in a large geographical region, travel costs have taken up 64% of the budget so far this year (in blue). Providing the 800 number is the second largest expense at 16% (in green.) Area assembly meeting space rent and Archives storage use 9% (in aqua). You can find more details on the financial reports

So how does 2017 (so far) compare to other years? The green bar is income, the orange is expense and the purple bar on the graph is the budget. We are 2/3s the way through 2017 and though income has exceeded expense, we ARE running a bit over budget (about \$620) through August 2017. That looks very similar to 2016's year. Our expenses fluctuate depending on the locations of the Regional Service Conferences, Regional Forums, pre-assemblies and now this assembly in Great Falls. Over the last 4 years, our budget has averaged around \$32,070, our income has averaged around \$31,020 over the 3 years of 2014-2016 and expenses averaged about \$30,450. Overall, we are able to provide for all the Area 40 services through your generous support during the year. Thank you!



I'll end with a quote from Bill W. "Respecting Money" from Language of the Heart: "When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer." Nov. 1957

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Triangle Editor Report-Mike D.

Good morning everybody, it's strange to be seeing everyone in unfamiliar territory! I look forward to participating in Area 40 business as usual however, and I am excited to see how everything unfolds. I am honored to have the privilege of reporting from our first Area Assembly out of Lewistown in 42 years in the next issue of our newsletter! So far there have been 3 issues of the Triangle published this year, and there will be another 3 before the year's end. I would like to thank everybody who has contributed thus far. The next issue's theme will be "Our Primary Purpose in Action" and I hope to capture some of what you are all doing here this weekend to inevitably carry our message of hope to the suffering alcoholic. For anybody who has something they would like to submit or include in this issue, I will need it by September 25th, which gives you ten days!

In the first two issues of the Triangle this year I included a survey to get some feedback from the readers to help me better serve the needs of our fellowship with our newsletter. Unfortunately out of almost 600 Triangles mailed I received zero surveys returned, which was quite disconcerting. My number one concern is that we are reaching the groups, and the members of Area 40 with effective communication. Communication involves listening, and I hope to receive feedback that will help me construct a newsletter that serves Area 40's needs. So if any of you have an idea or criticism for me, I am all ears!

I hope everyone is enjoying the new format for the Triangle! My hope is that it will help capture the attention of your group members, and we will be able to gain more readers who will become interested in learning more about general service in our Area, and maybe even get involved and participate in our common efforts. In my experience over the years I have come to realize that there is a disconnect between us and a large number of average members abroad. I believe that a large reason for this is that they have a hard time understanding all of the lingo and terminology that is usually thrown around. I have aimed for the content of the Triangle to be informative and interesting enough to help us connect with these members. This is not politics in AA. This is how we come together to serve the Primary Purpose.

So far this year I have processed nearly 2 dozen Triangle subscriptions generating \$330 of income towards covering related expenses. The total expenses to date for this year for the Triangle have come to \$851.98. The average cost of publication per issue is around \$283 including printing and postage expenses for about 290 individual newsletters mailed. This puts the cost of production for each individual Triangle at about \$.98 each. Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to support the Triangle financially by paying for your subscriptions! The annual subscription fee is \$10, and you can subscribe online on our website which utilizes PayPal to process the fee. Even if you do not have a PayPal account, you can still use this feature with the card of your preference. You can also mail your subscriptions to the Triangle PO Box 364 Huntley, MT 59037.

And now to fill you in on what has transpired over the course of the summer... In May I had finished an issue of the Triangle and sent it off to print. When I went in to pick up the print job, to my dismay, they had goofed up and stapled them all. I politely referred to the directions for printing that there was not supposed to be any staples, and the one employee left on the clock asked if I wanted him to remove them all. I was not about to ask him to remove over 600 staples by hand, and let him know that I did not want to make any ripples, but simply would not be paying for the stapling, and asked them kindly to make sure it doesn't happen in the future. So I took the newsletters to my mailing service to be folded, tabbed, and sorted for bulk mailing. A couple weeks later I had not heard back from them, nor had I received my Triangle in the mail, so I called to ask about it. They assured me that they had just mailed them, and apologized because staffing issues and business volume had slowed them down. They were swamped. Long story short they ended up being delivered a month after I had dropped them off. I was mostly upset because they did not tell me what was going on. After this, I had another issue I was getting ready to finish and print, but did not want to mail another issue within a week or two of the previous delivery. So I put it off for awhile. Then I had some things come up in my personal life regarding family, and I neglected my duties for far too long. This is why you have only received 3 issues of the Triangle thus far. I am extremely ashamed, and disappointed in myself, but I must report to you all here today where I have fallen short. I sincerely apologize to anyone who has missed the Triangle in the meantime. The only amends I have to offer is my consistency moving forward. I would like to thank Paul, Gerry, and Carole for their council to help me get back on track.

Thank you for allowing me to continue as your Triangle Editor

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Diaz

Area Chair Report-Paul L.

It is an honor to stand here as the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate for Area 40. And to be at an Assembly that is being held in a town other than Lewistown is historic.

To help prepare for this Assembly I have worked closely with the Events Staff of the Holiday Inn. I have also spent additional time reviewing the Area 40 Policies & Procedures, the A.A. Twelve Traditions and the A.A. 12 Concepts for World Service.

The Agenda for this Assembly went together much easier than the last one. People also did a good job in getting the Agenda Items to me in a timely manner for this Assembly. It was a very good response and we have some real good things to talk over.

Some of the things I did since the Spring Assembly:

I attended the Spring Roundup in Billings. It was well attended, well organized and they had some very good speakers.

I attended the WCR Forum last week in Sioux Falls S.D. It was great event and was my sixth Regional Forum. Gerry shared from the podium about a spiritual event he had early in sobriety, if you hear him singing at the top of his lungs you will know he is reliving the spiritual event and not taking a nip of the spirits. We did something different at this forum in that each Area was paired up with a member of the General Service Office to share a meal with. We lucked out and were able to share a meal with Beau, the AAWS Board Chair; Michelle Grinberg, a Class A Trustee and the Chair of the General Service Board; Greg T, the General Secretary of the General Service Office, Clay R., the Secretary of the Conference and Trustees PI Committee; and we had breakfast on Sunday with Newton P., the brand new Class B Trustee-at-Large U.S.. Needless to say there was an excellent exchange of information between us all and we discovered they were just regular people like us. I was also allowed the opportunity to moderate a workshop where we talked about ways for us to use the Twelve Traditions of A.A. as a guide and not a club. Multiple examples of each type of use was shared.

I was also able to attend Campouts with District 91 at Swan Lake, Tally Lake and Emery Bay and with District 41 up some sketchy road along the Dry Fork of Belt Creek. I participated in the Grapefest in Helena and the Havre Mini-Conference. With some members from District 91 I was able to attend the 51st International Corn Roast in Southern Alberta (Area 78) last month. The crowning achievement of the summer was the campout at Fireman's Point for Districts 11 & 12 where they hold the best SPAM cook-off I've ever attended. There are things they did with SPAM that I would have never thought of. I got to watch master BBQer Dave R. and his BBQing Beast at work. It was truly amazing, I also found out what "Murphy Locks" are for. If you ever have a chance to attend the Fireman's Point Campout and SPAM cook-off I would heartily recommend it.

(Remind about Ask-It-Basket questions to be placed in the Ask-It-Basket Basket in the Back of the room.

It has been a great ride so far, I am looking forward to this Assembly and this rotation. As I have learned from my sponsor, it starts with willingness and is then followed by action.

Thank You.....

DCM Reports

DISTRICT 11 REPORT, Bob K.

Greetings from District 11. The largest city in District 11 is Billings. We cover an area from Highway 200 in the north down to the Wyoming state line. On the west District 11 is bounded by Highway 3 and on the east by Interstate 90. We cover an area of 7,000 square miles.

There are approximately 25 groups and over 100 meetings per week.

Meeting times range from Brown Baggers at 6:30 a.m. to the 10 p.m. meeting at 510 Cook.

District meetings are well attended. We meet once a month on the second Saturday. On average, 20 to 25 persons attend to include GSRs, Committee Chairs, Al Anon and visitors. GSRs from 10 groups consistently attend District meetings.

Our District Committee Officers are Bob K. DCM, Jerry D. Treasurer and Nicole E. Secretary. All of our District Committee Chairs are filled.

District 11 was host the 2017 Roundup on May 19 - 21. It was a big success with a large turnout and lots of fellowship. The speakers were truly inspirational. The hospitality room was especially popular. The Spring Roundup Committee made a \$250 contribution to District 11.

District 11 once again teamed up with District 12 for a weekend outing at Fireman's Point on the weekend of August 11 to 13. District 11 cooked breakfast for 100 people. Special thanks to Don M. and Terri B. for helping to cook. Terry B. deserves special recognition for shopping for food and bringing two sponsees to help cook.

Thanks to very generous Seventh Tradition contributions the net cost to District 11 was only \$30. Area Delegate Gerry R. and Area Chair Paul L. both drove down for the fellowship and Gerry R. gave his Delegate's Report

DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Hello Area 40 Delegates and Chair members;

My Name is Gennifer ~~Pare~~^{Young}, and I am the new DCM for district 12, this is my first assembly here in Montana. It has been my pleasure stepping into this position and I am looking forward to new and exciting things for the district.

District 12 covers an area from Harlowton to Red Lodge, Big Timber to Laurel.

There are 30 meetings weekly. Our District meets the third Sunday of the month in Laurel.

Over the last year we have been working together to attract more members to get involved in the service work of AA. It is by attraction rather than promotion that we wish to let others know the rewards of service work. It is my belief that with the help and interactions of the current active members that we can collectively breathe new life into the interest and participation in local and area level service commitments. The LHG has been actively looking into ways to get young sobriety involved in all aspects of service, by showing them that this too can be a fun experience in AA.

District 12 has two events yearly the Mid-Winter Social and Fireman's Point Campout:

In August we had our Fireman's Point Campout, fun for the whole family.

On Friday Night the Great Spam Cook-off for all the Spam Lovers; the Speaker was Jeramiah S. from Billings, On Saturday Sober Old Biker Poker Run and meeting along the Stillwater River., BBQ and Pot luck Dinner to follow with a Fireside Speaker Meeting Traci D., Ala-Non speaker followed by AA speaker Tara W. from Billings ;Closed the day with a Resentment Burning.

Sunday District 11 Cooks the Best Breakfast around, and again they did not disappoint, and following breakfast, Gerry R. gave the Delegate's Report to close the weekend

The Mid-Winter Social will be held in Joliet Mt. February 17th and was supported by Districts 11 & 12, as it is every year; We had a Mid- Winter BBQ and Potluck Dinner, Speakers Gerry R from Helena & Cris S. from Billings will be sharing their experience, strength, and hope to a full house.

I am looking forward to being of service to my district and learning what I can from as many people as I can as to better serve my district and I am excited about the future within my district and to reigniting the fire and desire to be of service at the district and local levels.

Thank You Gennifer District 12 DCM;

District 23 report

My name is Steve S. district 23 DCM. Since last assembly we have held two district meetings. One at Sidney and most recent at Glendive. We began with a potluck and then the business meeting.

Attendance at Sidney was fair but Glendive was very poor but were still able to conduct business. In May the district held a fun day at Glendive as a fundraiser, attendance was low but everyone had a great time and approximately \$90 was raised to help with the district annual budget. Another picnic fun day was held at Savage in June with approximately \$100 being raised. In January 2017 the district prepared a budget for the year and sent out to all GSR's to share with their group along with the suggested contribution. To date only two groups have contributed with the district operating off personal contributions fun day funds and minimal group contributions but things always seem to come together.

District 23 has two groups at Sidney with several meetings a week, one group at Savage with two meetings a week, two groups at Glendive with six meetings a week.

The annual lower Yellowstone Soberfest was held at Makoshika State Park again in August attendance was at an all-time low. This may sound a lot like doom and gloom with attendance but it seems to bring all of us closer together in attendance and to turn more to attraction rather than promotion. Our next meeting is in early October and we will be working on ideas to carry the message further to make our district and groups stronger. On the personal side my farming operation has kept me from visiting our groups in the district as much as I have wanted to. I plan on changing that over the next months and connecting more with the GSR's and finding out more about their struggles within the group to bring more awareness to the seventh tradition and how it also helps to carry the message. I continue to help with Alcoholics Anonymous at watching East two times a week helping to carry a meeting inside to the family members and conduct bridging the gap presentations every third Friday of the month to help them when they get out with community contacts and life on the outside.

Yours in service,

Steve S.

District 41 DCM Report

District has been a challenge this past 6 months; interesting to say the least.

We continue to struggle with 4 empty chairs, PI, BTG, Corrections, and the latest one being, the Literature Chair. Grant M has stepped up and has been a support for the PI job and Bill O has been a fill-in for BTG. Great big thank you to them both. Area Corrections Chair is from District 41 and has been a help to fill-in Corrections by delivering books as needed; the past Correction Chair has been willing to let him know what is needed. Thanks so much Hugh M and Dez G, this has been very helpful.

The Literature Chair just opened up at this month's District meeting so Joe H agreed to be our voting member at Area. Thank you Joe H for being willing to step up and help us out.

While I had planned to attend the NCRF in South Dakota, I ended up not being able to attend due to the chance I would have to be moving that weekend. "Life on Life's terms."

We continue to have a vast amount of meetings; 5 different meeting everyday, at various times. We have been able to update and make changes to the meeting schedule monthly, which helps keep us better updated for the new-comer.

I have been able to attend many of these meeting, but there are still several I have not been to as of yet. I am looking forward to getting to them as I can.

We had a good turn-out for Founders Day, with good speakers, workshops and of course food. I was able to spend the day at the Unity camp out. The speakers and fellowship were great.

We will be having Gerry for the Delegate Report during our October District Meeting, with a potluck and short business meeting to take care of some old business.

The CPC and Treatment Chairs are working together to do a workshop in the next few months. The SYS Chair (Support your Services) is going to start making plans for the New Year's Eve party, before long, to include our annual GSR School.

District 41 will keep working on filling the empty chairs at District and doing what we can to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, both in and out of the rooms.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service

Dawn B.

District 42—Kurt K.

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, 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

District 51—Bryan F.

Hi my name is Bryan. I am the DCM for District 51, from Havre. District 51 currently has 12 active groups, from Box Elder to Malta, and also includes the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation. Our district meeting is the third Sunday of every month at HRDC at 3:30 p.m. We currently have all our positions filled except for Archives. Our district held three sobriety campouts over the Summer that were enjoyed by people from our district and even a couple out of staters. Our corrections chair has meetings set up at the Hill County Corrections Facility. We are currently holding meetings at the jail every Tuesday. Right now, we are rotating between the men and women. Our District will be hosting a Corrections Workshop November 18th at HRDC and it will be led by our Area Corrections Chair Hugh. More details on the workshop will be posted to the Area 40 website. We also had our annual Fall Mini Conference. Our District was encouraged by the amount of participation and help with the conference by new comers. It was well attended including our Area Chair and Area Delegate where Gerry gave his report. Lastly, I would like to welcome all who are attending their first Area Assembly. I think it's awesome that you're here and I hope you keep coming back.

Thanks for letting me serve

District 61– Carol W.

District 61 includes Helena and the surrounding areas. Grateful to be here at the Area 40 Assembly. I have been blessed to have attended area assemblies since 1992 in two different states and one province. Shows me that AA is the same no matter where I go.

All in all, things are going well in D61. With 86 active meetings throughout the week we have a great variety from which to choose which is a wonderful thing.

I was able to attend the West Central Regional Forum last weekend in Sioux Falls, SD. Was a great experience meeting with the staff from GSO, hearing all about what they do for the fellowship and make new friends. The District 91 DCM Kacie, and I shared a room which showed me how little sleep you need to function as she and I talked and laughed into the wee, small hours of the morning.

It was amazing to hear the Michelle Grinberg, Chair of the GSB speak of Bill W's statements of all who have a problem with alcohol should be welcome in AA.

Beau Bush, Director of AAWS spoke. He is from NJ and was happy to let us know that the first physical location of the GSO was actually in NJ and not NY. He shared with us the huge amount of letters that are sent to GSO and the number of envelopes that need to be opened. I believe the numbers were 90,000 letters and 73,000 envelopes monthly. He let us know that donating monies through the website would save much in time and money for AA. Currently, we have 7.6 million books and pamphlets available and 91 different translations of the BB with 92 and 93 in the process.

The story was told by another Trustee Newt, a new Trustee at Large, about going to Israel which doesn't have a separate translation, but that there is an Arab translation. The Israeli members asked for copies of the Arab translation of the BB. They wanted the books for when their Arab members came over from Palestine for a meeting. They wanted to have the BB in Arab for them so they could read it in their own language. That we should consider the fact that at AA meetings in Israel, you could easily see, Jews, Christians and Arabs all sitting around the table sharing the message of Alcoholics Anonymous! Amazing.

I was also privileged to be the reporter for the workshop that Paul chaired on "Traditions - A Guide, Not a Club". Was a great amount of discussion related to how we apply the traditions in our meetings.

Moving on to a few district past and future events. We have been busy in District 61 since the last assembly. A successful Grapefest was held in June with the bonus of hearing our delegate Gerry give his report of the GSC.

Upcoming events include The "It's in the Book Group" hosting a Fall Speaker event at the Indian Alliance building on traditions and relationships. The dates are October 20th and 21st. On the 20th the speaker will be speaking at the Recovery Speaks meeting at the Wilson House. The next day the events will be at the Indian Alliance. Hope to see you all there.

Our annual Attitude of Gratitude will be held this November 19 at the Radisson Hotel in Helena.

Also on the agenda is the March 2018 Pockets of Enthusiasm at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Helena. We have the 2018 Fall Roundup planning underway. It will be held October 12-14 in Helena also at the Radisson. So save the date for that. Flyers will be here in the spring.

We currently need two district chair positions which have recently been vacated along with our BTG position. Hopefully, we will get them filled shortly. In the meantime our Treatment chair will be covering the BTG needs so contacts will continue to be taken care of.

AA is alive and well in our district and this alcoholic is happy to be a part of it. I came from a place of darkness, drinking alone with the curtains drawn drinking myself to an early grave, full of fear and shame. Today, I can face the world with my head held high and walk in the Sunlight of the Spirit. I owe it all to Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you for my sobriety and thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 72—Bob E.

Dist 72 is a very large district that takes parts of Madison, Park, Jefferson, and all of Gallatin Counties. There are approx. 52 groups and 85 meetings in towns Gardiner, Willsall, Emigrant, Livingston, Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan, Three Forks, Big Sky, West Yellowstone, Ennis, Virginia City, and Whitehall. Dist 72 sent seed monies to Butte, and Great Falls round-ups. On June 17th. our area delegate Gerry R. gave his delegate's report which was fairly well attended. Dist meetings have been well attended. All our district positions are filled. Our summer meetings rotate, this year we have visited Ennis, Manhattan, Big Sky, and at the end of the month we will visit Livingston. We do this in an effort to bring dist. meetings to outlying towns and increase participation. We will sponsor a CPC luncheon for the clergy in October date to be determined. I attended the west central regional forum this past weekend and have realised I still have much to learn. Group visits have started with many more to come. Yours in service Bob E. Dist 72 DCM

District 81—Ashley J.

We are located in Western Montana with Idaho bordering us on the west, Highway 2 to the north, Highway 83 to the east, and Highway 12 to the south. 60% of our meetings are in Missoula at the southern end of the district and we have another 40 meetings which stretch as far west as Trout Creek, north to Polson, and east to Seeley Lake. Overall, we have 56 groups, with 102 meetings each week.

Our district meetings are the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Fourth D Alano Club at 2:00 pm. All has been going well in our district. We have recently had some district positions open, but all except literature have now been filled.

We have had some wonderful fellowship this summer in District 81. Our Founder's Day was kicked off with Gerry giving a fantastic Delegate's Report. We enjoyed the rest of the day really getting to connect with each other as we huddled to stay dry from the pouring rain while some wonderful individuals braved the rain to keep the BBQ going and the rest of us fed. In August, we were blessed much better weather as we spent our Summer Sober event basking in sunshine and playing in the park. We had great attendance at this event which was co-hosted by District 81 and ZooYPAA, Missoula Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I was able to attend the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls last weekend and I am still processing all of the information. It was wonderful to get to know so individuals at the GSO level and as well as continuing to get to know our Area 40 trusted servants.

Thank you for letting me be of service!

District 91—Kacie N.

I want to start by welcoming anyone who is here for their first assembly. I remember my first assembly almost a decade ago and can't believe how much time has passed and how much my life has changed since then. I remember being overwhelmed with information and awe inspired by the level of commitment and the passion I observed being poured into service. At that time I never imagined this fellowship becoming such an inner woven part of my life. If you are here for your first time this weekend I invite you to let yourself get swept up in this thing. Have fun! Ask questions. Meet people. Get involved. Stick around and don't give up when things get heated or confusing because if you do you'll miss the joy and laughter, the host of new friends, and the gift of witnessing Traditions and Concepts brought to life.

So, for those of you who may not know... District 91 is located in the NW corner of Montana. When the smoke lifts you can see right into Glacier Park and sometimes in the summer you can even catch a meeting there. 17 or so different groups host 114 or so different meetings during the week depending on what season it is. AA is alive and well in Eureka, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Coram, Bigfork, Kalispell, Lakeside, Somers, and Elmo. We may not have each group represented by a GSR at District, but each of those groups are actively keeping the door open, the coffee on, and the hand outstretched for the alcoholic who desperately seeks a way out of that hopeless place we've all been.

I am blessed to serve in a District where every committee chair position is currently filled. The message is being carried to our local jail and treatment centers. Pamphlets fill racks all over the valley and bridging the gap contacts are being made. We had campouts at least every other weekend this summer and BBQ's and potlucks in between. Gerry spent a Sunday with us delivering his Delagate's report and even stayed around for our business meeting. It was a real treat, thank you Gerry!

I'd like to invite you all to attend the 23rd Annual Fall Refresher October 7th and 8th at the Restart Church in Evergreen. Also mark your calendars now for the 31st Annual Whitefish Sober Ski March 2nd-4th. Please join us any day of the week any time of the year to simply share the message of hope and recovery from alcoholism in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you Area 40 for my amazing sober life!

Kacie N

District 93—Nance G.

Good Day and welcome everyone, especially 1st timers! We have been very smokey down at the southern Bitterroot Valley. Fires all around us and kids going out on fire camp crews 4 times what we sent out last year. District 93 has had a busy summer. From the District campout in June to Norm's Picnic campout in July to the Lolo pot Luck in August. On tap for the fall includes a Corrections Workshop 10/22 and the last Howling at the Moon potluck on the river 10/5. We would love to see you!

Workshop: Topic – Getting the A.A. Message Out-A.A. Technology:Where Innovation Meets the Traditions Led by Past Delegate: Sharon S.

Source of topic- 2017 GSC discussion/presentation topic for the 2018 Service Conference.

Technology is changing our lives and how we communicate.

Background - review what we are doing today throughout the service structure.

GRAPEVINE QUOTE OF THE DAY

September 6, 2017

"I'm glad we have both conservatives and enthusiasts. They teach us much. The conservative will surely see to it that the AA movement never gets overly organized. But the promoter will continue to remind us of our terrific obligation to the newcomer and to those hundreds of thousands of alcoholics still waiting all over the world to hear of AA."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., August 1948

"Tradition Nine," The Language of the Heart

Breakout sessions to discuss enthusiast possibilities to use technology to 'carry our message'

Accessibility

Quick Response (QR) codes on meeting schedules

HA - list those meetings

Childcare - list those meetings

Translators - ASL, language

Text link

Rides for elderly (without drivers (license)

Request ASL

Video Conferencing

Possibilities for using video technology for meetings as an alternative to travel

FaceTime - small groups, projects to large screen

Skype - free, computer

Video more effective than voice, personable, pay better attention

Possibility to connect to people who want a meeting, but can't attend physically

Hotline/Bridging the Gap (BtG)

WEB site - text msg to 'reach out' for help

Link to hook someone up to a specific group

Contact AA thru Crisis center & Psych centers (text msg) as well as BtG

Workbook for hotline & Btg

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Workbook for hotline & Btg

Traditions

Anonymity

District level workshop to train on taking 12 step calls

Attracting Young People

WEB - meeting schedule is incomplete, out of date, not user friendly

Push technology (receive follow up message after accessing an AA web site)

Tradition 11 probably discourages this

Home Group WEBSITE

One group's experience:

- Content

- Type of meeting

- Group conscience

- Information for group members

- Group documents: service positions, information for Secretary

- Contact information for group members

- Map with links to:

 - Area 40

 - Aa-org

Costs

- Domain name annual fee

- Hosting service annual fee

- Construction if skills not available within group

Purpose

- Group business

- Connect with newcomers

Workshop: Topic – A.A. and Social Media Led by Past Trustee: Billy N.

Court Cards/History and AA—Ebby Thatcher story—released from jail to AA.. Our organization was founded on stories like this.

Conservative Enthusiast—In 1990, 500,000 phone books were in circulation 2.6 million pay phones. Now only 250,000. Google is now defined as a verb.

TV created mid 1940s. First PSA created 1966. VCR— we were quicker to get on this. Conference said no video made inside AA. Now we used actors, blue them out, etc. Social media comes along. 13,000 clicks per month on AA.org website to “Need help with drinking”

You can't argue with the power of technology. 1994-AA.org so we could claim the name on line. #1 reason was to protect AA. We also have a YouTube channel to be in a place where alcoholics go.

Nowadays most people are online , even most economically challenged folks.

Anonymous is 50% of our name. There is a push against Anonymity that it is outdated and an old principle. Take the time with newcomers to explain anonymity. AA is the public face of AA—not me!

Bridging the Gap: James W.

Hello, my name is James W. and I am an alcoholic. Thank you, God, AA, and family, for the ability to serve the area 40 body. Even though I haven't done a lot since April, I have called and contacted many different fellowship and service people in our Country from Area 07 in California to GSO in New York. I was able to bridge the gap for 3-4 individuals and got a call from Anaconda on Sunday while I was at the BTG workshop last weekend for a male leaving MCDC to the Rocky Boy area. I talked to Eva S. from April until the end of August, I learned from her to get a service sponsor; I also started to communicate with Patrick C., our GSO Treatment/Accessibility desk worker, and met the man in Bloomington at the BTG workshop. I also talked and met Matthew from area 07 who was the BTG workshop coordinator and rotated on. I also communicated with many area 40 fellowship people from different districts from area 40. I attended 2 or 3 local district 41 monthly business meetings. I want to thank Julie R. from the bottom of my heart, as she was so much help to me and was instrumental in getting me to the BTG workshop in Minneapolis, MN. Thank you, Gerry, Paul, and Brandon, for your willingness to be of service, and of help to me, at the Area level; including the 12 concepts of service as I have a desire to incorporate them into my recovery. Bless all of you trusted servants in my home group, district, and Area 40 that helped me and the newcomers. I thank my creator for helping and allowing me to live and incorporate the 7th tradition into my life and service work as your treatment/accessibilities/BTG, under treatment trusted servant.

The BTG in Bloomington MN was full of so much information about BTG than I could ever imagine there was. I have the desire, enthusiasm and willingness to travel this fall and winter to bring this information to our district meetings and/or workshops within area 40. I also want to help out men and woman from treatment or prison get to their 1st and 2nd meetings and get a meeting list to them with gender appropriate phone numbers.

2017 Fall Delegate's Report

Good Morning, my name is Gerry and I am a very grateful, alcoholic. Six months ago, I stood at the mike in Lewistown and gave my first Delegate's report. At that time, I had gotten past most of the shock and had accepted the fact that I actually was Delegate, and felt very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I also knew however, that I had yet to truly have what's called the "Delegate Experience." True, I had gone through the experience of preparing to be the Delegate, but I knew there were certain events, that I was about to participate in that would open my eyes all the wider to our three legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

The General Service Conference in New York was definitely one of those experiences, and I'll speak more on that in a minute, but, as I expected, the true joy of serving in this position over the last several months, has been the opportunity to travel around the state and give my report on the Conference to the Area 40 Fellowship.

Don't get me wrong, dressing up in a suit and tie and spending eight days in a hotel with 134 people who are absolutely passionate about carrying the message of AA to the still-suffering alcoholic is a fantastic experience, and I encourage everyone here to do so if given the chance. However, the opportunity to sample Spam ice cream at Fireman's Point near Columbus, to watch a woman outbid a young boy in an auction for a knife, then turn around and give it to him at the Lake Como Campout, or to enjoy flash backs to the old days of smoky meeting rooms, at the Havre Mini-Conference, all within a three month span, these are truly experiences you must not miss! The reports started in Billings, at the Spring Roundup, where I engaged in the well-practiced tradition that each delegate must go through. I tried to fit a two hour presentation into a one-hour time slot, complete with telling myself up to the very moment that I started, "I'm sure I can get it all done." I had a great but soggy burger in Missoula, was privileged to share my story after my report in Bozeman, got my own Shaun Spicer podium in Butte, had the smallest group but the best questions in Kalispell, and was welcomed home in Helena. I still have one report, along with some amends, to make, here in Great Falls next month.

Three days ago, I received a call from a member in District 21, who expressed his deep concerns to me about the dwindling Fellowship there, and the lack of enthusiasm for service work. I will be travelling there to meet with folks on October 22, and would like to encourage any members of the Area Committee who have the time and can make the trip to join me. A hand has reached out from that dark district and our hand needs to reach back with as much help as we can give. I've discussed the trip with our Treasurer, Julie, who has assured me that our Area travel budget can and will make room for this worthy effort. Please see me for details about making the trip if you're interested.

Going back briefly to the Roundup; I enjoyed a special privilege there when the Roundup Chair, Carol B., asked me to give a 15 minute talk about the Conference, and service work in general, prior to the Saturday night speaker. This was in addition to the traditional full delegate's report that's given at every roundup. Too many of the new folks in AA are taught that what we do here is "nuthin but politics." I'd encourage the chairs of the all the future roundups to continue to allow myself, and every future delegate, this great opportunity to reach out to the Fellowship and share on just what it is that we actually do here.

My report today will touch on some of what I covered in my reports this summer, however much has happened since April, so I'll be focusing on that that as well.

It was a privilege to be part of the 67th General Service Conference. I had heard reports of some conferences taking on a bit of a divisive tone, but that was not the case this year. The agenda this year was heavy with items that addressed our ability to reach out and help others to feel part of our Fellowship, and that set the tone for a very earnest and open discussion by everyone.

As many of you will recall, the most discussed items on the agenda last spring dealt with our potential use of various social media platforms. Those of you who attended the workshops this morning no doubt heard some great stuff from Sharon and Billy, about social media and other current technologies that AA is in the process of considering as ways to help us carry our message. I'm jealous; I wish I could have been there to hear them both and will certainly be reviewing the minutes that were taken in each workshop.

This is where we are folks. Our job is to carry the message, which, said another way, means we are here to communicate, and it doesn't take but a moment to look around and notice how people tend to communicate these days. As I see it, our Fellowship is practicing its due diligence by checking out every method of communication available. Plans for three of the platforms on the agenda; LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook, were all reviewed at the Conference and were referred back to their respective Trustees committee for further development. We'll likely see what those committees come up with for plans in next spring's agenda.

The Conference agreed, in separate votes, that one particular platform would be used by both AAWS and the Grapevine. It was decided that a Google for Non-Profits account would be set up for each corporation, allowing them each to develop and maintain their own You Tube page.

I serve on the PI Committee, which put the first of these items, the one for AAWS, forward to the Conference. I voted for it in committee, and on the floor, after we agreed to stipulate that the ability to comment on the page be shut off, and that we receive regular reports on the effectiveness of the page.

Now, these items were a major topic of discussion at last spring's Assembly, so I feel a responsibility to explain why I voted for this particular platform.

I had a few reasons. The first was simply that if we decide that it doesn't do what we hoped it would do, we can shut it down with no strings attached. This allows us to stay within the covenant of Tradition Six, unlike other platforms where all the information we placed on them would become the property of the platforms' owners.

The second reason occurred to me as I reflected on the fact that AA has been developing an aging population. We aren't reaching young people like we must in order to keep our fellowship growing and vital. I thought back to Bill and Dr. Bob's dilemma in the late thirties, when things were just getting started, and they realized they needed to get the word out to people in the most effective way possible. What they did, was utilize what I call "the media of the day" in an effort to reach the broadest audience possible.

Bill provided a great example of their mindset in an article he wrote in the November 1960 issue of the Grapevine. This quote did two things for me when I first read it. One was that it confirmed for me that it is very important that we explore these avenues of communication, and two, it weirded me out a bit, because of how well it applies to today's technology. Here's what he said;

"A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches... nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination." Bill W., AA Grapevine, Inc., November 1960

Their goal was to inform those who come looking for us, about who we are, what we do, and how to find us. This is exactly what the You Tube page is intended to allow us to do, all while operating within our Traditions. I had other concerns about implied affiliation, but, during my research, I was asked by a friend to consider if, when I see a PSA on television for any other organization, I immediately assume that they are affiliated with the station they broadcast on, or with any of the other organizations running the ads that appeared before or after them. I said no, and his next question was, so, why would the internet be any different?

I realized that, rather than suggesting any type of affiliation, our well-positioned, online presence might actually serve to distinguish AA from what is currently a confused mess of pretenders, defenders, and outright haters - those folks who borrow on our name in order to serve their own purposes. All we really need to do is what Bill and Dr. Bob did, communicate the clear message of who we are, what we do, and how to find us.

What clinched it for me was another quote I happened across. This one came from George M., a past General Service Trustee, and was published in the 2013 Final Conference Report. George said;

“Our mission today is no longer simply to deliver our message of hope; we must also make sure we are a clear, effective and authoritative voice which can be sorted out and heard in the midst of a cacophony of misinformation and uninformed personal opinion about AA.” George M. GST 2013 Final Conference Report, p.5

The other social media item we discussed in the PI committee was the Twitter platform. I’m happy to say that this discussion did not last long. We decided to take no action on the item shortly after every delegate expressed their Area’s concerns regarding Tradition 10, and their disdain for the idea of AA using this platform. It was over pretty quick.

I think the way that both the Twitter and the You Tube items were handled illustrates the challenge in front of our Fellowship today. Our job, plain and simple, is to carry the message - to communicate. We need to always be exploring how we might do that job better, while guarding against employing practices that go against our Traditions. To do that, we must also avoid practicing the principle of contempt prior to investigation. Should we close the door on any avenues of carrying the message without a full investigation of what those avenues might offer, we run the risk of limiting our effectiveness, as well as stagnating our Fellowship.

Like many other aspects of our program, being inclusive isn’t just an attitude; it requires both hard work and a willingness to grow spiritually. We must do the work required to keep the doors open and the lights on – regardless of whether those doors and lights are physical or digital.

So, that’s my reasoning, I’ll be glad to hear your questions and comments after I’m done today, or anytime throughout the weekend. That said, let’s move on to other matters.

Those who attended one of my reports this summer will recall that I grouped similar agenda items together, rather than reporting on them by committee. In addition to the social media items that I just covered, I presented on items related to Safety, Armed Forces, Young People, and the Agenda Background Translation. They all had advisory actions and additional considerations passed that were part of a strong, clear effort by the Conference to help our Fellowship become more open and welcoming to all who come seeking our solution.

If you have yet to pick up a Final Conference Report, I have several of them over on the Literature table. You can find a complete breakdown of all the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations related to these agenda items, along with all the other matters we discussed at the Conference this spring. I decided not to go into them here because time is short and much has happened since the Conference that I’d like to discuss. A couple of quick points first.

Point one, is that the yellow safety card I mentioned some time ago is out now. I picked up a few at the Regional Forum last weekend and have those also on the Literature table. If they run out, order them off of the GSO website at aa.org. Some groups experience more safety related issues than others, but this is a great tool for every group to have, either in its announcements or on its bulletin board.

Speaking of the Forum last weekend, and I'll only mention it briefly because Bob is going to give a great report on it tomorrow morning, it was fantastic. We had a small, six member contingent from Area 40, but we all enjoyed a tremendous experience that not many people get to have. You'll have to be here tomorrow morning to listen to Bob's report to hear more about it.

My second point about the Conference is in regard to group contributions. I reported last spring and throughout the summer about that great 11.8% jump in 7th Tradition contributions from the Fellowship. The numbers provided at the July 2017 quarterly Board meeting show current contributions coming in at 13% over budget, and 9.6% over last year's numbers, which is simply amazing. Also, regarding the 7/27 challenge that came out of Area 58, the GSO Treasurer, David Norris gave the current results at the Forum, but he provided them by region. The total contributions so far totaled \$68,000.00, and the West Central Region provided 5% of that total, or about \$3,400.00. I was able to corner him during the weekend and asked him for more specific numbers by Area, but he didn't have those worked up yet. I will be following up with him to see if he can provide a specific amount provided by Area 40. Thank you to everyone who participated in the challenge, I know many of you did.

I would be remiss if I didn't speak for at least a few minutes about the matter of the manuscript lawsuit, that some of you are aware of, which has been brought forward by AAWS. I participated in a conference call at the end of August and, of course, attended the Regional Forum last week in Sioux Falls, where I gathered as much information as I could.

Earl has a display dealing with the manuscript over on his table and I was able to give him copies of several documents that have been filed with the court regarding the lawsuit and, as such, are publicly available. The fact is, during this part of the process, those involved in the specifics of the case are, understandably, required to refrain from talking about it. What I can speak to, briefly, is what led up to the filing of the lawsuit and some of what's going on around the case.

A quick bit of history to begin with; In 1938, before it was published, some 200 - 400 copies of the original manuscript of the Big Book were sent out to members and professionals who worked with alcoholics, asking them to write their feedback and suggestions about it in the text and send it back. When the responses came back, they were consolidated onto one master copy, which was also called "the printer's copy." Changes were made and after the printer was done with it, Bill kept this master copy of the manuscript.

Bill died in 1971 and, in 1978, Lois gave the manuscript to a fellow named Barry Leach who was the main author of the book "Living Sober." Leach, in turn, gifted the manuscript to AAWS, in 1979, with a signed and notarized letter, which contained the stipulation that AAWS allow him to maintain possession until his demise.

When he died, in 1985, Leach's estate did not turn it over to AAWS as the letter required them to do, and no one remained at AAWS who remembered they had received the letter from Leach gifting them the manuscript. This was no doubt due in some part to rotation.

Since then, the manuscript has surfaced in an auction in 2004, then again in 2007. Shortly after it was purchased in 2007, the letter from Leach was found among other documents in the AA Archives.

In April of this year, the current owner of the manuscript notified AA that he was about to send it back to auction, this last June, and, when the manuscript was in New York, in May, for a two-day viewing for that auction, AAWS filed a restraining order to keep it in New York. They have since filed papers to recover the manuscript, however, at this point there is no ongoing litigation.

My understanding is that the intent is to try to negotiate a return of the manuscript, but again, it is important for those involved to remain tight-lipped about specifics. That said, I do anticipate full disclosure from those involved on the AAWS side of the case after things have been resolved one way or the other.

I have heard from folks in the Fellowship who support the effort 100%, saying the manuscript is legally ours and we need to do everything possible to get it back. Then, there are those who say we should not spend one penny of 7th tradition money on an effort which they also feel is a gross violation of Tradition 10. However, many also feel like I do, which is that we need to do our due diligence in this matter, while we remain true to our Traditions and prudent with our funds.

We all need to decide for ourselves which camp we fall in but, initially, I would hope that we can all try to trust our trusted servants and not start pointing fingers and laying blame until the process is completed and we know better what is actually going on. I received a letter two weeks ago from Rich P., the Chair and Director of AAWS, asking for our patience and trust as the board does its best to work through this process. He assured us that, when the timing is right, all the reasoning and actions of the board pertaining to this matter will be brought forward so the entire Fellowship can review and discuss them. This request was echoed at the Forum last weekend by Michelle G. the Chair of the General Service Board, and Greg T. the General Manager of GSO. Personally, I have no problem with honoring their request to be patient.

The last matter I'll discuss today is the proposed General Service Conference agenda item, which was put forward by Area 40 last fall, regarding a suggested revision of the short form of the Concepts. I received word after the July board meeting that the Trustee's Literature Committee had decided to take no action on that item. Their decision was worded as follows:

"The Twelve Concepts for World Services were developed specifically about the relationship among the Fellowship, the Conference, and the Trustees and did not require revisions at this time."

After reviewing the decision, I believe it overlooks a few of the main points expressed in the background material we provided, and feel that a request for reconsideration might be warranted.

Those of you who were in attendance when we passed the item at the Assembly last fall will recall that the item did not ask for a revision of the Concepts themselves, as was stated in the committee's decision, but instead addressed only the short form, which was written by a Conference committee in 1971. There were other concerns expressed in the items' background material which appeared to have possibly been overlooked.

Therefore, I have drafted a letter requesting reconsideration, and I ran it past our Regional Trustee, Tom A. He thought it was a good letter and worthy of submission, so I plan to bring forward a floor action here, during this Assembly, proposing that Area 40 ask the Trustee's Literature Committee to reconsider the item in light of several points made within the letter.

Now, in the interest of being completely candid and transparent, it is important that I note that I am the author of the original request. I wrote it in 2004 and, in early 2016, I finally decided to present it to my Home Group. From there, our GSR took it to District 61. District 61, in turn, presented it to Area 40 who approved it and then forwarded it to the General Service Office with the request that it be placed on the General Service Conference agenda.

As a result of this process, the original item was put forward by Area 40, not me personally, and I drafted this letter in event that Area 40 does wish to request the reconsideration. If we decide this weekend that this is not the case, I will not forward the letter on my own.

I will leave a copy of the letter, along with copies of the original background material, here on this table for anyone who wishes to review it, and, if this body chooses to consider the floor action, I will be glad to read the main points that it addresses at the microphone at that time. So, all that said, we have a busy weekend in front of us with a lot of Area 40 business to attend to. As always, I look forward to seeing how God expresses Himself through the Group Conscience of this body and am forever grateful to have yet another opportunity to not only witness that, but to also participate.

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

Area 40 Archives Chair Report

My name is Raymona , and I am an alcoholic. Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to be of service to God and my fellows as your Archives Chair this rotation. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve. My dedication and attitude about service can be summed up in one sentence found at the top of page 20 in the big book of Alcoholics Anonymous, it says;

“Our very lives as ex problem drinkers depends on our constant thought of others and how we may meet their needs”.

It is in this and the spirit of the first tradition, “Our common welfare should come first. Personal recovery depends upon AA unity,” that I serve. In my service to others, I experience and appreciate that unity.

One of my tasks is to distribute, collect, and review evaluations from the assemblies. I have placed a blue basket on the table to the rear of the room, near the door. Please return your evaluations to that bin by the end of the assembly. Your input is vital to the continued success of these assemblies and future venue selections.

I have been working on familiarity of my duties as your archives chair and the agenda items for this assembly. I sat down with our Area Chair, Paul, and he brought me up to speed on the items for consideration during this assembly. I then sent them out to my committee members for consideration and review. I hope all those involved in the decision-making process for the business of Area 40 are as excited about what is on the table before us to consider.

Additionally, I updated the evaluation forms to reflect the change in venue. Quite simply, I created more of a generic question when it came to evaluation of the venue site so that if, in the future, we change sites again, there should be no need for further updates on the evaluation forms.

I attended District 91’s August business meeting as they were going over the upcoming agenda items to be discussed. The DCM, Kasie did a great job of getting the information out to the GSR’s in attendance so they could bring it back to their groups. I hope they appreciated my input on what matters are brought to the table this weekend.

I have been announcing Area 40 Assemblies at some of the meetings I attend in my area and attempting to build enthusiasm for attendance at assemblies. Also, I have been encouraging groups to submit histories of their groups beginnings to further the records of archives in Montana and in their local District archives as well. I do not know how successful my encouragements have been, but this does not stop me from spreading the word about how much fun an assembly can be.

Thank you again to everyone, especially the Area 40 committee, for your dedication to service and thanks to the Spirit of a Higher Power among us to guide us in our primary purpose; “to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

In Gracious Service...

Area 40 Archives Committee Report

My name is Raymona and I am an alcoholic. Good afternoon and thank you for the honor and a privilege to serve as Chair of the Archives/ Policy and Procedures Committee.

I would like to first thank all those who were in attendance in my committee meeting. Of 12 people, though we only had 3 voting members, there was much lively discussion among those in participation. Surprisingly, we managed to get a lot done. I would also like to specifically thank my very capable secretary, Joan B. for stepping up to service and look forward to serving with her in this position during the rest of my rotation. Additionally, I'd like to thank those who came to Archives to speak to specific agenda items.

Earl and I both gave our reports as were to be delivered to the assembly floor and there was no opposition to either of our reports. Though we did not give much direct discussion to the performance of Archives Committee overall, the end result was business was accomplished proficiently and everyone spoke complimentary about the committee process at the end of our session together.

We had a lot on our plate in the Structure and Policy department for our Area this assembly. In regards to those items, our decisions, proposals, motions, etc. are as follows;

Item 1. "Update items in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures to reflect current practices". The committee puts forth this made and seconded motion:

The committee accepts the proposed changes to Policy and Procedure manual as suggested in the 10 agenda items given.

Item 2. "Review GSC Agenda items to decide on 2-3 agenda items to discuss by their respective Area 40 Committees, utilizing the rest of the committee time on Area 40 business". The committee recommends the following motion;

To prepare the Delegate for the GSC, the Delegate and Area Committee Chairs would review the GSC agenda. They would decide on a specific number of agenda items that should be discussed by the respective committees and the Assembly. These items would be selected and forwarded to the Area Chair for placement on the agenda within 2 weeks of the GSC Agenda being placed on the Dashboard. If there is no response from the Committee, the Delegate and Area Chair will select the items.

Item 3. "Rotation of Area Assembly meeting site throughout the state." The Structure and Policy committee recommends –

The Archives recommends that the Spring 2018 Assembly be held in Lewistown, MT. and that the Fall 2018 Assembly be held in Great Falls, MT.

Item 4. "Consider the distribution method of GSC and Area 40 background material." The committee recommends -

The Dashboard be accessible to Standing Committee Chairs, DCM's, and GSR's.

Item 5. "Re-examine the tabled motion (recommitted): The Archives Committee made a motion that was generated by the report from the Ad Hoc assigned to 'Review the committee assignment, selection, and preplacement process.'"

Regarding this motion, the Committee took no action.

Item 6. "Area Assembly Evaluation Report"

Current changes to the Evaluation Form include removal of the specific name of a Facility to reflect a more generic choice of venue... Changed wording from "Yogo Inn Facility" to just "Facility"

The addition of a line to ask ease of reservation process.

The Committee will recommit attention to the Evaluation Form in the Spring with proposed additions, corrections, or deletions from our Archivist, Earl F.

We then entertained a motion to adjourn, which was seconded, and so it was.

Treatment Committee Report

Present: James W Chair, Kurt K. DCM 42, Robert E. DCM 72, Justin G. DR-81, Bill O. DR-41. 7 visitors.

Thanks to Libbie L for taking notes.

Treatment/Accessibilities/Agenda

Area 40

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment Chair.

Gave report to committee. (Read Report to the Assembly)

Review activities of Treatment Committees in Districts and Groups throughout Area 40.

Several members shared their experience, strength and hope with the room.

Consider the Agenda Item to form an Ad Hoc Committee to decide if it is necessary to add an Area Committee Chair for Bridging the Gap.

The Treatment Committee decided 5-0 (unanimous vote) to bring this agenda item to the floor:

Area 40 Treatment Committee recommends that the Area 40 Chair create an ad hoc committee charged with developing a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair and Committee.

This ad hoc committee would be asked to report back with their plan and recommendations to the Area 40 Archives Committee for the 2018 Area 40 Spring Assembly.

GSC

Committee reviewed the GSC items for Treatment/Accessibilities/Agenda

GSC Final Report Treatment-pg 11 and 82

Agenda-pg 8 and 80

CPC Chair Report-Luke S.

I was invited to attend the corrections and treatment workshop in Helena this spring. It was a beautiful event and the amount of participation was inspiring. I was able to talk with alex and dave coleman from the watch program. Two people who strongly believed in the power of their program and cooperation of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was my second time attending this annual workshop and look forward to the next workshop put on in our area . I also invited to district 81 to be a part of GSR workshop. It was a great opportunity to learn more about service work and share some of my beautiful mistakes and growth through service. The best part is just to meet the inspiring trusted servants in our state. I was informed in july that the native American health fair was canceled and to be held in seattle instead. Oct 1 marks the end of working up to 7 day a week and my weekends open back up to travel to the next cpc event to be held in our state. I m planning a trip to billing to experience some cpc work done by terri in the fighting 11th and hope to get a carload of cpc junkies.

CPC committee minutes-

in attendance: alberto v, john m, laura h, karen t, bob k, dawn b, meg m. and dan m.

moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. A five voting members where present.

1. Review assembly report of the area 40 cpc chair. -The cpc report was given and great reviews where given.

2. Review activities of districts and groups as it pertains to cooperating with the professional community.

-terri is staying very busy with cpc work in district 11. She visiting Stillwater mine, family services, both colleges in town, and Montana and Wyoming tribal leadership council. Karen is working with ministerial association community management association team and job service employer group. Laura is working with the medical clinics. She also wrote some letters to butte school districts. She is Planning a workshop at MT tech nursing school. Megan is helping those in the medical field find treatment and transition into aa . dan is staying active in district 41 doing cpc work and is planning a cpc workshop.

Review the results of the cpc and trustee committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the gsc.

-retired 3 talks with medical societies.

-footnote was added to problems other than Alcohol. Reminded people it was written way back when.

- the pamphlet "Is there an Alcoholic in your work place was changed to is there a problem drinker in your workplace. Despite our committee's suggestion of is there a recreational drinker in your workplace.

-they drafting text to in our pamphlets for professionals who work with members of our armed forces past and present.

-continue to look at linkedin page.

-reviewed cpc workbook letters.

2017 Area 40 Fall Assembly – Treasurer’s Report

Since the spring Assembly, I’ve been receiving contributions and paying the bills of Area 40. Many thanks to all the groups, districts and individuals for their generous support of our Area! I’ve noted, also, that there are still groups out there that do not know that the Area 40 address has changed. Please inform all of your group treasurers of this change again because the US Postal Service will stop forwarding the mail from Whitefish in December. Once more, the new address is: Area 40, Inc., P.O. Box 3878, Bozeman, MT 59772. This address is also available on the Area 40 website under “forms” and in the Triangle.

Financial reports are e-mailed to the Area Committee monthly. If any officer, chair or DCM is NOT receiving these reports, please let me know. Reports can also be found on the Area 40 website under “Financial Reports.” Thank you, Brandon!

I have been learning the QuickBooks software which has become easier to navigate. In preparing the budget, I’ve acquired a deeper understanding of line items and classifications. I have also realized the importance of receiving expense reports in a timely manner to reflect the true expenditures for budgeting purposes. So please send in your reimbursement forms and receipts as soon as possible. This will more accurately indicate our costs when they happen.

As of August 31st, the Area 40 checkbook balance was \$22,676.69. We subtract a 4-month prudent reserve of \$11,643.33, leaving an operating balance of \$11,033.36. These figures are shown at the bottom of both monthly financial reports. As I mentioned this morning, expenses were running very close to the budget through August. So far so good. This fall assembly is budgeted for \$5,200. Next month we will pay \$3,600 in annual rent for the storage of our Archives. That’s \$8,800 going in the next 2 months. We average about \$2,400 /month in group contributions. So it is good that we have an operating balance in the account to even out the cash flow. I project our operating balance will dip below \$6,000 as it did last April. We are not in danger of accumulating perilous wealth.

I want to thank you all again for the opportunity and privilege to serve Area 40 as your Treasurer.

Julie R.

Finance Committee Minutes

Julie opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Attendees introduced themselves: Julie R., Area 40 Treasurer; Gerry R., Area 40 Delegate; Paul L., Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate; Steve S., Dist. 23 DCM; Tom R., Dist. 71 district rep; Mike P., Dist. 91 Alt. DCM; Bill P., Dist. 61 Treasurer

Julie gave her Fall Assembly treasurer’s report. (see attached)

Committee went over the 2018 preliminary budget line by line. Discussion noted that the 2018 budget is \$2,555 more than actual 2016 total income. If contributing groups could make \$2/month additional contribution, shortfall would be matched. Also, discussed 7th Tradition. Committee approved 2018 budget unanimously.

Committee reviewed the agenda items of the 67th GSC, both those resulting in recommendations and those that were additional considerations. Discussed the treasurer’s packet, aa.org for online and recurring contributions to GSO.

Also, discussed possible changes to finance policy reimbursement procedures.

Area 40 Corrections Chair Report

Hi my name is Hugh and I am an alcoholic. Proud to be serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair, it has been a busy summer. I was very happy to participate in the District 61 Treatment and Corrections Workshop in May, they truly know how to put a good workshop together. In June I attended the Founders Day celebration by District 41 at Ryan Dam it was full of fun, great food, speakers, and serenity. Later I also attended their campout in Monarch, once again I had a great time. In August I attended District 51's mini, I was blessed to attend a WATCH Reunion, that truly reminded me how blessed I am to be a part of the AA program that has changed my life, I look forward to attending our fall roundup in Mid October. I also will be participating in a Corrections Workshop put on by District 93 on October 28, then on November 18 I will be participating in a Corrections Workshop put on by District 51 in Havre. Please feel free to call if I can help your District in any way.

Again thank you for allowing me to serve, Hugh M.

Pink Can Fund Report

I would like to thank all of the Groups and Districts for all of their contributions to the Pink Can Fund. I have placed two orders since the last assembly, one for \$2730.60 in April, and a second for \$2748 in July. This tells me that the books are being put to good use and we are getting the message to people who are incarcerated, I have a copy of my inventory so if anyone needs any books for their Districts, Jails, or Institutions please see me before you leave. Our current balance in the account is \$2322.37 with an inventory balance of \$2719.28.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you, Hugh M.

Comittee Report

We had 14 people attend our breakout I read my comittee report we discussed the marking the Pink Cans, so people know they are for inmate books had major discussions on singleness of purpose with a lot of meetings having issues with addicts coming into closed meetings, discussed native american meetings on reservations being taken into reservations jails very few are being done, discussed Bridging the Gap and the separation of it between treatment and corrections.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Area 40 Corrections Chair,

Grapevine Committee Report

Ten people attended the Grapevine Committee meeting and we covered all our agenda items as well as enjoyed a series of free-flowing, meaningful discussions. The atmosphere was considerably lighter than last assembly, when we had a heavy load of complicated agenda items to cover.

2. In Area 40 business, we reviewed activity among Area 40 Groups and Districts as it relates to the Grapevine and came to the conclusion things are going pretty well in general. There are certainly “pockets of enthusiasm”, so to speak. The Grapevine is getting carried into quite a few jails as well as the prison in Deer Lodge. It’s gratifying to realize Deer Lodge loosens its restrictions on hand-carrying in literature for inmates when it comes to the Grapevine at AA meetings. Districts and groups that are actively selling Grapevine books are getting a good response. In one instance, the District Grapevine Chair keeps her own “book store” inventory in coordination with the District Literature Chair and sells books at events.

The committee is determined to do even better promoting the Grapevine and Grapevine books in Area 40. In light of this, District 41 Grapevine Chair Judy J. has offered to put together a Grapevine Powerpoint presentation that Grapevine Representatives can use at AA gatherings.

In 2017 General Service Conference Grapevine Committee business, we reviewed the results of all Grapevine committee items considered, reviewed and discussed. Of particular note were the matters concerning social media and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. The Grapevine Committee at the General Service Conference discussed Grapevine’s continued exploration of an Instagram account, a Facebook page, and a Google For Nonprofits account. In the end, the committee requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.

Another important topic was Grapevine Inc.’s request to use outside sales of subscriptions, books and other items in order to increase sales and consequently increase revenue and exposure to the AA message. A Current Conference Advisory Action prohibits this action. The committee suggested the Grapevine Board create a plan for outside sales and report back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine.

On the GSC Policy/Admissions agenda items we covered last assembly, the GSC Grapevine Committee decided to take no action, meaning, I believe, the items died. One of the more hot button items was the request to add a “YPA Subcommittee” to the service structure. No action was taken, but the committee did recognize that YPAAs are AA entities comprised of members of Alcoholics Anonymous and encouraged young people to continue their participation at all levels of service.

Once our committee completed its agenda items, we utilized most of our remaining scheduled time with a lively discussion on creating a nuts-and-bolts format for a “Write Your Own Story for the Grapevine” workshop that the Area 40 Grapevine Chair can present at various AA functions. We developed a basic outline for the workshop and discussed from our own experiences what would be the best and most effective way to conduct it. Everyone contributed good ideas and it was obvious the concept generated a lot of enthusiasm. Bottom line - we have a good start and plan to have the workshop in final form by the end of the next Area Assembly. Our goal is to get ten stories from Area 40 accepted by the Grapevine this rotation.

In closing, we on your Area Grapevine Committee are humbled by your trust in us. We know our committee is far from perfection. We’re fine with that. It’s a hell of a lot more fun and rewarding just to be making progress.

Thank you, Jake H.

Literature—Lance W.

Hello Area 40. My name is Lance and I am your current literature chair. I have not done much since our last Area Assembly. I am still looking for to helping out as much as I can. I do have service manuals if anyone would like to get your hands on one. They are limited. Not only service manuals I have ordered more pamphlets and realized there is still more I need to replenish. But please get with me if you have any questions on the literature. I really do enjoy holding my hand out and meeting the newcomer when carrying the message of recovery, but I also do believe that Literature is a very effective way to help the new alcoholic. I have enjoyed going through the literature and seeing the different aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous. And once again feel free to ask me any questions and I can try to help as best as I can.

Thanks again. Lance W.

Literature Committee Report

I would like to thank all who attended the meeting. In attendance were Jerry Dist. 57, Diane Dist. 41, Joe Dist 41, Deb Dist 61, Tomi Dist 91, Genn Dist 12, Nadine Dist 11, Susanne Dist 93, Susie Dist 40.

We reviewed the literature chair report. Nothing was said else on it.

We reviewed activity in Area 40. A lot of discussion on what each district has been doing with literature. We discuss about our pamphlets even with a possible agenda item.

There was a lot of "looks forward to revised the pamphlets. The "Too Young" pamphlet, the committee noted that there was not a widely expressed desire within the fellowship to retire the pamphlet.

The two bullet points in the section "what procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?" To be removed.

Also "Safety and AA.: Our common welfare," has been found helpful in providing experience. A big thanks to Tomi for taking notes

AREA 40 PI/HOTLINE REPORT FOR FALL ASSEMBLY 2017

Dear Area 40,

Not too awful much to report this Fall. The Area 40 AA Hotline has been keeping busy. We have received a total of 154 call YTD. It appears by my numbers about 10% of these calls a volunteer in not able to be reached by Answer Net, in many cases they make up to 15 calls or more before finally getting a volunteer, some instances there is no volunteers in that town, and then they refer it to me and most of the time I have been able to connect to someone and in a few instances not. It is very important to once again bring up we need to be sure to program the Hotline number 406-248-2337 into our contacts on our phones if we want to be a volunteer and be sure when they call we answer, or return the call ASAP, or find another volunteer to take the call. This can be a matter of life and death, and it is our responsibility to be there. I have also sent out multiple emails and noted in my monthly hotline reports that each district can access the volunteer list that Answer Net uses when reaching out to a volunteer in Area 40. Brandon our Area 40 Webmaster can give you a access code to go in and update names, numbers, and any information necessary to be sure the Hotline volunteer lists are up to date and accurate.

As far as Public Information goes, the only real new thing that I am aware of is that GSO PI has created an electronic link to our PSA's for download from GSO. If you are interested in this information you can talk to me or access this from the GSO Website AA.Org.

I look forward to serving you throughout the rest of 2017 and 2018!

If you need anything from me or have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime!

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Tim K.

Area 40 PI

406-388-3695

AREA 40 PI COMMITTEE REPORT FOR FALL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEETING 2017

Thanks to all the members who attended the PI Committee breakout session Saturday. We had 10 members including myself. 4 of our 5 voting members attended. We started with going around and introducing ourselves. We then selected our secretary to take minutes....Thank you Eleanor. I then gave my PI Report, followed by our Area 40 Webmaster Brandon M.'s report. We then opened it up for general discussion of each member to share their activities and experience regarding PI and Answering Service in our respective groups and Districts. A lot of great discussion and experience and ideas were shared regarding Literature racks and pamphlets and the placement of these items in public places where Alcoholics frequent. We discussed experience with a few intergroup related issues, Districts that have their own hotline #, and experience regarding other forms of PI in groups and what those committees do in Districts. We talked about experience of PI/CPC being combined and separate committees as well. We generally talked about Area 40 Website as a resource and some available information that can be found there as well as GSO websites..AA.org, and AAgrapevine.org. We then went right into reviewing and I read out loud results of all PI items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2017 GSC from the GSC report booklet. The highlights of which were Advisory Actions resulting in a new PSA video will be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000. The pamphlet " Understanding Anonymity" be re-written to include material from GSO Literature covering Tradition 11 and to expand discussion of humility in Tradition 12 as it relates to anonymity and a report be brought back to PI Conference Committee in 2018. AAWS INC. will create a Google for Non-Profits account with use of the Account limited to the YouTube Non-Profit program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on AAWS YouTube pages. The committee requests that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the AAWS YouTube Account be brought back to 2018 PI Conference Committee.

REPORT AND CHARTER ADVISORY ACTIONS:

Text on page 10 of Conference Report be added to Chapter 4 of AA Service Manual regarding Area Websites.

Bylaws of AAWS Inc. and AAGrapevine Inc. be included in AA Service Manual as Appendices.

A new section General Service Boards "mission-vision-action statement be added to Chapter 9 of Service Manual.

GSO Dept reports which are shared at Conference be included in Final Conference Report.

Brief Biographies for Non-Trustee Directors similar to those for Trustees be included in Final Conference Report.

We then read through on Page 81,82, and 83 about the Additional Committee considerations and recommendations not resulting in conference advisory actions.

We then briefly discussed the YouTube for Non Profits item, voiced concerns of how will we as members know if it is "genuine" AA material put on their by AAWS/GSO?

Discussed How a YouTube for Non Profits would allow videos to be imbedded on websites and discussed search engine optimization ideas and discussed how that will be handled.

The Committee then reviewed PI Policy and Procedures for Area 40 with no recommended changes.

Attendance:

1-Nance G DCM Dist. 93

2-Tim K. Area 40 PI

3-Brandon M. Area 40 Webmaster

4-Joseph P. PI Dist 61

5-Terry H. GSR Dist 41

6-Kacie N. DCM Dist 91

7-Chuck D GSR Dist 41

8-Daniel H. Alt DCM Dist 71 and GSR

9-Gene A GSR Dist 51 Havre

10-Eleanor W PI Chair Dist 72

Thanks for Allowing me to serve Area 40,

PI Chair--Tim K.

Past Trustee Sharing – Billy N.

Importance for transparency about money in AA. How we spend.

Our primary purpose is to let alcoholics know about us.

Be open to change

GSO should protect anonymity

Very important= who we elect

No “us” No “them”

Groups & Districts must hold the board accountable

Arm my sponsees with information

NOT GOD=read it

4th Traditions not meant to apply to other Traditions. It’s about customs.

Traditions=spiritual principles that stand on their own.

More meetings than groups=not good

Floor Assembly

Motions

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

Update items in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures to reflect current practices.

71 for / 2 against * **see next page for updates**

Spring 2018 Assembly be held in Lewistown and the 2018 Fall Assembly be held in Great Falls
69 for / 13 against

The dashboard be accessible to standing committee chairs, DCMs, GSRs, Area officers and
DRs. 75 for / 0 against

Treatment /Accessibilities

Area 40 Treatment committee recommends that the Area 40 Chair create an Ad Hoc committee
charged with developing a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair and Com-
mittee. This Ad Hoc committee would be asked to report back with their plan and recommendations to
the Area 40 Archives Committee for the 2018 Spring Assembly. 80 for / 0 against

Finance

Approve 2018 Area 40 Budget. 80 for / 0 against

Policy and Procedures (Revised Fall 2016)

Proposed changes:

1. Pg. 9, #3. "Access to a computer with internet connectivity and the ability to use email and word-processing software is suggested of all positions. More and more, computer knowledge is ~~helpful~~ expected; therefore, additional computer software knowledge and skills are suggested in the specific position descriptions."
2. Pg. 19, G11.4. "Area 40 will pay for, or provide a computer to the Secretary for the performance of their duties, if necessary. If the Secretary ~~does not need~~ owns a computer, the Area will pay for and provide the necessary software to upgrade the personal computer of the Secretary, if necessary. All equipment and software (if in a returnable format) shall be returned to the Area after the terms of office are completed. It is not a requirement to own a computer to hold the position of Secretary."
3. Pg. 19, Q11.2. "An interest in keeping a written record of the information provided and motions passed at the Area Assemblies. Proficiency in word-processing software is strongly suggested to facilitate preparing the minutes."
4. Pg. 19, Q11.3. "In addition to the computer requirements defined in the general section, this position also requires the ability to learn and use the GSO member database software, prepare and sort spreadsheets/group information sheets and turn them into PDF files or e-mails."
5. Pg. 19, G12.3. "The Area Treasurer will file all necessary legal and tax forms for the State of Montana and the Federal Government. These forms are filed online."
6. Pg. 19, G12.4 "Area 40 will pay for, or provide a computer to the Treasurer for the performance of their duties. If the Treasurer ~~does not need~~ owns a computer the Area will pay for and provide the necessary software to upgrade the personal computer of the Treasurer, if necessary. All equipment and software (if in a returnable format) shall be returned to the Area after the terms of office are completed. It is not a requirement to own a computer to hold the position of Treasurer."
7. Pg. 20, G12.5.e "The Area will fund the Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate/Area Chair for expenses to attend the annual meeting of the West Central Region."
8. Pg. 20, G12.5.h "The Area will pay for and provide a computer for each of the following positions: Area Delegate, Area Secretary, Area Treasurer, Area Archivist and Triangle Editor. If the office holders ~~do not need~~ own a computer, the Area will pay for and provide the necessary software to upgrade the personal computers of the office holders to be able to fulfill their duties. All equipment and software (if in a returnable format) shall be returned to the Area after the terms of office are completed.
9. Pg.20, G12.5.i "The Area will fund the Area Assembly ~~in Lewistown~~ biannually. Arrangements for meeting space will be the responsibility of the Area Chairperson.
10. Pg. 20, Q12.4. "In addition to the computer requirements defined in the general section, this position also requires the ability to use electronic spreadsheets, presentation and financial software.

Spring 2017 Roundup

We had a great time at the spring roundup with over 400 registered. We had three AA speakers and two Al-Anon speakers. We learned lots about working with each other and with Al-Anon. Here's a few take aways:

We set up a secret Facebook group – no one can see that your in the group unless they are and you must be invited to join. It started out to be a method of communication among the committee members and it grew into a communication tool for those participating in planning the roundup and for those attending.

Brandon M built our website which accepted registrations via PayPal. We also used Square to accept payment on-site. This worked very well with minimal fees. We also used an email service to communicate with registrants about the event. Upon completion of the event, we used a web based survey to compile suggestions for coming events.

All the bills were paid and we made distributions to several AA entities and Al-Anon. Each district within Area 40 received a contribution, the Area 40 Pink Can received a contribution, Area 40, and GSO. Al-Anon District 7 received a contribution. Grapevine subscriptions were purchased for the Montana Women's Prison and the women's prerelease center.

Perhaps the Area can look to hosting the websites for the roundups. Perhaps we can look for a way to share experiences – what worked well and what didn't with the other roundups around the Area.

The committee was fantastic. I couldn't have asked for better people to work with.

Yours in Service

Carole B.

Spring 2017 Roundup Chair

Spring 2018 Roundup

Good morning everyone. My name is Cindy and I am an alcoholic and the chair for the Spring 2018 roundup. I want to thank the committee for all their hard work and for allowing me to be of service. This has been a real learning experience. The spring roundup will be held May 4-6 at the Heritage Inn. We have a few chairs open, however I'm sure we'll get them filled. I put flyers on the back table and invite you all to take some with you. I am excited about the fall roundup and even more excited about the spring roundup. I/we invite you all to come and bring a friend. It will be a lot of fun. See you there.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Cindy

West Central Regional Forum

Sept. 8-10, Soix Falls, South Dakota

The purpose of these forums is information, communicate, sharing sessions, there is no voting.

Tom A. west central regional trustee who served as chairperson welcomed everyone precisely at 7:00

Michelle G. Class A trustee chair of GSO opening remarks. I get to give back to AA with gratitude, and I thank you. AA a solution for all generations 2018 GSC theme Inclusiveness and tolerance as expressed by Bill Wilson Inclusion, not exclusion. AA's mission is to serve the fellowship.

Tom A. And Leslie B. spoke on the structure of GSB. Beau B. AAWS director told us of the 85 employees of AAWS answer 90,000 e-mails, phone calls, letters. 73,000 envelopes of contributions. 1500 requests for archives. Literature is interpreted in 91 lang. Big book in 69 soon to be 70.

The first year of the website had 100,000 visits, Now 80% mobile content with 100,000 visits a day, 3,000,000 a month. Carole B. Grapevine general service trustee. you can now get the Grapevine quote of the day sent to you. Original Grapevine June 1944 Bill and Bob passed on their voices through the grapevine. Greg T. general manager general service office, Greg gave us an update on the big book manuscript restraining order. FNV (fellowship database). A corrections video approved in 2016 was started but it only played for a couple minutes. and we adjourned for Fri. session.

Sat. Morn. breakfast with Michelle and Tom A.. Sat. session starts at 9:00 Gerry R. area 40 delegate, was Spiritual speaker. Kelly D. area 35 delegate talked of integration or overintegration. Scott M. area 51 delegate, are we servants or senators, trusted servants acting unilaterally. he talked of twelve weird rules (the traditions). Curt K. area 36 delegate Our World Service, What a concept. then spoke of twelve weirder rules the concepts. The concepts are the why of our service works. Trent G. area 41 delegate full forum workshop, with Tom A. as moderator. The Attached String we protect the legacy of service to increase content for the next generation. Ami Brophy AA Grapevine Executive editor/Publisher. 5% of english speaking members subscribe to grapevine 13% of spanish speaking to lavina. What is the spiritual value of Grapevine and LaVina grapevine. You can now subscribe to Grapevine/LaVina on the web. A compilation called Voices of Women is available. Grapevine archives in 2013 have 300 audio stories. Every Grapevine is recorded. the staff is 9 was 6 in 1946.

Newt P. trustee at large U.S. reported on the international committee. First world service meeting 1967, now biennial 2014 Poland, 2016 N.Y. w/62 invites/42 present. Greg T. G.S.O office space is 36,000 sq. ft. with 85 employees with over 900 yrs. experience, one has 44 yrs.. Gso gives tours (212-870-3400. G.S.O. record dept. has 4 people working in it. David R. reported that 35 million copies of the big book have been sold in english, which would put it on the N.Y.T. bestsellers list. Dinner. Sat. evening workshops 7:00-7:55 Supporting the Grapevine, ASL accessabilities, What is Implied Affiliation, Challenges we face to maintain unity. Developing servant- leader: How does it work, Friendly with our friend: The how and why of it.

8:15-9:00 Traditions: A guide not a club; United we stand divided we stagger. Without steps it's suicide, Without traditions it's homicide. Concepts without it's genocide. Sun. Morning general sharing first time forum attendees first. open sharing. Past trustee sharing; Ken West central region: Mission creep. Dorothy Trustee at large: Visited 15 countries How Grateful. Chuck regional trustee, panel 51 delegate: Three legacies (Recovery, Service, Unity). Ted Regional trustee: It works service is visible gratitude. Larry trustee at large: Don Panel 34 delegate, Trustee: spoke of A.A. Comes of Age : Lois Remembers: step 3 we will be destroyed from within not from without. Adjourned 11:30. So much info and intense fellowship.

Thanks to Dist 72, Paul L., Gerry R., Connie R., Kasey N., Carol W., Ashley J. For all the help and fellowship Yours in Service, Bob E Dist. 72 DCM

Archivist Report

Greetings Area 40, my name is Earl F. and I am your Area 40 Archivist.

This has been a slow year as far as activities have gone. Since the Spring Assembly, I attended the Spring Round-Up in Billings. It was a fun weekend with great speakers and a lot of visitors to the Archives display room. I think that one reason for the increase in traffic was that I was asked to provide a couple of items for the scavenger hunt. I was also asked to give a short presentation about the history of the Round-Ups in Area 40. I was able to touch base with a lot of old friends and make several new ones. Thanks to the committee for asking me to participate. This was the only activity I had over the summer.

I have spent some time working in the repository the past few months. I have been working on inventorying our collection, filing past and current flyers and correspondence, collecting different clippings and news articles that pertain to AA. I seem to have a hard time getting anything accomplished, as I go for a specific purpose and seem to get easily sidetracked. Oh well, I come across a lot of interesting things this way.

The fall is shaping up to be a little busier. In about ten days, I will be leaving for the National AA Archives Workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. I am really looking forward to attending and learning all I can to help me do my job better. There is a very full program with interesting workshops, hands on activities, displays and a long-timers meeting. It will also give me a chance to reconnect with some people who I served with at the conference when I was the Delegate for Area 40. Two weekends after I get back, I will be attending the Fall Round-up at Fairmont, with a display and anything else that I can do to be of service to the committee.

I have answered several emails this year with requests for kits and information about Archival Interviews. I am hoping to travel this fall and do some recordings. Please contact me with names and information of people who would be good candidates for this activity.

Thank you for thinking about the Archives when things we cannot change happen to those who have been great members of AA and for keeping me informed about their passing and obits. Many times families of our friends gift items to the Archives. If this happens, please try to get as much information as possible included with the gift. Get in touch with me for additional information about this.

Thank you for your trust and the opportunity to serve this fellowship in this capacity.

Happy Trudging,

Earl F.

Area 40 Archivist

Floor Action on Concepts

That Area 40 forward to the Conference Coordinator a letter requesting a reconsideration of the agenda item put forward by the Area 40 2016 Fall Assembly, which proposed the language of the short form of the 12 Concepts for World Service, adopted by the 1971 General Service Conference, be revised to better illuminate the general principles of service work as they apply to the entire service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Passed 80 for/ 0 against