

Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda Holiday Inn --- Great Falls, MT
September 13-15, 2019

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FRIDAY SESSION

8:00-10:00 Mansfield Room: Assembly Attendees Welcome Session – led by the Delegate.

Fall Assembly 2019 Friday Workshop Room is set up in two concentric circles of 50+ chairs each

Welcome to the Friday night workshop with the Delegate. What better way to spend a Friday night in Montana? Let's open with a moment of silence, thinking about why we are here and what we can do to help carry this message to the still suffering alcoholic, we will follow that with the the Serenity Prayer.

Tonight we are going to talk about success. Success is defined as:

“The accomplishment of an aim or purpose.” “Someone that achieves their desired aims.”

Later on this weekend we will be taking an inventory of Area 40. An inventory is described in the *Big Book* as “.... an effort to discover the truth about the stock in trade.” We will be dealing with questions that are asking ;

“How can we improve? “What could be done better?” “How effective is....?”

What we are going to talk about tonight is not what we can do to improve A.A., or attract new people, older people or younger people, or change where we meet or how we meet. We are going to talk about what we do well, what we succeed at and what are the elements of that success. We are searching for what works now (or worked then) and then uncover the root causes that make that success possible. I want to emphasize that tonight we are here to share our success stories rather than the usual talk about problems and solutions.

To do this we are going to break into Groups of Two. I'm going to pass around a bag with playing cards in them. The first thing you need to do is find someone that has the same type of playing card that you do, Red Queens pair off, Black Threes pair off, Red Tens etc..... When you have found your match find a place to sit across from the other person. **10 minutes**

A When you have found that person I want you to sit across from each other, “Knee to Knee” and tell the other person your success story of Recovery. What was successful in your recovery from Alcohol. If it took a couple of times then what was the difference that spelled success in this “go around”. Did you get a sponsor right away, go to a different meeting or Group, did you attend a treatment center? I want you to spend 5-7 minutes each sharing about; “My last drunk was along Kuhns Road in Whitefish, Montana. I was looking at a bottle of whiskey I didn't want to drink but had to. Later that night I was blubbing to a friend about that and they said “Why don't you call A.A.” So I did. I went to my first meeting and I heard HOPE, I heard people telling me what had happened to them, what they did and what it was like for them now. No one told me what to do, but what they had done to recover.” From this beginning of my story I would then continue on and talk about what happened to contribute to my success as I started down this “Road of Happy Destiny.” **15 minutes**

B With the same person now tell the story of how you became involved in General Service or why you came to this and other Area Assemblies. What do you feel are the positive attributes of being here? Why do you come back or keep coming back? What are the elements of success that make you want to contribute in this way? You can take notes about these experiences because you will be sharing them a little later. You will have 5-6 minutes each to share this. **15 minutes**

BREAK 15 minutes

C We are now going to move into groups of 4. All Sevens gather together, all Eights gather together and on round the circle. In this Group of 4 you will need a *Recorder*. Each person will share in this group their partners story about how they came to be active in General Service and the elements of success that ensued that makes them want to continue to be active in this type of service. Each person gets 3-4 minutes to tell their partners story about General Service. The Recorder writes down what the group is able to agree on and identify as the elements of success. What are the root causes? **20 Minutes**

D Each group will report what the common elements of success were for the members of that Group. These will be written down on these large sheets and posted on the walls of this room so that we can be visually reminded about what we do that we are successful at. These elements of success that are good and positive is what we want to be mindful of when we rotate on and we share with the new person rotating in to General Service, that; this is what it was like, this is what happened and this is what it is like now. I will choose a card from the bag and that group will report first. The *Recorder* will report what the elements of success were for the members of that group for their continued, rewarding and enjoyable Work in General Service.

Results: (In order of reporting not prioritizing, X are additional comments). 1) Commitment 2) Sponsors (Service) X3 3) Enthusiasm X2 4) Early involvement (with Corrections) 5) Keeping sanity, Involvement X1 6) Willingness X6 7). Unity X3 8) Altruism X4 9) Service to stay sober 10) Consistency 11) Sense of Duty X1 12) Family Support 13) Had what I wanted 14) All the Way In 15) Humility 16) Openmindedness

Thank You, Let's Circle Up and Pray it out..... I've asked fill in the blank to read the prayer of St. Francis, You are invited to join along as you wish.

The Prayer of St. Francis

God, make me a channel of thy Peace That where there is Hatred, I may bring Love. That where there is Wrong, I can bring the spirit of Forgiveness. That where there is Discord, I may bring Harmony. That

where there is Error, I may bring Truth.

That where there is Doubt, may I bring Faith. That where there is Despair I may bring Hope. That where there are Shadows, I may bring Light. That where there is Sadness, I may bring Joy.

God, grant that I may seek rather to Comfort,
then to be Comforted. To
Understand,
then to be Understood. To Love,
then to be Loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by Forgiving that one is
Forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life.

Amen

8:00-10:00 Russell Room: Area Standing Committee of Area Chairs and DCMs

- Welcome and Introductions
- Bringing proposals to the floor from committee meetings
- There is an agenda item format form is found on the Area 40 website
- You must write the item so that someone in the future looking at the past actions can understand the context
- Breakout session where different groups/ mini committees to develop a practice motion/floor action and then critique
- Each group shared great motions relevant to our area
- Discussion included the role of committee chairs in receiving, discussing and trying to implement agenda items submitted to our area.

SATURDAY SESSION

Welcome: Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Housekeeping

Orientation to the Assembly by the Delegate, Paul L.

Fall Assembly 2019 Orientation

Good morning everyone! I am an alcoholic and my name is Paul. I would like to start with a moment of silent prayer, Thank You. I am the current Delegate for Area 40 and a member of Panel 69 for the General Service Conference. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with you. I never thought I would be up here as Delegate. I remember watching Terry, Carole, Sharon, Libbie and Gerry up here and

thought; “WOW, I wonder how they do that?” I have since learned that they did not do it alone, they had the support and encouragement of you and the inner strength and guidance provided by a higher power

This is an especially important Assembly.

- We will be taking the inventory of the Area and the service structure involved with it. This is much like the inventory we took in our fourth step. This is our chance to identify some of the opportunities for improvement in the way we do business in Area 40 and to make sure we are effectively carrying this message of recovery in Montana to those that are seeking it.
- We will nominate the candidate from Area 40 to serve as the West Central Regional Trustee. This individual will stand with the nominees from the other Areas in our Region.
- Finally, we will be considering and voting on Agenda Items that directly affect our Area. Some of these Agenda Items are rooted in the Concepts or have to do with how we operate as an Area. Two of the Agenda Items, the Hotline Agenda Item that will be going through the PI Committee and the Pink Can Agenda Item going through the Literature Committee are two that will have a direct impact on the alcoholic who has not yet found their way here. They will impact those looking for a way to reach out and call us or those that are looking to acquire some literature.

I'd like all of the DCM's to stand so we can acknowledge your service. Thank you! Would each of you grab your sign up sheet and wave it over your head? If you have not signed in on this sheet with your DCM yet, please do so at the next break. It is important that we get the addresses for the meeting places on these lists correct. That way they can be listed in the AA Meeting App. Listing a meeting location as “the brown house on the corner of 2nd and Main” does not work. The signup sheets that the DCMs have need to be turned in to the Area Secretary by 10am today so that a quorum can be determined when it is time to vote. We are likely to vote on several matters in this Assembly and we need to have an accurate count of voting members.

Would all of the Past Delegates please stand. This is the pool from which we draw willing candidates to stand for the West Central Regional Trustee. They are regular alcoholics in recovery just like you. Like myself though, they just needed a little extra training in how to play well in the sandbox with others, hence our lengthy commitment to service.

As we reach towards the bottom of the service structure I would like the Current and past Trustees to please stand. Welcome and thank you for your service.

Will all of the GSRs please stand. You are “Your group's link to A.A. as a whole.” Some day, sooner than you think, one of you will be standing up here giving this orientation as the Area 40 Delegate. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Finally, will everyone who has not yet stood up please do so now. I don't want you to feel left out and you probably need to stretch your legs.

The Agenda you have was carefully crafted by the Area Chair Connie R. Connie will chair this meeting following this agenda. It is built on the “bedrock of experience” and we have found it is an efficient way

for us to conduct our business. You would not believe the number of iterations and draft copies necessary before we have a Final Copy like this. In order to conduct our business efficiently we operate in a punctual manner and your readiness and cooperation with this is appreciated.

It is Connie's responsibility to see that the meeting flows smoothly. She will loosely follow Robert's Rules of Order. There are some handouts of "How the Conference Operates" scattered throughout the tables. These handouts describe the loose interpretation that A.A. and Area 40 has of Robert's Rules of Order. Our goal is to cover the entire agenda allowing everyone to have a voice.

After this morning's break you will have a couple options for what to do.

- Each standing committee chair will meet with their committee. They will introduce the voting members of the committee. After giving a report and reviewing committee activity in the Area they will begin addressing the items on their respective agendas. Any of you who wish can attend a committee and participate in the discussion of the business of that committee. The room assignments for these committees is printed on the Agenda.
- For those who choose not to attend one of the committees, there will be two workshops held in this room.
 - They will be "Fostering Participation In AA: Who's not in the Rooms?" led by Past Delegate Terry S.
- Current West Central Regional Trustee Tom A. will lead a discussion about "Joining the Digital Age at the Speed of AA." Believe me, these guys are not just here for show and to shake hands. We are going to work them pretty hard this weekend.

After our morning committee work, workshops and lunch break we will meet again in this room for instructions from our Area Advisor Gerry R. He will explain how we are going to carry out the Area 40 Inventory. This will take up the first part of our afternoon. Later on tomorrow there will be a short report given by each Inventory Group. A full report will be given at the next Spring Assembly. After the Inventory, when we return from the afternoon coffee break we will elect our Area 40 nominee for the position of West Central Regional Trustee. Next year at the 70th annual General Service Conference that trustee position will be elected from among nominees chosen from the 8 other Areas in our Region. The election of a nominee for that position follows our Third Legacy voting procedure as outlined in the A.A. Service Manual.

After the election we will resume with the reports of the floor assembly. As the committees report upon their deliberations, any Agenda Item that comes out of the committee will be considered a made and seconded motion. It will then be open for discussion from the floor. We will discuss it some more, and then we will in all probability discuss it some more. Our goal is to find and make the best decision possible for each item. We are less interested in deciding it quickly than in deciding it correctly.

When it comes time for discussion here are some general guidelines:

- When you want to share about an item you must use one of the microphones on the floor and Connie will call on you
- Everyone is asked to refrain from clapping or cheering when people share, pro and con, in order to encourage, not discourage those who may have opposing opinions

- Introduce yourself at the microphone each time you speak (name, service position and home group)
- Each person may speak for 3 minutes (hard stop as indicated by a timer and a cowbell that Brynn has)
- Everyone who wishes to speak will have a turn before anyone may speak for a second time
- Thorough discussion should take place before the vote
- Everyone is entitled to and should express their opinion. However, if it has already been stated, it may not be necessary to repeat it
- Voting is by a show of hands.
- We may ask for a count of current voters present so that we can be assured that we have a quorum present
- Listen with an open mind, particularly to those who speak on the other side of an issue from you

When it is time to vote Connie will have some designated vote counters ready and we will vote by raising our hands. Those that are eligible to vote are; GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Chairs and Area officers. When you sign in with your DCM you will be told whether you are a voting member. Only those eligible to vote may raise their hand. Please keep your hand up until the vote counter has indicated that they have counted your vote

We will have a dinner break until 7pm after which we will hear from West Central Regional Trustee Tom A. After his share we will resume the Floor Assembly. It is important that you are present for this as we must have a quorum present in order to have a binding vote on any Agenda Items.

At 9:00 we will have a breakout sessions for GSRs and DCMs. These will be led by Tom and Terry. If you are new to your service position or interested in what these service positions do I would highly encourage you to attend. They are conducted in a loose format using questions from the Ask-It-Baskets and other questions that may come up in the ensuing discussion. The Ask-It-Baskets are placed at the back of the room near the coffee pots.

At 10 tonight there will be an ice cream social conducted in the room next door.

Tomorrow, promptly at 8am we will resume the Assembly. As you can see by the Agenda at that time we will hear some interesting reports. These will be followed by some sharing by Past Delegate Terry S. and I will also have a few minutes to give a report. We will then pick up where we left off with the remainder of the floor assembly. If there is time we will have the opportunity for general sharing before adjourning at 12:00.

I would like to encourage each of you to jump in and participate this weekend. You are among old

friends, new friends and friends you have not yet met. Your active participation is necessary so that we can continue to carry the message of recovery that Alcoholics Anonymous has to offer to the still suffering alcoholic when they are ready to take the action outlined in the 12 Steps.

Roll Call – Past Actions by Area Secretary, Brynn C

Individual	Role		Voting Members	Visitors
Paul L	Delegate	X	1	
Connie R	Chair/Alt Delegate	X	1	
Ashley J	Treasurer	X	1	
Brynn C	Secretary	X	1	
Kacie N	Archives	X	1	
Terri T	CPC	X	1	
Sabrina C	PI	X	1	
Grant M	Literature	X	1	
Jeremiah S	Corrections	X	1	
Steve S	Treatment	X	1	
Shawn N	Grapevine	X	1	
Catherine B	Triangle Editor	X	1	
Don M	District 11 DCM	X	9	1
Gennifer Y	District 12 DCM	NP	1	0
Jackson R.	Alternate	X	1	0
Wayne M	District 21 DCM	NP	1	1
	District 23 DCM	NP	0	0
David V	District 31 DCM	NP	2	0
Hugh M	District 41 DCM	X	7	9
Kurt K	District 42 DCM	NP	0	0
Jody T	District 51 DCM	X	4	2
Eric G	District 61 DCM	X	11	7
Daniel H	District 71 DCM	X	7	1
Lisa C-D	District 72 DCM	X	9	1
Mike R	District 81 DCM	X	3	6
Charles P	District 91 DCM	X	8	8

Jenni F	District 93 DCM	X	7	1
Brandon M	Webmaster	NP	82	37
Jessica E	Bridging the Gap	X		
Gerry R	Area Advisor	X		
	Total Votes:		82	37
			Quorum: 54	

Good morning! Welcome to the Fall 2019 Assembly! My name is Brynn and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

Thank you to all who submitted updated group information forms since we last met, I would like to report that you each have a folder full of updated sheets on your table, however, a hard fought, yet not won battle with an old Macintosh laptop made it impossible for me to convert and print those documents for you. A small committee of myself and a couple other area officers are meeting this weekend to determine the best way to proceed to get that updated information to you as soon as possible, and to tackle issues surrounding group updates and printing within our area in the future. Thank you for your patience, I will keep DCMs updated about our progress. In the meantime, if you are aware of any changes to GSR, meeting place or time, etc in your district please fill out a group information form which can be found on the Area 40 website and then share that document with me.

Currently, the records department at General Service Office is in the process of transitioning from our current database Fellowship New Vision to a (so I've been told) more user friendly Netsuite. This has meant some database outages, limitations and restrictions for all area registrars throughout most of the summer. Not to worry though, from my understanding the current restrictions have little effect upon my ability to update group information, etc.

And now a few housekeeping items to insure that this assembly runs smoothly:

Each DCM has a folder that 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. A reminder to all the Chairs and DCMs to please email your reports.

I also ask that each committee meeting, workshop, Area inventory and breakout session leader please appoint a recorder to provide me with the notes or minutes taken during that meeting. Within those reports please list your voting members. 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, please close your sharing...or you will get the cowbell!

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 and floor actions passed at the Spring 2019 Assembly:

Public Information:

Committee recommends that the Ad Hoc committee reconvene to maintain the purpose of finding one cost effective solution for the area hotline. Ad Hoc committee will provide a report prior to the Fall 2019 assembly.

Motion passed unanimously

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Request funds up to \$2500.00 from Area 40 for a "Friends of AA" Trip by 2 of our Class A Trustees. Nancy McCarthy and Christine Carpenter. This trip will train our Professionals about AA. Class A Trustees are not bound by Anonymity. So we will be able to have them speak with the media and have open discussion with our Professionals. With approval this trip will be in planned in September of 2019.

Motion passed 90 in favor, 3 opposed

Finance:

The committee recommends that we consider financing the Correction Chair to attend National Correction Conference November 1-3, 2019 in Houston, Texas with total expenses not to exceed \$1500.

Motion passed 85 in favor, 6 opposed

Financial Highlights by Area Treasurer, Ashley J.

Financial Highlights

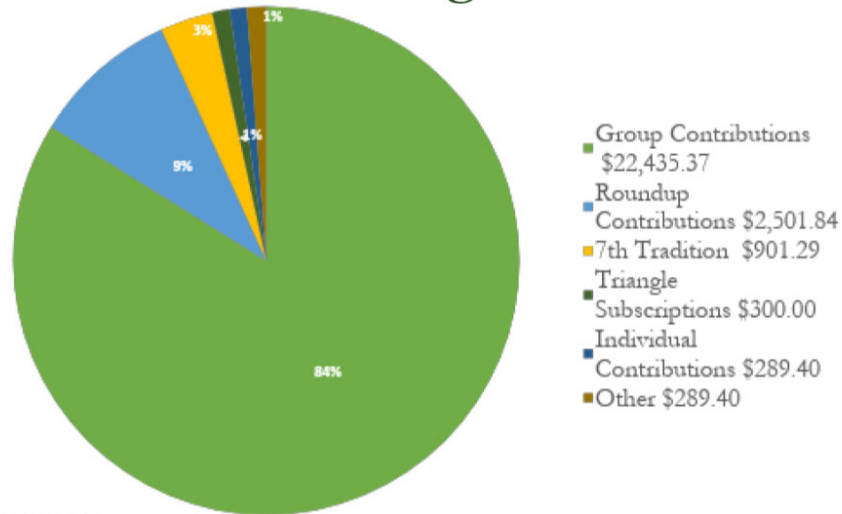
Area 40
2019 Fall Assembly

7th Tradition

“Every group ought to be fully self-supporting,
declining outside contributions”



Income thru August 2019



YTD Income: **\$26,757.40**

How Area 40 Groups Support Services

Area 40 budget = **\$38,970.00**

Registered groups in Area 40 = **287**

then

$\$38,970 / 287 \text{ groups} = \mathbf{\$135.78 \text{ cost per group}}$

if 20 members per group

$\$135.78 \text{ cost per group} / 20 \text{ members} = \mathbf{\$6.79 \text{ cost per member}}$

As of the end of August, 110 groups, or 38% have contributed to Area 40

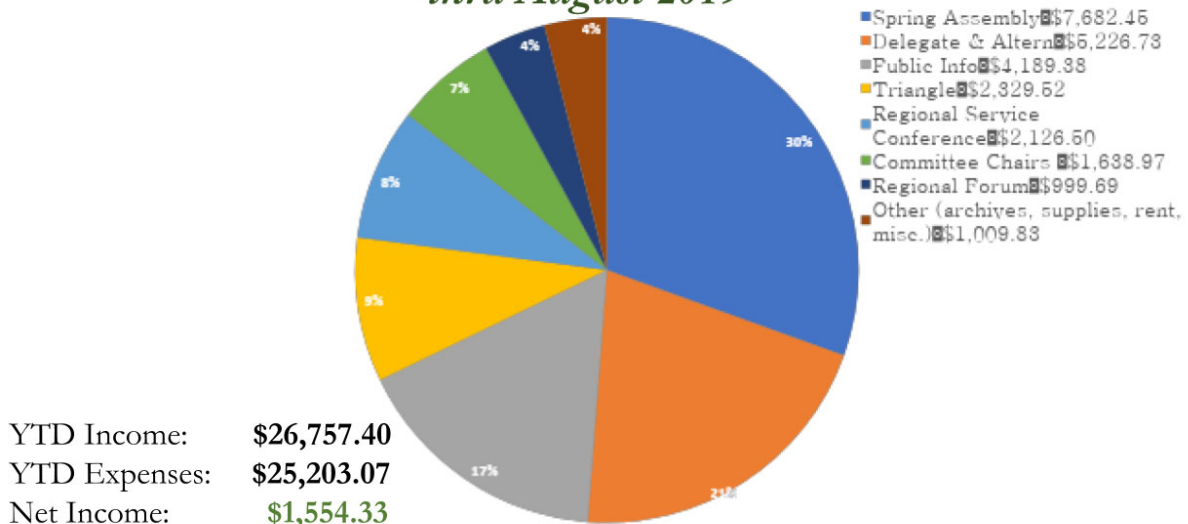
Of these...

35% contributed between \$1 - \$99

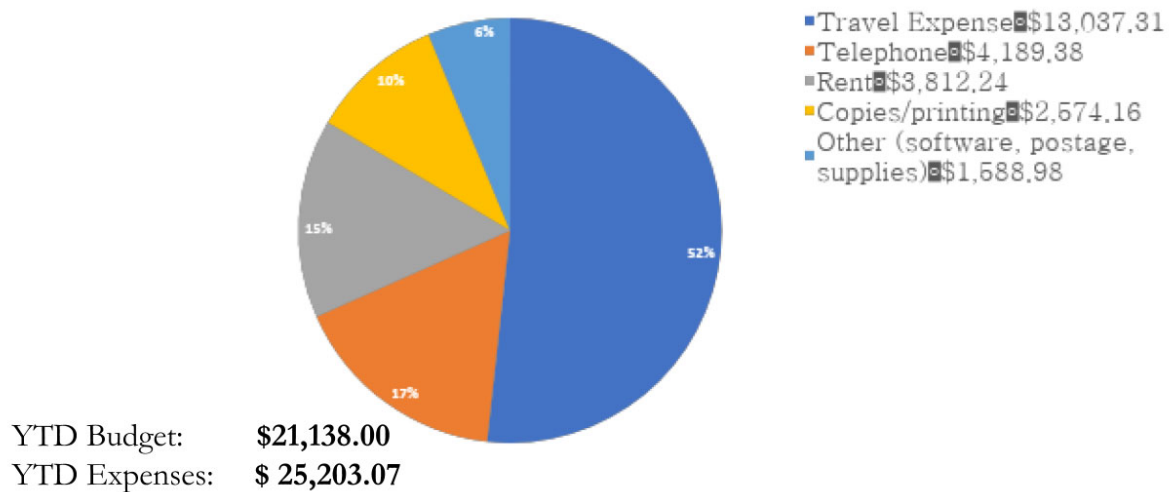
43% contributed between \$100 - \$299

22% contributed \$300 or more!

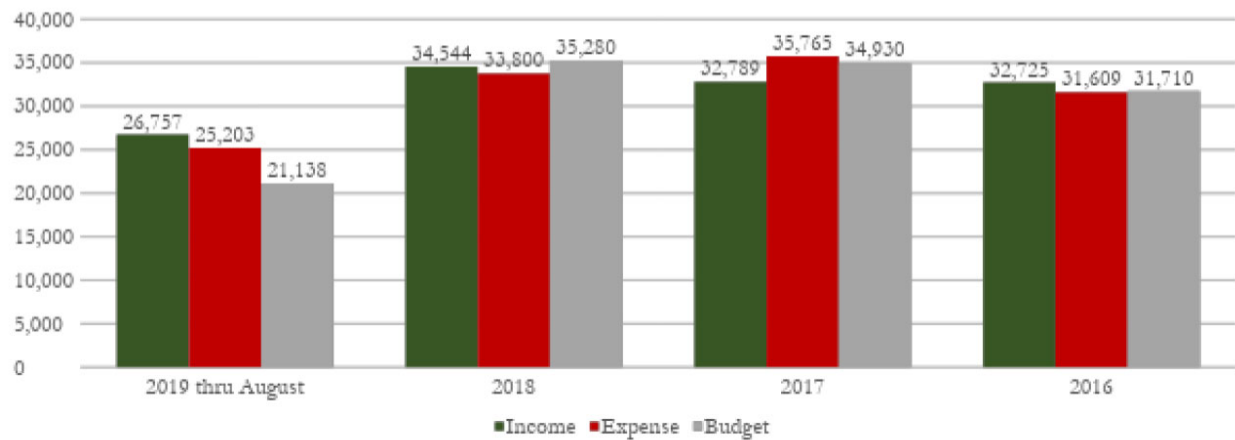
Expenses by Committee *thru August 2019*



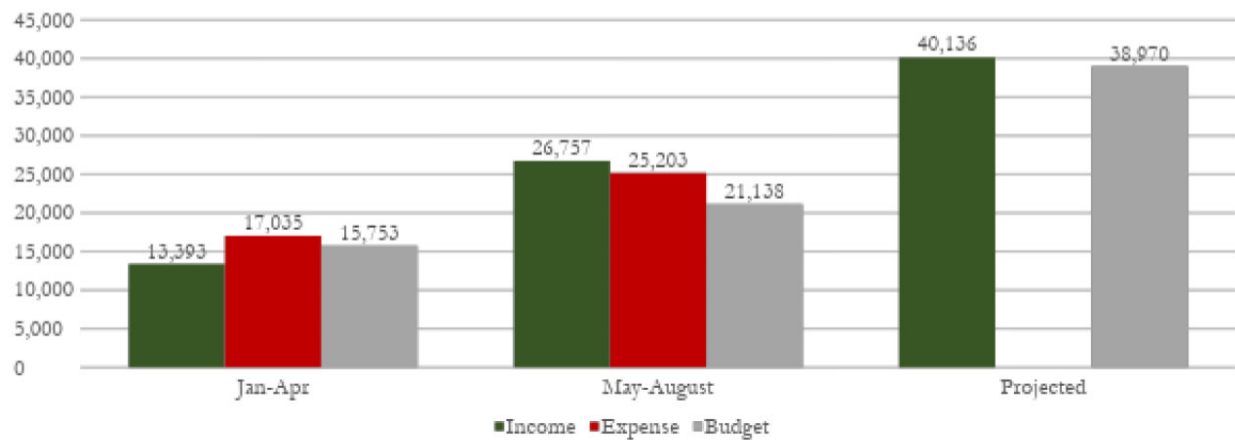
Expenses by Line Item *thru August 2019*



Income/Expense vs. Budget *2016 - 2019 (August)*



Income/Expense vs. Budget *2019 Periods*



Feel free to contact me anytime with questions about our finances!

Thank you for letting me be of service!

Triangle Report by Triangle Editor, Catherine B.

My name is Catherine, and I am an alcoholic. I'm your Area 40 Triangle Editor for this rotation, which is truly an honor and a privilege, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

I've published six issues of the eight issues that will be published this year. Each issue has a theme, something for me to work with, as well as topics for fellow A.A. members to write on, which are stated in the Call to Action section—400 words or less. To reiterate what I stated at the Spring Assembly, some may not be interested in writing or may not feel they can write but would still like to participate. I'd be willing to receive your articles via voice memo, as long as they weren't longer than 10 minutes and were clearly spoken. I would then transcribe what was sent. Just send your voice memos to triangle@aa-montana.org.

Issue Seven's theme is Post-assembly, so I will include highlights from the fall assembly, area reports, passed motions, etc. Issue Eight will be dedicated to Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC). I've already spoken to Terri T., our Area CPC Chair, and she's eager to give me a report on the Class A Trustees facilitating CPC panels with the professional community throughout our area, as well as anything else about CPC.

Which brings me to the next Call of Action deadline, which is September 28th. I encourage each one of you to write a short article on your experience, strength, and hope regarding CPC. You can also send me articles on other topics of AA service, too.

Now some numbers:

TRIANGLE PRINTING/POSTAGE EXPENSES AND PAID SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019					
	No. of Subscriptions	Paid Subscriptions	Printing Expenses	Postage Expenses	No. of Groups Listed in Area
January	0	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$48.50	
February	1	\$10.00	\$380.00	\$49.00	
March	5	\$90.00	\$380.00	\$49.01	
April	1	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
May	5	\$90.00	\$380.00	\$48.38	
June	2	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
July	1	\$10.00	\$380.00	\$48.89	
August	3	\$30.00	\$380.00	\$48.74	
Totals:	18	\$280.00	\$2260.00	\$292.52	272

My mailing list for the Triangle includes 272 groups for Area 40. The number of groups who have paid a Triangle subscription are 14, which is a little over 5% of all groups. There are four individuals who have paid for a subscription for the year. All subscriptions, individual and group, total \$280.00 for the year so far. Our Triangle printing and postage expenses total \$2,552.52 for the year so far.

Each group, via an Area motion, receives a Triangle regardless of payment, but each group is strongly encouraged to be self-supporting and submit a yearly subscription fee of \$10.

It's very important that your group updates its mailing address for the Triangle, whether you're paying for a subscription or not. Sending the Triangle to your group's correct address ensures your group receives their Triangle, which means your group will be informed about Area business, upcoming events, and other A.A. topics of discussion. Also sending to a correct address mitigates unnecessary expense through printing and postage costs.

You can send your updated mailing info to me at triangle@aa-montana.org.

You're also welcome to check in with me throughout the weekend to see if your group has paid and/or if your group's contact information is correct.

In service,
Catherine B.

Area 40 Triangle Editor

Chair Report by Area Chair, Connie R

Area Chair report

Fall 2019

Good Morning. I'm Connie and I'm an alcoholic.

I am honored to be serving as your Panel 69 Area Chair/Alt Delegate. After Spring Assembly, life seemed to slow down a little. It is hard to believe that this rotation is almost half way over. It seems strange but now is the time to start looking around to see who would be good candidates for the elections coming up next fall. Or maybe it is you who is interested in standing for a position. Now is the time to go to the committee meeting, ask the person who is currently serving that position questions about it. Most importantly, pray. My favorite saying that I heard when I first started general service was, "God doesn't chose the prepared, God prepares the chosen."

Since last April, I've had the privilege of attending the Round-up in Kalispell in May. In June, I attended District 61's Annual Grapefest, which featured Paul, our delegate, giving his Delegates' report. In July, District 41, invited Gerry and I to do a workshop called "Unity and Service". This was code word for Traditions and Concepts. There were about 17 people there with 2 newcomers who had less than 3 months. To share how the traditions and concepts work in our recovery with newcomers was the highlight of the workshop for me. Their presence, so early in recovery was an example of being willing to go to any lengths not to drink, even if it is a service workshop. I do have to be honest, they left right after the traditions portion was done, with that wide eyed, deer in the headlights look.

In August, I flew to Grand Fork for the West Central Regional Forum. The forum is a good opportunity to meet some of the staff from the General Service Office. Tom A, our WCR Trustee, began offering each region a chance to have a meal with GSO representative during the Forum in Sioux Falls SD. He again coordinated the meals in in Grand Forks. I had the opportunity to eat with a couple of Class A Trustees. Class A trustees are non-alcoholics and their passion for AA is evident when they discuss why they volunteer their time for AA. One of the Class A's that I had breakfast with was Christine Carpenter, who will be touring the state next week. We are so fortunate to have Christine & Nancy McCarthy both coming to share what AA is with professionals Montana.

I was only able to attend 2 workshops at the forum. Tomorrow you will get to hear more about the forum experience from Lenore of District 72, who attended her first ever Forum that weekend. The Assembly workshops will feature the topics from a couple of those workshops. Terry S. Panel 61 past delegate will be presenting on "Fostering participation in AA: Who's not in the room?" which should be quite interesting. Tom A, WCR Trustee will be presenting "Joining the Digital Age at the Speed of AA". This topic was the largest attended workshop at the forum. AA in the digital world tends to generate a lot of discussion.

The participation of the two newcomers that attended the Unity & Service workshop, reminded me of how we need to remember who is listening to us. Those of us who have been around AA for a few 24 hrs can get caught up in the acronyms and jargon of AA. The newcomers reminded me not everyone knows what I am talking about when I rattle off GSR, GSO, DCM, or even the term sobriety. Those two

had a desire to know what we were talking about and asked what the acronyms meant, but how many do we leave behind who don't ask. When we look around the room this weekend, let each of us try to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Invite a new attendee to sit with you and let them know you are there for questions. It's just another way the hand of AA reaches out.

I said this at Spring Assembly and it still applies. A mere thank you is inadequate for having the privilege to serve you and the program of AA in this position, you have both given me a life beyond my imagination.

Yours in Service

Connie

DCM Reports

DCM District 11: Don M.

Greetings from District 11! We continue to be very busy as we try to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Since the spring assembly we've had a few UP events and continued committee work. We had UP events in May and June in Billings and Hardin. United for Our Primary Purpose events are geared to fun and informational gatherings for the fellowship. The one in Billings was a Talent show where we had a lot of fun and laughs, great desserts! The Hardin event consisted of a potluck and Kickball game!

Our committees are very active, here's some of the things we are working on; Bridging the Gap is working on getting the volunteer contact list up to date, while still helping get people in contact as she receives referrals. She is also working on getting the program into the Women's Prison in Billings. YCDF is also interested in this program and we have begun discussions with them. Our Treatment committee continues to take "AA 101" meeting into the facility monthly and is also conducting a Big Book study on Monday evenings. The Grapevine committee has collected previous editions and shared them with facilities in Billings. The Hotline committee has really been active. We pared down the volunteer list, reinforced the input of the hotline number into volunteer's phones and answer frequency has improved. The Corrections committee has been holding orientations for various facilities and is doing an immense job of carrying the message behind the walls. Our PI/CPC committee is hopping, not only with the upcoming Trustee Tour but also working hard at getting into the high schools is a focus for them. They are talking to principals and we hope to see some good come from this cooperation. The district is also supporting the WCRAASC committee and the 2020 Fall Roundup committees. We are ready for the Trustee Tour in just a few days and are excited to be a part of all this.

With 23 registered groups and approximately 119 meetings a week we are blessed and grateful for the gifts we've been given. May we continue to continue to do God's will and work hard to earn what we've received.

Respectfully,

Don M.

DCM District 11

DCM District 12: Alternate DCM: Jackson

Busy year: February Mid winter social

June: Founder's Day picnic

August: Fireman's Point Campout: Paul attended and it was the first time many members had seen "older" examples of recovery.

New new faces in the district, some stay: our district is all about the newcomers

Our neighbors District 11 are fine examples of recovery and service.

DCM District 41: DCM Hugh M.

My name is Hugh and I am an alcohol. Proud to be serving as DCM for District 41. A Lot has happened here in the Falls since our last Assembly. In May, about 25 of us loaded up and went to Kalisepll for the Spring Roundup. My hat is off to them for putting on a great Roundup full of fellowship and great speakers. Then in June we had our Founders Day celebration at Ryan Dam. Paul gave his report and we had a lot of fun and fellowship. At the end of June we had our Unity Campout full of rain and cold weather, but we had a good turnout with great speakers and fellowship. In August 4 of us made the long journey to Grand Forks, North Dakota for the West Central REgional Forum. We got the chance to talk with folks from New York along with workshops and fellowship with our 350 members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Then, off to Havre for the Mini Conference. The speakers were awesome and the fellowship unbelievable. The first weekend in September we had our annual Fellowship of the Falls. I was unable to attend, but talked with a lot of our members who attended and said it was a great turnout and great speakers. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Hugh M.

DCM District 51: Jodie T.

Area 51

DCM Report

Our monthly meetings are held every 3rd Sunday at 3:30 pm at the Northern Montana Hospital 4th floor conference room. Our Area covers Box Elder, Dodson, Malta, Harlem, Fort Belknap, Chinook and Havre, with over 34 meetings a week. We have had an extra meeting in Harlem start and there have been some carpooling to help get it going.

Spring and summer are always busy in our Area with extra activities. There was a horseshoe tournament in June and our annual Cow pie Pasture Golf tournament in July. These are fundraisers for our Havre Mini Conference. A lot of fun and fellowship. Our Mini Conference held August 23rd, 24th, and 25th was amazing! Not only did we have exceptional speakers (thank you Grant), our Area Delegate, (thank you Paul) came and gave his report. I did have a couple younger members ask questions later. Also we are known for the food we serve and again this year we didn't let anyone down. There is also monthly camp-outs in the Bears Paw Mountains, hiking, fellowship, food and an awesome game of Bingo!

With Fall upon us, some of the meetings that have speakers will be starting up. The 3rd Step Group at the Alano Club will be hosting a speaker/feed starting in October on the 20th. They will continue every third Sunday of the month. Road To Recovery will start their speaker meetings back up in November, Saturday the 2nd. They will be hosting a dinner to start it off and continue speaker meetings the first

Saturday of every month through May. There is usually a New Year's Eve party.

One other thing that has been a major plus for our area is, some of the younger members, not only age wise but sobriety have started a monthly game night and a movie night out at the Alano Club. All are welcome and from everyone I have talked with it is worth going to. I know at meetings some of us "old timers" have mentioned that we would have meetings after the meetings at the Country Kitchen (which has closed), or someone's house. We also used to get together for dinners and card parties. So this is truly a blessing to see new generation starting a new version of an old tradition.

DCM District 61: Eric G.

Fall 2019 District 61 DCM Report for Area 40

Greetings from District 61!

District 61 hosts more than 80 meetings per week, in communities including Helena, Townsend, Lincoln, Elliston, and White Sulphur Springs. Our district meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church in Helena, and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. District 61 participates in carrying the message into many facilities, including Montana State Prison, MCDC, St. Peter's Behavioral Health Unit, Boyd Andrew's treatment center, the Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater County jails, and the Helena Prerelease Center.

Since you last heard from us, we hosted our 12th annual Corrections and Treatment Workshop, where AAs come together with professionals from the legal, corrections, and treatment communities, in May. We had a wonderful Grapefest in June, with more people attending than any other Grapefest I've been to. Full disclosure, it was only the second Grapefest I've been to in 19 years.

Coming up, we're pleased to be welcoming two class A trustees to Helena to speak about CPC. We'll be having a meet and greet potluck this coming Thursday evening, September 19th, and Friday morning will be hosting a workshop for them to speak to local professionals. On November 23rd we'll be holding our annual Attitude of Gratitude conference.

Our district updated our policies and procedures, and service position descriptions, this year. We continue to examine, discuss, and take action on various items and topics that came up in our district inventory last fall.

Yours in service,
Eric G. District
61 DCM

DCM District 71: Dan H.

District 71 DCM Report

September 14, 2019

Hello my name is Dan Henderson, I am an alcoholic. I serve as DCM for District 71. District 71 consists of approximately 25 groups and 85 meetings across southwest Montana. We have meetings held in Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Phillipsburg, Melrose, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, and during the summer months Wise River, and Georgetown Lake.

District 71 is carrying meetings into various treatment and correctional facilities including Montana Chemical Dependency Center, Warm Springs Forensics Unit and Civil Side, Galen Forensics Unit, Montana State Prison, and the Anaconda Jail.

Our corrections chair, Scott A. has been successful in gaining approval to bring meetings into the Butte Pre Release beginning mid September.

I am happy to report that we had a great turn out at our Founders day picnic. Even the unpredictable weather did not keep people away, snow, sun and rain all in one afternoon. I had the task of grill master. Everybody kept me busy grilling hotdogs and burgers. Our friends brought their appetite, we ran out of food and had to make an emergency run to get more. We had our first kickball game and it ended up ending in a tie score. We would have won if it wasn't for the rain storm interrupting the game. Paul L. made the trip to Butte to deliver his delegate's report at our annual Delegate's Day Picnic. At last count we had 39 people in attendance. The following day we headed out for a Fellowship Float on the Big Hole River. We definitely insist on enjoying recovery in District 71.

Service participation in our District unfortunately has decreased. A small committee of 6 individuals has been collaborating on the upcoming Friends of AA Trustee Tour. We are looking forward to meeting the trustees and carrying the message to the professionals in our community. In the coming months we are hoping to reach out to the fellowship and encourage participation in service.

I am truly blessed to be of service today. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Yours In Service,

Daniel F. Henderson

District 71 DCM

DCM District 72: Lisa C-D

District 72

District 72 covers all of Gallatin County and portions of Madison and Park counties. There are currently over one hundred meetings per week. About half of District 72's meetings occur in Bozeman, and the other half occur in fourteen other towns across the three counties.

Like many of Area 40's districts, the large geographic area we serve poses challenges for ensuring that all active groups – not just those that meet in Bozeman – feel connected to and served by our District. I'm

delighted that we have folks here this weekend from all of three counties that our District serves, and I was very happy to have most of our communities and all of our counties in attendance when Paul L. delivered his Delegate's Report in Bozeman in July.

District 72 is currently served by four officers and twelve committee chairs, and its monthly meetings are regularly attended by GSR's and alternate GSR's from roughly thirty groups. Many of those currently serving in our District are here today, and I'm grateful to them for making the trip and for all they do in service.

Our CPC chair Gillian S. and her committee have been working closely with Terri to plan a stop in Bozeman on the upcoming trustee roadtrip. We are looking forward to welcoming the trustees to Bozeman on September 24. Flyers with event details are on the table near the doors.

We are also looking forward to hosting the Spring 2020 Roundup in Bozeman from May 15-17. The theme is "Pass It On," and speakers will include Don B. from Colorado Springs, Judy B. from Fort Collins, CO, and Nick G. from Bozeman. The committee is currently accepting mail-in registrations, and forms are available on the table near the doors. Online registration is coming soon.

If you're looking for a great speaker event and a spiritual boost during the interval between roundups, two Bozeman groups will be hosting events featuring circuit speakers in the coming months. On October 5, the H.O.W. Group is presenting Omar M. from North Carolina. The theme will be "Limitless Lode." On February 15, the Primary Purpose Group will be bringing in Taylor M. from Chicago for an event with the theme of "Emotional Sobriety."

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be here this weekend with all of you and to be one of District 72's trusted servants.

Yours in Service,
Lisa C., District 72 DCM

District 81 DCM: Mike R.
District 81

Hello my name is Mike District 81 DCM. It is an honor to be of service and to bring the opinions of my district to Area 40. We are a very large district, located in Western Montana. This means we have meetings as far west as Trout Creek, north to Polson, east to Seeley Lake, and south to our largest city Missoula with a population of around 73,000. We have forty-nine groups with 107 meetings per week. If you are in our district you should not have any problem finding a meeting.

Our district meetings are the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Fourth D Alano Club at 2:00 PM. All our district positions are currently filled and everyone is getting settled into their positions. We have about fifteen GSR's who are constantly attending our district meetings. I am currently in the process of organizing a traditions workshop and as of now the date looks like October 19th. The date could possibly change and I hope to have flyers out soon.

It was very exciting and awesome to attend the West Central Regional Forum in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was my first forum I had the opportunity to meet people from GSO. It was exciting to hear all the things that are going on in New York. If anyone ever has the opportunity to attend a regional forum, I would highly recommend it. Even my trip to Grand Forks was pretty cool with three fellow AA members, it was like a very long meeting. Everyone in our area will have the opportunity to attend a regional forum. Because it will be held in Missoula in 2021. The committee chair for that event is Andrew W. our past delegate and a past trustee.

I believe we are pretty much ready for our non-alcoholic trustees visit that will be coming to Missoula on Monday, September 23rd at 3 PM at the Church of the Gates in Missoula. District 93 is also co-hosting the event with us. The 2019 Fall Round Up on October 11th through the 13th is fast approaching. I hope everyone has gotten their registrations in. If not, you can still register. It should be a fun time and I hope to see everyone there. The event is being held at the Holiday Inn downtown – 200 South Pattee St. in Missoula, MT.

With the help of my higher power I am getting my duties down a little better. By the end of my rotation I might know what I am doing.

Thank you for letting me be of service!

Mike R.

District 91 DCM: Mike P.

Hello all:

District 91 has had a very good summer.

Our attendance at District meetings has been very good. All positions are filled.

We have worked hard as a group to streamline our meetings, and feel it has worked to the benefit of all.

All of our Camp-outs and Events - Emery Bay 8/1-4/19, Swan Lake Camp-out 8/8-10/19, Whitefish Group Labor Day Picnic this summer have been a success, fun was had by all.

We as a District are looking forward to the Trustee's visit on September 23rd. The Trustee's will be speaking at Flathead Community College, in Kalispell.

I would like to thank Sheila J. and all of her committee for an extremely successful Spring Round-up. It was a success in every way. We hope all that attended enjoyed themselves. Good job committee.

Thank you all for letting me be of service.

Mike P.

District 93 DCM: Jenni F.

District 93 DCM Report Fall Assembly

My name is Jenni and I am an alcoholic. My homegroup is Attitude of Gratitude in Corvallis on Mondays at 8pm. Among other things I am DCM for District 93, which encompasses the beautiful Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana south of Missoula, 90 miles along the north-flowing Bitterroot River between the Bitterroot Range and the Sapphire Mountains. Towns include Lolo, Florence, Stevensville, Victor, Corvallis, Hamilton, Darby, Conner, and Sula – with 13 Registered AA Groups and 26 AA Meetings on our weekly schedule. Our District Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm at the Victor Senior Center.

This year our Alternate DCM and I have attended the West Central Service Conference in Moorhead, MN and the West Central Forum in Grand Forks, ND, where we met and dined with some of our GSO Officers and Trustees, past and present. This thing is SO BIG, you guys!! The best part has been bringing the excitement and information updates back to our District, which, KUDOS to District 93 - has been well received. Although I do not fly-fish, the patient technique of casting a hook out to inquisitive members to draw them into service work has been somewhat fruitful, and always rewarding. I forget that nothing happens fast in AA, or as we heard at the Regional Forum, it happens as fast as we can TRUST. We have excellent attendance at our District Meetings by our GSRs and Chairpersons – usually between 10 and 15 in attendance - and we are gearing toward creating a District budget for 2020, which we have not had since 2003. In the near future I have been asked to host one of our Trustee Speakers at the September Speaker event in Missoula, and our Alternate DCM (Mark) and CPC/PI Chair (Mike) will be serving at the Information table. We have been trying to establish a committee-run District Birthday Meeting each month on the last Sunday at 4pm at the Victor Senior Center, which has been mostly well-attended, at least when someone shows up to unlock the door. My bad. In November we will hold our Annual Corrections Workshop in Victor, which we coordinate with Treatment. Look on the Area 40 webpage Calendar of Events for a flyer.

2019 has been a whirlwind of activity in AA and in my personal life. You have taught me to pause, breathe deeply and enjoy the incredible journey. The miracle is happening right now if I am open enough to recognize it. I stand in a room full of sober alcoholics. This is the miracle. Thank you for bringing me into the heart of Alcoholics Anonymous.

9:15-9:30 Coffee Break

9:30-12:00 Standing Committee Meetings:

9:30-12:00 Workshops: Mansfield Room

9:30-10:30 Workshop: Topic: “Fostering Participation in AA: Who’s not in the Rooms”– Terry S. Panel 61 Past Delegate

Terry’s opening thoughts:

- Who’s not in the rooms can be easily identified by looking who is prevalent in our rooms.
- 62 % of our members are male.
- 89% of our members are white.
- 53% of our members are over 50 years old.
- In the history of AA there have been and still are struggles over “I am an alcoholic and a [fill in the blank].” We, the current members, gently suggest that the “alcoholic and” try identifying where we are alike instead of where we are different. This workshop involves characteristics (age, gender, ethnic or national origins, disabilities) where we current AA members might need to look for the similarities we have with the people who are not in our rooms.
- We need to figure out an inclusive way to incorporate other people who are “different from us”

●
4 different break out groups got together and discussed the traditions checklist with relation to this/these ideas.

- Group 1 highlights:
 - What can Area/District do to carry the message?
 - Group activities like Founders Day
 - Not enough GSRs/people at district being willing to serve
 - More media exposure
 - Service
 - Supporting members of different backgrounds
 - Sometimes people are “afraid” of those who are different, make a special effort to include or go to “different” meetings
 - Thinking access: sign language interpreters, facilities with elevators, etc.
- Group 2 highlights:
 - Sponsorship:
 - Make announcements at each meeting, a show of hands who is
 - Meeting schedules with phone list
 - Use * for those willing to sponsor
 - Get newcomer numbers and follow up
 - Giving newcomers a better understanding of what it is
 - Offer temporary sponsorship
 - Answer your phone if you are on the list
 - Talk about how sponsorship affects your sobriety
 - Utilize AA’s Sponsorship pamphlet
 - Anonymity:
 - Most people are good about it
 - How do we carry ourselves as members of AA in the community
 - Give your homegroup a brief definition of anonymity so that people know
 - Hold meeting topics about anonymity: also in conjunction with traditions

- Members encouraged to share and participate
 - Use timers to limit the amount of time shared so more can speak
 - Announce opportunities to be of service
 - Go around the room in order
- Group 3 highlights:
 - Choosing trusted servants with care
 - Choosing people because it would be beneficial to individuals: be careful this could not be successful
 - Reading “The AA Group Where It All Begins” and 1st and 2nd traditions before holding elections
 - Consistent involvement in the traditions and your homegroup
 - Members with experience need to reach out and mentor
 - Small groups: only a few do the work and that can happen at the district level
 - District members going to all meetings educating and encouraging participation
 - Attractive and Accessible
 - Access for people with disabilities is sometimes limited
 - District/Area participation in the whole
 - People in position of service don’t go to other groups to carry the message elsewhere
 - Old timers are encouraging and supporting newcomers in service.
 - Splitting responsibilities of positions so that people can learn (ex: splitting a GSR/Alternate position)
 - Study a tradition or concept each month (maybe at district meeting)
 - GSRs are the protectors of the traditions and should bring them to their groups
- Group 4 highlights:
 - What has our group/district/area done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the community- the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, lawyers, and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
 - a. Annual CPC event, seems like there. Homegroup meets in hospital. Spoke w hospital FOUNDATION. Participation at the group level but no cooperation with the professional community
 - b. Dist 61- strong CPC chair and calls are starting to come through from the hospital
 - c. Personal level and support. District CPC is active and coordinates with BTG. Bozeman hospital active with CPC. Again, meetings in hospital.
 - d. Strong relationship with MSU president
 - e. We're doing that with the trustees coming in
 - f. Contact with doctors (CPC)- not a good response from the hospital participants
 - g. District level participation from groups and district chairs. Through treatment at district

11. How are we fulfilling our responsibility to the 7th tradition

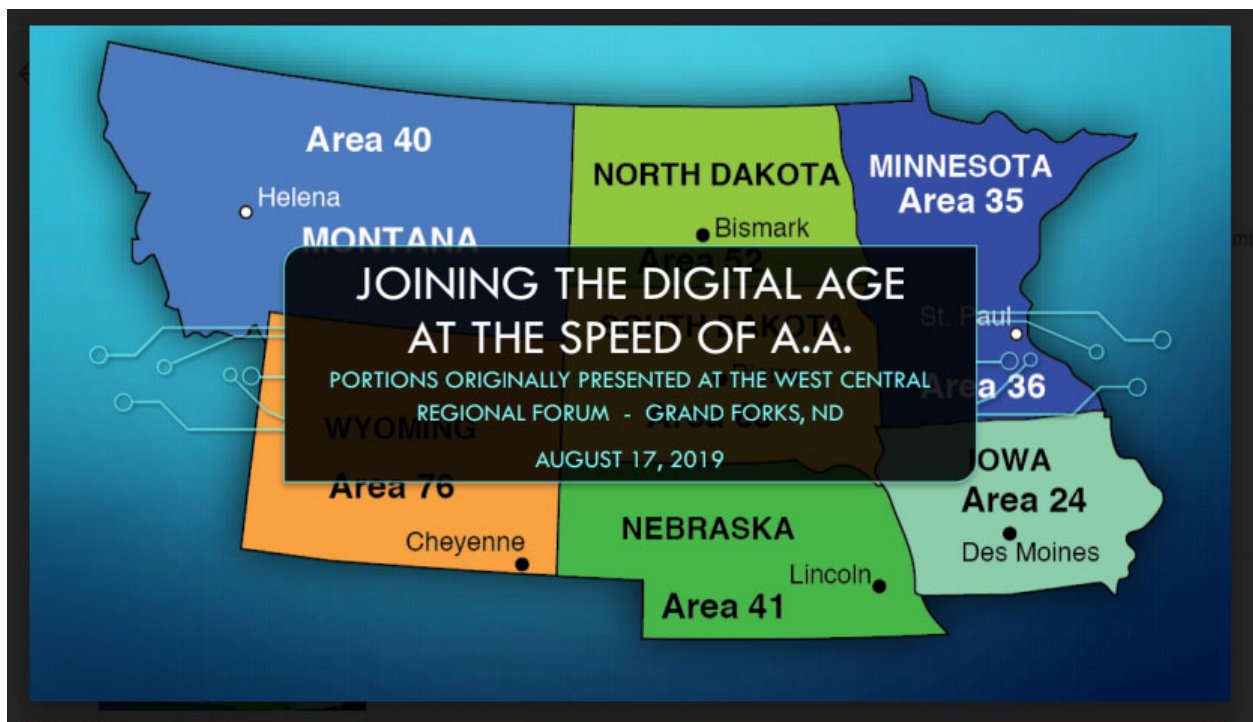
- a. "doing quite well" 80% homegroup funding to area. Homegroup has set amounts for splits and makes additional contributions where needed. Keeps a specific balance and excess funds are contributed where needed.

- b. Homegroup makes percentage based on structure level with the greatest current need (district, Area or GSO) splits and makes extra contributions when needed. Pays rent to church. Pays babysitters.
- c. Homegroup restructured to split quarterly.

12. How active are we in participating in our group business/group conscience meetings

- a. General drop of participation
- b. Core of 10 homegroup participants.
- c. Billings- group had no group conscience meeting, wanted to change things but felt old-timers were against that.
- d. Dist 72- Service positions in group always filled. A lot of newcomers coming to meetings. Attributed to sponsorship within group.

10:45-12:00 Workshop: Topic: “Joining the Digital Age at the Speed of AA”– Thomas A West Central Regional Trustee



CARRYING OUR MESSAGE – USING TECHNOLOGY

The “Old Days” discussions!!

1997 On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the “International Correspondence Meetings” in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as “mail” contact. (Report and Charter)

2001 “Telephone A.A. meetings” that request to be listed in A.A. Directories be added to the section “International Correspondence Meetings” on page v under a section to be titled “Telephone Meetings.” (Report and Charter)

THE 4TH EDITION ERA: (CIRCA 2001)



2000 International Convention presentation experience



“Modem to Modem, Face to Face.... 4th Edition Foreword



Group Records Secretaries/Registrars, DELAREA, FNV



Big Book online, eBooks



Internet, website growth

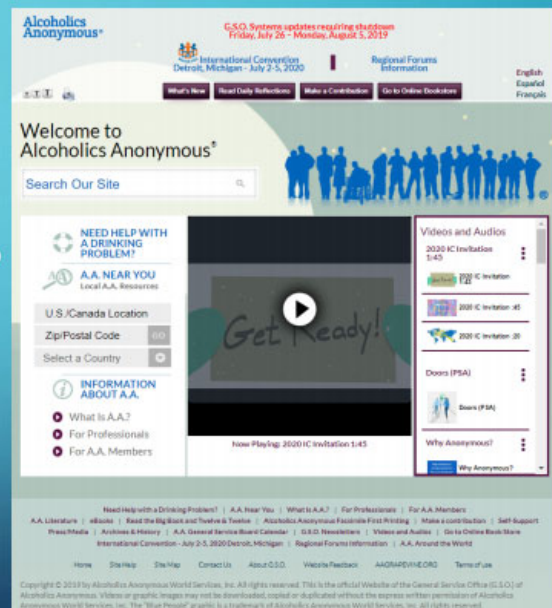
A.A.W.S. INC.'S POLICY ON G.S.O.'S A.A. WEBSITE

The purpose of the Website is:

- To serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- To serve as a resource for A.A. members, those seeking help from A.A., professionals working with alcoholics, the media, and the public at large.
- To provide accurate and consistent information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- To provide information about services coordinated by the General Service Office.
- To encourage participation of A.A. members, groups and committees in A.A. services and activities.

G.S.O.'S WEBSITE: AA.ORG

- Current design was launched in 2014.
- Decision to update was made in 2016.
- Used RFP process to allow multiple vendors to bring suggestions to the table.
- Re-examined key audiences, messaging and options to present information.
- Currently working on the visual design.

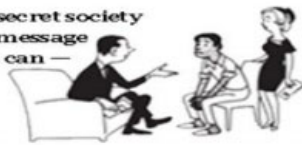


"A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches. Granting all its huge public benefits, this limitless world forum is nevertheless a hunting ground for all those who would seek money, acclaim and power at the expense of society in general... "Therefore nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people—often with the best of intention on their part. Against all this, the sacrificial spirit of AA's anonymity at the top public level is literally our shield and our buckler. Here again we must be confident that love of AA, and of God, will always carry the day." "Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours" Bill W., AA Grapevine, November 1960 (www.aagrapevine.org)

The Eleventh Tradition

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films

Ours is not a secret society
we carry the message
anywhere we can —



But we must ever be aware
that self-appointed
messiahs speaking
for A.A. through
public media can
do us great damage!



The Twelfth Tradition

*Anonymity is the spiritual
foundation of all our Traditions,
ever reminding us to place
principles before personalities.*

Let us always remember that
anonymity — not taking credit
for our own or others'
recovery— is humility at work.



A.A.'S PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY

"A.A.'s Movement-Wide Public Information Policy," approved by the 1956 General Service Conference was amended in 2002 to state:

In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help still-suffering alcoholics. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to still-suffering alcoholics, and to those who may be interested in their problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.

Public Information

2019 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE ADVISORY
ACTION...

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/ALCOHOLICSANONYMOUSWORLDSERVICESINC](https://www.youtube.com/c/ALCOHOLICSANONYMOUSWORLDSERVICESINC)

- Approved by the General Service Conference 2017
- All but 5 of current A.A.W.S. videos are public on the channel in English, Spanish and French.
- Descriptions for each video are optimized for search and we are in the process of developing optimized names for each video.
- FAQ on aa.org about the YouTube channel

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-aaws-gso-youtube-channel

GOOGLE ADS/GRANTS

- Evaluating if Google Ads is a useful Public Information tool.
- Implementation plan is being developed to guide the office and keep the purpose of the project focused.
- Report any findings back to 2020 General Service Conference.

SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION (SEO)

- Use industry best practices to help search engines find A.A. and return more accurate results.
- Integrate keywords into page text/titles, item descriptions/titles and metadata on all digital assets.
- Consistency in message and metadata across digital platforms.



all OK No thanks X

USING ANALYTICS FOR DATA BACKED DECISIONS

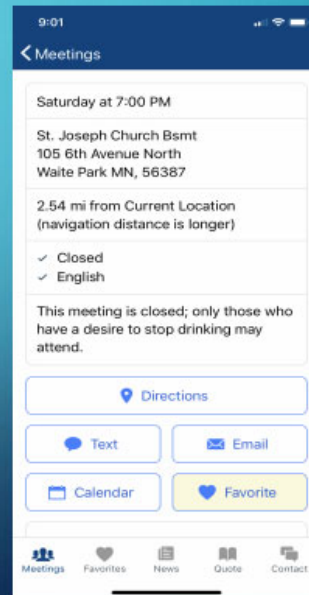
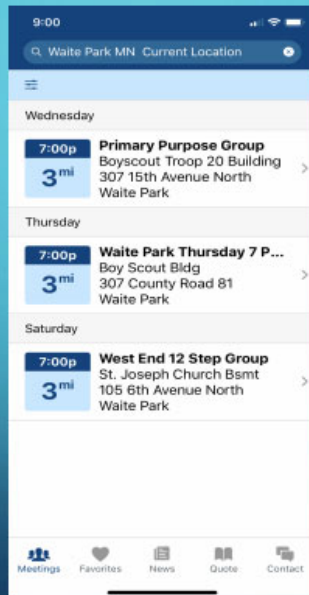
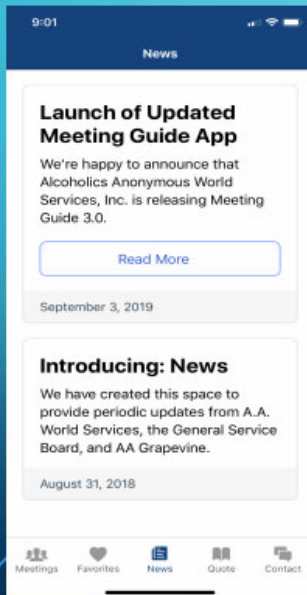
- Watch and analyze the data on the back end of each platform to make decisions based on how they are used.
- Matomo analytics software for the website and soon to be re-released app is hosted on an internal server to protect visitor's privacy.
- User testing to get a well-rounded perspective and help us ensure changes are relevant to the fellowship.

MEETING GUIDE APP

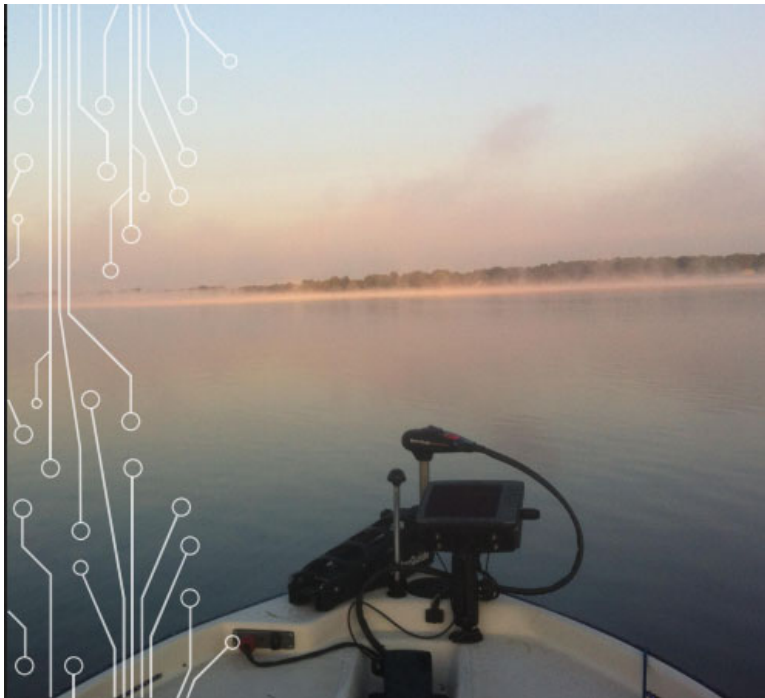
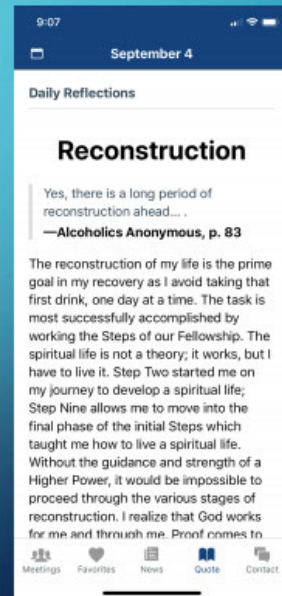
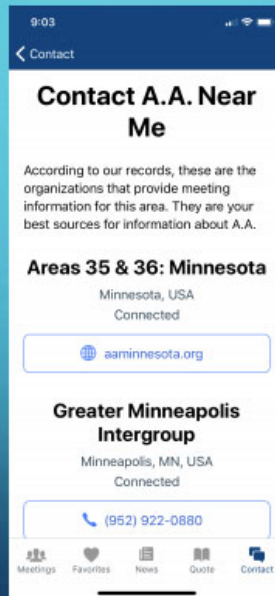
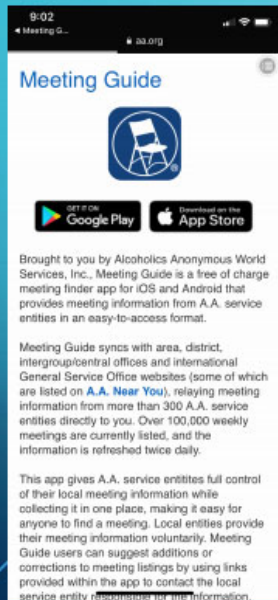


- A.A.W.S. licensed the technology behind Meeting Guide after years of feedback requesting a meeting finder from G.S.O.
- Updates: more user-friendly interface, Daily Reflections, improved help/contact information and more accurate location services.
- Reached out to members of the Fellowship to help us test the app during development.

MEETING GUIDE – NEW FEATURES



MEETING GUIDE – CONTINUED



AND WHAT'S
ON THE
HORIZON ??

WORK AT A.A.W.S, TRUSTEES COMMITTEE:



Correctional facilities
are removing books,
adding tablets



Multimedia literature
(editorial policy)



Forum video, possible
virtual forum?



My Portal



Unified shopping cart



And.... The West
Central Region
initiatives

FEEDBACK

- What content or function do you wish was on the website?
- Do you have suggestions for future functionality of the app?
- Is there video content you would like to suggest?
- Technical issues or something missing?
- Traditions, Concepts or anonymity questions or concerns as they relate to digital and online presence?

Publicinfo@aa.org – Racy

CommServices@aa.org – Clement

GonzalezJ@aa.org - Julie

RESOURCES

- Anonymity – a vital spiritual principle
https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/anonymity-a-vital-spiritual-principle
- Anonymity Online and Digital Media
https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-197_en.pdf
- A.A. Guidelines on the Internet https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-18_internet.pdf
- FAQ about A.A. Websites https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-101_en.pdf

Area 40 Inventory Orientation – Area Advisor –Gerry Robinson

Small Group Inventory Discussion Group

Group # 1 Discussion:

- AREA INVENTORY: Fall 2019
- Suggestion- go over suggestions
- Indication of majority opinion- things we do well or not so well
- Goal not to develop agenda items; however individuals may take away
- No vote or decision made during inventory
- Consensus possible but not necessary
- Titles pulled at the door
- Raise hands
- Bad opinions don't exist
- Dignity and respect
- Primary purpose utmost
- Section 1: Groups and districts
- How can area 40 convey concept 4 to respective groups and districts.
- Concept 4 review- ought to maintain right of participation: voting representation
- 15 min for each discussion
- Newcomers overwhelmed by lingo: personal discussion in order to tell newcomers what the concepts are and review them as we would the steps and traditions
- Was in aa for 30 years before even hearing about the concepts. CONCEPTS ARE NOT VISIBLE. Area
- Mentorship at district level. A mechanism for this. Website critique or review.

- Welcoming newcomers to service. Make clear that everybody has a voice in AA.
 - Understanding that within these rooms we are all equal
 - "All can vote." -
 - One person in the workshop has not been to Area
 - Mike- Alcoholic. In a group doing volunteer work. Communication through DCM got him here, district chair
 - "I came to area because someone got me into it" didn't come with a position
 - Comes back to personal
 - Back to the question- what can we do to keep people involved in their right to participate.
 - Encouraged by homegroup with experience with service. Service work is highly encouraged.
 - Hospital group pays for the cost of travel to Area Assembly.
 - Homegroups could encourage ANYONE to attend district at announcements.
 - Mechanism: Service sponsorship. Inviting others to "do our job" for us or help with our job.
 - 2: can area 40 do better job addressing remote communities separated by geography, language or culture.
 - Homegroup hosts a fort benton meeting. This has been an assembly item. Large state rural
 - Areas. It is a satellite meeting.
 - Meeting that a homegroup in a larger area travels to that already exists in a smaller community
 - Individual chairs travel to small communities. Is there an example where a group of area
 - Chairs sponsored in smaller communities.
 - BTG could help address this need
 - Anonymity can be an issue in smaller communities
 - Back to question posed- addressing geography and culture
 - Use the website as a tool to address
 - Meetings online or implement an outreach/inreach platform on website
 - How to we overcome stigma in smaller communities. People wouldn't want to stand out
 - Desperation
 - Interpersonal invitation. Individuals still
 - Technology- bringing BTG into this discussion
 - How do we currently define which communities are "remote"
 - There are communities within communities-
 - Is accessibilities still paired with Tx.
 - Promote more and diverse modalities of accessibility outreach.
 - Hearing impaired
 - Major problem. Don't know the answer
 - Specific types of groups allow specific people to talk about specific issues
-
- Do groups and districts feel involved and connected w area between assemblies.
 - Inventory the Golden Triangle
 - Website difficult to use
 - DCMS that are active do a good job at this
 - District chairs being active with area chairs
 - Many groups don't have GSR's
 - Groups are autonomous- they don't need to go to if they don't want to
 - Can come to area and not know anything or know everything- It takes a personal
 - Effort and commitment
 - DCM's can travel to groups to make sure they know they have the opportunity to be
 - Connected.
 - Grapevine workbook has a service responsibility to go around to other groups to
 - Encourage a group grapevine representative.
 - Assemblies can create enthusiasm. Invite people along.

- Dist 91 does a good job reaching out to groups and making sure DCM is accessible.
- DCM has made a commitment to making it to each group. The enthusiasm
- Is contagious.
- Activities- Roundup, chairs traveling, workshops
- Sometimes going to a homegroup and spouting a shpeal can be discouraged. Recognizing the appropriate venue is paramount.
- Safety in the meetings- AA women feeling secure
- Concept 1: groups feel they adeq hold and exorcise authority for AA World service: what can Area do
- Concept 1: groups have authority over World Services.
- Yes, for groups that are involved. Groups that make informed decisions are informing world services
- Delegates and DCMs visiting groups can facilitate. Budget line item for chairs.
- Does area have access to World Services happenings
- "I think thats my job as GSR"
- Hosting the delegate.
- Individuals would not
- Footwork- interpersonal.
- Spreading word UP to world services
- Forum- personal relations with people who do work on for world services. "pull on their ear"
- answer: yes

Group # 2 Discussion:

Inventory - Group 2 Individual Participation/Attendance - 9/14/19

1. Are we attracting a good cross section of new people to participate in the Area 40 service structure? There's quite a few younger people doing service at the Area level. What about military? Native Americans? There doesn't seem to be much ethnic diversity. Considering the size of our area and how long we have to travel, we're doing good at bringing new people in from all over our area. We could do better about attracting people to Area and letting them know what we do.
2. Do we effectively welcome, orient, and integrate, new people into our assembly? What could we do better? Ideas - have a greeter at the door, educate what area is about and what the different roles of service might be. When we ask for those at their first assembly, we also need to ask for people with the most experience at the assembly and then put experienced with inexperienced. We do a Welcome Session and Ice Breakers for new GSRs. Not all service chairs pass on what they know when they rotate out of their position. What if we designate some time for rotating-out chairs to pass on what they know to the rotating- in chairs? It's important that we put a positive spin on area service when we go back to our groups and districts and share our enthusiasm. We could always designate people who are available to answer questions and offer guidance.
1. Do new people feel their voice and their experience are relevant at our assembly? What can we do to facilitate that? Could put a newer person with a more experienced person to help encourage the newer person to get up to the mic. It's important for those with experience to not continuously run to the mic without giving newer people time to weigh and consider what's being said and if they want to get up there. Newer person feels welcomed to talk but hasn't chosen to speak yet. It can be intimidating to get up to the mic. We don't do a great job at reminding everyone about the "right to participate". Getting up to the mic is not the only way to participate. Attending committee meetings and conversing with your district and others one on one, allows for people's voices to be heard. If we

know if new people are coming from our district, we can make sure to reach out to them before and during assembly. Sometimes we go through things too quick and need to pause for a moment to allow for the possibility for discussion, instead of feeling rushed.

2. Does Area 40 adequately recognize Concept 5 via each individuals' "Right of Appeal" and minority opinion? Do we ever experience the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority?" Yes, Area 40 does recognize "right of appeal" and minority opinion. Haven't seen any tyranny - majority or minority - at the area level. Have seen the minority opinion reverse a vote at the area level. The way business is conducted at the area level is such a traumatic difference from how life used to be prior in recovery - we may disagree and be passionate but we stand together when everything's said and done. We have the spirit of rotation and we respect one another. The committee system solved a lot of issues.

Group # 3 Discussion:

AREA INVENTORY: Fall 2019

Group 1 - Groups and districts

- 1) How can Area40 better encourage and convey the importance of Concept 4 and the "Right of Participation" to our respective Groups and Districts?
 - o Newcomers overwhelmed by lingo: personal discussion in order to tell newcomers what the concepts are and review them as we would the steps and traditions
 - o Was in aa for 30 years before even hearing about the concepts. CONCEPTS ARE NOT VISIBLE.
 - o Mentorship at district level. A mechanism for this. Website critique or review.
 - o Welcoming newcomers to service. Make clear that everybody has a voice in AA.
 - o Understanding that within these rooms we are all equal
 - o All can vote
 - o One person in the workshop has not been to Area – "Mike- Alcoholic. In a group doing volunteer work. Communication through DCM got him here, district chair"
 - o "I came to area because someone got me into it" didn't come with a position
 - o Encouraged by homegroup with experience with service. Service work is highly encouraged.
 - o Homegroups could encourage ANYONE to attend district at announcements.
 - o Service sponsorship. Inviting others to "do our job" for us or help with our job.
- 2) Can Area 40 do a better job of identifying and addressing its remote communities (defined by GSO as those communities separated by geography, language, or culture) as well as those with accessibility issues.
 - o Homegroup from Great Falls hosts a Fort Benton meeting. This has been an assembly item. Large state rural Areas. Groups setting up satellite meeting.
 - o Home group members in a larger area travel to meetings that already exists in a smaller community
 - o Individual area chairs travel to small communities.
 - o Anonymity can be an issue in smaller communities
 - o Use the website as a tool to address
 - overcome stigma in smaller communities/cultures, fear of standing out.
 - Meetings online or implement an outreach/inreach platform on website
 - o How do we currently define which communities are "remote" (There are communities within communities)
 - o Promote more and diverse modalities of accessibility outreach.

- Hearing impaired - Major problem. Not sure about a solution.
- Specific types of groups (women's, men's, young people's, LGBTQ, etc.) provide a level of safety for people to talk about specific issues.

- 3) Do groups and districts feel connected to and involved with Area 40 between our assemblies?
What can be done to better accomplish this?
- Inventory the Golden Triangle
 - Improve Area 40 Website to make it easier to use
 - DCMS that are *active* do a good job at making groups and districts feel connected and involved with Area 40.
 - District chairs being active with area chairs
 - Many groups don't have GSR's
 - Groups are autonomous- they don't need to go to District or Area if they don't want to.
 - It takes a personal effort and commitment on the part of Groups, Group GSR's, District and District Chairs to connect with Area.
 - DCM's can travel to groups that are less active within their district to make sure the Groups know they have the opportunity to be connected with Area and their voice is important to their districts and area 40. Even having DCM's ask these groups about there thoughts on issues discussed at Area Assemblies.
 - GSR's and DCM's can create enthusiasm within their groups and districts and invite others to Area Assemblies.
 - District 91 does a good job reaching out to groups and making sure DCM is accessible. DCM has made a commitment to making it to each group. The enthusiasm is contagious.
 - Activities to generate enthusiasm and involvement
 - Encourage Groups members to participate in Roundups
 - Area chairs traveling to Districts to hold workshops.
- 4) With respect to Concept 1, do the groups in Area 40 feel they adequately hold and exercise the final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services? If not, what might Area 40 do to help that cause?
- Yes, for groups that are involved. Groups that make informed decisions are informing world services.
 - Delegate, Area Chairs and DCMs visiting groups can facilitate. Budget line item for chairs or districts for travel.
 - "I think that's my job as GSR"
 - Hosting the delegate at district
 - Spreading word UP to world services
 - Encourage group members, GSR's and DCM's to attend regional Forums
 - Creates personal relations with people who do work on for world services.
 - Opportunity to meet face to face with members of AA world services and "pull on their ear"

Group # 4 Discussion:

Group # 5 Discussion:

Area Inventory Minutes

Group 5

Questions pertaining to Groups/Districts

1. How can Area 40 better encourage and convey the importance of Concept 4 and the “Right of Participation” to our respective Groups and Districts?
 - a. Area Committee chairs can go out to different groups/districts to present various topics.
 - b. Explaining the service structure as an answer to the question “why do we do service?”. +1
 - c. Dispel negative attitudes towards service with enthusiasm. +1
 - d. Stronger integration of the levels of service directly above and below Groups/Districts. GSR’s talking with their groups more about service.
 - e. Emphasize attendance at Pre-Assemblies. +1
 - f. Electronic participation of Assemblies and Pre-Assemblies.

2. Can Area 40 do a better job of identifying and addressing its Remote Communities (defined by GSO as those communities separated by geography, language, or culture) as well as those with accessibility issues?
 - a. Identification of our Remote Communities is not an issue; we know who and where they are. +1
 - b. Paying for members of dark districts/Remote Communities to come to assembly.
 - c. Increasing the use of technology to encourage participation.
 - d. Area could encourage Districts to visit groups who lack participation. +1
 - e. At meeting level, make efforts to be friendly.
 - f. Utilize Area Committee Chairs for these purposes.

3. Do groups and districts feel connected to and involved with Area 40 between our assemblies? What can be done to better accomplish this?
 - a. More face-to-face time with delegates/trustees/GSO employees.
 - b. Better communication within our fellowship. More emails, phone calls, visits to groups.
 - c. Poor job done on communication between Area and smaller districts. +1
 - d. Follow service manual dictates to better communicate with your individual groups, districts, committees, and area. More specific instructions to communicate better.
 - e. Better hand-off communication between outgoing and incoming chair/positions. +1

4. With respect to Concept 1, do the groups in Area 40 feel they adequately hold and exercise the final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services? If not, what might Area 40 do to help that cause?
 - a. Doing good job by using Pre-Assemblies and Delegate visits.
 - b. Going to other meetings to educate them; be friendly.
 - c. Area does good job of seeking the opinion/input of groups. +1
 - d. Groups need to voice opinions/concerns, they have that as a responsibility.
 - e. Continued support of delegate traveling to remote districts and meetings.

Group # 6 Discussion:

Group # 7 Discussion:

- Area 40 Triangle

The highlight quote of our discussion was: “The Triangle is the best kept secret of our Area,” and what this meant to us was the crux of the question: is the Triangle effectively serving its purpose? Which is to report on service within Area 40, and we generally said “no” because for a variety of reasons the Triangle is never being read by individuals within our area. This is due to incorrect mailing addresses, members not bringing the publication to their group, not being put out, GSRs not knowing that they should be getting the newsletter when they’re not, etc. Additionally, that the newsletter is not financially supported by group, or with contributions of content. We agreed that some solutions to this could be: to better digitize the Triangle, offer workshops and more information about the newsletter, have a sunset date on subscriptions, make the content more engaging, etc.

- How can we improve the methods of encouraging and selecting effective leaders as well as nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?

We all agreed that no one who is a newcomer in Alcoholics Anonymous enters a fellowship displaying any real, effective leadership skills and that these traits have to be created through old timers actively recruiting and encouraging newer members to accept positions, making our group and district meetings attractive, engaging and free of politics, offering workshops, and giving new servants appropriate training and resources so that they feel comfortable and confident with their ability to effectively complete their position.

- How can Area 40 better support Districts in carrying the message to outside sources such as professionals?

We can elect passionate people to committees and individual positions who will use appropriate techniques and resources to not only dispel many of the misconceptions around AA, but also to educate professionals on our purposes and successes. We suggest face to face interactions.

- Committee Chairs communicating with overall AA service structure?

Area Committee Chairs reaching out to their district counterparts. DCMs visiting groups, sharing information and asking questions, and being an active conduit between district and area. A better way for everyone within the area to connect: perhaps an anonymity protected landing page, forum or database within the Area 40 website where people could get contact information, share questions, comments, and concerns, receive training on their service position, receive updates on Area business, etc., etc.

Group # 8 Discussion

West Central Regional Trustee Nomination and Vote

Fall Assembly 2019 WCR Voting

“A.A.’s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A.....” from the A.A. Service Manual S21-22

• All eligible and willing candidates are posted on a board (computer screen) • All voting members cast a written ballot, one choice per ballot • The tally is posted on the board (computer screen) • The first candidate with two-thirds wins • If no candidate has two-thirds after the 2nd ballot then the candidates with less than one-fifth of the total vote will be withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain (all tied runners-up remain as candidates) • If no candidate has two-thirds after the 3rd ballot then the

candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain (all tied runners-up remain as candidates) • If after the 4th ballot no candidate has two-thirds

of the total vote

the top two candidates remain and the chairperson asks for a motion (with a second and simple majority by show of hands) to conduct a fifth and final ballot • If this motion does not occur or is defeated then the

balloting is

over and the choice is made by lot —“going to the hat”— immediately • If there is a 5th ballot and no candidate

has two-thirds of the total

vote the choice is made by lot —“going to the hat”— immediately

Third legacy procedure was followed and Past Area 40 delegates Libbie L., Gerry R., and Earl F. emerged as candidates. The voting went until the fourth ballot and then a nominee was pulled from the hat: Gerry R.

Archives/Area 40 Policy & Structure Kacie N.

1. Review the assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair.

Greetings Area 40,

On the 20th of May, I received an email from Jory M. sharing that they got sober at the Bozeman Round-Up in 1995. Jory stated that they were coming up on 24 years of sobriety and was curious as to who the speakers were back then as the memory of that time is a little cloudy. Jory requested that if it wasn't too obscure of a request, could I find out who those speakers were and see about maybe even getting copies of the tapes?

In July Earl invited me to join him, Gerry, and Grant for a Past Actions Audit and workday in August. Spending a day at the Area 40 Archives Repository was possibly the most awesome thing I did this summer! (Which is saying a lot since my husband and I got to enjoy not one but two spectacular vacations together *and* decided to add a new, super cute puppy to our family.) The Repository doesn't seem like much when you finally locate it among the various storage units on Mountain View in Ennis, Montana, but just inside is a treasure trove of valuable history, some of which dates back to before Alcoholics Anonymous was even a thing.

Earl, Gerry, and I spent a Saturday together with the purpose of making sure the Past Actions in the Policy and Procedures are as accurate and current as possible. It was a little slow going at first...we spent about two hours just on the first page! But by lunchtime, we had managed to discover a few key pieces of information that allowed us to make quick work of several sections after we lunched it up at a local diner.

We were not able to complete the audit of all 58 pages of Past Actions in a single day, but we do have a plan in place to get it finished. We may have gotten a little distracted and sidetracked by some of the super freaking awesome stuff stored within acid-free, air safe, dust resistant, bug-proof containers that could only be handled with fancy shmancy butler gloves. Grant and I nerded out over the First Printing of the First Edition Big Book gifted to Area 40 Archives by Tom O. I got to page through the oldest thing in the Archives, Six Nights with the Washingtonians and Other Temperance Tales. Reading a facsimile of their temperance pledge made me awfully grateful I got sober in the 21st Century and not the 19th!

There's a collection of Grapevine magazines that include just about every issue ever printed and then some. Earl handed one of the Grapevine overflow boxes to Gerry to rifle through and not a minute later he was pulling out a copy of the Grapevine that was issued the month and year I got sober and gifted it to me stating that there were more than they knew what to do with there. The topic of that edition was "We're Not a Glum Lot."

While it was incredibly exciting to look at things like a Christmas card from Dr. Bob's son to Tom O. the previous owner of that Big Book I mentioned, it was probably more meaningful to shuffle through some of the files, old notebooks, and reports from previous Delegates and DCM's from the Area and from my District. These people were just doing service because they wanted to stay sober, they loved AA, and they wanted it to be around for the next drunk looking for a way out. They weren't looking to be heroes or to be idolized by some nerdy AA girl 20 or 30 years down the road. But I can't help getting just a little star-struck looking at the history of how Area 40 came to be what it is today unfold in the pages of DCM reports and Delegate newsletters and minutes from meetings that somebody who was attending probably couldn't wait to wrap up and get out of. And all those actions and all that work contributed to AA

surviving for you and me to be here today. It wasn't just Bill and Bob who made this thing great. It was Eric D., Robbie S., Andy P. and so many others that did the work and trudged the road before us.

On the drive here, my vehicle was the mode of transportation by which Libbie's box of Delegate paraphernalia made it's way to Earl to store at the repository. So now I'm a part of a story that is part of AA history. Some day 20 years from now someone else will have a chance to geek out over those documents that tell the story of Libbie's contribution to service in Area 40. Archives isn't just about preserving relics of the past, it is about ensuring the future. I am honored to be surrounded today by AA giants in the making. I am grateful to play even the smallest role in making this deal better for those we walk with now and those who will join us later. You just never know what you do, what thought you share, what minority opinion you might speak that could become a keystone in the solid, structured, loving fellowship that is Area 40, Montana.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you about Jory's request! Earl and I found those speaker tapes! Gerry and I shuffled through a couple files and he even found the flier for that Round Up event! I sent pictures to Jory and got to share that Earl is able to make copies of the cassettes into CD's and once they are complete will send them on to be enjoyed! How cool is that? Just like the bit of magic stored in the Grapevine I got from my sobriety birthday, we get to reconnect someone with the moments that they experienced while sobering up almost 25 years ago! Archives are pretty badass you guys....

Thanks for letting me be a part of history with you!

In Service,

Kacie N.

Archives Committee Report:

Archives Committee Meeting Minutes

Kacie called moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Voting Members:

Eric G. - District 61 DCM

Mike S. - District 41 Rep

Maureen W. - District 93 Rep

Sherry C. - District 81 Rep

Kacie N. - Archives Committee Chair

Non-voting members:

Grant O. – District 91 Rep

Craig R. – District 71 Rep

Earl F. – Area Archivist

David

Mark – District 51 Rep

Area 40 Archives Agenda

Item 1: Review assembly report of Archives Chair.

Committee found Kacie's report to be acceptable.

Item 2: Review assembly report of Area Archivist.

Committee found Earl's report to be acceptable.

Item 3: Review activity of Archives Committees throughout Area 40.

Mike S. stated archives is not active in his District, and this is concerning to him. It was stated that a past action for Area 40 allows Districts to use Area 40 Archives space for storage of District archival material.

Craig R. stated archives is active in his District and that recently the Archives were reviewed and gone through by his district.

Maureen W. stated her district has filled all positions except Archives Chair. It is concerning to her, but she hopes they will have it filled soon.

Grant O. stated his district Archives Chair has been steadily digitizing all of our records to cut down on space and minimize risk of Archives becoming compromised.

Mark M. stated that his district recently made Archivist a non-rotating position to cut down on risk to the archives.

Area 40 Structure and Policy Agenda

Item 1: Area Assembly Evaluation Report.

Kacie shared an updated Evaluation Report that has removed a question concerning the on-site restaurant for the Assembly.

There were 116 evaluations completed for last Assembly, Kacie reviewed the statistics for each question.

Committee found the Evaluation Report to be acceptable, if a little humorous.

Item 2: Review Ad-Hoc Committee Report on Venue.

Sherry passed out a few copies of her Ad-Hoc Report and gave her report.

Committee found her report to be acceptable.

Discussion ensued to determine a recommendation from the Ad-Hoc committee. Discussion began with non-voting members and moved to voting committee members.

Recommendation from Structure and Policy committee: That the Area Assembly is to be held at a suitable venue (as determined by the Area Chair) in Great Falls, Montana until such time as an Area motion changes or modifies this.

Recommendation was passed unanimously by the committee.

Item 3: Consider changing the Venue Responsibility to Area Advisor.

Kacie read the proposal. Discussion ensued.

Recommendation from Structure and Policy committee: That a new section be added to Area Advisor job description. Reading, “will serve as Venue Liaison. In that position they be provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites of the last two Area Assemblies of their rotation, as well as the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation.”

Recommendation was passed unanimously by the committee.

Item 4: Consider voting privileges be granted to the Archivist, Webmaster, Area Advisor & Bridging the Gap Chair.

Kacie read the proposal. Discussion ensued. Committee decided to have a vote of substantial unanimity. Eric made a motion that “the committee currently takes no action but requests the proposal be listed on the Spring 2020 agenda to be considered by the Structure and Policy Committee after GSR’s have taken the issue back to their groups.”

Recommendation from Structure and Policy committee: That the committee currently takes no action but requests the proposal be listed on the Spring 2020 agenda to be considered by the Structure and Policy Committee after GSR’s have taken the issue back to their groups.

Recommendation was passed unanimously by the committee.

GSC Archives Agenda

Item 1: Review 69th General Service Conference Report.

Committee found the 69th GSC Report to be acceptable.

2. Review Archivist Report.

Archivist Report Earl F.

Archivist Report

2019 Area 40 Fall Assembly

Greetings Area 40, my name is Earl and I am an Alcoholic. I currently serve as the Area 40 Archivist. A recent event has inspired me to follow through with an idea that I had when I first started in the Archivist

position. Kacie N, Grant O, and Gerry R as well as myself met at our repository on the 24th of August and started to do an audit of our past actions document. It was a fun and productive day and it gave some AA Geeks an opportunity to have some gloved, hands on time with some of our collection. It was nice to have visitors and as I said, it reaffirmed an idea that I had a while back. I would like to create work days for all of the Area Committee Chairs and any District Committee Chairs on the corresponding Committee to let those people have an opportunity to visit our repository help with sorting, filing and looking through our collection. I will schedule the workdays with the Area Chairs and try to be as accommodating as possible, with everyone's schedule. This will give me an opportunity to work with a larger pool of people and hopefully find someone who might be interested in this position when I decide to step down or the Area asks me to resign.

The repository is serving us quite well at this time. We have plenty of room and the climate in the building is good for our collection. The temperature is fairly constant as well as the humidity. We have adequate storage containers as well as shelving. I do have a budget amount for supplies when needed, but we are fairly well stocked. I am going to sort through the bone-yard of electronics and clean up the mess of an accumulation of scanners, printers, copiers and typewriters that we have had for some time. I will keep computers and monitors in hopes that I can retrieve any information on them. If I can get the information and have it transferred to hard copy, I will dispose of them too. I am always on the lookout for cassette tape players or decks, reel to reel tape players and machines that will help in dubbing cassette to digital. We have a huge collection of tapes, both speaker tapes and archival interviews. If I can find a good program for dictation, that would be helpful. Speaking of Archival interviews, I am looking forward to traveling a little this winter to do interviews. If you have yet to be interviewed, you can expect some contact from me to schedule a time. Archival interviews usually take around two to three hours, have specific questions that I ask and I think they are a lot of fun.

Since the Spring Assembly, I attended and participated in the Spring Roundup in Kalispell. I gave a talk on the history of the roundups, did a mock Archival interview with Sandy and took a display of the growth of the fellowship in Montana. I was invited to participate in the Founders Day Event at Ryan Dam in District 41. I was asked to do a presentation on some of the programs that preceded AA. It was fun to research the Washatonians and the Oxford Groups and try to share that with the crowd. The pot luck was good too. After the Assembly this weekend, I have been asked to put together a display for the Friends of AA Tour and their stop in Butte and I have been asked to do a presentation of the history of AA and the start of AA at the Montana State Prison for the Mini-Conference. I have also been invited to bring a display to the Fall Round-up in Missoula.

I want to remind everyone to please include me with copies of your emails, correspondence, and committee meeting minutes, District meeting minutes, flyers and other information that pertains to AA. Please bring to my attention any articles about AA and any obits of members who have passed. In this digital age it is very easy to get copies of stories if I know about them. I can be contacted by email at archivist@aa-montana.org or you may call or text at 406-581-4185.

Thank- you for the opportunity to serve and if I can do anything to help your District or Group, don't hesitate to ask.

In Service,

Earl

3. Review activity of Archives Committees throughout Area 40.

Structure and Policy-Area 40

1. Area Assembly Evaluation Report: See Appendix II

2. Review Ad-Hoc Committee Report on Venue: Sherry C.

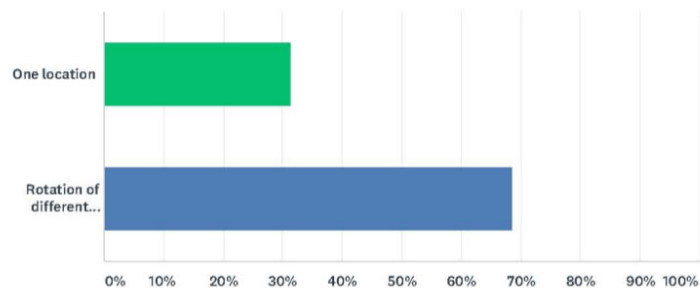
**Final Report of the
Area Assembly Location
Ad hoc Committee**

**Lori F.
Dan H.
Mike P.
Steve S.
Terri T.**

Motion: The Archives committee recommends that the Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Fall 2020 Assemblies be held at a Great Falls venue and that **an ad-hoc committee be created to explore further venue locations. This committee should report to the Archives committee by Fall of 2019.**

Q1 Would you prefer all Area Assemblies to remain in one location (such as Lewistown or Great Falls) or would you prefer a rotation of different locations?

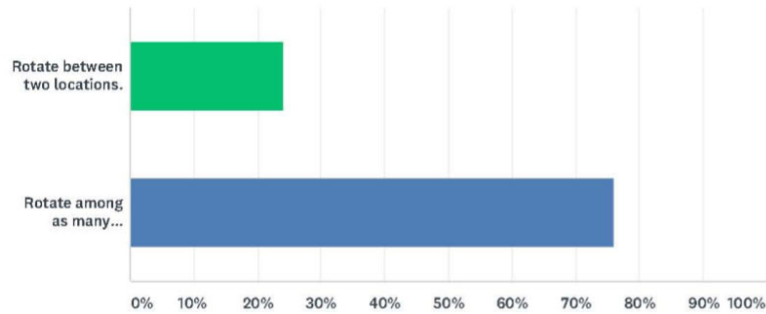
Answered: 178 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One location	31.46%	56
Rotation of different locations	68.54%	122
TOTAL		178

Q2 If you prefer a rotation, should the Assemblies:

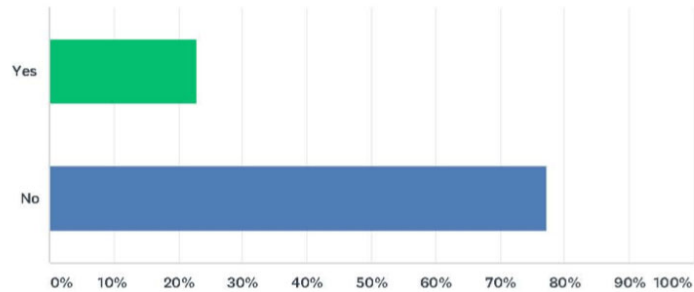
Answered: 137 Skipped: 46



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rotate between two locations.	24.09%	33
Rotate among as many locations as possible, similar to the Roundup rotation.	75.91%	104
TOTAL		137

Q3 The driving distance to Lewistown keeps me from going to Lewistown for Area Assembly.

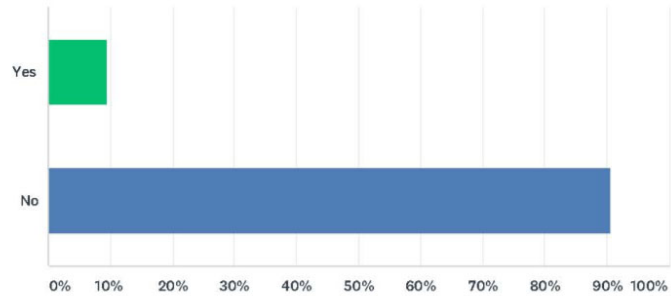
Answered: 179 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	22.91%	41
No	77.09%	138
TOTAL		179

Q4 The driving distance to Great Falls keeps me from going to Great Falls for Area Assembly.

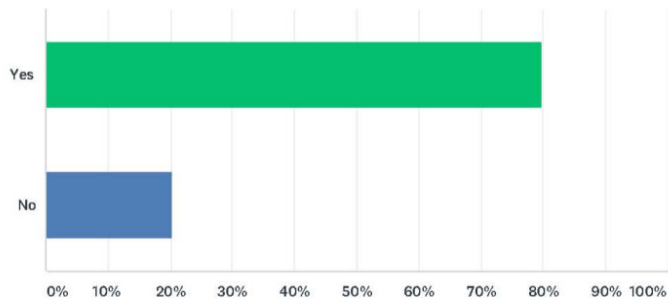
Answered: 179 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	9.50%	17
No	90.50%	162
TOTAL		179

Q5 I would be willing to drive further to the Area Assembly if the Area Assembly was sometimes closer to my District.

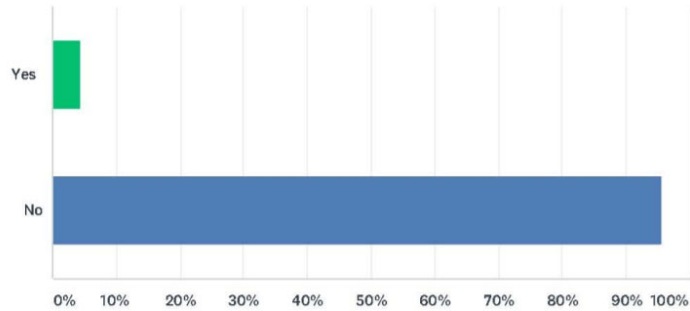
Answered: 168 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	79.76%	134
No	20.24%	34
TOTAL		168

Q6 I am unable to travel.

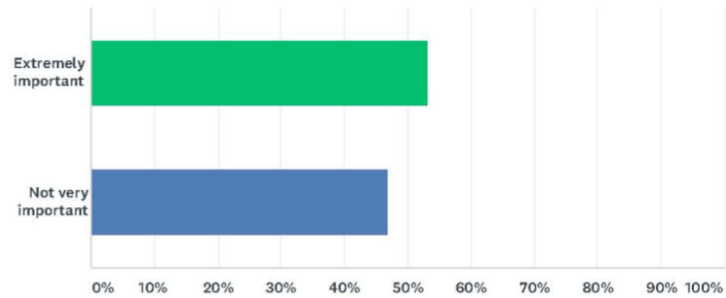
Answered: 180 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	4.44%	8
No	95.56%	172
TOTAL		180

Q7 How important is it for the meeting rooms and sleeping rooms to be in the same facility?

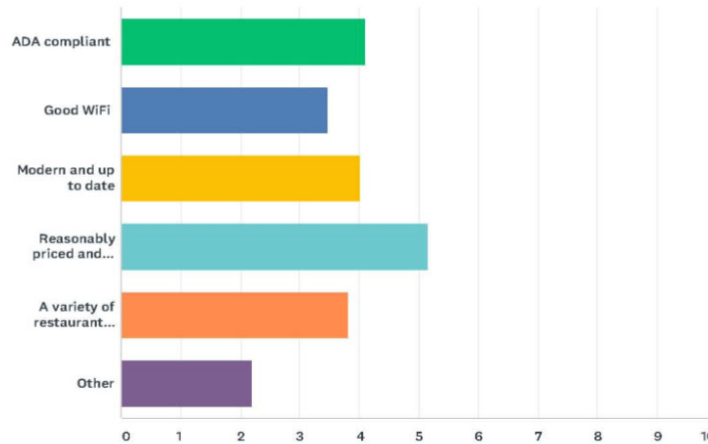
Answered: 177 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	53.11%	94
Not very important	46.89%	83
TOTAL		177

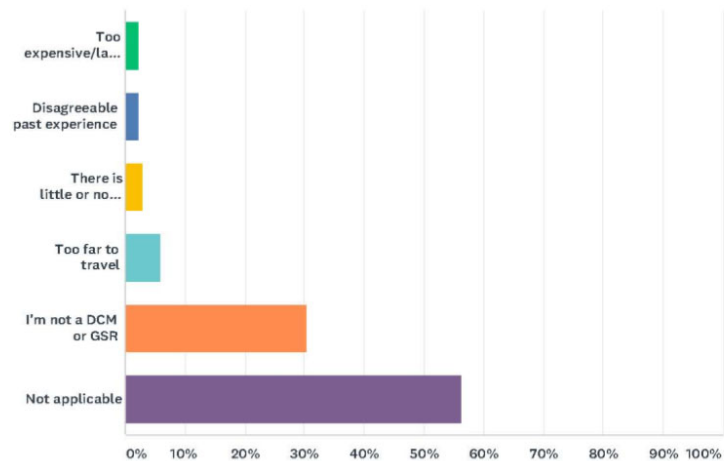
Q8 Rank or choose the most important feature(s) for the hotel and/or meeting facility.

Answered: 176 Skipped: 7

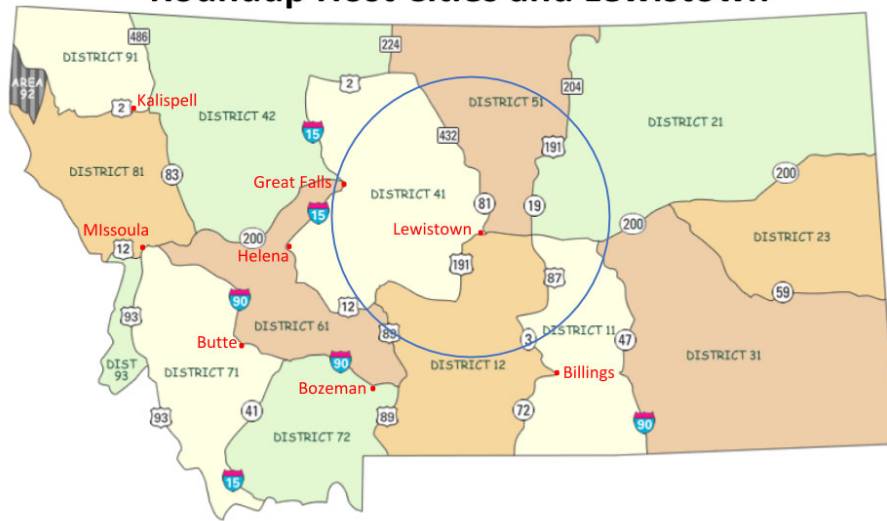


Q9 If you as a GSR or DCM have not attended an Area Assembly recently, what is the one thing that best describes the reason?

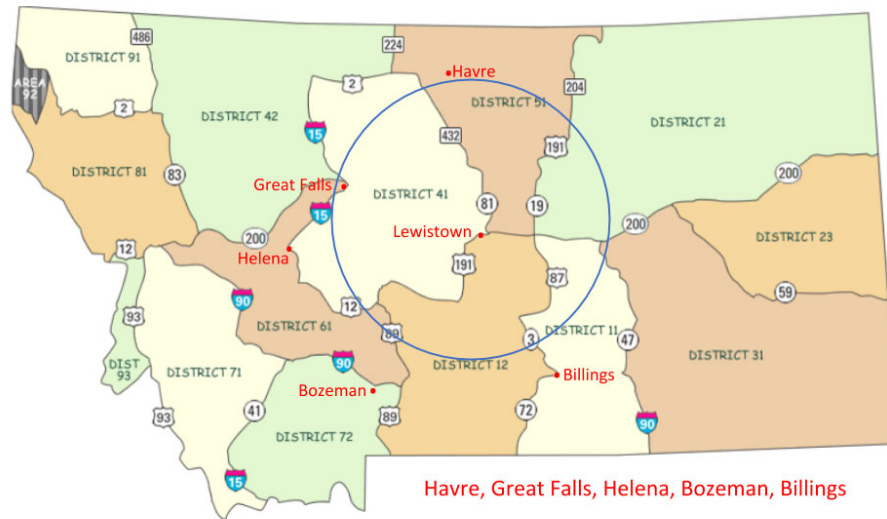
Answered: 135 Skipped: 48



Roundup Host Cities and Lewistown



Cities under 200 miles from Lewistown



The cost of an Area Assembly is mostly determined by Area Committee travel costs. These travel costs change every service rotation.

Past Assembly Costs

Date	Location	Total Assembly Cost	Meeting Room Cost
Spring 2019	Great Falls	\$7682	\$3584
Fall 2018	Great Falls	\$6834	\$3814
Spring 2018	Lewistown	\$4872	\$1868
Fall 2017	Great Falls	\$5964	\$2829
Spring 2017	Lewistown	\$5927	\$1504
Fall 2016	Lewistown	\$6034	\$1644

“Total Assembly Cost” includes Area Committee travel, hotel, meals, office supplies and copies; as well as “Meeting Room Cost” for the Area Assembly.



Discussion/Questions:

- “Designated cities”? Why can’t we do a bidding process? We could simplify this by having 3 designated regions.
- At some point we will have to “get out of our comfort zone” and give other people a chance to attend.
- Alanon did this and they bid rotation every three years: Can we reach out to them about how they do this?

Motion: That the Area Assembly is to be held at a suitable venue (as determined by the Area Chair) in Great Falls, Montana until such time as an Area motion changes or modifies this.

Discussion:

- Thank you for your work Sherry/Adhoc committee?
- Greatest participation should take precedence over cost
 - By rotating we will decrease participation
 - By keeping it centralized it increases
 - Great Falls is as close to the center of the state with an ADA compliant facility that meets our needs
- A motion can be made before the body: how far in advance do we need to book our accommodations?
 - We are booked in Great Falls until Fall 2020
- We need to be booked out in order to be prepared
- If you’re a member of an Adhoc committee please keep your members informed: some feel they were left out of the discussion
- Rotation makes sense if possible as it would encourage people who otherwise wouldn’t
 - What does bidding look like?

- Area Chair arranging an assembly: in order to get a facility it takes a year. The bidding process: gathered information on the various venue, this was the only venue available at the time, their prices were exorbitant, did not have a hotel or restaurant, etc. Bidding would be much like roundups at this point.
- Encourage a more specific plan to be developed (like bidding process) and brought to this body
- Bill would go to any lengths to be sober, we should too.
- Common welfare: how much travel for individuals and districts?
- This does not reflect the spirit of rotation

First vote: 63 in favor, 4 opposed

Minority opinion/question: How does one bring a proposal forward? Find the agenda item form and have it to Connie by February.

Cost is a deterrent for people.

3. Consider changing Venue Responsibility to Area Advisor

Motion: That a new section be added to Area Advisor job description. Reading, “will serve as Venue Liaison. In that position they be provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites of the last two Area Assemblies of their rotation, as well as the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation.”

Discussion:

- Should this be a committee job? It takes quite a bit to navigate this process an Area chair might not inherently have these skills
- This motion is just adding language about duties/responsibilities that is not currently in the policies and procedures
- We’re locked into a shorter amount of time to make arrangements, it seems prudent to resolve where the assembly is going to be held before we decide who does it. If the venue changes we should then figure out whose responsibility it is to arrange venue and how that will happen
 - New motions/amendments could be made
- The process of switching a venue is not as easy as just staying with a current venue, but it’s not as hard as it seems either because we have defined needs.
- The Area Chair has a lot on their plate, the Advisor has little and could work in conjunction with the Chair, etc. This might also help with a change in venue. Also, is reversible.
- Question: What are the specific duties of the Area Advisor?
 - In the Policies and Procedures section G.15
- Some comments on rotating the venue and how that might logistically work
- Question: What makes it necessary for there to be venue assistance? How is the chair so busy?
 - The chair doesn’t have any clear guidelines this motion is just to clarify the current policies and procedures, this is just adding/assigning verbiage to assumed duties

- The current chair is having to be on the phone almost weekly arranging the venue. In Lewistown, they were contacting us and knowing what their needs are.
- Making/sending agenda items, interpreting it
- And she has a life!
- The Area Advisor has 3 jobs, even though coffee is important
- Likes how this is written as a split rotation
- Let's not forget that the chair is also the alternate Delegate
- The idea of one person "doing this" seems impossible

Voting: 67 for 2 opposed

Minority Opinion: We should get the venue set first, and perhaps we need a committee to do this.

4. Consider voting privileges be granted to the Archivist, Webmaster, Area Advisor & Bridging the Gap Chair.

No action taken: That the committee currently takes no action but requests the proposal be listed on the Spring 2020 agenda to be considered by the Structure and Policy Committee after GSRs and DCMs have taken the issue back to their groups.

Archives-GSC

1. Review 69th General Service Conference Report

Public Information/Report and Charter & Website Sabrina C.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair.

AREA ASSEMBLY FALL 2019

Hello Area 40!

My name is Sabrina C and I'm an alcoholic. I am grateful to be serving as your Area 40 PI Chair. I am living in Missoula (District 81) and my homegroup is the Sunrise Group. We meet every beautiful morning at 8:00am at the Unity Church on South Avenue. If you're ever in town I would love to welcome you to my homegroup!

It sure seems like a lot has happened since the last Area Assembly in April. For starters, I graduated from law school on May 11. Since then I have been doing a lot of reflecting on my life. I never stop being amazed at the endless opportunities made available to me so long as I stay here with you. It is only because of Alcoholics Anonymous and my willingness to participate that I am able to accomplish anything. What a gift! The possibilities seem endless! What a big, full, beautiful life I have because of this program. I am so grateful.

On May 17, I went to Kalispell for the Spring Roundup and had a wonderful time. One of the speakers at the event was my sponsor and it was awesome to be there with her. On June 8, we had an Oldtimer's Panel for Founder's Day in Missoula and it was just terrific. On June 28, I attended the 27th Annual Beartooth Mountain Conference at its new location at Luccock Park Camp just outside of Livingston.

Amazing speakers, plenty of sun, tons of fun, too much food, lots of laughs, and so many opportunities for fellowship! The following month I was in Billings for a couple weeks. I was grateful and excited to be the speaker at a recovery meeting for a sober living home called Ignatia's House on July 28 and to be the main speaker at my former home group on July 31.

On August 2, I headed to Four Winds Ministry in Big Timber for a sponsorship retreat. What a magical time I had with my sponsor and sisters in sponsorship. We covered all 12 Traditions in a weekend. Being exposed to the experience, strength, and hope of women who have long-term, continuous sobriety in AA is a priceless gift. I left there feeling much more informed and empowered and grateful to be a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A couple weeks later, on August 14, I celebrated 7 years of sobriety at my home group by feeding my fellow homegroup members banana bread and carrot cake and thanking them for my life. The next day I loaded up in a little Subaru with 3 other sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous and headed to North Dakota for the West Central Regional Forum. I traveled with our amazing Triangle Editor, Catherine B.; the District 81 DCM, Mike R.; and former Trustee, Andrew W. What a Motley Crew! Mike and I were attending our very first forum and we both had a great time. Especially because we had the opportunity to travel with other AA members who had been before us. The first 14 hours of the trip were devoted to discussions about anonymity and all the ways AA members break anonymity and violate our Traditions on social media. I am pretty sure we figured out how to solve the problems and all the problems of the world, really. We are happy to share if any of you are interested! Seriously though, I felt really blessed to be with them and very excited when I could convince them all to bail out of the car on the highway to pose for pictures in a giant field of sunflowers! If you've never seen the sunflowers fields in North Dakota, you should! They are really magnificent. Also, if you'd like to see a photo of a big, tough, tattooed, alcoholic, biker dude, grinning like a schoolboy in a field of sunflowers, please see me during a break.

Last, but not least, I attended Fellowship at the Falls right here in Great Falls last weekend. Another terrific event! I am so blessed!

Besides being busy having tons of fun in Alcoholics Anonymous, I have spent my time working with the ad hoc committee to find solutions to the ongoing problems we are having with the AA hotline. There will be plenty more about that later. For now, I would just like to thank Nadine F., Serena R., Grant O., and Ginger T. for all of your ideas and thoughtful contributions. I also want to thank each and every one of you who responded to my frantic text messages and phone calls in search of someone to return calls to individuals calling the hotline. I am always so grateful to be among members who really love Alcoholics Anonymous, who are true guardians of our Traditions, and who show me how to practice the "I AM RESPONSIBLE" part of this program when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. Rest assured, the hand of AA is there. I have seen it in action over and over. But the process we currently have for accessing that hand is broken. Hopefully after this weekend, that hand will be a little more accessible in Area 40 when a suffering alcoholic picks up the phone to call for help.

Thank you for my life.

Yours in Service,

Sabrina Currie

HOTLINE PROPOSAL

FIRST OF ALL – THANK YOU to the PI Committee for your thoughtful contributions and hard work during our meeting this morning. Your dedication to serving Alcoholics Anonymous is truly humbling. A special thank you to Ginger T. for taking the notes. She is amazing and keeps up like a pro with passionate fast talkers!

The Area 40 PI Committee recommends that each district pare-down and add guidelines to their Area 40 Hotline phone lists. Each district has autonomy to determine guidelines and requirements for the list. The Area 40 PI Committee recommends quality over quantity. The Area 40 PI Chair will reach out to each districts' PI or Phone Chair initially and then quarterly for updates to those lists. The Area 40 PI Chair will update the Answering Service with any updates monthly and all updates quarterly. The Area 40 PI Chair will request access to the phone lists from the Area 40 Webmaster.

List the proposal benefits:

This proposal would eliminate the ongoing problems with extremely long, inaccurate, and outdated lists of volunteers that are not regularly updated. It would allow the Area 40 PI Chair to focus on other PI duties besides the AA Hotline. Currently, the Area 40 PI Chair is the sole individual responsible for finding a willing AA member in the district of the caller when the answering service is unable to reach someone. More importantly, this proposal would ensure that when an individual who is suffering from alcoholism calls the AA Hotline, they are guaranteed a phone conversation with a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Cost Estimate:

There is no monetary cost associated with this proposal.

How the proposal originated:

This proposal originated in the PI Committee and Hotline Ad Hoc Committee in the process of trying to find a solution to the ongoing problems with the Area 40 AA Hotline.

Why the proposal should be considered:

Currently, when a suffering alcoholic calls the hotline, they are being placed on hold while the answering service goes down a list of volunteers who have signed up to take calls. When these volunteers cannot be reached, the answering service tells the caller they were unable to reach anyone and then sends an email to the Area 40 PI Chair. When the Area 40 PI Chair receives the email, she reaches out to AA members in the location where the caller was calling from. This can sometimes take up to 12 hours depending on the circumstances. By that time, our opportunity to help the still suffering alcoholic is lost.

BTG PROPOSAL

The PI Committee requires more information regarding and specifically related to anonymity, singleness of purpose and how does it actually work.

ACTIVITY – PI COMMITTEES – GROUPS AND DISTRICTS

Committee reviewed activity with discussions about what activity is taking place in different districts around the area and plans for future activities.

GSC REPORT

Committee Reviewed

AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc committee recommends switching the AA Hotline Answering Service from AnswerNet to TruLive.

In conversations with a woman named Sarah and a man named Steve from AnswerNet, it came to our attention that they've been double billing our account. They are charging us to keep the caller on the line while they try to contact someone AND charging us for the time to contact someone.

Example: Alcoholic Annie calls the hotline at 9:00am. The clock starts ticking. It takes AnswerNet 10 minutes to reach out to volunteers. AnswerNet does not reach anyone. AnswerNet gets back on the phone with Alcoholic Annie to tell her no one could be reached. AnswerNet then charges us 10 minutes for Alcoholic Annie to wait AND 10 minutes to reach out to volunteers. So, a 10-minute transaction is being billed as a 20-minute transaction!

The Area 40 PI Chair will continue conversations with AnswerNet to get a credit for the Area. Right now, they are only offering a credit if we stay with them. But the plan is to leave AnswerNet and there are likely legal obligations for AnswerNet to credit our account because we've been billed for services we did not receive.

Moving forward, the only thing we need to do with AnswerNet is provide a 30-day notice to terminate the contract with them and we can take the 800# with us. There are no fees associated with this transition, just a small process.

With Tru-Live Answering Service, there is no contract to sign and we can leave at any time. They are able to port the 800# over to their company for a \$25 fee. It takes 2-3 weeks to complete that process. (Please note: no calls will be missed during this process). Tru-Live has a plan available for 100 calls per month for \$79.95 per month. When Alcoholic Annie calls Tru-Live, they can send her information via text to the volunteers and via email to the PI Chair. There is no extra charge for this. So Alcoholic Annie's call counts as one call out of the 100 calls per month. However, if Tru-Live patches the call through or makes calls to volunteers, those will all count as additional calls.

Example: Alcoholic Annie calls Tru-Live and says she would like to speak to a member of AA. Tru-Live keeps her on the line, calls 3 volunteers, and patches her through on the third call. Then Alcoholic Annie's call will count as 5 calls. This is not necessarily something to worry about because we only average 20 total calls per month. So, if we decided to go that route, we would probably never go over our limit. If we do go over, it will cost an additional \$.85 per call. It would be best to have Tru-Live take the call, get the callers information, hang up with caller, text 3 volunteers in that particular district, email the PI Chair, and then charge us for one call. That is how it is currently being handled anyway when the PI Chair receives an email and then sends text messages to AA members in that particular district to return the call. The caller has always been connected that way.

Also, we have the opportunity to save the Area over \$300 per month once we switch.

2. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster.

Committee Report

9/14/2019. 9:30 am

Voting Quorum-yes

13 total in attendance (includes voting and non- voting)

1. Sabrina's Report- Given
2. Brandon's Report- Not Present
3. Motion from Hugh to Amend the proposal to included different language surrounding responsibilities. Jake seconded. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. Passed. Discussed and re-wrote two portions of the proposal. (Sabrina will present)
4. Committee discussed proposal and decided that more information was needed specifically pertaining to anonymity, singleness of purpose and exactly how it works.
5. Jake, Mike, Hugh, and Sabrina updated the committee on district happenings around PI and future plans.
6. ADHOC Committee - Sabrina read basic recommendation coming out of that committee. We suggested finite wording changes pertaining to the gap in number. All in attendance supported the proposal.

Sabrina read and reviewed both the PI GSC and R&C GSC reports and clarified question from the committee pertaining to definition and purpose.

PI Committee meeting ended at 11:40am.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Ginger T.

2. Consider changing the way the Hotline is answered by AA Members.

Recommendation: That the PI committee switch the AA hotline from AnswerNet to True Live:

- Background:
 - Problems with AnswerNet
 - Double billing for services not rendered
 - Chair is pursuing a refund
 - New option: True Live:
 - No contract
 - 2-3 week transition
 - \$79/ month for 100 calls
 - We can keep our current number

4. Consider the webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy-protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and correctional institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program.
5. Review Activity of Public Information Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.

Public Information – GSC

1. Review 69th General Service Conference Report. Reviewed.

Report and Charter – GSC

1. Review 69th General Service Conference Report. Reviewed.

Public Information Floor Action:

Don M.: In light of the discussion around the Bridging the GAP link, it is asked that the floor “consider the webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and corrections institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program and put it to a vote of the assembly.”

Ann B. District 61: seconds the motion

Don’s commentary:

- Specific example of someone in a facility sitting across the table from a case manager, the case manager can then access an online link to provide Area 40 BTG chair with contact information and then a BTG volunteer would begin to connect with an outside contact

Discussion:

- This is the second time this item has “fallen through the cracks” at assembly and we are losing time to reach alcoholics who are getting lost in the system
 - This motion has passed unanimously in many BTG committee
- Professionals have a hard time getting ahold of us and this is one of the easiest ways to do it: professionals are excited about it. This makes the process easier and more streamlined.
- This does not violate any tradition or anonymity, etc. Does not give access to anything that isn’t already public knowledge
- Why do we even have to have it be anonymity/privacy protected?
 - Privacy of the person giving the information to the professional
 - We will train the professional that the link is available
 - We do have to be careful about HIPAA
 - This is why this is privacy protected

- The professional needs to have the person sign a release of information, case workers/clinicians are familiar with this process
 - The questions are not super personal and invasive, just ask about geographical location
- Email is not as secure as some other systems and sometimes negates HIPAA
- When the professional reaches out? Where is the contact going? Can we make sure that it is a trusted servant?
 - The information goes directly to the Area BTG chair, they then determine the location and then reaches out to the local contact. Sometimes district BTG contact doesn't exist so BTG is making direct contact with a local person

Voting: 62 in favor/3 opposed

Minority opinion: Love the idea and am in favor! However, because legal "things" were brought up, we need to be really certain about that before we do this

Treatment Facilities/Agenda Steve S.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair.

Area 40 Treatment Chair Fall Report

Since last assembly activity has been very quiet, there has not been any emails or phone calls with any issues or questions. Everyone must have been very busy within their own districts and groups with campouts and family activities, and that is a good thing. I have had several conversations with our delegate and his travels around the state and topics about simply helping to carry the message.

I still attend meetings and help facilitate meetings at watch east, and recently discovered that they are without a director and a chief of security. So there will be changes there and will stay in the loop with them to keep the mtgs going that are brought in from the outside now and continue with communication when they appoint a new director, and open the relationship door of alcoholics anonymous and watch east.

In early spring I attended the Bridging The Gap workshop held in Wolf Point. It was a very enlightening to see not only some of the area 40 service people but also those who put in a great deal of effort to make the workshop a success. The local people who shared about their experience with AA and their stories about getting there were very humbling, and the continued work and support they provide to the wolf point area is very awesome. It's great to see such a rural area with so much support.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your treatment chair for Area 40 and if anyone needs has any questions for me or even just would like to talk about what is going on in their district and looking for ideas please by all means contact me.

Respectively submitted

Steve S

Area 40 Treatment Chair

Treatment Committee Meeting report:

17 members attended

- Introductions
- Chairs presented their report
- Questions about BTG/Wolf Point Workshop
 - Great representation of professionals
 - Why Wolf Point? Why not? 30 participants
- BTG Motion about bidding for a conference

passed unanimously

2. Review Assembly Report of the Bridging the Gap Chair

Bridging the Gap: Jessica E.

Area 40 Bridging The Gap Committee Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Temporary Contact Program is to "Bridge the Gap" between A.A. meetings in treatment facilities, hospitals, prisons and jails and the first A.A. meetings upon release in the home community. Volunteer members of Alcoholics Anonymous usually acting in pairs, meet the client or inmate after release and accompany them to their first A.A. meeting. Like all 12th Step work, this is never paid for. It is the goal of the Area 40 - Montana Bridging the Gap Committee, Treatment Facilities Committee, and Corrections Committee to make this vital 12th Step work possible statewide.



BTG Chair Report Fall 2019

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica E. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair. Since the last assembly our BTG committee met for our first face to face meeting on May 11th at the Wolf Point Community Center in District 21 (flyer below). I want to express my gratitude for D21's hospitality and districts 11, 21, 23, 41, 51, 61, 71, 72, 91, and 93 for their financial support in sending BTG representatives to participate. We had approximately 30 attendees not including families. We had representation from BTG, corrections and treatment chairs from across our state. Penny R, our alt. BTG chair, and I met the committee early to set up for the workshop which was to be held after their district meeting. We were all able to mingle with D21 GSRs and local AA members. During this time the BTG committee was able to add District 21 to our BTG database with the addition of three new towns and twelve volunteers for that northeastern area. By having our committee meetings in rural areas we are able to reach out and build our connections in these communities. This day aided to this goal by allowing us to connect with not only AA members, but also the administration from their local prison and treatment facility that was in attendance and participated on the panel. This was an incredible opportunity for us to connect with them and provide information about the Bridging the Gap Program that we have here in Area 40. We learned a lot. Again, I wanted to personally thank all of our groups who supported the travel of your local representatives. You made this possible. This experience called to our hearts, as always, that we have more work to do.

While we were there we had our committee meeting where we worked as well. You will hear about the two agenda items that we passed as a committee to be considered at this assembly. We worked hard to prepare these items because we feel they will truly benefit Area 40 (following this report) The first which is (1) To Place a Bid to Host the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend on either

September 10-12, 2021 or September 9-11, 2022 (TBD based on availability) would benefit Area 40 as a whole. It would draw recognition to Bridging the Gap and help to inform our Area at very little to no cost to our area, and the second is (2) That the webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy-protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and correctional institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program. This proposal would allow our committee to invite the webmaster to participate in our next BTG committee meeting to develop this link that would be used by professionals to enter general information of potential AA members who opted into participate in the Bridging the Gap program and are in direct contact with these professionals. With the potential AA member's permission, a professional can send their information directly to the Montana BTG administrator's email address where this information will be solely used to connect these participants with local BTG. I hope both of these proposals would engage all of us to continue in the discussion of how the BTG committee can continue to better our temporary contact program.

During our time together we voted to have our 2020 BTG Committee meeting in northwestern Montana in District 42. We considered District 42 and southwestern Montana in District 71. I am hoping that we visit 71 in the future. As for the upcoming 2020 meeting I will connect with District 42 to prepare. We also voted to have two meetings a year, but only one face-to-face meeting. We thank all of the districts for their travel support and hope this represents our prudence with the budget you have provided us with. We will meet in the next few months by conference but utilizing an online interface to reduce costs. We have tentative agenda items to be discussed that include to discuss our 1st, 2nd, and 5 year goals as a committee this fall. If you have any ideas or suggestions we invite you to attend our conference call this fall or meet us for our 2020 spring committee meeting in Northwestern Montana. For any questions please feel free to contact me.

Please take a moment and review the list of towns where we still need volunteers for our BTG database with your BTG rep. I'd be happy to assist with adding volunteers to our database. I find myself using it often to assist the admin from Pine Hills Correctional facility in connecting their BTG participants with our communities. Currently I have an active contact list for BTG chairs and representatives in treatment and corrections for each district which I actively update and provide as a resource for BTG coordinators. If you have any updated changes for new BTG coordinators I would love to provide these to our BTG committees to help them facilitate the hard work they do. In the future I am willing to be of use or travel to your districts.

Thank you again for entrusting me to serve as your Area 40 BTG Chair. Jessica E.

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM A PROPOSAL FORM

(1) Describe the proposal:

The Bridging the Gap Committee proposes:

That the webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy-protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and correctional institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program.

As a committee we would invite the webmaster to participate in our next BTG committee meeting to develop this link that would be used by professionals to enter general information of potential AA members who opted into participate in the Bridging the Gap program and are in direct contact with these professionals. With the potential AA member's permission, a professional can send their information directly to the Montana BTG administrator's email address where this information will be solely used to connect these participants with local BTG coordinators and in the absence of with a temporary contact in their respective communities A Temporary Contact is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous who assists in

“Bridging the Gap” between a potential AA member within a facility and a meeting “outside” the facility. The Contact's primary purpose is to introduce the newcomer to AA meetings near the newcomer's home. During this meeting, we introduce them to other members and our fellowship and answer questions that they may have.

(2) List the proposal benefits:

This will help our fellowship have continuity with institutions regardless if we currently have AA representation in attendance at meetings in the facility or BTG presentations. This proposal in no way minimizes the priority of this in our fellowship. Instead, this would be used to as a net to help prevent our members from falling through the gap. A resource like this will help facilitate continuity and consistency with our Montana institutions. As you are aware, rural areas here within Montana are affected the most, and our wish is to find ways to better serve these areas. Our wish is to see that all AA members have the ability to utilize the Bridging the Gap program.

(3) Cost Estimate:
None

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

(5) How the proposal originated:

The idea of this proposal originated from the CPC Area Chair. After further discussion from the Area CPC, Corrections, PI, and BTG chairs this idea was brought back to the CPC Committee. It was brought to the area assembly floor, but needed further discussion.

This item was brought as an agenda item for the BTG committee to review and consider during the 2019 BTG Committee meeting in Wolf Point. The Area 40 BTG committee (Chair Jessica E (91) and BTG co-chair Penny R (61), Treatment Chair Steve S (23), district representatives from 11, 21, 23, 41, 51, 71, 91, and 93 passed this unanimously (13:0) in committee meeting held in Wolf Point on May 11, 2019.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered:

This committee recognized the importance of consistency for this program and discussed why. Our facilities, whether Treatment or Corrections (or both), do not rotate their administration as we do in Alcoholics Anonymous. Our facilities do not have to conform to the AA spirit of rotation and are often frustrated by lack of continuity between different BTG coordinators. Since consistency with the facilities is vital to the success of our BTG work, we thought it best to propose a link to our fellowship that is consistent regardless of who occupies our service positions. Again, this will help our fellowship have continuity with institutions regardless if we currently have AA representation in attendance at meetings in the facility or BTG presentations.

(7) Final comments:

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM
PROPOSAL FORM

1. Describe the proposal:

To Place a Bid to Host the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend
It will be either September 10-12, 2021 or September 9-11, 2022 (TBD based on availability)

1. List the proposal benefits:

This proposal would benefit Area 40 as a whole. It would draw recognition to Bridging the Gap and help to inform our Area.

1. Cost Estimate:

Approximately \$100 Registration (name tags and lanyards etc) and \$300 – 400 for the hospitality room up front(food and drink). This will be reimbursed by 7th tradition collected at the event. This event is to be fully self supporting.

Steering committee coordinates and takes care of the cost of the hotel (cost covered by National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend)

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

N/A

(5) How the proposal originated:

Many of our committee members have attended the workshop weekend and have had an incredibly valuable experience. We decided that we wanted to have the honor and privilege of hosting it, and are really looking forward to the opportunity.

This item was brought as an agenda item for the BTG committee to review and consider during the 2019 BTG Committee meeting in Wolf Point. The Area 40 BTG committee (Chair Jessica E (91) and BTG co-chair Penny R (61), Treatment Chair Steve S (23), district representatives from 11, 21, 23, 41, 51, 71, 91, and 93 passed this unanimously (13:0) in committee meeting held in Wolf Point on May 11, 2019.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered:

This should be considered because it will consist of presentations and discussions on Bridging the Gap topics of interests for the registered participants. Those who attend are AA's involved or interested in 12th step work through various general service and intergroup committees such as treatment, corrections, CPC, and PI. AA's from across the US and Canada will attend, many sharing their experience strength and hope for BTG.

(7) Final comments:

Spoke to the coordinator Pete G. (435 590 9126)

We are aware that this will fall onto the next rotation of Area 40 district and area rotating chairs. Our goal is to lay out all of the ground work so that we have a plan in place to pass on to the next rotation of BTG Chairs.

Cities we still need BTG volunteers in our database

We have approximately 110 towns in Montana that are listed as having active meetings on our Area 40 website. Of these cities we have BTG volunteers in 60 % of these cities.

You will find an active list of cities that we currently need BTG volunteers in below. If you are willing to be a contact for the following cities please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you for your help with this!

BTG Committee Meeting

May 11, 2019

Wolf Community Center, 630 6th Ave South
Wolf Point, Montana

Welcome to District 21 where we will be hosting our first Area 40 Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee Meeting. Our focus will be on how we can better connect our A.A. members coming out of Treatment and Correctional Facilities to A.A. members in our communities.



District 21 Business Meeting and Pot Luck: 12:00 – 1:30 pm
BBQ and Activities

Bridging the Gap Meet and Greet: 1:30 – 2:00 pm

Welcome session with our local facilities, BTG chairs, General Service Representatives (GSRs), and District 21 members. Computers and volunteers will be accessible for help with database and resource retrieval. Snacks will be provided.

Bridging the Gap: Here, there, and everywhere: 2:00 – 2:30 pm

Bridging the Gap supports that very important first step for anyone who has just been released from a hospital, treatment center, or correctional facility by providing temporary contacts who help the newcomer make the transition to Alcoholics Anonymous in their home community. Montana's BTG coordinator will welcome everyone and introduce our BTG program in A.A. and how we help A.A. members leaving our facilities to connect with members in A.A. in their respective communities and how we all are needed. Montana's Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair will present what we are, where we are, what we can do, and how we work to find simple, effective ways of cooperate with our local institutions.

Our local Correctional and Treatment Facilities: 2:45 - 3:30 pm

Men and women who are on our frontlines working in Treatment and Correctional facilities are connecting with potential AA members. They have been invited to share about their local facility in District 21.

A.A. Panel: 3:45 - 4:30 pm

Recovery with A.A. - From our facilities to our AA communities.

BTG Committee Business Meeting: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Welcome to all BTG enthusiast and BTG, Treatment, and Correction Chairs. One of our tasks will be to set our agenda for this BTG committee and prioritize our tasks for our 1-year, 2- year, and 5-year goals. An agenda will be provided.

Rooms are available at:

Sherman Motor Inn: (406) 653-1100, 200 E Main St, Wolf Point, MT 59201 Single Q 88 Double Queen 93

Homestead Inn: 855-221-2476, 101 Hwy. East, Wolf Point, MT 59201 Single Q 83 Double Queen 90
Pet Friendly

Contact Jessica E. (845) 901 6019 or Wayne M. (District 21 DCM) 406 650 4478 for any questions.

3. Consider bidding to host the National Bridging the Gap Workshop weekend in Area 40.

- Background information included in BTG report (above)
- Motion: To place a bid to host the National BTG weekend, either September 9-11, 2022, or the following year in September 2023, it will include the Area 40 BTG and Alternate BTG chairs to work with the National BTG weekend steering committee. The cost to Area 40 not to exceed \$500.
 - Discussion:
 - This is one of the most important components of Alcoholics Anonymous
 - The cost is seed money, basically a deposit that will be returned via 7th tradition, registration, etc.
 - Do those dates interfere with Area assembly? The calendar for assembly only goes out to May 2020 so we don't know. The assembly might have to be moved based off of the dates set

Voting: 67 in favor, 1 opposed

Minority opinion: The dates: I don't think area is going to be able to be flexible about accommodating this event

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

- Many activities especially around Bridging the Gap throughout the state,
 - Community contacts are not put into place in enough time for inmates to be released
 - All treatment centers have different communication systems for reaching the outside

Treatment/Accessibilities-GSC

1. Review 69th General Service Conference Report. Reviewed.

Agenda-GSC

1. Review 69th General Service Conference Report. Reviewed.

Literature Grant M.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair.

September 14, 2019

Area Assembly Literature Chair Report

Greetings my fellow Area 40 AAers! My name is Grant and I am an alcoholic. I 've been very busy since the Spring Assembly. It is great to see all your lovely faces again, some new ones and some very old ones! I was not able to make it to the Spring Roundup in Kalispell. I did have one request for a literature catalog from a member in Sidney, but no requests for a literature display. I am willing to set a display for any group function that requests it. Just ask and I will make it happen.

I went to the West Central AA Forum in Grand Forks, ND the weekend of August 16-18. It was a phenomenal event; we were able to communicate with the staff members and trustees from General Service. Office and the General Service Board.

I was blessed to be given the opportunity to have dinner Saturday evening with Patricia LaNauze the Trustee at Large, Canada. We chatted about her experiences with AA in remote communities and some of her family history. I had the honor to have breakfast with Christine Carpenter Class A Trustee who be in Montana for multiple CPC workshops. We talked about treatment courts work with the AA community and shared some stories of her previous visits to our Area 40. There was also a fantastic workshop on Joining the Digital Age at the speed of AA by Racy Joseph. Racy has the PI Assignment at the GSO and her staff assistant Julie Gonzalez. The two of them have such a passion and excitement for protecting the traditions on a social media platform that it was contagious! For anyone who believes that is an “US and a “THEM” in AA should attend a Regional Forum...hint hint...there will be one in Missoula in 2021. Come and see how our trusted servants at the bottom of our triangle are working hard to keep Alcoholics Anonymous within our traditions and concepts while moving forward to help every suffering alcoholic, we are in good hands.

I attended the Havre Mini Conference on August 24 -25. It was a very well attended and fun event. I would like to thank Jody District DCM and Jerry for asking me to be of service as the Sunday Morning Spiritual Speaker...it is always a special honor to be able to share my experience, strength and hope with my fellows. I also shared a bit of the history that I have learned from reading up on our literature. I have been reading up on the concepts and warrants in our service manual that we have discussed this weekend. If you need a copy they are on the literature table at the side of the room.

I would like to take the time now to make amends to a member who has asked me to get him a large print service manual...I had all the intentions of getting this done in time and I have not. A great opportunity for me to experience a humbling spiritual growth.

Literature

9:38 Open with serenity prayer
 Area Chair Report – Grant

Present at Meeting: Grant Area Chair
 Diane S. District 41 Literature Chair
 Trevor F. District 81 GSR
 Cecilia Z. District 11 GSR
 Jeri R. District 61 Area Advisor
 Cheryl P. District 91 Chair
 John J. District 61 Chair
 Mark H. District 93 Chair
 Mike R. District 81 DCM

*Discussed Concept 12 Warranty 2
 “money charity” pg. 65 AA Service Manual (Pink Can)
 Selling our books at cost or less.

Area voted in Spring 2019 to make the Pink Can the official duty of the Corrections Chair.

Literature Committee Proposal to GSO: Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion, of Concept 12 Warranty 2, which states the neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a money charity, via the practice of selling our books at cost or below.

The committee is in support of this decision.

We are not arguing the merits of the pink can fund, just suggestion a fellowship wide discussion begin on the discrepancy between the statement in Warranty 2 and actual actions taken by AA as a whole, via their established policy and procedures. With this being the responsibility of the Corrections Chair to the pink can fund, we are saying one thing and doing another.

It is the recommendation the following proposal be forwarded to the Trustees Literature Committee.

The Area 40 Literature Committee recommends that the following proposal be forwarded by the Area 40 Delegate to the General Service Coordinator, with the request that it be placed on the 2020 General Service Conference Agenda.

Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion Concept 12 and Warranty 2 in the AA service Manual page 65, which states that neither the groups nor the AA as a whole should function as a “money charity” via the practice of selling of the big book at cost or less.

Four Approve

One Opposed – minority opinion given

Review from Spring Assembly, policy change on publication on literature and the recommendation of the literature Issue I, is the fellowship willing to trust GSO to make changes without each change going through the conference process.

Committee Recommendation: Unanimous approval to send back with our approval.

2. Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, (A. A. Service Manual, p. 65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a “money charity” via the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less.”

Discussion:

- Pink Can has been in existence for a long time: can the Pink Can just be taken outside of AA without trying to rationalize it with our literature/concepts?
- Pink Can is a grassroots service providing literature to those who still suffer in institutions and can’t afford it and not a “money charity.”
 - People can’t get literature due to logistics, etc so it is helpful.
 - Also makes it harder for professionals in these institutions to obtain literature, etc.
- Should we amend Bill’s writing/the 12 concepts to include/exclude?
- Pink Can is outside the purview of General Service Office.
- Appreciate that this motion is being brought up for discussion. Pink Can provides a great service for AA. Money could be earmarked via a “can” for a variety of purposes and should consider these ramifications.

- Traditions allow for us to be autonomous as an Area to interpret the concepts as they apply.
- Money is earmarked and we are so flush with money specifically for Corrections that grows and never goes anywhere, especially when it could be spent or sent elsewhere. Are we at risk of “perilous wealth?”
- There are more alternatives like sending books home with inmates, or replacing those within institutions
- The statement/language in the warranty is really broad and should we make a sweeping change for something as specific as the Pink Can. The recommendation is all too broad to be an actionable item at the conference.
- It’s a difficult proposal to write: 1. This is not a proposal to end the pink. 2. This is about AA functionality. Our policies and procedures have protocols for Corrections “handles” Pink Can funds. 3. We’re trying to reconcile how we’re saying one thing and doing something contrary.

Vote # 1: 20 in favor, 50 against

Minority opinion: All that this proposal is asking for is a conversation and it’s important to see how AA as a whole feels about this. Are we doing the best thing by AA?

3. Review Literature Activity in Area 40. Did not have time.

Literature-GSC

1. Review 69th General Service Conference Report. Reviewed. Paul asked that we reconsider conference report Spring 2019 agenda item I.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions Shawn N.

1. Review Assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment Chair.

Area 40 Report

Grapevine Chair

Hello Area 40. My name is Shawn Nelson and I am an alcoholic!

I hope everyone’s summer, and it pains me to say this, was good now that it’s almost over. My summer was filled with building my side business and my household chores. Being a new homeowner is the happiest, most fulfilling and biggest pain in the touthski I have ever experienced. DAMN I LOVE SOBRIETY!

The last few months have been uneventful. I have been receiving updates from GSO regarding new publishing’s and other news. Nothing significant has crossed my path. All the News that crossed my path is available at the Grapevine website. Aagrapevine.org. There is also some info on the Grapevine display table.

I am attending the CPC workshop in Helena on the 20th. Hopefully I can answer some questions asked by a few inquiring professionals. Due to a prior engagement I can’t make it to the fall Round Up in Missoula. I am hoping to get out more in the coming months.

I am completely open to new ideas, suggestions or input regarding how to pass the GV or LV on to the still suffering alcoholic. Feel free to call, email or text me at any time.

Again, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your Area 40 Grapevine chair!!!!

In Service
Shawn Nelson

Area Assembly

Meeting of the Grapevine/Policy and Admissions Committee

September 14, 2019 at 9:30 am

Attendees:

Area Grapevine Chair: Shawn Nelson

Voting Members: Lisa C (D72 DCM), Gretchen G (D51 Grapevine Chair), Connie O (D11 Hotline Chair)

Visitors: James (D41 Grapevine Chair), Fran (PI Chair, Canyon Group, D40), Dan L (D91)

Grapevine

1. Reviewed Assembly Report of the Area 40 Grapevine Chair.
 - a. In addition to delivering his report, the Chair encouraged everyone to collect old issues of the GV/LV in their home groups and districts to distribute them (with permission) at hospitals, counseling centers, etc. in their communities.
 - b. Shawn also encouraged us to learn a little about the role GV has played in AA's history. For example, Shawn has heard a story that AA first came to Montana after someone in Eastern Montana boarded a bus and found an abandoned copy of the Grapevine on the seat.
 - c. Shawn collected email addresses from the committee members and visitors so that he can forward us quarterly updates from AA Grapevine, Inc. and the like.
2. Reviewed activity among the groups and districts of Area 40 as it relates to the Grapevine.
 - a. James is planning a Grapevine History workshop in his district on November 2. Shawn is invited and said he'll attend (even though it's hunting season). ☺
 - b. Lisa said that GV activities have been rather quiet in her district over the summer. She will check in with the chair when she returns home to see what projects the Chair is working on and what he needs help with.
 - c. Connie has been gathering old issues and distributing them in her community. She suggested that in every group that has a Grapevine Chair, the Chair should get opportunities to read each issue and chair a meeting on it.
 - d. Gretchen has also been distributing old copies of the GV throughout her community. She reminded everyone about the GV "Quote of the Day" daily emails, which are great for forwarding to people for a little GV inspiration.
3. Reviewed 69th General Service Conference Report. We reviewed the committee considerations. No actions were taken by the committee.

Policy and Admissions

4. Reviewed 69th General Service Conference Report. We reviewed the section of the 69th GSC Report on the activities of the Policy and Admissions committee.

Committee adjourned at 10:45 am.

West Central Regional Trustee Sharing – Thomas Ardolf

9:00-10:00

GSR Breakout (Ask-It-Basket & Sharing) Led by: Thomas A., Past Delegate Missouri Rm

- What is the GSRs role in business meeting and how do you participate?
 - Need a more streamlined way to guide new GSRs as the tool
 - GSR workshops as to how to perform
 - Started a “buddy system” to learn formats
 - Service sponsors
 - Bring alternates to assemblies, etc.
 - GSR kits and handbooks to be passed on
- Why should we become an alternate GSR?
 - To learn how to be a GSR/run business meeting
 - Use the pamphlet “The AA Group”
 - Accountability
 - Develop confidence
- What is your role as GSR?
 - Business meeting
 - Report to district and area meetings
 - Information conduit both ways
 - Run group discussions to be able to vote group conscience
- Disruptive behavior by old timers
 - Gave another guy 3 choice and he could not come
 - Call police-sexual harrassment
 - 2 page safety paper available somewhere
 - Website for articles on aa.org
 - Elder Statesman: addressing person identifying behaviors telling them not to come back for 3 months
 - Verbal threats-incident described after gun threat
 - Protective orders/restraining
 - Encourage all men to take responsibility for keeping women safe
 - Start another group
 - Problems are not limited to men, sometimes it’s women too.

DCM Breakout (Ask-It-Basket & Sharing) Led by: Terry S. -- Russell Rm

SUNDAY SESSION

2019 Kalispell Spring Roundup Report: Cheryl P. on behalf of Sheila J.

2019 Spring Round Up Fall Assembly Report

The Kalispell Roundup turned out to be a smashing success! At 3:00 p.m. Friday afternoon we had 267 registered attendees, we ended up with a total of 428 Sunday morning! I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to pre-register, if possible. It makes planning much easier and, if we had a history of more accurate numbers, we would be able to have a lower fee in order to cover our expenses. The biggest challenge of the weekend was rearranging some workshop rooms due to the increased attendance. The Red Lion staff was very helpful and accommodating. The Speakers were fantastic and all of the workshops were well attended and received very positive comments. The 2019 Spring Roundup was financially very successful. After asking for advice on how to distribute the proceeds with our Area Delegate, Past Roundup Chair and Trustee and GSO, we held a Group Conscience with the committee and came up, unanimously, with a distribution. 1) Return seed money to Al-Anon and pass on seed money to Fall 2019 Missoula Roundup. 2) Maintain \$2500 in our checkbook for our next Roundup. 3) Al-Anon - \$650. 4) Alateen - \$500. 5) District 91 - \$1500. 6) Area 40 - \$2000. 7) Next 3 upcoming Roundup's, including Missoula, \$500 each. Any remaining balance (appx. \$200-\$300) will be sent to GSO.

The entire Roundup Committee was amazing and we really worked well together as a team. An event like this takes a lot of hard work, dedication and patience and this group was exceptional in all those areas, many, many thanks to the team! Thank You also to all of you that attended the Roundup. From beginning to end, chairing the Roundup was an amazing experience, encouraging both emotional and spiritual growth, promoting friendships and allowed me to meet so many wonderful AA/AL-Anon partners. My hope is that everyone that attended went home with at least one new item to add to their recovery toolbox! Thanks again to everyone that contributed to the great success of the 2019 Kalispell Spring Roundup.

In Service,

Sheila J.

2019 Fall Missoula Roundup Andrew W:

"Our Pick Struck Gold" October 11-13: workshops, meetings, great speakers. Located in the heart of downtown Missoula.

2020 Spring Bozeman Roundup Lisa C-D:

The Roundup next spring will be in Bozeman May 15-17. Most activities and the largest room block will be at the Grantree Hotel, with some overflow rooms and conference space available nearby. Mail-in registrations are currently being accepted, and forms are available on the flyer table. Speakers will include Nick G from Bozeman, Don C from Colorado Springs, and Judy B from Fort Collins on the AA side, and Katy O from Bozeman and Rick J from Toronto on the AlAnon side. We have some amazing plans for decorations unfolding. I could describe them, but I think I'll let them be a surprise instead.

Suffice it to say that the Bozeman roundup is in the good hands of a very active and creative committee, and it's going to be a great event.

May 15-17, 2020: Most events will be at the Grandtree in Bozeman, some overflow will occur at the adjoining hotel. Great mix of local and international speakers for both AA and Alanon.

Amazing decorations plans: an active and creative committee at hand.

2020 Fall Billings Roundup: Don M.

Theme: "One Alcoholic to Another": Save the date flyers are on the back table
October 2-4, 2020 at the Bighorn Resort

2021 Spring Butte Roundup: Dan H.

14-15 May, 2021 Fairmont Hot Springs

Flathead Valley Intergroup: Cheryl P.

What we do!

- Serves 15 plus groups and meetings in Northwest Montana
- Offers 10 plus Service Position Opportunities
- Provides your printed Meeting Schedules
- Hosts Annual Campout and New Year's Alcahthon
- Has hosted Valentines, St Patty's, Halloween, and Thanksgiving Events
- Participates and contributes to District Functions and Events
- Provides the local AA Hotline Phone Number (406) 991-7052
- Provides a local Website www.aanwmt.org

Website (aanwmt.org) Provides!

- a) Meeting schedule
- b) Events Calendar with printable flyers
- c) Contact emails for all District and Intergroup Service Positions

Accomplished in a year

- 12 Business Meetings and 12 Birthday Meetings
Most are held at the United Methodist Church in Columbia Falls
- Received 60.000 Visits to the Website
- *The web site Announces and informs the fellowship on:*
 - 20 plus Social Events for the whole family
 - 7 Plus Service Meetings including Into Action, Fall Refresher, Jail Orientation, etc.
 - Keeps District informed of area social events

Events like

Valentines Dinner and Dance

AA Dog Lake Campout

Sober Ski Camp
St Patty's Day Dinner
Spring Fling Barbeque
EZ Duz it Golf
Big Fork by the Bay Campout
Tally Lake Campout
Stanton Lake Hike
Big Creek Campout
91
On Top of The World 4th Of July
Intergroup
New Hope Picnic

32 Campout
Float Your Boat Float in the Park
Emery Bay Campout
Woman's Spring Breather
Great Northern Hike
Halloween with Intergroup
Thanksgiving Dinner
Christmas Alcathon hosted by District

New Year's Alcathon hosted by
Flathead Valley Men's Retreat

West Central Regional Service Forum: Lisa C-D:

Regional Forum Report

My name is Lisa, I'm an alcoholic. I'm the DCM from District 72, and my home group is There Is a Solution in Bozeman.

Last month, I had the opportunity to attend my first Regional Forum. When the opportunity was presented to me, the first thing I did was try to make my alternate DCM go instead. I asked Steven to pinch hit for me, because the forum was scheduled for the same weekend I was supposed to move. But he already had plans to visit Banff that weekend with his girlfriend. He decided not to trade Banff for Grand Forks, ND, or the company of his girlfriend for a bunch of alcoholics. So off I went to my first Regional Forum.

When I arrived on Friday afternoon, I headed to the ballroom where most of the weekend's activities were slated to occur. One of the sights that greeted me was a table containing copies of the Big Book in 71 languages. It's one thing to know that the BB is available in that many languages. It's quite another to see all the copies of that beautiful and lifesaving book laid out in front of you, to touch the Braille copy, to think of all the hands that will be able to hold it in their native language. This is possible because of the efforts of those who serve "down the triangle," some of whom I would get to meet during the days that followed. Like the big AA dork that I am, I took pictures of the display table on my phone and sent them off to my friends and family. The weekend was off to a powerful and memorable start.

Thanks to the organizational efforts of our Regional Trustee Tom and our Delegate Paul, I had the opportunity to share meals with Michele Grinberg, a Class A non-alcoholic Trustee and the current Chair of the AA Board of Trustees, and Christine Carpenter, another non-alcoholic Trustee and one of the two that will be visiting Montana in a few weeks. During the forum, I developed a much greater appreciation for the trustees. Year after year, they make tremendous investments of time and effort in order to help AA reach literally anyone, literally anywhere who is reaching out for help and to ensure that AA stays strong for generations to come. It's a beautiful and inspiring thing that so many who have experienced the miracle of recovery firsthand are willing to serve in that capacity, but it truly blows my mind that

there are gifted and accomplished non-alcoholics who are willing to make that same investment! We are not saints, but I'm pretty sure that they are.

I'd like to share one thought that recurred throughout my time at the Regional Forum, which is how having service positions in AA, at any and every level, can help us survive and stay sober when life becomes harder than we ever thought it could be. This train of thought was sparked when one of the trustees talked about how she started her position soon after her son died while serving in Iraq. She spoke movingly about how service tethered her to AA at a time when she most desperately needed it. Her message really hit home for me. At this time last year, I unwittingly became a DCM just a few weeks before first one teenage daughter and then the other became seriously ill with chronic conditions that have taken us all over the country this year to get them the care they need. To be honest, many of my usually good AA habits have fallen by the wayside during the last 12 months. But the one thing that I've continued to show up for is for my obligations as DCM. I'd like to attribute that to spiritual fitness, but in truth, I've shown up because (a) people will notice if I don't, and (b) I can't make the alt DCM Steven do everything, no matter how sorely I am sometimes tempted to try.

During the past twelve months, when the grief and chaos caused by my daughters' suffering has caused me to drift away from AA, being a DCM has anchored me. Weekends like the Forum are where I have found connection to my higher power and my fellows, which has eluded me most everywhere else. Weekends like the forum and this one are respites, where I get to reflect on what I can do, what I can learn, who I can emulate in order to serve my District to the very best of my ability. That is something I can control, and when my thoughts and actions are moving in that direction, despair recedes and I feel inspired. Knowing that I can reliably find that feeling in service, even when everything else feels impossible, is a profound gift.

Because I attended the Forum, my family rescheduled our move for one week later. It all went just fine, because eight members of our AA family and their kids showed up to help. The DCM who served District 72 before me told me that attending the Forum would be a highlight of my term, and he wasn't kidding. I'm so glad that I got to go, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share about the experience with all of you this morning.

2021 West Central Regional Forum: Andrew W.:

September 10-12, 2021 in Missoula which is a great opportunity because Montana only gets to host this event every 16 years.

West Central Regional Service Conference Report-Terri T.

Take the Leap and join us in Billings February 28, 29 and March 1st for the 2020 West Central AA Regional Service Conference. 2020: A Clear Vision for You is the General Service Conference theme. We will be hosting the event at the Billings Sports Plex with lots of opportunity for Area 40 members to volunteer and be involved in service. Our committee has been active for the last 12 months and we are seeking other Districts that would like to step forward and participate by chairing an early bird meeting

or hosting a hotel hospitality suite. Online registration is now open and mail in registration is available as well. We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

ZOOYPAA: Jesse P.

I am the General Service Liaison for ZOOYPAA. I'd like to thank Area 40 for giving me the opportunity to give a report on behalf of ZOOYPAA, which is Missoula Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. ZOOYPAA is not a standard AA group; we are a service committee, similar to a round-up committee. We plan fun AA events in the AA in Missoula and help with District 81 events and other general service at the district level. We also bid for a large young people's conference called WACYPA (Western Area Conference of Young People in AA) each year. We will bid for the conference until we get the conference! This conference covers a huge region: the western half of the US including Alaska and Hawaii, western Canada and Mexico. We bid at the conference in Edmonton, Alberta two years ago, and in Boise, Idaho last year. This year the conference is in LA, so we will be renting the biggest van we can find and road-tripping to LA for New Years (hopefully with some newcomers in tow).

We meet the first Sunday of every month at the St Paul Lutheran Church in Missoula in the library. The membership of our committee is open to all who suffer from alcoholism, regardless of age. Most, if not, all of our current members are also active members of their respective homegroups and participate in general service at the group level and some at the district level.

ZOOYPAA takes an AA meeting to Recovery Center Missoula the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are running the marathon meetings for the Fall Round-up in Missoula (so if you're there, come say hi!)

As for events, we had a Lip Sync Battle / Open Mic in March, a YPAA trivia event in May, a kickball tournament in May, and our 3rd annual Day in the Park event in July, all of which had some type of AA meeting attached. All were well attended, successful events. Coming up this fall, we are working with District 81 Special Events to do a traditions workshop in October. Around Christmas time we will have an Ugly Sweater Christmas party and gift exchange, and hopefully we'll be putting the finishing touches on our bid packet to take to LA. I think I speak for most of our committee when I say that the idea of being awarded a huge YPAA conference is kind of terrifying, but we would love to have the chance to carry the message to more and more alcoholics here in Montana and the surrounding states, especially those in rural areas, and especially those who may be thinking to themselves that they are too young to be an alcoholic. We recognize that not all AA members will find our events necessary to their recovery from alcoholism, we seek only to provide it for those who find it desirable.

The great fact is just this, and nothing less: That we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God's universe. I'm honored to be carrying this message with my fellow committee members and the rest of you.

In love and service,
Jessi P.

Missoula Young people in Montana. Not a standard AA group, we are a service committee that plans fun young people's events, bid for conferences, and coordinate with district 81.

Conference covers the Western half of US. This year's conference will be in LA.

Meet once a month. Everyone is welcome. Most members are also

Friends of Montana Trustee Tour

7 appearances, over 1000 miles, 78 committee members, 5153 emails, 2 Class A Trustees and One grand adventure. On September 19, 2019 Area 40 will embark on a new journey in an effort to Cooperate with our Professionals and reach the still suffering Alcoholic. Christine Carpenter and Nancy McCarthy our Class A Trustee's will travel across Montana to speak with our Professional Communities. We will have stops in Billings, Helena, Browning, Kalispell, Missoula, Butte and Bozeman. Thank you all so much for the financial support of this endeavor and the many countless hours of service work that has brought this project into fruition.

Past Delegate Sharing: Terry S.

I'm Terry, and I am an alcoholic. I'll be an alcoholic for the rest of my life, but Alcoholics Anonymous has shown how to live the rest of my life one day at a time. I crashed and burned on July 24, 1995. I could see no way out of the mess that my life had become.

You see, I operated, when I was drinking, an emotional engine, although actually I only thought I operated the engine. When the engine was idling, purring in the background, life was good. I wasn't too crazy, and I saw the real world, and sometimes I could sit on my hands and breath slowly, and then move back into my life, which was getting worse and worse, but when my emotional engine was idling, I could think A Maybe something will change.@ I didn't understand that doing the same things leads to the same results. That was as good as it got.

When my emotional engine shut down, everything started to fade to black. I was back in the darkness, where it always got worse, never got better, and was never going to change. That darkness always led me to alcohol. Treating depression with a depressant inevitably led to more depression, but after lots of drinks it felt better because I felt very little.

But there were still those times when my emotional engine revved and it was pedal to the metal. This time, I would take up my weapons, do battle, and wrest some satisfaction from a hostile world. When my emotional engine roared, all bets were off, and where it went was always uncertain. I did my heaviest drinking when the emotional engine was running hot, and my drinking fueled the insanity until I passed out, blacked out or ran out of money.

Before I came to AA, after I signed into the psych center, my emotional engine was inoperative. I was on spin dry, with good medication. Every 4 hours a staff member came to me for my autograph on a paper stating that I would not harm myself or any others before tattling on myself about what I was thinking/feeling.

By the time I finished in the psych unit, and then completed a 3-week course on alcoholism and the 12 Steps at the Substance Abuse unit at the VA hospital in Laramie, Wyoming, the fog was beginning to clear. If I wasn't going to drink and wasn't going to die, what was I going to do?

I took one suggestion out of many suggestions proffered by the professionals in both the psych unit and the treatment unit. A Go to AA, @ I was told, and I came to AA.

I went to multiple meetings every day. I was homeless, helpless and clueless. But now I could hear what you saying in those meetings. I could see how your lives were progressing. I wanted what you had. I wanted to be a part of that group, my home group. My transformation snuck up on me.

I started taking some of your suggestions. Slowly. And the darkness didn't last as long and the world wasn't as dangerous as it had seemed before, and a drink no longer was absolutely necessary. I didn't get so wound up that drinking was an excellent idea, the very thing to hit the spot!

I started doing service work for my group B opener, coffee maker, cup washer. I heard someone talking yesterday about what a great job cup washer was. My hands were busy, I could listen to folks talking about your lives and about sobriety and I did not have to talk. Perfect!

I moved to Helena in March 1996, to take a job I was offered. My new employer knew I was an alcoholic just newly sober, but hired me anyhow. I got to use my education in Helena, something I never thought would happen again. And I stayed sober, and I became a part of Helena AA, and I got a sponsor, and took the Steps for the first time. I began to sponsor other guys. I began to feel alive, and awake, and began to understand that I was given the gift of live, instead of being stuck with living. It was a spiritual awakening of the educational variety, and it still goes on. My life is sane, sober and full of joy.

This Assembly has been a remarkable Assembly. We've had some confusion, and some drama, and, as is often the case in AA, there have been moments when it seem things were coming apart. But that has not happened. Instead, I have watched you, the voting members, working diligently to sustain and support AA instead of quarreling with each other. It is a gift for me to be here and watch it happen. Patience. Tolerance. Respect. Love.

Once upon a time, I had the honor of serving as your delegate to the General Service Conference. That particular Conference was marked by outright hostility between two factions who disagreed to the Nth degree with each other about the future of Grapevine and changes in the service structure (necessary according to one of the two sides). The battled raged through much of the conference. People stormed out of the Conference, to return even more enraged than before. People left the Conference in tears, and returned determined to stymie the plans of the angry participants. It was awful, and it felt as if our Fellowship might destroy itself.

The worst thing of all, to me, was that both sides were convinced they were in the right, and that, for the good of AA, they had to win. I could see my own old behavior shining through.

One of the tasks for that Conference was to elect a couple of Regional Trustees, one of which was our West Central Regional Trustee. Not every delegate votes during a Regional Trustee election B the delegates from that particular region vote, and an equal number of Trustees vote. The rest of the Conference observes the election.

Each of the 8 areas in our region had elected their candidates before the conference. Area 40 had elected Andrew W. as our candidate. In light of the difficulties and conflicts rife during the conference, it was abundantly clear that our guy was the right candidate. The conference had a glut of participating members who were ready to don their armor a fight to the bitter end for their cause (whichever side they

were on). In effect, we had two factions willing to die for their cause, and we quite a large number of participants in the Conference who wanted to find a resolution that both sides could accept, and thereby protect the unity of our Fellowship.

Andrew was and is a soft-spoken, reasonable member of AA. I had watched Andrew serve in positions in his District, in positions in Area 40 and in positions on the committees responsible for various special events. He was the perfect candidate to come aboard (no pun intended) our corporate boards and work to repair the bridges damaged by members and service entries going to the extreme to Awin. @ Andrew was selected to be West Central Regional Trustee. He was not at the General Service Conference, but before the Conference ended, participants were obtaining contact information to touch bases. In my opinion, he did a great job for Alcoholics Anonymous in helping to extinguish the fires of controversy. The wounds healed, the combatants reconciled (or rotated out). A.A. survived another dramatic challenge and surrendered hostile tactics in favor of unity.

Patience. Tolerance. Respect. Love. I am learning that sobriety and serenity are nurtured by patience, tolerance, respect and love. I owe my life to AA, where I have been able to see and to participate in upholding the truth that we are all in this world and this life together. Bill W. was quoted by Alcoholic No. 3 as saying, AThe Lord has been so wonderful to me, curing me of this terrible disease, that I just want to keep talking about it and telling people. @ 4th Edition, p. 191. Thank you for my life.

Delegate's Report: Paul L. Fall Assembly 2019 Delegates Report

What I saw, what I heard and how I felt.....

The 69th General Service Conference officially started on Sunday May 19 and ran through Saturday May 25.

SINCE THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE Two weeks after the Conference I was off to Great Falls and then Helena to begin giving my "Official Conference Report." Overall I have given reports in Districts 11&12, 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 72, 91 and 93. That would be: Columbus, Glasgow, Forsyth, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Butte, Bozeman, Kalispell and at Lake Como in the Bitterroot. They have been fairly well attended and pretty low-key, free-flowing reports describing my experience at the General Service Conference, some of the work that we accomplished and what my feel for the "vibe" about the way things were going at the Conference, among the Delegates and Trustees and at the General Service Office. I talked about the things I wanted to hear when I was sitting out in the audience listening to the report.

So....to start out with: **What I saw, what I heard and how I felt.....**

There was an informal meeting of the Committee on Remote Communities on Saturday evening. There were about 70 people in attendance from various Areas around Canada and the US. There was also an informal meet and greet on Saturday afternoon, I missed most of that. I spent most of Saturday tromping around mid town Manhattan. I went to the Museum of Modern Art, Central Park and the Zoo. I round up covering about 7 miles while walking around. A couple of times the idea passed my mind that I shouldn't

be out doing this but should be in my hotel room studying. I had been reading the 70 something Agenda Items, reviewing the 800+ pages of background material and consulting with other Past Delegates since mid-February. If I wasn't ready by now I would never be. What I needed now was some self care. I had been told to expect days that were long and arduous, physically demanding in a way that I was not very experienced with. I was to sit down, listen and pay attention and speak up when necessary. The days started at 9am and at 8:30 a couple of times. They lasted until 9 or 9:30 in the evening with coffee and meal breaks. The accommodations were nice, and suited our needs. All meeting rooms were situated closely together and accessible by elevator, escalator or a short walk. Audio and visual equipment worked well as did the electronic voting.

Initially we sat at some round tables while we were told how the Conference week would roll out. We listened to some speakers share about A.A. service and then we heard from the new Delegates, the ones from Panel 69. Half of the 93 Delegates attended their first General Service Conference last year and they are referred to as Panel 68 Delegates. The other half of the Delegates were attending their first General Service Conference this year and they are referred to as Panel 69 Delegates. I am a Panel 69 Delegate. The first General Service Conference was held 69 years ago in 1950 and they have been keeping track of us since then. There are 8 Regions in North America, 6 in the US and 2 in Canada. Each Region with the Panel 69 Delegates got up on the stage with the Trustee from that Region. The new Delegates shared for 2 minutes about their region; where they were located, what they were doing for service work and how their service structure was arranged. I had always thought that other Areas were like us in structure. That is not the case. Fortunately I have learned enough about "playing well with others" not to point out the error of their ways and tell them they are doing things all wrong. Two minutes is not a lot of time to share all of that information some of them got the bell rung.

With 46 new delegates sharing for two minutes each, getting on and off the stage and the introductions by the Regional Trustees we spent a couple of hours doing this part of our Conference. In between all of this sharing we broke for lunch and met with the members of our Region so we could get to know each other better. Late on Sunday afternoon we finally started meeting with our Conference Committees along with the Trustee that Chairs that committee on the General Service Board. This is the first time I had met the other Delegates assigned to the Conference Committee that I was assigned to which is the Trustees Committee. The West Central Trustee, Tom A. Is the General Service Board Trustee assigned to that committee so I found that helpful. The committee had met on a conference call in early January where we talked about some of the possible Agenda Items that the committee would be talking about and deciding about. It was good to finally meet them. The Committee Chair was Lucien from Southwest Quebec. He speaks English fairly well as a second language but there was also an interpreter there to help him out with the pronunciation of some of the words and to help us out when he was unable to find the English word he needed. The co-chair was Jon from Tennessee and they did not provide an interpreter for him. He was a little difficult to understand as well when he started to talk fast. The other two members from last years committee were Robin from Maine, definitely a New Englander and Shannon from Idaho, she was a Montana girl from Great Falls and graduated from Flathead High School. She lives in Boise but just hadn't gotten around to moving back to Montana yet. The other four new Delegate committee members were from Colorado, Connecticut, Southern Wisconsin and Southern California.

Monday and Tuesday mornings we met as a committee to decide on our Agenda Items. It was fairly informal yet with structure. We went around the table and shared about each item on the agenda as they came up. If there was any discussion we generally kept things pretty orderly, didn't talk over each other too much and kept the side bar conversations to a minimum. I wasn't too sure if this was in deference to Lucien and the interpreter or if that was just the way things worked at the service conference. The consensus of the committee members from last year was that it had been a pretty difficult meeting last year because of the Agenda Item re: Censuring the General Service Board or totally disbanding it. This year was much better.

From the **75** Agenda Items less than half made it out of a Committee as an **ADVISORY ACTION** (Recommendation). Sometimes Recommendations came out of a Committee but were not passed by the Conference. The way things rolled out was much like we do at our Area Assembly and at the West Central Regional Service Conference. I was comfortable with the format and felt fairly well prepared. Those Agenda Items that did not come out of a Conference Committee as an **ADVISORY ACTION** (Recommendation) were sometimes addressed as a **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**. These items were either sent back to a Trustees Committee for more work, usually with specific recommendations that the Conference Committee had questions about. On the Conference floor, when an item was relegated to a Committee Consideration we were not allowed to endorse or debate it, we were only allowed to ask questions of the Committee. Some of the Agenda Items were looked at by a Committee and **were not** sent on to Conference nor sent back to a Trustees Committee. The Conference Committee chose to take **NO ACTION** on the item. The Conference was not able to debate it and a Trustees Committee may or may not look at the item again.

Sprinkled throughout each day were Board Reports, Financial reports, a Workshop filled with Big and Bold ideas, some Floor Actions and a trip on the subway to take a tour of the General Service Office. That was way cool.

West Central Regional Forum Presentation

Communicating up and down the A.A. Service Triangle

A Call to Action I was asked for an idea for a workshop or presentation for the recent West Central Regional Forum in North Dakota. I came up with this idea for "Communicating Up and Down our Service Triangle", I thought it would be a really great topic for a Workshop. The organizers for the Forum thought this would be a really great topic for a presentation, for me to give. After some balking I finally started to do the work and researching this topic. I figured this couldn't be the first time someone came up with this idea. As I researched prior conference reports, the conference inventory, the service manual and talked to others, I began to see a common thread about communication within the A.A. service structure.

I read about the great effectiveness that members of Alcoholics Anonymous have in talking to a new member. We all know about communicating face to face with the still suffering alcoholic when we are doing twelfth step calls. We can share our experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic and tell them what it was like, what happened

and how it is now. We have learned how to honestly communicate with our sponsor. This communication though, is not what I wanted to talk about.

When we are in our group business meetings we are learning to become

communicators. We are able to discuss a topic, continue to discuss it, discuss it some more and then finally vote on it. After the vote we asked for a minority opinion to give one last chance to discuss it some more. If the minority opinion was persuasive enough we then have the opportunity to reconsider our vote, to correct our potential mistake. It is in this way we we learned about developing a group conscience. The group conscience is usually our first experience in making decisions together guided by a loving god, a spiritual entity.

But again, that is not what I wanted to talk about.

The General Service Office has a website to serve the Fellowship as a resource for the A.A. member, to aid those seeking help from A.A., for professionals working with alcoholics, to help the media when they have questions, and to help the public at large. The website provides accurate and consistent information about A.A. There is a staff member that serves as a liaison who monitors the information about A.A.'s website from comments by visitors and continually updates and improves the website.

There is a new movement going on to expand the role of technology as we reach out to young people and professionals, two audiences on whom the broader use of technology to carry the message would have the greatest impact. There are also different strategies going on to improve search engine optimization for reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic.

But that was not what I wanted to talk about either.

What I did want to talk about is "What can we do to improve communication up and down the service triangle? Communication among ourselves."

I wish there was a "magic wand" that I could wave over all of you that would fix this problem. But I know, we know, that would not work. It wouldn't have worked for my recovery and there are no magic wands to fix this. What is needed is action. There was a recent study done that reported on the Internal and External Communication in A.A. One of their conclusions was "the overarching determination that information is not traveling up or down the Conference Structure effectively or efficiently."

We may wonder why this is, because in the A.A. Service Manual, we are told about the GSR on page

S26 that “...communication is a two- way street” and we are further told about the DCM on page S32 that, “The DCM’s job is primarily that of two-way communication.” When the Service manual talks about the Delegate, we are told they are to “communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information.”

But the recent study determined that for all the information about **what** to do, we are not told **how** to do it.

We are reminded in the words of the 2014 General Service Conference Inventory “regarding the flow of information throughout the fellowship, from the Board of Trustees to the Delegate, from the Delegate to the Area, from the Area to Districts and Groups and then back, there is concern that key information is sometimes missing.

Communication is one of the key elements of the Conference process and is one of the facets upon which trust is built. In general, improved communication between Trustees and Conference Chairs would be beneficial to keep the Fellowship current of Board meeting topics and discussions.”

To that end we have seen mechanisms put in place for improving communication between the Trustees and the Conference Committee Chairs by using Pre-Agenda phone calls. We are still learning how to do this well, but it provides an important conduit for information to flow between the Board, Conference Committee Chairs and the Conference Committees. As it becomes more established it will hopefully become the “new norm” with input to the Board, in developing Conference Agendas from further up the service triangle.

We are further reminded in the 2014 General Service Conference Inventory that “the flow of information from Regional Trustees helps to provide a bridge between the Board and the Fellowship. When these channels are not well utilized or become clogged, misunderstanding can grow, the perception of “us versus them” takes root and we lose spiritual focus and effectiveness.” I have seen this improvement happen with the detailed report to the Delegates in the West Central Region made by the West Central Regional Trustee **right** after Board meetings (unless the Muskies are biting, in which case the report comes out a little later.) Yet another tool used to improve the communication between service levels. One of the important parts of receiving this report is for the Delegate to then pass on this information to the members of the Area Committee.

This then has become some of the “how to improve communication” between levels of the service triangle.

Another mechanism we have to pass on information between the different levels in the service triangle are for the Delegates Reports about; What they saw, What they heard and How they felt about the Conference. These reports can be given to Area Committees and Chairs, to District Committees and at Area Assemblies. This report can be given as a formal presentation with a Power Point, at a talk before a

business meeting, at a Campout or to an informal sit down discussion with a small group of service minded individuals. And of course, in A.A. you can always improve attendance by throwing a potluck dinner.

I remember early on in recovery asking my sponsor about how someone else was doing. He would then ask if I had contacted them? I would say no, that was why I was asking him. He said why don't you call them? I said that was hard. He replied, "harder then picking up the phone and asking them how things were going?" I got it. If you are wondering, If I am wondering, how someone is..... or if they need help with something..... or if they received something then it is up to me to take the action to pick up the phone, write an email or send a text and ask the question. To initiate the dialog and the communication. The next part is equally Important, the feedback. Yes I got it, thanks. Or. I don't understand this part that you are asking.

The action necessary is like the inventory that we first took with our sponsors and the early amends that we made. Initially not easy, but as we saw the results, we become more comfortable at doing it. The calls between Trustees and Conference Committee Chairs and Committee members, the sharing of Conference results through Delegate reports and Regional Trustees sharing about Board meetings will all become familiar to us and we will wonder how we ever did without them.

Thank
You

Cooperation with Professional Community-Terri T.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair
2. Review activities of Districts and groups as it pertains to Cooperating with the Professional Community.

Cooperation with the Professional Community-GSC

1. Review the 69th General Service Report

Trustees-GSC

1. Review the 69th General Service Report

Corrections/International Conventions Regional Forums Jeremiah S.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair.
Corrections Facilities Committee is currently working on creating and implementing an Area 40 Statewide database of Corrections Facilities and contacts. We project to have this available for review and implementation by Spring Assembly 2020. We currently collectively carry the message into over 25 facilities across Montana. We are looking to increase volunteer participation in both Montana State Prisons.

Since Spring Assembly I have traveled to Heart to Heart Traditions Retreat, Cooney Campout, Fireman's Point, Beartooth Mountain Conference and various meetings. I have carried the message to YCDF, Alternatives and Sober Living Houses.

The International Convention is in Detroit Michigan July 2-5 2020. Registration is now open and I recommend registering early for hotel accommodations. Montana will host the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Billings February 28,29 and March 1st. We will also host the West Central Regional Forum 10-12, 2021 in Missoula. Register online or by mail.

I will be attending the National Corrections Conference in Huston, TX November 1, 2019. I will prepare a report upon my return to share upon my return for the spring Assembly.

Yours in service

2. Report on Pink Can income and disbursements.

Area 40 Pink Can Report Fall 2019

Inventory Corrections Chair

SB- 30	Spanish Big Book	36	\$8.01	\$288.36
B-30	Big Book (soft cover)	60	\$8.01	\$480.60
B-15	12 X 12 (regular)		\$7.26	
B-17	12 X 12 (pocket size)	20	\$6.11	\$122.20
B-13	Inmate to Inmate		\$2.35	\$
B-12	Daily Reflections		\$9.64	\$
B-18	As Bill Sees It		\$8.08	\$
			Total Inventory	\$891.16
			Pink Can Balance September 12, 2019	\$5542.60
			Total	\$6433.76
Total Amount Spent during last rotation	\$13,620.52	Breakdown	Total Book purchases	\$13,116.40
			Grapevine Subscriptions	\$57.94
			Freight	\$446.18

3. Review activities as it relates to Corrections in groups and districts of Area 40

Corrections-GSC

1. Review the 69th General Service Conference Report

International Conventions/Regional Forums-GSC

1. Review the 69th General Service Conference Report

Finance Ashley J.

Finance – Area 40

This has been an exciting first year of my rotation and I finally feel like I am getting a hang of things. I think Julie, our past treasurer, is excited finally able to relax now that I am not bombarding her with phone calls. I am so grateful to everyone who has been there to answer my questions. It has been a busy second half of the year with the Spring Assembly costs, which are finally settled.

Thank you all, as always, for being patient with me!

Before I begin I want to remind everyone that we look at finances in a couple different ways, such as net income and operating balance. I know there was some confusion on this last assembly as I just flung many terms at you all and I wanted to clarify these before I begin overloading and confusing you with numbers as well. If you have any questions about these please come talk to me!

The net income is the income minus expenses for a specific period of time. The operating balance is the amount we have in the bank and this amount does not include the prudent reserve. The operating balance and prudent reserve together make up our checkbook balance, the actual amount that we have in the bank!

As of August 31st the checkbook balance was \$18,726.03. The prudent reserve is \$12,990, which is calculated as four months of our 2019 budget. Therefore, our operating balance is \$5,736.03. Currently our net income is \$1,554.33 as our income exceed expenses this quarter. Last spring our total assembly costs were \$7,682.45.

Therefore we can expect a reduction in the operating balance by approximately this amount over the next month as the assembly expenses come in, excluding income which has been an average of \$3,344.68 per month so far this year. Essentially there is less doom and gloom this 2nd third of the year and more has been revealed. The increase in group contributions have brought us out of the red, and continued contributions are essential if we are to cover this year's expenses. Currently while our net income is \$1,554.33, our current YTD expenses exceed our YTD budget by \$4,065.07. If our income continues at the average of \$3,344.68 then our projected income will be \$40,136.10 which is \$1,116.10 above our budget for this year. Please thank you for groups for their contributions, these contributions are vital to supporting the work at Area 40.

Lastly just a reminder could Area officers and chairs please get your expenses to me as soon as possible and no more than 90 days past event per Area 40 policy and procedures. Please do not forget to include all receipts, as we cannot reimburse any expense without a receipt. Expense reports are available online or I have copies on hand.

Thank you to my committee for your hard work and number crunching on the budget. And thank you all for me letting me be of service!

Approve Area 40 Budget

There are multiple items that have been changed to reflect budgeting needs for 2020. Going down the budget the changes are as follows:

- The Regional Service Conference budget was reduced to \$1500. This is due to the service conference being held in Montana this coming year and therefore there will be an estimated reduction of \$700 in the cost of travel for the Delegate and Chair to attend.
- The Regional Forum budget was reduced to \$0 since it will not be held this coming year as it is only held every odd year.

- The regional Trustee budget was reduced to \$0 as the Trustee attends our Fall conferences on non-election assemblies. As we will be holding elections next fall we will not have the trustee attend.
- The Other Expenses in NYC under Delegate expenses was reduced to \$400 since in 2020 the GSC will not be held in the city and this amount reflects past budgeted expense for other expenses in NYC.
- Delegate Travel Expenses have been increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 to reflect the actual delegate travel expense. This year we are currently already at \$2,096 for delegate travel and expect additional costs for the remainder of the year. Therefore \$2,500 more accurately represents the delegate's travel expense.
- The Area Hotline expense has been increased to \$4,200. The current year to date expense for the Area Hotline is \$2,809, therefore the approximant average monthly expense is \$351, which means we can expect a total expense of \$4,213 for the year. Therefore, this amount more accurately reflects our expense for the Area Hotline.
- The Triangle budget has been increased to \$3,500 to reflect and increase in costs for the Triangle, primarily postage.
- Under Committee Chair Travel two line items have been included. The National Chair workshops line item reflects the \$1,500 we use to send committee chairs to attend national workshops. This is an added budgeted item and increases the total committee chair travel to \$3500.
- With these changes the total budget for 2020 is \$41,320

The finance committee recommends that the area assembly approve the proposed budget of 2020 at \$41,320 as written unless there are any floor actions or committee recommendations to amend at this time.

1. We reviewed the Finance Committee policy and procedures and believe there is opportunity for improvement.
2. The Finance committee feels that there should be further discussion between the Treasurer and PI chair regarding Policy and Procedures G8.9 which reads as "Area 40 will implement a toll free number, utilizing the services of a reliable answering service. The Area 40 PI chair will forward the itemized bill received from the answering service to the Area 40 treasurer for payment up to the amount of \$250.00 a month. In the event the monthly itemized total amount is over \$250.00 the Area 40 PI chair will bill each district on a prorated basis. The Area 40 Public Information Chair will make reports regarding utilization and expense at each Area Assembly" and the finance committee feels that following discussion the treasurer and PI chair should bring back a report to Spring Assembly 2020.

Area 40 Budget	2019	\$ Change	2020
Spring Assembly	\$6,300	+ \$1,200	\$7,500
Fall Assembly	\$6,300	+ \$1,200	\$7,500
Regional Service Conference	\$2,300	- \$800	\$1,500
Regional Forum	\$2,300	- \$2,300	\$0
Regional Trustee	\$800	- \$800	\$0
Delegate Expenses			

Area 40 Share to GSC	\$1,800		\$1,800
Other Expenses	\$400		\$400
Other Expense NYC	\$750	- \$350	\$400
Roundups	\$325		\$325
Travel Expenses	\$1,600	+ \$900	\$2,500
Total Delegate Expenses	\$4,875	+ \$550	\$5,425
Area Chair Expenses	\$600		\$600
Archivist Account			
Archivist Display, Supplies, & Travel	\$150		\$150
Archives Storage & Utilities	\$3,900		\$3,900
Total Archivist Account	\$4,050		\$4,050
Literature			
General Literature Purchases	\$150		\$150
Total Literature	\$150		\$150
Public Information			
Area Hotline Expenses	\$3,400	+ \$800	\$4,200
Directory Listings	\$2,400		\$2,400
Total Public Information	\$5,800	+ \$800	\$6,600
Website	\$200		\$200
Triangle	\$2,500	+ \$1,000	\$3,500
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	\$300		\$300
Committee Chair Travel	\$2,000		\$2,000
CPC Class A Assignment			
National Chair Workshops		+ \$1,500	\$1,500
Total Committee Chair Travel		+ \$1,500	\$3,500
Computer Hardware/Software	\$150		\$150
Ad Hoc Committee	\$325		\$325
Annual Filing Fee	\$20		\$20
Total	\$38,970	+ \$2,350	\$41,320

Appendix I: Motions voted this assembly

Public Information:

Motion: The Ad Hoc committee recommends switching the AA Hotline Answering Service from AnswerNet to TruLive.

Motion: The webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and corrections institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program and put it to a vote of the assembly. Motion passed.

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy:

Motion: That the Area Assembly is to be held at a suitable venue (as determined by the Area Chair) in Great Falls, Montana until such time as an Area motion changes or modifies this. Motion passed.

Motion: That a new section be added to Area Advisor job description. Reading, "will serve as Venue Liaison. In that position they be provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites of the last two Area Assemblies of their rotation, as well as the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation." Motion passed

Treatment/Bridging the Gap:

Motion: To place a bid to host the National BTG weekend, either September 9-11, 2022, or the following year in September 2023, it will include the Area 40 BTG and Alternate BTG chairs to work with the National BTG weekend steering committee. The cost to Area 40 not to exceed \$500. Motion passed.

Literature:

Motion: Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, (A. A. Service Manual, p. 65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a "money charity" via the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less. Motion failed.

Appendix II: Results of 2019 Spring Venue Survey

Structure & Policy - Area 40

Item 1. Area Assembly Evaluation Report

These are the results of the Area 40 Assembly Evaluation conducted for the April 5-6, 2019 Spring Assembly at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls, Montana. There were 116 evaluations completed.

1) Main Meeting Room:

I could move around easily: 93% Yes 5% No 2% Abstained

I could hear all those speaking: 83% Yes 17% No

The seating was adequate for my district: 83% Yes 13% No 4% Abstained

The microphones worked well: 62% Yes 40% No (2% answered both Yes and No)

2) Committee Meeting Rooms Were:

Easily accessible and marked: 88% Yes 26% No (14% answered both Yes and No)

There were enough chairs and a table for attendees: 72% Yes 26% No 2% Abstained

It was easy to hear and participate: 68% Yes 5% No 27% Abstained

3) ADA Requirements Met Your Needs: 22% Yes 0% No 78% Left blank as had no ADA needs

4) Facility: (If you stayed at the facility)

Were you able to get a room? 79% Yes 0% No 21% Left blank as had not stayed at the hotel

Was it fairly priced? 73% Yes 8% No 19% Blank

Was your room clean? 79% Yes 2% No 19% Blank

Was your guest room adequate? 69% Yes 4% No 27% Blank

Were the staff helpful? 72% Yes 5% No 23% Blank

If you ate at the restaurant please add any comments:

37% of respondents had positive feedback about the restaurant. Feedback included everything from "Oatmeal was awesome" and "I like fries" to "Arlee and Olivia were great waitresses" and "The service was great and the food delicious."

3% of respondents commented negatively on the restaurant. Feedback included "a little slow", "needs some actual choices for vegetarians", and "poor ventilation."

60% did not comment

Additional Comments:

We need more flavored creamers

The breakout room was not big enough

The bathroom drain kept clogging

The toilet didn't work

This is a great facility

The expense is well worth it

Let's stay in Great Falls

One front desk guy was fairly surly

Everything was smoothly run

I liked the added times for meals

This is better than Lewistown

I miss meeting in Lewistown

An excellent and very informative Assembly

My back hurts from the bed

There was flooding in front of the bathroom

District 61 had more people than space at the table, but I don't think it's possible to get us a larger table

The microphones were terrible, too low, had to hold them, and there were fans running behind us

The Committee room was locked, had to run around to get opened. It was dead-bolted, not set up at all. AC set at 60 degrees, noisy fans. Padded chairs for Area please, the others were.

The speakers hummed and buzzed a lot. This was annoying and distracting. The lighting wasn't great. The fluorescent lights bothered my eyes a little.

Our tables were a little too close together. Could we look at changing the configuration of the tables so people face the speaker more of the time (avoiding neck aches)

Great job! Everything was very well done!

Connie was fantastic in keeping everyone on "the rails"! Loved Carole and Libbie's workshop style! If Bill and Bob had seats upfront at the tables/microphones, what would they have shared - After 80 years - amazed with smiles, all the mix, women, natives, young, old - and it's still working - how would they continue to "reach out the hand to the still suffering alcoholic?" Would they be amazed/grateful for our new media and how to use it - how to sort out "paper" with media - restraint of pen and tongue - anonymity? "Caution versus cowboy" No silos! *Glad you asked for more comments! ha ha :)

Great job you all. Wonderful format in is AA relevant

I do have a hearing problem and could only hear 95% of the time

I attended my first GSR breakout, I felt no purpose of why I needed to attend again! But/however, I think there needs an (intro) before we have an ask it (Q) so GSR's know what Q's they should ask! Sorry.

Example: Responsibilities, action GSR's take in their groups. etc! etc!

Everything was just fine except a cold fan blew on our table from a vent.

The meeting room is outdated. Cooling only worked on one side of the room and it was loud

The door to our room was painted and stuck. We had to force the door open.

The front desk acted as if we were not important. As if we were just a guaranteed paycheck. They were apathetic. The night staff was better than the afternoon staff.

Need a real mic stand. Connie had mic difficulty. The rooms were not set up adequately for the committee. We could negotiate a better block rate. There was hair on the bed cover.

the ladies room handicapped stall has a door that doesn't lock. This is horrible.

The air conditioning was so cold we had to move to other areas of the room.

The committee room was not marked coming off the elevator so had to guess where to go to find the room. The room didn't have enough chairs. Benches weren't sufficient for the amount of time in the meeting.

Please ask Area committee chairs to have as much information as possible on anything that requires a vote.

The hotel is too expensive

Would love to see more workshops done like the workshop on Saturday

We will make sure not to get room 110 next time because the Casino was loud music and noisy after 12 am

I think we need to look at the GSC Agenda differently; why discuss every item? Why not pair it down and give us more time to work on local issues? I miss having snacks at the table!

Thank you for the longer dinner break! We were short seats from what was requested. How about a "Pre-Assembly" type meeting for a couple of hours Friday afternoon to go over "key" agenda items.

Background - chosen items by Delegate and Area Chair? This could help with informed consent on the items, encourage more discussion. Just an idea...

Signage for the committee rooms could have been better, a map of the conference area at check-in would have been nice

Front desk wouldn't allow late check out because I don't have "elite" status in their frequent stay program. I think if we bring a conference to the hotel and the conference ends after their standard checkout time, they should allow some late checkouts.

The workshop was excellent but the breakout was a waste of my time!

Please add a section regarding the conference itself. I've heard suggestions regarding the agenda! Nothing critical. Meeting moved along very well.

The End

Respectfully Submitted,

Kacie N.

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy