

Area 40 Fall 2022 Assembly Minutes

*Holiday Inn – Great Falls, Montana
Virtual Participation available via Zoom*

September 9-11, 2022

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Friday, September 9, 2022

Assembly Attendees Welcome Session

Connie R, Area 40 Delegate

DCMs and Area 40 Standing Committee Chair Meeting

Kacie N, Area 40 Chair

Saturday, September 10, 2022

The Assembly was opened with the Serenity Prayer at 8:00 am by Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate Kacie N. The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts were read.

Orientation to the Assembly

Good morning everyone. I am Connie and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege and honor of serving Area 40 as Panel 71 Delegate to the General Service Conference. What a thrill to be standing here, looking out at all of you here in person and The virtual attendees. Many of you have been on this journey with me and have definitely been a part of creating the life I get to enjoy today. My heart overflows with gratitude.

Will everyone who is attending their first Area Assembly, please stand. Those who are attending virtually please raise your hand if this is your first time? Welcome!

First timers please keep standing and keep your hand raised. Would all those who have never attended a live Area Assembly please stand. First timers look around, you will notice that you are not the only ones here for your first LIVE assembly. I'm doing this to help you see that you are not alone in this process. Just like attending our first AA meeting, everyone here had their first time attending Area. Don't be afraid to ask questions

General Service work is part of the Recovery triangle that affords us the opportunity to "have a fellowship grow up about you." I encourage you to find someone who has attended an Area Assembly before, and ask them to be your Area buddy. I was able to sit by someone who knew what was going on at my first Assembly and it helped to ease my fears when they gladly answered many of my questions. It helps to remember that we are all here to help each other help the still suffering alcoholic. Please have a seat and lower your hands.

Will all DCMs please stand? Thank you for your willingness to take your service work to another level and for the example that you all set in your respective districts that General Service work is not a do-it-once-and-you're-done deal. After our secretary, Lisa, does roll call, we will ask DCMs to complete the sign in sheet for their districts. Those voting members that are attending virtually should let Alex M know that they are a voting member. GSRs and District DCMs are the only voting members of the district. Alternate GSRs will only have a vote if their GSR is not present and Alternate DCMs only if their DCM is not here. DCM's please identify

your District Reps who will be sitting in on the Area Standing Committee meeting. District Reps who are appointed to a committee have a vote in that committee meeting only but not out in the general assembly, unless they are also a GSR.

DCMs please give their signup sheets to Lisa by the first break today. The collected information helps to establish a quorum, which is two-thirds of the eligible voters counted from these sheets. With very few exceptions, everything we vote on here is decided by what we call “substantial unanimity”. What that means is that, as long as we have a quorum (two-thirds of the registered voters) any item we vote on must receive two thirds of the counted vote in order to pass. (Kacie will explain this more thoroughly as we take our votes)

This is an election assembly, Paul L, Area Advisor, will be conducting the elections. Before the 1st break, Paul will go thru the list of eligible individuals for Delegate to see who is willing to stand. This will offer you an opportunity to hear their service history. During the break and lunch, take the time to talk to those individuals. From the same list, our Area Chair, Treasurer and Secretary maybe selected. To help you make your decision, please take the time to visit with those individuals willing to stand. Paul will explain what the 3rd legacy voting procedure is when we return from lunch and begin the elections. The Delegate, Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Treasurer and Secretary will be voted on using the 3rd legacy voting procedure and the Area Standing Committee Chairs are elected by simple majority.

Our job this weekend is to conduct the business of Area 40 and elect the new Area 40 Officers and Standing Committee Chairs. Those who are willing to stand are making a commitment to Area 40 to be available to attend Area Assembly twice a year an, provide the support to districts and district committee chairs.

Kacie, our Area Chair/Alt Delegate will be facilitating the assembly according to a loose interpretation of Roberts Rule of Order, an interpretation that she will explain as she goes, and of which, she has the final say. In other words, when it comes time to decide if we’re done talking about something, “Kacie makes the call.”

Kacie has prepared this weekend’s agenda and has decided the order in which we will conduct our business. We will soon start to hear reports from our Area Officers, Area Chairs and DCMs. At 9:15 we will stop the reports and collect the names of those individuals willing to stand for Delegate. We will take a break and the Standing Committees will go to their respective breakout rooms. Anyone can attend the committee meetings, but remember, only the appointed DCMs and District Reps are eligible to vote in committee. If you prefer not to attend a committee meeting, Mark S, Panel 44 Past Area 40 Delegate will be doing a workshop titled “Right of Decision – Trusting our Trusted Servants” in this room while the committees are in session. After the committee breakouts and workshops conclude, we will break for lunch. After lunch we will begin elections.

When we begin business, we will address the Area 40 items. During the Standing Committee meetings an item may come to the floor to be voted on by the entire Assembly. The item will come to the floor in the form of a Recommendation, which is considered a made and seconded motion.

Kacie will facilitate discussion on all items. There will be 3 microphones; two here on the assembly floor and the 3rd for virtual comments. If you wish to speak please get in line behind the mike or virtually please raise your hand. Introduce yourself with your name, your district and your service position. You will have 3 minutes to express your opinion. Once your 3 minutes has been reached Lisa will let you know with the clang of the cow bell. (Ask Lisa to ring it.) If Kacie feels that the comments are becoming repetitive, she may stop the discussion. Votes taken on Area 40 items will require that we have a quorum of eligible voters. For an item to pass it must have a two thirds majority of the votes cast. As a voting member, please be here on time so that we can be sure to have a quorum.

At 8:30 tonight, GSRs can attend a breakout session here in the Mansfield Room and DCMs in the Russel Room. This is a good time for everyone to bring any questions, concerns or share solutions along with experience, strength and hope. There are baskets in the back of the room where you can put in questions for either session. Virtual attendees can submit your questions to Alex and he will get them to the Mark or myself. After the breakouts... Get ready for some fun.

One friendly piece of advice I have for everyone attending.....be an active participant. Take part in the discussions, PLEASE ask questions if you are unsure of something, you may not be the only one with that question. Every action that you take to be a part of our Area 40 Assembly ensures AA, as a whole, will remain a viable service to the still suffering alcoholic. Your full participation in this side of the triangle will indeed offer you "an experience you must not miss."

Yours in Service

Connie R

Area 40 Delegate, Panel 71

Roll Call

Name	Service Position	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
Connie R	Area 40 Delegate	X	
Kacie N	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	X	
Jake L	Treasurer	X	
Lisa C	Secretary	X	
Brynn C	Archives Chair	X	
Don M	CPC Chair	X	
Ty K	Corrections Chair	X	
Jody T	Grapevine Chair	X	
Sabrina C	Hotline Chair	X	
Dan H	Literature Chair		
Jake H	Public Information (PI) Chair		
Grant O	Treatment Chair	X	
Laura H	Triangle Editor		

Paul L	Area Advisor	X	
Earl F	Archivist	X	
Jessica E	Bridging the Gap	X	
Alex M	Webmaster	X	
# of Voting Members of Area Committee Present: 14			
Lynne W	District 11 DCM	X	
Tony O	District 12 DCM	X	
	District 21 DCM		
	District 23 DCM		
Corrina H	District 31 Alt-DCM	X	
Ken S	District 41 DCM	X	
	District 42 DCM		
Gene A	District 51 DCM	X	
Jessica S	District 61 DCM	X	
Jim J	District 71 DCM	X	
Rick H	District 72 DCM	X	
Trevor F	District 81 DCM	X	
Sheila J	District 91 DCM	X	
Mark H	District 93 DCM	X	
		Voting	Non-Voting
	District 11	7	4
	District 12	1	0
	District 21	--	--
	District 23	--	--
	District 31	4	2
	District 41	8	3
	District 42	1	0
	District 51	2	0
	District 61	9	5
	District 71	2	1
	District 72	6	2
	District 81	6	0
	District 91	5	5
	District 93	8	0
	Online	12	0
# of DCM and GSR Voting Members Present: 82			
Total # of Voting Members Present: 96			
Quorum (2/3): 64			

Motions from the Spring 2022 Area 40 Assembly

The Literature Committee presented a Recommendation that the Area 40 delegate forward the following proposed agenda item to the conference coordinator to be placed on the agenda of the

seventy third General service conference: That no further changes to be made to any of Bill W's writings. 48 IN FAVOR/50 OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

The Finance Committee presented a Recommendation that Area 40 provide a hybrid option for the Fall 2022 assembly utilizing the current appointed tech volunteers, at the one-time expense of no more than \$3,500.00. By July 1st the current tech team will develop a job description, a proposed action plan, and an estimated budget line item using the experience that was developed from the Spring 2022 assembly. 86 IN FAVOR/9 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

After minority opinion was heard, a Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded. 22 IN FAVOR/62 OPPOSED. MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILED.

The Public Information Committee presented two Recommendations:

- A. That the Triangle newsletter be digital-only, eliminate printed copies, and require a minimum of four newsletter publications per year with additional publications to be the discretion of the Triangle Editor. 71 IN FAVOR/22 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

After minority opinion was heard, a Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded. 38 IN FAVOR/47 OPPOSED. MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILED.

- B. That Area 40 adopt the following job description for the Hotline Chair:

1. The Hotline Chair will prepare a written and oral report of Hotline Chair activities for the Area Assembly.
2. The Hotline Chair will keep the Area, Districts, Groups, and individual A.A. members informed about the Hotline and what function it serves to effectively reach the alcoholic who still suffers.
3. The Hotline Chairperson will maintain a contact list of all District Hotline Chairs, and those Chairs will be the points of contact for all Hotline-related matters for their Districts.
4. The Hotline Chairperson will distribute monthly or quarterly reports to the District Hotline Chairs. Those reports should inform the Districts how many calls their District received during that time period.
5. The Hotline Chairperson will maintain contact with the Answering Service and monitor the call history to ensure accuracy.
6. The Hotline Chairperson is responsible for monitoring all calls for the Area. If a call is missed in a particular District, the Hotline Chairperson is responsible for contacting that District Hotline Chair in a timely manner, with the contact information of the individual who tried to call. The District Hotline Chair is then responsible for having an A.A. member in that District return the call.

7. For the Hotline Chairperson's rotation duration and years of sobriety, the standard Area 40 Policies and Procedures would apply.

89 IN FAVOR/1 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED. Minority opinion was invited but not offered.

Motions from the Fall 2022 Area 40 Assembly

The Archives Committee presented three Recommendations:

1. MOTION: Update the Bridging the Gap (BTG) and Alternate BTG Chairperson job descriptions to reflect necessary qualifications and current practices.

The additions ought to include:

To section G17.1 of policies and procedures manual, add the verbiage:

- Written and oral communication skills.
- Organizational skills for leading committee meetings, coordinating workshops, and keeping good records that will be provided to district BTG chairs and the Area Archivist.
- Access to a computer with internet connectivity and the ability to readily monitor correspondence with volunteers and facilities.
- Knowledge of computer software and videotelephony software, such as word-processing programs and Zoom, and the ability to use email.

To Q17.1A:

- Since the Alt BTG Chair acquires familiarity with BTG Chair duties to implement them as needed in the event that the BTG Chair resigns or becomes unable to serve, a candidate for Alt BTG Chair should also meet the qualifications for the BTG Chair as described above/

MOTION PASSED.

2. MOTION: That Area 40 creates a 4-5 member technology/AV team led by two co-chair people. Full job description including rotation and voting status will be brought to the Spring 2023 Assembly for approval. Funding amounts will be decided with annual budget approval.

78 IN FAVOR/3 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED. After minority opinion was heard, no Motion

to Reconsider was made.

3. MOTION: That Area 40 discontinues the Area 40 Triangle and the Area 40 Triangle Editor position.

68 IN FAVOR/10 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED. After minority opinion was heard, a Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded. 13 IN FAVOR/62 OPPOSED. MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILED.

The Public Information Committee presented two Recommendations:

1. MOTION: Area 40 PI Committee recommends that Area 40 discontinue the use of all Northern Directory Publishing (MDP) phone directories.

82 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

2. MOTION: Area 40 PI Committee recommends that the Area 40 Chair create an Ad-Hoc Committee to determine if Area 40 should adopt more detailed guidelines for the Area 40 website and, if so, to recommend to the Area such guidelines no later than the 2024 Fall Assembly.

80 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The Treatment Committee presented one Recommendation:

MOTION: That Area 40 fund the Bridging the Gap Chairperson to attend the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend (BTGWW) held September 30th to October 2nd, 2022.

82 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The Finance Committee presented one Recommendation:

MOTION: To approve the Area 40 Budget for 2023.

78 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The Literature Committee presented one Recommendation:

MOTION: We reviewed the job description for the Area 40 Literature Chair and saw that it was necessary to change Item G7.4 We added the word current to it. It would now read: The

Literature Committee will have available one (1) copy of all current literature from the G.S.O. for viewing.

70 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The following floor motion was made and seconded by Susan, GSR, Bigfork By The Bay Group, District 91:

MOTION: Create a separate Area 40 Hotline standing committee and include it in the DCM and District Rep assignments for each rotation.

72 IN FAVOR/3 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED. After minority opinion was heard, a Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded. 39 IN FAVOR/22 OPPOSED/7 ABSTAINED. MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILED.

Financial Highlights

Jake L, Area 40 Treasurer, delivered a brief report on Area 40 finances. A copy is attached as Appendix A.

Area Chair Report

Good morning, Area 40! I'm Kacie, an alcoholic, and your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate.

As I struggle to wrap my head around the fact that this is already the final Assembly of this rotation, I hear a familiar voice saying, "You're not done yet, there's still four months left!" It's easy to feel like this is it. After this weekend, the job is done. By this afternoon someone else will be elected to this position and I'm off the hook. Time to kick back and relax. When really this is the perfect time to kick it up a notch.

I've been taught in AA to leave things better than I find them. Sometimes the challenge with that is that the way some things are found is already pretty dang great. For instance, I follow in well tread footsteps of a fantastic Area Chair. So, it will be a genuine challenge to find ways to leave this service position better than I found it, but that doesn't have to stop me from trying. Maybe we can all try this together? We can hold each other accountable and share ideas and suggestions on how to rotate on leaving our current position better than we found it. Saturday, November 12th, we'll be holding a Rotation Workshop and Service Transition Zoom meeting. We can check in with each other then to see how things are going.

In the Spring I shared that I had intentions of hosting a "How to Write an Agenda Item" workshop. Sometimes I have to say stuff out loud to you people so that I actually follow through. Happily, that worked, and in June two successful workshops were had. The monthly Concept Study that was started last Fall is also the result of sharing an intention out loud and I'm happy to report that it is still going strong. We may even finish by the end of this rotation. If you're interested in participating, let me know!

A few weeks ago, in a meeting after the meeting with some very new newcomers, I was reminded about what really matters. I was reminded why we do all of this...Assemblies, Concept Studies, Policy changes, reports, committees, agendas...every single thing is to make it easier for the me or the you who isn't here yet to get here. It's so AA is easier to find, so Professionals are better informed, so someone leaving treatment has a hand to grab onto to get here, so the incarcerated have literature available, and so much more. A single person can't make all that possible. It takes all of us doing our part, showing up, being willing, and doing our best. What we do here this weekend is not just to keep AA going, it's to make it better.

Serving as the Area Chair has been the most challenging service position I've ever held. I love service. I love what it's done for my life. I love what I've seen it do for others. But I'd be hiding the warts if I didn't say that I wanted to give up a few times over the last two years. My mettle was tested and I'm not sure I passed. I took things personally. I got frustrated and sometimes angry. I didn't walk through every situation with the grace I wished I would have. But thanks to patient listeners, experience sharers, humor, and stern compassion I did walk through it. And I learned...again...that I'm not doing this by myself. And I don't have to do it perfect. And that it's not about me. I'm just taking my turn at carrying a bit of the responsibility that comes with receiving the gift of sobriety in AA. This is the very least I can offer as repayment for what I've been given. It was my turn for this job and it's almost time to take a turn at something new. It's going to take a lot of turns to come close to paying off my debt to AA and to you.

While it has been challenging, being your Area Chair is also one of the most rewarding things I've experienced in sobriety. It's right up there with sponsorship and really great first step meetings. Thank you. Thank you for doing this work when I was still drinking and for paving the way for me to make it here. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for loving me through my flaws and mistakes. And thank you so very much for my beautiful sober life.

The End

DCM Reports

District 11 DCM Report

Hi ya'll. It has been an action packed summer over in District 11. We are months away from wrapping up this rotation, and it seems a shame because I, for one, finally know what I am doing and yet my successor has already been chosen. I'm not sure what will be next for myself, but I will continue to show up and do the next right thing. God is ultimately running things, and one thing I've learned while serving as your humble DCM is I do not get to control the results.

I'm excited to announce a scholarship program started in district 11 to help new & smaller groups send their GSR to Area Assembly. The GSRs have spoken, and many of them prefer to attend in person. Since our district has an excess above our prudent reserve, we followed the precedence of other districts and there are 3 dist 11 GSRs here tonight who might not have been able to afford it otherwise.

Campouts and potlucks abounded throughout the summer. Homegroups and sponsorship families put together campouts, as well as the official Intergroup Cooney Campout. Our Delegate came to District 11 for her report. We thought to throw a BBQ potluck this year, and over 30 people stayed to hear the report. A member of District 12 provided the BBQ. For the first time in recent history, District 11 did not provide the breakfast at 12's Fireman's Point report. That was an unfortunate miscommunication, I spent a couple weeks to get nowhere and finally had to call and say we couldn't do it. That was a hard call to make.

Some homegroups made a conscious effort to bring unity by putting on potlucks over the summer and planning large parties in the future. 644 is planning a birthday celebration next year, not officially a jamboree but the term fits, and has already begun planning. Westend has decided to have an annual event called Westend Weekend, and the first one will be the Big Book Comes Alive on Oct. 28-29.

Covid changed everything in our Corrections Committee. It has been a struggle getting meetings back into our correctional facilities. We elected a new chair over the summer, and meetings are now being brought into YCDF and the Women's Prison & half-way house. We are still trying to get enough volunteers for the men's half-way house. There are a number of issues that we are patiently trying to work through.

PI/CPC is one committee over district 11. It has been a hot potato. A couple years ago, we voted in a program without a clear plan on executing it. Unfortunately getting it off the ground has been rocky. Once our budget comes out in October, GSRs will ask their groups if the expense and effort is worth the cost. We will talk about traditions and concepts, which say special workers may do the work but only if it is really deemed necessary by the fellowship.

We had two group inventories over the summer, at Westend and 644 Group. As current DCM, I was looking forward to all the changes I thought I could help bring to my homegroup of Westend. Well, the group had different ideas. Although I chaired the ad hoc committee to follow up on the inventory, after a few meetings I resigned after realizing that my ego was way out of whack—I was trying to lead Westend where it didn't want to go. What I wanted wasn't what they wanted, and I had no idea how to help with what they wanted. So I resigned, and the ad hoc committee is doing very well without me.

I can fill you in on 644 Group. They are having a workshop to help openers and chairpeople. Also from the 644 Group, on November 19 there will be a Sponsorship Workshop. A couple friends from Great Falls will join our own district secretary for an afternoon talking about sponsorship. Questions from the audience are encouraged, & there will be food.

Overall, groups in District 11 are doing well and looking to strengthen the traditions among themselves. We have discussed printing costs, explored the idea of going digital, followed in the footsteps of other Montana districts and offered to scholarship eager GSRs and help them better serve their homegroups. We invited our Delegate both years of this rotation, and people were grateful for the opportunity to hear first hand what going to GSO was really like. There has even been reason to discuss the AA Safety Card, which helps group navigate some very difficult situations from dangerous behavior to answering the question, "Why shouldn't we have Narcan

on hand?"

I am looking forward to our own elections and filling out the rest of my rotation as DCM. I don't know what will be next for me in service work, all I know is I will do it willingly and to the best of my ability. Like I said, God is in charge of the results. That has been the theme of my rotation, I think. I have enjoyed serving as DCM. as long as my higher power leads me to serve I will show up. Our next DCM has already been chosen, next week we will start planning for GSR school, to be held in person in Billings sometime in January, 2023. What we are doing this weekend is ensuring the hand of AA always will be there, and I am very grateful to be of service as your DCM from District 11.

In loving service, Lynne W

District 12 DCM Report

District 12, having had some shake up over the past few months is working on getting on the track. The departure of our great DCM Julia and my stepping into the position has been exciting and a challenge. Our district is off cycle for elections and we all have a whole year of service commitments. This allows me to remain in my new current position as DCM.

In August we were fortunate to be able to host the Fireman's Point Campout in Columbus MT. The event was a fun filled weekend with events, speaker meetings and lots of fellowship. The World famous Spam cookoff was on Friday night with great participation as well as wonderful dishes to try. Prizes were awarded for the top three dishes. Saturday's speaker meeting was attended by many from the area as well as AA's from as far away as Kentucky. Present was over 800 years of sobriety. We were also able to have many newcomers in attendance, which makes the whole event worth while.

District 12 has shown great participation in bringing meetings to YBGR (yellowstone boys and girls ranch). We have also been able to supply large amounts of literature and pamphlets to the ranch, as well as providing monthly coins to those with notable sobriety. We are currently working on outfitting the ranch homes with multiple copies of the Big Book, and possible the Grape Vine.

In the future we look forward to many holiday events and into February for our annual Mid Winter Social in Joliet, Mt. This event will feature great food, fellowship, speakers of AA and Alanon, and a silent auction. We have continued a tradition of everyone in attendance signing a new Big Book and presenting it to the one with the least amount of sobriety. It is always great seeing the strength and hope passed to a new-comer.

District meetings are in person on the third Sunday of each month at 1130, at the Laurel Home Group facility in Laurel.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in service
Tony O
DCM District 12

District 31 DCM Report

Corrina H. gave a DCM Report for District 31. When these minutes were published, a written

version of the report was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

District 41 DCM Report

Ken S. gave a DCM report for District 41. When these minutes were published, a written version of the report was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

District 51 DCM Report

It has been an interesting rotation to say the least. We have seen the shut down for covid as well as the resulting need to go online to continue with Area business as well as District 51 business.

We have met in person with outdoor spacing, indoors, and online.

I had never heard the word Zoom, as related to online things before we were forced into using this form of communications for every conceivable AA need through the pandemic. We still meet several times weekly for AA meetings online and many groups have returned to full time meetings as they were before the pandemic shut many of us down. Now I feel confident in the use of online forums but at this time some of the meetings are dwindling online as meetings are returning to full time regular meetings, as were meetings before the pandemic changed everything.

District 51 has added a new meeting in Rudyard, Montana and has had more participation from some groups in our outlying areas. We still have a shortage of people who are involved enough to fill all positions available at the district level and it is my hope that the next rotation will be better equipped to get as many people as possible involved.

We are scheduling October to be our election meeting for the next rotation, and I would like to thank everyone at area and in my district for the support I have received through this Rotation. Last but not least Havre's Mini conference is scheduled for October 7th, 8th, and 9th. This year's theme is ITS IN THE BOOK.

Thanks to All

Gene A. DCM District 51

District 61 DCM Report

Jessica S. gave a DCM Report for District 61. When these minutes were published, a written version of the report was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

District 71 DCM Report

My name is Jim and I am a grateful alcoholic thank you for allowing me to say that and be of service it is good to be here and see old friends and make new ones. District 71 presently serves 19 groups from the communities of Anaconda ,Butte ,Deerlodge ,Dillon, Phillipsburg ,Sheridan Twin Bridges and Wise River we are alive and caring the message there are currently 72 weekly meetings in district 71. 47 in Butte 13 in Anaconda five in Deer Lodge three in Dillon 2 in Phillipsburg one in Sheridan one in twin Bridges and one in Wise River. I am very happy to report that we have some familiar faces filling open positions within our district I was going to say old but they might get mad Marcy D is our new alternate DCM, Craig R our new treatment chair, John W activities chair and Teryl R the new GSR for Anaconda Traditions. We are struggling to fill or keep positions filled at our district level there are currently two vacant

positions. Corrections and hotline chairs. Highlights since we last met include a service workshop/ice cream social organized by past DCM Laura H. Libby L and Kasey N came down from Kalispell and Ed M from Georgetown shared their experience strength and hope on the importance of service the event was well attended and uplifting. Thank you for your service. A big shout out to Kevin M. Our grapevine chair Kevin has done a lot of work and is in the process of making a traveling display of the grapevine for our district. A big thank you to Connie R. For coming down and presenting her Delegates report at our picnic. It had not rain in a month when Connie and Jerry showed up the sky opened up and rain came in biblical proportions. Connie carried on finish the report and we were able to sit down share a meal and fellowship. Thank you both for all you do for AA. John W put on our first District 71 cornhole tournament the food competition and fellowship were amazing in closing I would like to again thank you for allowing me to serve and thank you all for your service. As Bill W said may we all desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.

District 72 DCM Report

Hello Area 40

My name is Rick, and I am an alcoholic currently serving as DCM for District 72. District 72 covers Madison, Gallatin, and Park counties in southwestern Montana. We have approximately 90+ meetings a week, most of them in the Bozeman/Belgrade area. There is a mixture of live meetings, hybrid meetings, and some that are still online only.

Our last District meeting, we were able to have Earl F., the Area 40 archivist, come and facilitate our elections. We had a pretty good turnout both in person and on Zoom. We were able to fill quite a few of the positions with the help of a motion to extend the meeting by a half hour that passed!! Talk about willing to serve.

In the service area, our corrections volunteer list is growing, thanks to our corrections chair, however taking meetings in to the Detention Center has been hit or miss due to staffing issues. Lately, it seems to be getting better. Our treatment chair is consistently taking a meeting to the MCDC in Butte on the third Saturday of each month. He is also looking into another treatment center in Livingston and has been in contact with the treatment program manager at the Montana State Hospital.

Upcoming events in District 72 are the annual fall speaker event, hosted by the HOW group. This will be a hybrid event held at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman on October 8th. The speaker is Carrie B. from Bend, Oregon. There will be a workshop and a potluck with that event. Another speaker event to keep an eye out for is the Primary Purpose event, usually held the first or second weekend of February. Save the Date!! District 72 will be hosting the fall 2023 roundup at the Grantree Inn in Bozeman. Take one of my groovy homemade save the date flyers on the table.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for helping me grow in my sobriety. This rotation has been a difficult one for us all, especially for an old technology-resistant dude like me. My brother the IT guy always gives me the same diagnosis when I call him with computer issues. "Must be the

OI system,” he says, “Operator Interface.” I hope that I am getting a little better in all areas of my life thanks to AA and service.

Thank you for letting me serve,
Rick H.

District 81 DCM Report

Greetings Area 40,

It is an honor and privilege to represent District 81 as District Committee Member. District 81 is located in western Montana; we have meetings as far west as Trout Creek, north to Polson, east to Seeley Lake, and south to Missoula. Our district is now host to a wide variety of in-person, hybrid, and virtual meetings.

At the district level, we are continuously updating our printed schedules as well as the Area 40 website to reflect the sweeping changes still occurring in our district.

Our District 81 business meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 2-4pm. Our local clubhouse is able to provide an effective hybrid option, so members can attend in-person and online.

Throughout this rotation, we’ve had a dedicated group of about 10 General Service Representatives and another 5-10 district committee chairs that attend the district meeting each month.

Now I’ll transition and discuss events in our district. The Western Area Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (otherwise known as WACYPAA) took place in Missoula in June. This is an international conference that has not taken place in Montana for over twenty years, and I couldn’t be more appreciative of a small group of dedicated members that were somehow able to host this massive event.

Another local group, the YG Phoenix group, hosted their 2nd annual campout at Lubrecht Forest. The following weekend, our district hosted our Founder’s Day event. Thank you so much to Connie for giving your delegate’s report at BOTH of these events.

We are looking forward to hosting our Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Eve events in a few months. If you travel through our district during the holidays, please check the area 40 website and join us at our meetings and events. Although you’ll hear more about these events, our district will host the 2023 Spring Roundup. Thank you to Jessica R for stepping into the chair position and promptly putting together a committee. In this new era of hotel contracts, I want to thank her for not giving up and exploring new ways to make this event happen. Finally, even though its a ways out, our district will also host a regional forum in August of 2023. I want to thank Andrew W. for serving as host-committee chair and coordinating with the general service office.

Participating in meetings in hospitals and institutions has been challenging this rotation. Many of

these meetings have not been open, will close suddenly, or do not have the staff to facilitate visitors. Specifically, a jail in Missoula has effectively been closed since the pandemic began, and they are currently undergoing a state audit and changing tutietants. We are eager to return to all these facilities, but we are still waiting for circumstances to change.

I want to conclude by stating the level of amazement I feel every month when I show up to our district meeting. Imagine a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon on the western side of our state. People should be out hiking, floating, and fishing. I drive over to a little clubhouse and expect to be greeted by dreary conditions and an empty room. Instead, there is functional technology and a bunch of smiling faces willing to serve. Thank you to all the servants in district 81 that have kept the doors of AA open in our community and beyond.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent and serve this district.

Trevor F

District 91 DCM Report

Greetings from beautiful Northwest Montana, District 91! It looks like we've survived another summer here in the Flathead and Tobacco Valley and surrounding areas. Our spring started out very slow, cool, and wet and then rocketed into summer in July with hot and dry weather. We have enjoyed relatively smoke free skies this summer, until just the past few weeks. We are grateful for a moderate fire season, except for the Elmo wildland fire which burned over 20,000 acres. Our Elmo fellows assured us they were holding their own and staying sober, thankful for our firefighters and support folks that work so very hard.

Many of our Groups held annual campout's this summer. Founder's Day Campout at Tally Lake was well attended and when the speaker was unable to attend due to flight issues, our very own Area Chair, Kacie, stepped up and shared her story. She was inspiring and motivating and the evening was a great success. Swan Lake Campout dealt with some weather issues but there was a hearty crew that enjoyed a fun weekend. August hosted the very popular Emery Bay Campout, sponsored by Northwest Montana Intergroup. This was a wonderful 4-day event, highlighted with a Saturday night pig roast/potluck and speaker. It was a fantastic affair with incredible participation, great food, music, fun and games. A number of other District 91 groups held summer picnics and get-togethers. We are not a glum lot and take every opportunity to enjoy our summers!

Nearly all our groups saw increased attendance over the summer, welcoming our numerous seasonal residents and visitors, as well as supporting many newcomers. Carrying the message is, and always will be, our primary purpose. We continue to have a couple meetings with hybrid Zoom options, trying to fulfill our obligation to reach as many still suffering as possible. Flathead County jail meetings are back open and we've been fortunate to have volunteers to always have coverage.

Our monthly hybrid District meeting, last Sunday of the month, is well attended by an active group of trusted servants. We began our elections for next rotation in August, electing Grant O as our incoming DCM in 2023. We will continue to fill our chair positions over the next couple months.

Finally, we are very excited to be hosting the Fall Roundup in just 2 weeks. Sonya, and her team, have been hard at work crafting an exciting weekend of fun and fellowship. It was decided that

with the uncertainty of covid and travel to have speakers that all reside in Montana, hopefully eliminating any last-minute complications. So, you may just recognize a few of our speakers, it's a great opportunity to get to know your fellows a bit better! Connie will be presenting her Delegate report at the Roundup, 4:10 Friday afternoon. We hope to see you all in Kalispell September 23rd to 25th!

It's been a great summer, but many of us are looking forward to a few less tourists, getting a dinner reservation, full grocery shelves and finding a parking spot. Most of us take the busy summer in stride, practice the principles in ALL our affairs and do our best to enjoy this amazing gift God has given us up here in the Northwest!

Grateful to serve,

Sheila J.

District 91 DCM

District 93 DCM Report

Greetings from district 93. My name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic. It's a privilege to say that I'm the d.c.m. for such an amazing group of people.

Dist. 93 in the Bitterroot valley currently has 13 groups. There's 25 meetings a week with a variety of formats. We're hopeful that a few more will make their return. We have meetings at our county jail and our list of volunteers is growing.

In July the Darby group held its Norm's pic-nic. A nice group of people showed up for this event. The campground is starting to get developed so hopefully by next year it'll be able to accommodate large groups.

Last month we hosted our 48th. annual campout at Como lk. We had an awesome turnout of people. Thank you to all that showed up and helped make this such a great event. It's always amazing to see the generosity and willingness of people. Once again the auction was a huge success. On Sunday our lovely delegate Connie gave her delegates report. Thanks Connie for that. I know it helped spark interest for people to get into service.

With the holidays coming we will be looking again to host some events. We'll be posting flyers as more info. comes up.

Our elections are coming soon. The district is strong and I know people will stand up and do great things.

I'd like to close by standing in front of you all and thank the district I serve. Thanks for putting up with and supporting me. It's an honor to serve the district where this incredible journey started for me.

Thank you to area 40. You've showed me what true service is. I've learned what a group of people unified in a purpose can accomplish. Especially in such unique times as when this rotation started. My faith in the fellowship is stronger than ever. I hope everyone knows that's district 93 loves you.

In loving service, Mark H., D.C.M.

Districts 21, 23, and 42 - No DCM report given.

Workshop: Right of Decision – Trusting Our Trusted Servants

Conducted by Mark S., Panel 44 Delegate

Election Orientation and Delegate Nominations

Area Advisor Paul L. provided an orientation in preparation for the election of Area 40's officers and chairs during the next rotation.

AREA 40 ELECTION ORIENTATION FALL 2022

Howdy, I'm an alcoholic and my name is Paul. I am the current Area 40 Advisor. According to the 2022 Spring Revision of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures, on page 5; my duty today is to ***"conduct the election of Area 40 committee members."*** for the 2023-2024 service rotation. The Area 40 committee members that will be elected today are the Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and all of the rotating committee chairs.

In order to do this we need to look at how our Policies and Procedures for Area 40 tell us who is eligible to serve as a Delegate and as the Area Chair who also serves as the Alternate Delegate for Area 40. It also states the suggested recommendations for the Area Secretary and Treasurer. The Policy and Procedures further tells us the specific voting procedure that we will use for electing our Area Delegate, Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, the Secretary and the Treasurer. This procedure is the ***Third Legacy Procedure***.

After electing these four officers we will then elect our eight rotating committee chairs. These positions are voted on by a simple majority. I will ask eligible voters to raise their hands and the vote counters will count the hands raised and report the number to myself and the secretary. We will ask the candidates to step out of the room during voting.

The ***Area 40 Service Guidelines and Qualifications*** for Area 40 Trusted Servants are described on pages 8 and 9 in the P&P. In the pages following are the most current Job Description for each of these positions. Very good information to have when you are trying to decide if you are willing to stand for a position before you pray for guidance.

To get more information about the duties and responsibilities of the Delegate you can go to the A.A. Service Manual where all of Chapter 5 describes what a Delegate does, what their duties and responsibilities are and the qualifications personally they should have. On page 37 of the most recent Service Manual, the red one, there is an excerpt of an article by Bill W. On ***"Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need."*** Bill tells us "Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example." In effect we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us...."

The previous chapter in the Service Manual, chapter 4, talks about the Area Committee. It describes the qualifications and duties of members of the Area Committee; the Area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and the various committee chairs.

So, for being a pretty unstructured lot sometimes bordering on anarchy we do have some structure, guidelines, duties and suggested qualifications. It's not like we just pull names out of a hat, that comes later.

From the 12 & 12 about Tradition 1, on page 131 it talks about how:

On anvils of experience, the structure of our Society was hammered out.

That structure is what is described in the *Area 40 Policies and Procedures* and in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

With all of that being said, the first thing we need to do is review who is eligible to stand for Delegate of Area 40. The qualifications specific for the position of Area Delegate are:

- *A minimum of six years of sobriety (it doesn't say six years of recent or continuous sobriety, but I think we know what it means.)*
- *A candidate for delegate is required to have already served as an Area 40 Committee Member.*
- *Time available, not only for the week-long Conference meeting in April but for all the efforts needed before and after the Conference.*
- *The ability to make and take suggestions – and criticisms too.*
- *Experience in chairing a meeting.*

Someone who is serving or has served as a DCM, an Area Chair, Secretary or Treasurer, or as a committee chair would most likely meet these qualifications and be eligible to serve as Delegate or Alternate Delegate. Area 40 accepts the qualifications from another area.

The other thing is... You must be present to play (either live or on Zoom.)

We (meaning Mike and ???) have compiled a list of eligible candidates for Delegate that will be placed up on the screen. I will then call out the names to ask if you are willing to serve as a candidate for Delegate for Area 40. That individual would then say: “Why yes, I’d be delighted” or “No, not at this time” and their name will be crossed off the list.

One of the things I would like to pass on, that was pointed out to me, is that if you are considering standing for Area Chair, then you should also stand for Area Delegate. If selected as Area Chair you are also the Alternate Delegate and must be willing and able to step into that position if necessary.

After this list is made I will ask each of the candidates for Delegate to come to one of the microphones on the floor to give their Date of Sobriety and to state their service history. When this is completed we will continue on with our Assembly.

When we return after lunch and after you’ve had time to look up some of these things I’ve pointed out in *The A.A. Service Manual* & the *Area 40 Policy and Procedures* (which you can access through the aa-montana.org website) we will vote for the next Area 40 Delegate using the Third Legacy Procedure I mentioned earlier.

After the Delegate is elected we will review the list again (sound familiar?) to identify all of the willing candidates for the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. They will come to the microphone and give their Date of Sobriety and state their service history. We will then have a Third Legacy vote.

For the Secretary and the Treasurer we will ask for individuals who are willing to stand. The suggested length of sobriety for these positions are five years. They may be self-nominated or nominated by a friend. We will ask them to come to the microphone and ask for their Date of Sobriety and their service history. Each of these elections will be performed using the Third Legacy Procedure.

To start out with we need to identify who the voting members are.

Voting members of this Assembly are;

- Delegate
- Area Chair/Alternate Delegate
- Area Officers
- District Committee members
- General Service Representatives
- Standing Committee Chairs
- Triangle Editor
- Archivist
- Area Advisor
- Webmaster
- Bridging the Gap Chair
- Hotline Chair

Any person chosen to serve as an Alternate GSR or DCM may be a voting member if the primary GSR or DCM is not able to be present at the Area Assembly.

A quorum of voting members is established at each Area Assembly. A quorum shall be two-thirds of the registered voters. As long as the total votes on any ballot is at least a quorum, two-thirds of the actual votes constitutes substantial unanimity and more than one-half constitutes a simple majority.

This Third Legacy Procedure that I've been talking about is unique to A.A. It is a special type of electoral procedure used primarily for the election of delegates and for regional and at-large trustees at the conference level.

In Area 40 we use the Third Legacy Procedure to also elect the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

In practice, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw. You can read up on the procedure for voting on pages 110 and 111 in the latest Service Manual or in Chapter One in earlier Service Manuals.

For the Third Legacy Procedure and for the voters in the room we will use a written ballot. Zoom voters will follow a different procedure.

THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE:

Ballots and pencils will be distributed, you cast your vote and it will be collected by the vote collectors I've chosen that are scattered around the room. Those votes will be brought up to me and I will retrieve the ballots, calling out each recipient which will then be marked on the screen. I will pass the ballot off to the secretary who will verify that I have called out the correct name

and will mark it down on a list of her own. The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.

If someone receives two-thirds of the total vote, they are elected.

If no candidate receives two-thirds of the total vote on the first ballot then the whole process is repeated for ballot number 2. *(We may use different colored paper for the different ballots.)*

If no candidate receives two-thirds of the total vote on the 2nd ballot then we will go to a 3rd ballot. For this ballot we drop any candidate that has less than one-fifth of the total votes. We keep the top candidate and all of the other runner-ups. If there is a tie for a runner-up we keep both candidates. If someone receives two-thirds of the total vote, they are elected.

If someone receives two-thirds of the total vote, they are elected.

If no candidate receives two-thirds of the total vote on the 3rd ballot we go to a 4th ballot. For this ballot the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. If there is a tie for second place all tied second place candidates remain. If someone receives two-thirds of the total vote, they are elected.

If no one is elected on the 4th ballot I would then ask for a motion, and a second to conduct a fifth and final ballot. If this motion passes by a simple majority with a show of hands we will go on to a fifth and final ballot.

If this motion is **defeated**, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot; “going to the hat.”

This is where the Hat part comes in....

If the motion **passes** we go on to the fifth and final ballot with the same candidates as on the 4th ballot. If someone receives two-thirds of the total vote, they are elected. If no candidate has two-thirds of the vote we immediately “Go to the hat.”

After electing these four officers we will then elect our rotating committee chairs. These positions are voted on by a simple majority.

There are 8 standing committee chairs that will be elected at this Assembly. Some of the general qualifications for these positions are (a complete list can be found on p 9 in Area 40 Policies & Procedures); four years of continuous sobriety, interest in providing leadership in Area 40 service structure, sufficient time available to fulfill the responsibilities of the position and previous service experience as a DCM, GSR, District Officer or Committee Chair or in some other capacity as a member of a committee.

We will vote on them in reverse alphabetical order.

These committees and their alternate assignments are:

TREATMENT FACILITIES / AGENDA

PUBLIC INFORMATION / REPORT & CHARTER / WEBMASTER / HOTLINE

LITERATURE

HOTLINE or TRIANGLE EDITOR

GRAPEVINE / POLICY & ADMISSIONS (GSC)

CORRECTIONS / INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY / TRUSTEES

ARCHIVES / AREA 40 STRUCTURE & POLICY

I will ask who is willing to stand for each of these Area Committee Chair positions. You may self nominate or have a friend nominate you. You will then be asked to come to the microphone and give your date of sobriety and your service history. With a simple majority election I will ask eligible voters to raise their hands and the vote counters will count the hands raised and report the number to myself and the secretary. We will ask the candidates to step out of the room during voting. The winner will be the one with a simple majority of all votes cast, more than fifty percent.

With all of that out of the way.....

2023-2024 Elections (Panel 73)

Area Advisor Paul L. conducted the elections. A copy of the outline used to conduct the elections is attached as Appendix B.

Officers (elected by Third Legacy Procedure as outlined on pages 110-111 of the AA Service Manual)

- Delegate: Kacie N.
- Area Chair/Alternate Delegate: Lisa C.
- Secretary: Lynne W.
- Treasurer: Jake L.

Area 40 Service Chairs (elected by simple majority)

- Treatment: Hugh M.
- Literature: Jessica S.
- Grapevine: Martin N.
- Public Information: Rick H.
- Corrections: Mark H.
- CPC: Ty K.
- Archives: Don M.

The list of committee assignments for DCMs and District Representatives in the next rotation is attached as Appendix C.

Floor Assembly: Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

Archives Chair Report

Greetings Area 40! Thank you for the opportunity to serve and to the voting members of my committee: Jim J, Trevor F., Nels, Karen C. and Val, Darryl, Stephen, Julie, Judy and Gail for attending and providing excellent discussion. In the interest of time I will keep this report short and sweet: on Tuesday August 23 a preliminary meeting was held to begin discussion on agenda items. Since only a couple of members were present we just began to kick around ideas. Today we thoroughly discussed the materials available to us to make the most informed decisions to bring forward. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve our area throughout this rotation in

a way that has benefited me and my recovery greatly. I hope I was able to offer some benefit to this body as well.

*Sincerely,
Brynn C.*

Archives Committee Minutes

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

[reviewed]

B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist

[reviewed]

C. Review the Service Guidelines and Qualifications in the Area 40 Policy & Procedures manual for the Archives Chair and Area 40 Archivist. Consider any changes that need to be made.

Reviewed and no changes needed.

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

- *District 81 has housing for their archives at the 4th D Alano Club and they have an active and enthusiastic chair who is modernizing how some of their materials are stored.*
- *District 61 is working on getting digital media like cassette tapes to thumb drives, etc.*
- *Reminder the Area 40 Archives repository has room for district archival materials, no districts have taken Earl up on this at this time.*

Structure and Policy – Area 40

A. Review Spring 2022 Assembly Evaluation Report:

I thoroughly reviewed this report and the highlights included:

- 41 people filled out the survey
- Of those who participated in the survey: 65% did so in person and the other 35% were Virtual

The survey asked many specific questions related to the new form of assembly: 75% of those who attended in person traveled there with 1 or more people. Respondents who attended in person spent an average of \$350 to attend the assembly. Many reported concerns about aspects of the venue including room cleanliness and maintenance. Those who attended in person were grateful to have done so.

The only concerns of virtual respondents were not being able to see more of the room in the main session and some audio difficulties in breakout, although many were grateful to be able to attend this way and thought that it “went off without a hitch.”

B. Consider revising and updating the Area 40 Secretary job description under G11.5 of the Area 40 Policies and Procedures Manual

- a. After discussion our committee appreciated the thoroughness of the person who brought this forth. The committee considered if it is within their means to make necessary changes

without bringing something that does not suggest a structural change to the body at large. Take no action as this proposal is something procedural that can just be done between the Archivist and Secretary to reflect the current status quo of the position without consulting this body.

C. Consider revising and updating the Area 40 Bridging the Gap and Alternate Bridging the Gap job descriptions to reflect necessary qualifications and current practices

After careful consideration of the agenda proposal form and a desire to honor the current functionality of Bridging the Gap, the Archives committee recommends the following:

Motion: Update the Bridging the Gap (BTG) and Alternate BTG Chairperson job descriptions to reflect necessary qualifications and current practices.

The additions ought to include:

- To section G17.1 of policies and procedures manual, add the verbiage:
 - *Written and oral communication skills.*
 - *Organizational skills for leading committee meetings, coordinating workshops, and keeping good records that will be provided to district BTG chairs and the Area Archivist.*
 - *Access to a computer with internet connectivity and the ability to readily monitor correspondence with volunteers and facilities.*
 - *Knowledge of computer software and videotelephony software, such as word-processing programs and Zoom, and the ability to use email.*

To Q17.1A:

- *Since the Alt BTG Chair acquires familiarity with BTG Chair duties to implement them as needed in the event that the BTG Chair resigns or becomes unable to serve, a candidate for Alt BTG Chair should also meet the qualifications for the BTG Chair as described above.*

D. Consider creating a standalone Area 40 Hotline Chair position with its own committee

After considering ideas such as the structure and purpose of the committee, should this be a paid position, the effectiveness of the hotline, being able to staff and pay for the committee members, as well as the newness of the Hotline chair position, the Archives committee decided to take no action at this time.

E. Consider creating a formal Area 40 Technology Committee with two Committee Co-Chairs

After considering the following ideas: the need for the tech committee to serve a variety of needs in our area, yet conversely some of the complexities around storage, scheduling and attendance that might arise, the Archives committee decided to bring the following motion forward:

Motion: That Area 40 formally creates a Technology Committee composed of two Co-Chairs and adopts the proposed job description and \$2900 2023 budget.

F. Consider eliminating the Area 40 Triangle and the Area 40 Triangle Editor position

The committee considered that the Triangle is a valuable resource to rural groups, etc, especially done well, but that the area has done what it good to make this publication work for several years now and thus proposed:

Motion: That Area 40 discontinues the Area 40 Triangle and the Area 40 Triangle Editor position.

Archives – GSC

A. Review the results of A Archives committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference: We did not have access to this information at this time.

Archivist Report

Good day Area 40,

Two thousand twenty two has been a very interesting year, so far. I was invited to the Area 40 Spring Round-up in Helena and had a wonderful time in person with a lot of old friends, some new friends and a lot of fun and fellowship. It was great to be back among my people once again. A sudden infection and quick surgery kept me from fulfilling an obligation to come to the Founders Day Celebration, here in Gt. Falls with District 41. This was the first one I had miss since I have been Archivist. Hopefully, I will be able to attend next year, if District 41 would like for me to. I was invited to District 72 as a guest of the Archives committee and the Special Events committee to do a workshop about Group Histories and Archival Interviews. It was well attended with several GSR's and District Archive Committee members. I spoke about the interview process and did an abbreviated interview with Eleanor W., who was one of the early members of the "Sixth Chapter" group in Bozeman. She spoke of early members and talked of the fun times and meetings that were held in the little clubhouse out on Huffine Lane. The little clubhouse is no longer there and Huffine lane is no longer out. She shared the names of several of the early members who were involved in the start of AA in Bozeman. Some are still around and have been put on my list to contact for interviews. Eleanor has 38 years of sobriety. It was a fun afternoon and I think everyone left very enthusiastic about archives. Betty M. asked me to conduct the District Elections in District 72 last month. It was an honor to participate in this way and I believe that the trusted servants selected will be good leaders for the AA community of District 72. That is all the traveling that I have done as Area Archivist so far this year. I will be heading to the Round-up in Kalispell in two weekends with a display and to do a presentation.

Speaking of Group Histories, I would like for everyone to visit the Archives table in the back of the meeting room. There is a letters from the Archivist in the mid 80's regarding the possibility of having a history book about early AA in Montana. There is another letter from a Delegate in 1999 to the Area Archivist at that time. This is an endeavor that has been addressed every so often and I am going to touch on it again. We have around three and one-half months left in this rotation. I would like to ask for your assistance in creating group histories for your home groups. Go back to your groups, have coffee with a long-timer who has some knowledge about the early days of your group. Take a few notes or a recording and write out a short story of how your group got started. Share it with other homegroup members and see if there is anything they can add. I'm betting that you will develop a new appreciation for your group. Please make copies for your group members, your District Archives and forward a copy on to me. I will collect and share what I receive at the events I am asked to attend and with anyone who would like to have copies. I don't necessarily want to publish a book, but I would like to have as many histories to share with Area 40 as possible. Let's try to do this before you rotate.

I am happy to say that I have updated the Policy and Procedures document and the Past Actions Document, and don't have to make an amends in this report, although I just finished the past actions a few evenings ago. The repository is serving us very well. There is less construction in the neighborhood and the dust impact has decreased immensely. I have asked Jack, the sound technician with us this weekend, to take an archival tape and try to "clean it up" for us. I am hopeful this will improve the quality of the recording and will give us a resource for retrieving historical interviews that have been damaged or were of poor quality to begin with. This is not a frequent occurrence but it does happen from time to time.

The only document contribution that I have received this year was from Sharon S. I have not been through it completely yet, but a quick glance of the contents showed a lot of documents from the early nineties, some incorporation documents for Area 40, Inc., paperwork for our tax exempt status as well as a complete set of notes from the 2001 West Central Regional Service Conference that was held in Bozeman. Sharon has been a very active trusted servant and leader in Area 40. She served at the district level, was the Area Secretary, Triangle Editor, Area Chair, and a Panel 63 Delegate. She is a wealth of information and has made several contributions to the Archives. I am grateful for her support of the Archives.

This is a very exciting weekend in Area 40 with new servants being selected and new service opportunities. As we discuss rotation this weekend, if you have accumulated documents, electronic or hard copies, that will not be passed to the successors of your position, please don't just toss them. I would be happy to take any materials that are no longer needed or wanted as possible additions to the Archives. Thank you for your consideration.

I would be happy to travel to your Group or District to share some of the history of Area 40. Please contact me with any events or activities that your District has. I am very proud of our Archives collection and would like the opportunity to share it with the fellowship.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Earl F
Area 40 Archivist

Public Information/Report & Charter/Website & Hotline

Public Information Chair Report

I apologize for not being able to attend this fall assembly. Fortunately, the committee is in excellent hands with Gerry.

As we are all aware, alcoholism is a chronic, fatal disease. Last December it took the life of one of my sons, and the weekend of this Fall Assembly was the only time family members from around the country could all gather in Whitefish for a remembrance ceremony. As we all know from our own experiences, my son's life was full of troubles. At last he is at peace with his maker. The A.A. program has helped me immensely in putting things in perspective.

During a previous assembly, the PI Committee decided to produce small, simply worded flyers to put on bulletin boards in places like laundromats where still suffering alcoholics are likely to see them. We settled on the slogans, *If you think you have a problem with drinking, contact A.A. We can help* and *If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours.* We included the Area 40 website as the place to contact.

The flyers were mailed to every DCM in the Area and I've asked Gerry to put the leftover flyers on the "freebee" table in the back of the room. They are fairly expensive to print, so I'm asking anyone who wants to take some back to their groups or districts to please just take as many as you think will be needed.

Thank you everyone for allowing me to serve. The longer I manage to stay sober, the more I realize A.A. is a simple program. The equation is very easy to understand. Being of service equals sobriety.

Jake H

Public Information Committee Report

Called to order at 10:04 by jerry

Pi report and charter committee break out

Moment of silences

Jerry is sitting for jake H

Jakes report

Can't be here due to family issues. It took his son's life, so this was the only time his family could celebrate his life.

Pi committee decide to put a flyer on the bulletin board

If you think you have a problem with drinking, contact AA and

If you want to drink, that's your business; if you want to stop, that's ours

The Flyer where mailed to every DCM in Area.

Being of service equals sobriety

Report of Area 40 webmaster

Short report since we last meet have added a new function to the meeting admin pages, which allows meeting admin to add the zoom meeting information for their Area

Alex got really good at troubleshooting the different reason meeting are not being found in the database which mean their not showing up on the meeting guide app.

Since the meeting guide app is in new York , also a very new system, it has been a challenge to gather all the meetings information to put on the meeting data base

We now offer a service that if your meeting doesn't show up on that app, we can fix it if you email webmaster@aa.org

Their no other main changes but have made minor changes to make the website easier to navigate.

Concerned with current hosting service since day one. hostmysite.com isn't keeping up with updates to maintain the site

Make sure everyone in each district knows who their contact is to keep the meeting up date.

Also make sure that those people who are in charge keeps that information up dated

Contact Alex for any changes that need fixed or updated.

Each district is in charge of their own meeting update, bridging the gab, and district contact information

Question?

If a meeting isn't going anymore does it stay listed or does it get removed?

The meeting guide app checks twice daily to see if meetings are still going. Once the volunteer

makes the changes on the website it will change on the app.

AREA 40 HOTLINE report

Hotline chair Has been a humbling experience to have. The hotline is active and all call are being answered. It was really hard during covid to keep up with all the calls coming threw and getting them answered. Now that The call have decreased its been easier to handle the call that are coming threw.

Agedna item D

Consider cancellation of all Northern Directory Publishing (NDP) phone directories E. Consider creating an Ad-Hoc Committee to determine if Area 40 should adopt more detail

The benefits will save Area hundreds of dollars.

Cost nothing just saves money.

The proposal is from different assembly and talking to members saying we should remove it considering most people look online now.

Sabrina

Wondered more information about the use of the director

and Never got a good answer for where the director go or why the billing is the wy it is

Very time the director is printed the cost increases every year

5990.40 in four year on 10 phone books

The numbers aren't always correct. If we want to keep director maybe go with a different company.

questions

do you have a total spent on director in 2019?

12 98.40/2019

Is their a way to in sure that are number will still appear on the website if we remove it from the phone books.

Since are number is on all website if you look up Montana hotline it will come right up so shouldn't be a problem

The directory only has the area hotline number not district hotline number if they have one.

Voting

Number of voting member 6 voting members and 2 non voting members

Jerry will abstain from all voting

Voting on agenda item D

Area 40 PI Committee recommends that it ends all use of all Northing Director Publishing (MDP) phone director

5 yes votes

AGEDNA E

Consider creating an Ad-Hoc Committee to determine if Area 40 should adopt more detailed guidelines for the Area 40 website and, if so, to recommend to the Area such guidelines

Describe the proposal: This is a proposal that an ad hoc committee be formed in order to determine whether Area 40 should adopt more detailed guidelines for the Area 40 website and, if

so, to recommend to the Area such guidelines as may be appropriate. The ad hoc committee would review any relevant guidance from GSO regarding service structure websites, research guidelines that have been adopted by other Areas and Districts, consider what guidelines it may be appropriate for Area 40 to adopt, and present an agenda item at the Spring 2023 Area Assembly regarding whether Area 40 should adopt more detailed website guidelines and, if so, what guidelines the Area should consider.

(2) List the proposal benefits: Currently, Area 40's website guidelines do not express an informed group conscience regarding what content should or should not be posted on the Area 40 website. Many other Areas and Districts have published guidelines that assist their trusted servants in determining whether certain material is or is not permissible. Where such guidelines are in use, they are based on the group conscience of the service structure. Without such guidance, the Area 40 Webmaster has to make difficult decisions regarding questions such as whether to post event flyers that arguably sound like fundraising (containing references to a 50/50 raffle or an auction, for example) or whether to post flyers about fellowship-only events (containing no reference to an AA meeting). This proposal does not suggest whether we should or should not post such content. It suggests only that it will benefit the Area to have the answers to those questions come from an informed group conscience.

(3) Cost Estimate: An ad hoc committee may incur administrative expenses, such as copying fees for a final, written report. This cost is estimated at less than \$30.

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal: Copies of the existing Area 40 Website Guidelines and several samples of website guidelines currently in use in other Areas and Districts are attached. These are included merely to provide examples and no suggestion is made that Area 40 adopt any or all of the sample guidelines. Whether any of the content in the samples may be appropriate for Area 40 will be a matter for the ad hoc committee to research, consider, and discuss.

(5) How the proposal originated: It was noticed during this rotation that the Webmaster serves a "gatekeeping" function in terms of the content that is posted on the Area 40 website. While the 12 Traditions provide clear guidance on some content-related questions (no use of last names and no affiliation, for example), other questions arise to which the answers are less clear and on which guidance would be helpful to both the Area and the Webmaster. It will also be helpful to the members of the Area to have clear and consistent guidance on what kinds of events and event flyers can be posted on the Area website.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered: It is important that limits on the content to be posted on our Area 40 website be rooted in an informed group conscience from the Area. (7) Final comments: Thank you for considering this proposal. Yours in Service, Lisa C., Area 40 Secretary
Panel 71

Asked Alex for his thoughts

Alex thinks it a good idea. Most other Area websites do have a guideline, and it provides a guard rail to keep things from going off the deep end. Most other Areas also have a committee that help manage these guidelines.

As of now if I don't know if something is allowed on the website, I have to ask delegate or other who I feel will have the correct answer.

This will help all Webmasters moving forward.

Sometimes it is clear cut what is allowed on the website but not always

Questions/Comments

Think it a great idea it take the stress off of Alex and give all in coming Webmaster a structure guideline to follow. It will help everyone.

Do you think it will be advisor for this committee to suggest not only to bring in the guidelines but combine them as one document that also includes g8.

Add an ad hoc committee to develop these set of guideline for area 40 to use.

What do we want the ad hoc committee to consider

That the area PI committee recommends an adhoc committee to inform the guidelines for the Webmaster. That will be due no later than fall assembly 2024

Give them a full rotations to finish it all up but if they get it finished they can present it sooner

Area Pi Committee recommends that the area chair create Ad-Hoc Committee to determine if Area 40 should adopt more detailed guidelines for the Area 40 website and, if so, to recommend to the Area such guidelines with no later than fall assembly 2024

Vote 5/0

Agenda item F

Review the Service Guidelines and Qualifications in the Area 40 Policy & Procedures manual for the Public Information, Webmaster, and Hotline Chairs. Consider any changes that need to be made.

G8. PUBLIC INFORMATION: G8.1 The Public Information Chairperson will chair all meetings of their Standing Committee, maintain minutes of the meetings, and prepare a written and oral report of committee activities for the Area Assembly.

G8.2 The purpose of the Public Information Committee is to keep the Area, Districts, Groups and individual AA members informed of overall Public Information guidelines and current issues suggested by the General Service Conference so that the AA Districts and Groups may more effectively carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

G8.3 The Public Information Committee will provide experience and assistance in developing projects that will further the carrying of the AA message by providing the public with accurate information about our Fellowship.

G8.4 The Public Information Committee works with District PI Chairs to find productive and creative ways of cooperating without affiliating with various avenues of media in Area 40.

G8.5 The Public Information Committee will offer any press releases and "for the public" videos, as well as other materials made available from the General Service Office, to the media in Area 40.

G8.6 The Public Information Committee shall consider all Area agenda items in Public Information which are channeled through the Area Chair and all business in Public Information which appears on the General Service Conference Agenda.

G8.7 As an alternate assignment the Public Information Committee shall consider all business from the Report and Charter Committee which appears on the General Service Conference Agenda. G8.8 Also, as an alternate assignment, the Public Information Committee shall consider all business pertaining to the website operated by Area 40 Inc.

G8.8.1 The Website shall be registered with the InterNIC as <http://www.aamontana.org> in the name of the Area 40 Assembly.

G8.8.2 The Public Information Committee will oversee the Area Website contents, ever mindful of our Tradition of anonymity.

G8.8.3 It is understood that any changes, alterations, or matters of policy concerning the website

will remain channeled through the Public Information Committee and the Area 40 Assembly.

G8.8.4 The website will contain anonymity protected versions of the Area 40 Assembly agenda, minutes, Triangle, and financial report.

G8.8.5 The website may contain an event page similar to that of the AA Grapevine, Box 459, and the Area Triangle. 18

G8.8.6 The website will contain web-links to a district level webpage. Also, each district is allowed the responsibility of updating their respective 800 number, contact lists and meeting schedules.

G8.8.7 The Webmaster is also allowed to create a page on the website that allows fliers and registration forms for upcoming AA events to be posted in a downloadable format.

G8.8.8 The website will contain "dummy" email addresses for all Area 40 Committee Chairs, Officers, DCMs, Triangle Editor and Archivist, which will then be forwarded to their personal email addresses. Email intended for those who do not have a personal email address will be redirected to the Area Chair or his designee. It may also contain additional email addresses for purposes of conducting Area 40 business

(need updated email address to include for hotline chair and bridging the gap chair.)

G8.8.9 The website will contain current editions of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual and the Area 40 Past Actions Document.

G8.8.10 The website will be used as secure repository for the collection of Bridging the Gap (BTG) Temporary Contact Information from each district in Area 40.

G8.8.10.1 The Webmaster will create and provide its Bridging the Gap (BTG) Coordinators with generic e-mail prefixes respective to their districts, maintained on Area 40's domain.

G8.8.10.2 The webmaster, 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.

G8.8.10.3 The Webmaster will work with meetingguide.org to get Area 40 meetings listed on the Area 40 website to the Meeting Guide app.

G8.8.11 The website will add Montana AA Intergroups as entities that can submit events to the Area 40 Webmaster for inclusion on the calendar of the Area 40 website

G8.8.12 The Area 40 Webmaster establish the ability to subscribe and pay for the subscription to the "Area 40 Triangle Newsletter" via the Area 40 Website, utilizing an external link to an online payment service

(We consider a statement to take no action until a determine is made by this body on if the Triangle will move forward. Also with consideration of a formation of an ad hoc committee to consider the webmaster guide line)

G8.8.13 That Area 40 utilize a password protected Dashboard on the Area 40 Website for distribution of Conference and Area Agenda Item Background information and that it be accessible to `standing committee chairs, DCM's, GSR's, Area Officers and District Representatives.

G8.9 Area 40 will implement a toll-free number, utilizing the services of a reliable answering service. *See Hotline Chair description

(we wish to suggest that the Area 40 archives that in charge of update this document review g8.9 on page 18 to reword that to indicate that the hotline should be posted on the website. To be more of a clarification.)

The suggested qualifications specific for the position of Public Information Chair are:

Q8.1 An interest in working with Public Information to conduct twelfth step work in Area 40.

Q8.2 The ability to lead and facilitate a committee, presentation meetings, and workshops.

Q8.3 Act as the contact point and perform the duties necessary to maintain the Area 40 statewide hotline number working closely with the Area Webmaster to accomplish this.

(committee reviewed note that this may change determined by the action of this assembly)

Area 40 hotline job describing

G18 HOTLINE CHAIR

1. The Hotline Chair will prepare a written and oral report of Hotline Chair activities for the Area Assembly.
2. The Hotline Chair will keep the Area, Districts, Groups, and individual AA members informed about the Hotline and what function it serves to effectively reach the alcoholic who still suffers.
3. The Hotline Chairperson will maintain a contact list of all District Hotline Chairs, and those Chairs will be the points of contact for all Hotline-related matters for their Districts.
4. The Hotline Chairperson will distribute monthly or quarterly reports to the District Hotline Chairs. Those reports should inform the Districts how many calls their district received during that time period.
5. The Hotline Chairperson will maintain contact with the Answering Service and monitor the call history to ensure accuracy.
6. The Hotline Chairperson is responsible for monitoring all calls for the Area. If a call is missed in a particular District, the Hotline Chairperson is responsible for contacting that District Hotline Chair in a timely manner, with the contact information of the individual who tried to call. The District Hotline Chair is then responsible for having an AA member in that district return the call.
7. For the Hotline Chairperson's rotation duration and years of sobriety, the standard Area 40 Policies and Procedures would apply

Review activities of Public Information Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Carol- Peggy has contacted the school to go in and have a Q&A about AA and alcoholism district 71. The doctor ,clinics and hospital are also allowing to leave information on AA

Public Information – GSC A. Review the results of all Public Information committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference

Report and Charter – GSC A. Review the results of all Report and Charter committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference

Recommendation al

that all AA social groups set to private

Annual AA survey after ears of not having one their will be one that is coming out

They handle the service manual changes. Their going to be adding new section to be add after the 12 world concepts for the foot notes.

Meeting adjourned at 1157

Webmaster Report

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

Hello Area 40 Assembly friends. My name is Alex, and I am an alcoholic. Currently serving as your Area 40 Webmaster.

Since the Spring Assembly, the website has seen approximately 168,000 pageviews and sections that get the most hits have remained the same. Zoom meetings remains the most popular destination followed by folks looking for meetings in different cities in our Area. The calendar of events comes in third.

The new features to add Zoom information for the meetings have been added to the Meeting admin pages. This allows the GSO Meeting Guide app to provide that information to the users of the app.

As usual, I would like to extend a huge thanks Jake for all his help with making our database work with the Meeting app. We also have a good understanding now of why any particular meeting does not show up on the app. So, if your Group is having issues with this, I encourage you to send me an email so I can investigate it.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the Admins in each District that take their time to make sure the Meeting listings, Hotline, and BTG volunteer lists are as current as possible.

I encourage DCM's and PI chairs to announce at each District meeting who is the meeting listings admin for that District. I can also provide that information if you email me at webmaster@aa-montana.org.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you,
Alex M , Area 40 Webmaster

Hotline Chair Report

Greetings Area 40,

WOW! I don't know about anyone else, but a lot has happened in my life since the last assembly in April.

First, I did another 5th step with my sponsor just two weeks after the assembly. I am so grateful for the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous that allow me to continue growing and recovering.

Just a month later in May, I made the terrible decision of giving myself a fancy haircut with bangs thinking that would make me feel better. What I really needed was therapy, but the bangs were the easier, softer way. Another valuable lesson for me.

My family also had a celebration of life in May for my beautiful brother who died in 2019. Covid caused delays in all areas of life, including the ability to gather to honor our loved ones who passed. It was a beautiful experience to share that time with my niece who graduated from high school the day before the service, despite having tragically lost her father at such a young age. She is an incredible young woman.

In June, my AA home group moved to a new and wonderful location. We are absolutely blessed with a beautiful and safe space to help carry the message to still suffering alcoholics. The Recovery Group in Billings is now located at 131 Moore Lane. Join us on any one of five nights a week--Monday through Friday.

In July, I attended our annual sponsorship retreat and was grateful to spend a weekend with my sponsor and sisters in sponsorship. The theme was meditation and it was awesome.

In August, I attended the Beartooth Mountain Conference at Luccock Camp outside of Livingston. It was beautiful as always ... with incredible speakers and fellowship.

Just one week later ... on August 14 ... I celebrated 10 years of continuous sobriety. Double digits. An entire decade. That is absolutely unbelievable to me. The fact that a woman like me can stay sober that long is a true testament to the power of this sacred program. Just two days after my sobriety birthday, my promotion at work went into effect. I am unable to keep a job, let alone get promoted, without Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is not lost on me that I've been involved in District and Area Service for more than half the time I've been sober. I hear in meetings that "meeting makers make it." While I do not necessarily disagree with that sentiment, I also know that this alcoholic will not stay sober on meetings alone. I need to be fully engaged in all three sides of the Triangle. Unity, Recovery, and Service. Showing up for service has been the ego-deflating, spiritual sandpaper that I did not know I needed. I encourage all of you to fully participate in service in any way you're able. I find it just requires a little willingness to say YES and show up.

Being your Area 40 Hotline Chair has been one of the more humbling and rewarding service positions I've held. I had no idea what I was getting myself into ... dealing with a telephone hotline during a global pandemic. The call volume was absolutely overwhelming at times. Thankfully there were some incredible district hotline chairs who showed up BIG TIME to help me make sure all those calls were answered. You are my heroes.

The Hotline is active and all calls continue to be answered. The call volume has decreased significantly and is much more manageable than it was in 2020. Please let me know if you have any questions!

I know by now you are sick of me. But there is good news! Someone else will be serving in this position in just a few short months. I wish the very best to all the new Hotline Chairs during this next rotation, both at the District and Area levels. I am here to help you if you want or need my assistance.

Thank you, Area 40 Alcoholics Anonymous, for allowing me to serve and for giving me a big, full, beautiful, sober life.

--

Sabrina

Past Delegate Sharing

Mark S., Panel 44 Delegate

GSR Breakout (Ask-It Basket and Sharing)

Connie R., Are 40 Delegate, moderated a GSR Breakout Session.

GSR BREAKOUT

Question 1) We have a man stalking newer women, what can we do?

- Don't confront in group pull him aside and talk 1 on 1
- We have a right to go to AA and feel safe
- We need to watch out for the women
- But not all men are predators
- Safety cards available @bookstore (Billings) or at AA.org
- Experienced a group of men took the man aside and spoke to him. Showed that the group were keeping the women safe.
- Safety card can be printed bigger and post at the group

Question 2) Does Pink Can still take contributions?

- Depends on the group. Money goes to district or area. This is a group conscience decision
- What is Pink Can
 - Pink can started in OK. The idea is to drop in spar change to get books into jails and prisons.
- One group collects for jails but also uses it to send books to MCDC.
- Again the groups are autonomous and use the money the way they want.

Question 3) Do you allow non-alcoholics to speak at open meetings?

- Groups are autonomous and make their own decision.
 - Example: some groups have an open meeting with Al Anon allowed to share as long as they share about alcoholism
 - Example: welcomes them to attend but not allowed to share.
 - Maybe a newcomer isn't sure of whether they are alcoholic or not.
 - Example: open meeting has a spiritual leader and Al Anon participates
 - Example: Al Anon attending AA found they identified with AA and joined AA
 - Example: Nursing students—we explained to them that they are visitors, helped them understand anonymity and that they could not share.
- What about use of conference approved literature only?
 - Suggested that look at the material. Does it conflict with the message of AA? Does it show affiliation with other organizations? Most important do no harm to AA
- Use the Blue Card which explains what an open meeting is and what a closed

meeting is.

Question 4) What happens when non-AA literature is read?

- Gives newcomers the mistaken assumption that non-AA literature is AA literature.
- Gives mixed message. Could do harm.
- Spouse works own separate program. They are careful to keep the two programs separate
- Suggested that a group have policies and procedures. Having in writing as a principle, what is the group's format, rules, etc. In a document rather than relying on personalities
- Drugs—small community accepts addicts especially when NA meeting is unavailable.
- Page 77 in Big Book states our primary purpose is to be of maximum service to God and to his people. We can take the suffering by the hand and show them where to get help.
- “Drug is a drug is a drug” can be dangerous to an addict receiving help from AA.

Question 5) Why is the Lord's Prayer OK but have to only use conference approved literature in the meeting.

- Because that is the way it has been done.
- Groups are autonomous and can close any way that they would like to.
- Original groups did not say the Lord's Prayer. When Bill visited a group in CA that was the first time he had heard the meeting close with the Lord's Prayer. Lord's Prayer started on the West Coast.

Question 6) Is it Okay to discuss group conscience issues at a regular meeting (as opposed to a business meeting)?

- AA meeting is 12 step work for the still suffering alcoholic
- Have guidelines for the chair and stick to the process to avoid crossover into other topics.
- Business meetings are for other issues.

Question 6) How often do groups have group conscience meetings, and how long do they last?

- Depends on the group some meet monthly, quarterly or yearly.
- One group's GSR summarized the Agenda items and provided to the groups
- In November there will be an orientation for new service positions on how to write a report; how to provide information to your group.

Thank you to the Tech Team for the support so others could participate in zoom land.

Breakout Session Participant Merida P. provided notes from the session. A copy is attached as Appendix D.

DCM Breakout (Ask-It Basket & Sharing)

Mike S., Panel 44 Delegate, moderated a DCM Breakout Session. Participant Trevor F. provided the following notes.

(roll call was not taken, as we are not voting)

How do you deal with a vital committee chair left vacant for multiple months?

- District 11: The alternate DCM takes over in this instance. Also, take an active role in going to groups to discuss the opening and asking specific individuals if they are willing to fulfill the position.
- District 72: In some cases, it stays vacant
- District 61: It stays vacant until someone is willing to stand for it.
- District 93: It stays vacant
- District 91: there isn't a continuity when someone finally steps into the position, so it would be helpful to facilitate the outgoing chair to help the DCM understand the position. When the position gets filled, the DCM can offer that person pertinent information.
- District 81: print out the page of the job qualification, duties, and responsibilities and disperse this information to the group.
- District 42: bring qualified people to the district meeting and nominate them or "railroad" them into the position.

What is the relationship between districts and intergroups in Montana?

- Do we *need* intergroups in Montana? Do we have enough groups to make intergroups feasible? Intergroups seem more applicable to major metropolitan areas.
- District 91 has an intergroup. District 11 and District 12 have a joint intergroup.
- District 91 DCM read from the aa website regarding intergroups. They are *not* part of the decision-making process in the AA service organization. In Minneapolis, the intergroup had an office to buy medallions, pamphlets, and books in multiple languages. This office had *paid* staff to facilitate these services.
 - i. There seems to be an adversarial relationship between intergroup and district; not sure what happened in the past or why this is, but it seems to be a dysfunctional relationship that has existed for some time.
 - ii. A former delegate discussed the fact that the flathead intergroup used to have control of most of the service.
- District 11 and District 12 discussed the fact that dysfunction began from circumstances that occurred in the 1990s. This intergroup still has a brick-and-mortar store that is open for only 4 hours on Saturday. There were/are issues with service obligations being met (updating schedules). The people in this intergroup are volunteers.

How long does a group have to be in existence before being listed on the district's schedule?

- District 72: This is the DCM's job to help the group provide the appropriate

forms.

- District 93: Start with the information that you send to New York; this information comes to the delegate.
- District 11: One group needed the group number from New York to qualify for financial purposes. However, they are a group if they say they are a group. No reason to wait.
- District 91: intergroup has a requirement for a group to exist for 6 months before they can be listed on the printed schedule. This ended up being helpful, because a group was created during covid, and they didn't have a legit address. They will put you on the internet meeting list, as this can be updated immediately and doesn't have to go through a printing process.

Why isn't AA growing in AA and Canada?

- There are so many other 12-step programs and treatment facilities.
- Cross-addiction seems to be a factor as well; there are more risks today.
- This seems to be an issue impacting organizations outside of AA as well.
- The breakdown of stigma around mental illness has provided other opportunities to heal.
- Possibility that treatment facilities have helped binge drinks stop in time.

Sunday, September 11, 2022

The Assembly was opened with the Serenity Prayer at 8:30 am by Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate Kacie N.

Roundup Reports

Spring 2022 Roundup

Robyn H. delivered a report on the Spring 2022 Roundup. When these minutes were published, a written version of the report was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

Fall 2022 Roundup

Good Morning everyone. Sheila has kindly offered to give the Round Up report since I was unable to attend because of my work commitment. The Fall Round Up 2022 will be taking place Sept. 23, 24 and 25th at the Red Lion in Kalispell, Mt.

Currently the Red Lion has no rooms left but there are numerous hotels in the area. Cut off for meal registration at the round up was Sept 1 although there are plenty of places to eat in the surrounding area.

We will open up the Round up with Connie R.'s Delegate report, followed by some variety entertainment. John A. From Missoula will be our Friday night speaker followed by jam session and games. Saturday Earl F., our district archivist, will share with us. Connie and Gerry R. Will facilitate a workshop on Going to any lengths in recovery, Unity and service. Our AI-non speaker is Pat Q from Bigfork. Saturday Jerry R. And Alida W. will facilitate the old timer panel. Scott R from Libby will be our Saturday AA speaker. Followed by DJ Dance Party.

Sunday morning there will be a meditation workshop facilitated by Nino and Victoria followed by our Sunday morning speaker Hugh M. Great Falls.

We will have marathon meetings, 50/50 drawing, rock painting and the hospitality room. Al-anon has a couple of workshops set up. "Assessing Our Spiritual Maturity" and "Relationships & Recovery."

Please go to Any length to join us at the Fall Round Up. You can find registration and the program of the events on the Area 40 website. Thanks for letting me be of service and for Sheila sharing this report.

Sonya R.

Spring 2023 Roundup

Jessica S. delivered a report on the Spring 2023 Roundup. When these minutes were published, a written version of the report was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

Fall 2023 Roundup

Greetings Area 40! My name is Betty and I am an alcoholic and also the Alternate DCM for District 72.

I'm excited to tell you that District 72 is underway with planning for the Area 40 Fall 2023 Roundup in Bozeman MT. Once again, our event will be held at the Best Western Plus Grantree Inn October 27 - 29 2023, so save the date! The event will feature great speakers, lots of meetings and, of course, conviviality, fellowship & coffee. We will share more information as it is available.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Delegate's Report

Announcement: Final Conference report is on AA-Montana.org >Area Committee >Forms & Other Documents > Other Documents. The hard copies will be delivered late October.

Hello every one, I'm Connie and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to serve as Area 40's Delegate. 27 years ago, I could never have imagined that I would be serving as a delegate. At that time, I didn't even know what I was doing at Area as the alt GSR for my home group. After that assembly, I was bitten by the service bug. I met a woman who was active in the service structure at the district level. Because of her actions and involvement, I started participating in service at District 41. When Gerry and I moved to Helena, she was the one who strongly suggested that I get involved with District 61. I did as she suggested and I ended up smack dab in the middle of AA, not only in District 61 but also the State of Montana, the West Central Region and the Fellowship as a whole thru General Service work.

This year the General Service Conference was able to meet in person. What an experience!!! We flew into JFK airport, the plane circled around out into the ocean before coming back to land. Looking out over the wing of the airplane, New York was presented in all its glory. I think in song and fortunately for you I don't sing out loud... but all I could hear in my head is Frank Sinatra singing "New York New York". The conference was held in Brooklyn at the Marriot Hotel. It was a nice hotel, which was fortunate since that is all I got to see for 10 days. I need to apologize to all of you who sent cards, I didn't think until Thursday of the conference that the room was in my first name so the hotel didn't know who Connie Robinson was. I only receive a bouquet of flowers & chocolates from my home group because someone who knew me was standing there when they arrived.

There were many memorable experiences for me and some that were very powerful. Getting to see people in person for the first time, that I had gotten to know really well during the virtual conference Committee meetings, I was chosen to speak at the Delegates Only meeting to share my experience as a panel 71 delegate, and then getting to lead the Serenity Prayer at the close of the conference with Bob W, GSO General Manager, with his arm over my shoulders. I spoke to many issues that I felt would impact Area 40 and our Region. Because I spoke up so much, I had a delegate come up to me mid conference and state I had surprised her because she thought I was shy because I was so quiet last year during the virtual conference.

I have had a busy summer traveling around Area 40 and giving the Conference report. My first report was at the Roundup in Helena the week after I came home from the Conference. Fortunately, one of the speakers was Carolyn W, Conference Trustee, who was able to support me because I had not had time to process all that happened at the conference. In June, I was invited to the Lubrecht Campout. The Phoenix Group hosted a great weekend of speakers, events and fun. The following weekend, I attended to District 81 Missoula Founders day. That was probably the shortest Conference report I have ever done. A torrential rain storm came thru sideways which disbursed the attendee quickly. The last weekend in June, District 61, Helena, hosted the Grapefest, where I gave the Conference report again.

July was quiet until the last weekend. I was asked to District 11 who provided an excellent pot luck which may have helped bring the largest group I meet with all summer. There were 32 attendees. In August, I was asked to District 71 for a potluck and to share my experience at the conference. This was another outside event that was rained on, but the report was longer than the Missoula rain interruption. I attended the Fireman's point campout in District 12. I was asked to be one of the judges for the Spam cook off. There are some very creative spam chiefs at this campout that provided some really good tasting dishes. The following weekend, I attended the Lake Como Campout in District 93. They didn't have spam but they have some pretty awesome chefs there too. Oh, yes and I can't forget the auction at the campout, we did our part in purchasing future garage sale items. Both campouts had about 20 people in attendance for the delegates report.

I still have 3 more reports to do. The Kalispell Round up, District 72 and the Havre mini-conference.

During my conference reports, I talked about the conference approving an advisory action to move forward with a membership survey. The last survey was done in 2014. I was not sure when the new survey would happen. Late August, I received word that 5 groups from Area 40 were chosen to be part of the survey. Those groups are in East Glacier, Shelby, Lame Deer, Bozeman and Missoula. I was very excited to be able to make contact with the 2 groups on the highline because we have lost so many meetings in that District. Monday, I will meet with Patrick C, PI Coordinator at GSO to find out how these surveys will be done.

Kacie informed everyone in July that Gerry R was chosen to be an Appointed Committee Member on the Trustees Literature Conference Committee to rewrite "A.A. for the Native North American" Pamphlet. He will be chairing a committee of other Native American's that is made up of tribes thru out North America and Canada. I am so happy to announce that Daniel S, from Missoula whose tribe is Rose Bud Sioux, will be on that committee also. Daniel will you please wave.

27 years ago, I could not imagine being the delegate for Area 40 or how much General Service work would change me and my life. The idea of "fitting myself to be of maximum service to God and the people about me" would have seem preposterous. I don't know how to properly express my gratitude to Area 40 and to each one of you who have supported me thru this journey. To be honest, I don't think I can. First I have to thank God for this tremendous opportunity to be of service and the spiritual growth that has come as the result of it. Thank you to my husband, Gerry R, who walked me off of many cliffs, helped me navigate through some tough discussions and held my hand thru the whole rotation. You are wind beneath my wings. I love you. Thank you to my sponsor, Anne T who helped me remember that other people's fear did not have to be mine. Thank you to Kasey for being the best Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. To have a team member such as you is a great blessing. At my first Delegates Report in 2021 at Lake Como campout, a past Area Chair stated that the delegate is the spiritual contribution to the conference. Today, I believe that this service commitment has taught me how to be a spiritual contribution to society not just AA. My heart overflows with gratitude and love because of this experience. When I first came into AA, I felt lonely, different and afraid. Because of the examples before me showing me how to be in Recovery, practice the principal of Unity and offering to be of Service, all 3 sides of the triangle, I am part of something wonderful.

You don't have to wait 27 years to experience the sense of belonging that the fellowship offers thru General Service work. To all of you who have stood for a position whether in your group, district or this weekend for Area 40, Thank you. For those of you who wonder if one day you might serve, I remind you that everyone you see at the front table were elected from the same chairs you are sitting in. We need your willingness, we need your service, and we need you to keep coming back. This is how the hand of AA can continues to be available to the still suffering Alcoholic.

Thank you for the giving me a life beyond my dreams.

Connie R.
Area 40 Delegate, Panel 71

Standing Committee Reports (cont'd)

Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda/Bridging the Gap

Treatment Chair Report

Greetings, Area 40!

I am glad to be with you in person at this, our final Assembly for the rotation. I would like to apologize again for not attending the spring assembly; one of the drawbacks of a life full of helpfulness and use to others is that they come to depend on you for things!

Since the spring assembly, work for the treatment committee has been light. This has been tough to swallow, as it seems I haven't done much work in this rotation. I believe that most treatment centers are now starting to open back up to us, and my hope for the rest of the rotation is to put my successor in a position for success in the next rotation. I need to remind myself that in AA, not everything has to be a homerun. Sometimes, it is perfectly acceptable to just carry the torch and keep it lit for the next person to do something great with, as we frequently do with sponsorship. My sponsor frequently says, "I stand on the shoulders of giants." While I am no giant, I can still stand tall and keep forward progress. I did receive one request from the Montana State hospital in Warm Springs to bring an AA meeting to them. As is our usual custom in area 40, I forwarded this request to the surrounding districts in Missoula, Helena, and Butte. I have yet to circle back with those districts to see the status of this request and our ability to meet it. I will work as hard as I can to get this request filled by the end of my rotation.

Most of the work with treatment centers for this rotation has been done by my better, harder working counterpart, Jessica, with the Bridging the Gap committee. I am grateful for her efforts, as the primary way our fellowship has interacted with treatment centers over the past two years has been through Bridging the Gap. I think we all know how great that gap has become over the past two years. Thank you, Jessica, for your service.

I am looking forward to elections this weekend. My first area assembly was an election assembly. I still remember the wonder and awe I had while watching our fellowship cooperate to elect these positions and the willingness of those who stood. I would encourage you, anyone, to stand for a position, whether it be for Area, District, or at the group level. Every position and every person plays an important part in our fellowship operating at its highest level. If you don't agree with that, I would encourage you to not have coffee made for a meeting! I am sad to report that I won't be standing for any Area positions this fall. However, I am glad to report that I am not standing because I have been selected as the next DCM for District 91 for next rotation. I am excited to work with you all in that position for the next two years.

I want to finish by stating how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve. To give back to Alcoholics Anonymous in any way is the best thing I can do to repay an insurmountable debt that I am in. This fellowship, the principles, and all of you have saved my life. When I came to AA almost 6 years ago, I was unemployed, uneducated, rude, and selfish to the core. Because of AA I have a career, a degree, some manners, and, best of all, a host of friends and fellows in Alcoholics Anonymous to help me and for me to help. It has been the greatest pleasure of my life to stand ready to serve and be of use to you. It is with a full heart that I bid farewell to this position, and look forward to a new way to learn, grow, and serve within Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in service,
Grant O

Treatment Committee Report

When these minutes were published, a report on the meeting of the Treatment Committee was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

Bridging the Gap Chair Report

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 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 2022

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica W. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair. Since the spring assembly I began with reviewing the General Guidelines for Area 40 Trusted Servants, General Qualifications for Area 40 Trusted Servants, and the Bridging the Gap Chair Duties and Qualifications (Area 40 Policy and Procedures) to prepare to meet with potential Alt. BTG Chair candidates. As announced to our BTG committee and then at the spring assembly, Penny R., regrettably needed to step down as Area 40 Alt. BTG chair after serving for three years. I gratefully connected with three members from across our state. I created a spreadsheet with duties, guidelines, and qualifications from our Policy and Procedures so that I could create an unbiased way to select a candidate to ultimately present to the Treatment Committee. I felt so grateful to all the candidates who were willing to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity.

After a thoughtful process and after meeting with my candidate face to face, I first submitted my choice to the BTG committee meeting on August 31st. For all who participated, there was a substantial unanimity to submit my choice. This weekend I am excited to submit my choice of BTG Alt. Chair Sean R., to the Treatment Committee for final approval. Sean R. served on our Area BTG Committee (2019-2021) while he served as District 91 BTG. He actively participated at every committee meeting and has been a part of developing our goals and vision as a BTG committee. He actively helped the committee to draft past agenda items, has experience with establishing BTG in Correction and Treatment settings, and has the time, qualifications, and excitement to serve in this capacity.

I have continued to connect BTG participants. Most recently I have been getting consistent requests through the electronic BTG link from Nexus Treatment because of the work being done in District 41. The BTG link was designed to be used by professionals to enter general information about AA members who opted to participate in the Bridging the Gap program and are in direct contact with these professionals. I created a generic welcome letter from BTG that I tailor to each electronic request. In addition to this, I send their immediate contact number, their local meeting list, the Area Hotline, and the webpage for Zoom meetings.

I am available to support local BTG efforts in Area 40. I have BTG materials for new chairs, including the BTG workbook, an updated list of BTG contacts across the state, and various tools for your local BTG coordinators or volunteers. If you presently have a BTG vacancy, I am available to provide support to a district or a new chair as they step into their new position, especially with the incoming rotation. The outgoing BTG committee will be meeting in January to welcome the incoming BTG chairs to aid in the transition. Following this, we are currently planning our in-person BTG meeting for May in Shelby, MT.

I am so grateful for these opportunities to be of service and please let me know if I can help support your districts in any way.

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

Jessica W.

Grapevine and La Viña/Policy & Admissions

Grapevine Chair Report

Area 40 Grapevine/Policy & Admissions, Jody T.

Area 40 Report September 2022

Grapevine Chair

Hi there, Area 40! My name is Jody T and I am an alcoholic. I cannot believe that this rotation will be winding down soon. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Area 40.

I remember thinking when asked if I would stand for Grapevine, this voice came out of me and said yes, who was that! That was the fear and self-centeredness in me thinking I wouldn't do this right. What I have found out is there really isn't a wrong way to do this, I just have to stay sober and be willing to follow my Higher Power's guidance. And I have had the most amazing group of members on my team that have made this experience so rewarding.

On June 10th I was invited to attend a zoom Grapevine Area Chair workshop. I have been in contact with Janet Bryan, Director of Operation AA Grapevine Inc. throughout this rotation.

First, it was great to put faces to different names. There were quite a few of us on, due to traveling I was only able to stay on for about 45 minutes but was able to learn from others and I did receive the minutes.

I was excited yet apprehensive during our April 22 Spring Assembly. It was my first time putting up the display and I am so grateful to everyone that helped.

Since Spring Assembly I was asked to speak at the 2nd Annual YG Phoenix Group campout June 10th-12th, not really sure what Xavier was thinking when he asked. Kathy T. reached out and asked if I would set up the display which turned out great. Was able to share with some new folks about the Grapevine. One of the best parts with the campout was my roommates, Connie and Gerry R. This worked out perfectly since I was also on vacation.

Then I was asked to set up the Grapevine display at District 61 Grapefest, June 25th in Helena and do a presentation. That was an amazing experience.

I am hoping to set up the display at the Havre Mini Conference, the cost is extremely minimal. We'll see since I'm also on the food committee.

Again, I would like to thank Area 40 for giving me this opportunity to be of service. Jody T.

Grapevine Committee Report

Grapevine and La Viña/ Policy and Admissions

Grapevine and La Viña – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine and La Viña Chair

a. Jody gave her report and was discussed.

B. Review the Service Guidelines and Qualifications in the Area 40 Policy & Procedures manual for the Grapevine and La Viña Chair. Consider any changes that need to be made.

a. Jody shared her experience strength and hope relative to the last 2 years of her service position.

b. Jody shared the qualifications and sent the list around to the group. No changes.

C. Review activities of Grapevine and La Viña Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

a. District 81 – In February they held a Pizza Party workshop. Cathy utilized the grapevine resources online and put together a folder. She has also been enjoying the podcast. Used excess of pink can funds to send Grapevine books and subscriptions to the jail and the prerelease

b. District 41 – No report

c. District 31 – Birdie new district rep for grapevine

d. District 72 – Lyla visiting the committee meeting

e. District 91 – Grapevine rep is doing a great job and making it fun to learn about the grapevine. He has great energy for the grape vine and it makes people more interested in what is going on.

f. District 41 – Hugh visiting the committee meeting shared that Lynn W. will be featured in the grapevine.

g. District 61 – Hosted Grape Fest and Jody came and presented.

h. District 61 – Merida visiting the committee meeting

Grapevine and La Viña – GSC

A. Review the results of all Grapevine and La Viña committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference Changes

a. Hugh shared about issues with the preamble in his district. He asked if other districts are having conflict due to the changes.

i. Everyone shared that their districts have accepted the changes and those groups that have not, are choosing to use the old preamble.

ii. Lyla shared her experience and that she appreciates that the preamble is welcoming to her and that so many people care about her experience in AA.

iii. Cathy enjoys the controversy because it gets people to talk and and think about things.

iv. Brian we are the only big book someone else may see. He is learning that he has to be able to listen. If people have an opinion, they should say it out of love and not anger. We are all alcoholics.

b. We reviewed the working titles

c. Lyla asked what committee does pamphlets

Policy and Admissions – GSC

A. Review the results of all Policy and Admissions committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference

Group Discussion

The committee discussed Area Service and the importance of not just serving at the Assemblies

The group talked about travel and visiting the districts across the state.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees

CPC Chair Report

Greetings Area 40!

The local committees in Area 40 continue to work on opening and broadening lines of communication with professionals. I have shared experience and ideas with several of them as we work through the changes caused by the pandemic. As we vote in a new Area committee, a new CPC committee chair, I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served in this position and look forward to how we can continue to build relationships with professionals in the area through the year. If I can be of any assistance please reach out to me, we can do a lot of work between now and December 31st!

Yours in Service,
Don M , Area 40 Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair

CPC Committee Report

2022 Fall CPC/Trustee Committee MTG Minutes

The committee met on 9/10/22 there were 9 persons present for the meeting. (1 person on Zoom)
We opened the meeting with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer.

Area 40 CPC Agenda

Item A- I read my report and no changes were recommended by the committee. We then went on to other area business.

Item B- we reviewed the Area policy and procedure manual on the CPC Chair position/Qualifications; no updates or changes were recommended.

Item C- we reviewed CPC activities throughout the area with those present. There was a great deal of sharing about problems encountered and solutions/experience was shared. We discussed the use of the CPC Workbook and Pamphlets in building and developing relationships with professionals. We agreed to share all our contact information with each other. It was reiterated that the Area CPC Chair was available to help in any way he could. It was clear from our discussions that Districts in the area were struggling to fill CPC committees within their areas and that this was slowing some of our ability to revitalize lines of communication with professionals. It was also clear that the walls put up by the pandemic were also starting to come down and that now was the time to start connection with professionals again. We all agreed that it was up to those present to do what we could to make this happen.

CPC- General Service Conference

Item A- we reviewed all items considered, reviewed and discussed at the conference. We agreed with all the actions taken by the committee. This spurred further discussion about what we could do as individuals in our local communities to work with professionals. We agreed that each of us could be “facilitators” with professionals locally.

Trustees- General Service Conference

Item A- we reviewed all items considered, reviewed and discussed at the conference. We agreed with all the actions taken by the committee.

Those Present:

Don M Area 40 CPC Chair*

Rick H. DCM Dist 72 * Dave R Dist 12

John M Dist 72 Marcy D Dist 71

Diane W Dist 11* Heather E Dist 91*

Deb S. Dist 61 Marcie-Alice H Dist 31

Laura L Dist 93* * denotes voting members

Finance

Finance Chair/Treasurer Report

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

It was my pleasure to present some Area 40 financial highlights yesterday morning. We are nearing the end of a rotation for most and my hope is that we have learned a lot, but like everything else in AA, you can't fix what you can't change.

Since the Spring Assembly, I have continued to keep Area 40 accounts current and deposit any received contributions. Though I cannot mail an acknowledgment to each contributor, I can look up the records if you want to know your group's donations. A few groups have contacted me for the Bozeman address when their mail was returned to them. This continues to be an issue for some. The forwarding has expired, so expect any contributions not mailed to the current address to be returned.

The current Area 40 Inc. address is:

PO Box 155
Bozeman, MT
59771-0155

Please keep your areas informed. The current address will always be on the Area 40 website. If I accomplish nothing else, I would like all contributions to get deposited. Sadly, this address will not be changing anytime in the near future. You are stuck with me. Or are you?

The Area 40 Treasurer's job is primarily a quiet existence. I do not interact directly unless there is an issue. It requires some technical knowledge, a bit of bookkeeping, some organization, and a little time. Please consider the gifts sobriety has provided and step up to serve where and when you are able. Alcoholics generally thrive and you will too.

I hope everyone takes the time to review the latest financial reports. They are always posted monthly to the Area 40 website. We ended August a bit light on income and are gaining momentum on expenses, with a net income of **-\$6,034**. Our expenses are over budget YTD, however, those figures do include some discretionary spending to support a virtual component of Assembly in the Spring and an increase in the cost of travel expenses. Returning to an in-person assembly will take some calibration to ensure we are back on track from a budget perspective. We are current on our annual rent for the archives storage which runs on a rolling 13-month schedule. As I previously mentioned, our expenses are increasing, and will continue, to go up with our income continuing to hold steady. If the Area is to meet budgeted expenses, contributions will need to continue to keep pace with what services we've asked the Area to provide. However, I would like to note, that we have a substantial cushion of cash on hand and in no way need to be alarmed.

Because of inflation, a dollar in the basket today is only worth 61 cents compared to 20 years ago; 47 cents compared to 30 years ago. This is shocking, more so because when I sobered up, a dollar was worth roughly 42% more than a dollar today and you could smoke in meetings. The

basket is where money and spirituality mix. So, the question is, what is the monetary value of my sobriety? I participate actively in my home group because of my ability to influence how that money is spent. As I can afford to, I do put in a little extra for those who are unable or for the times I am without cash. My homegroup does have a Venmo account which makes our virtual participants able to contribute as well as those who shamefully forgot to bring cash. If we want A.A. to be here for the next generation, we need to keep supporting our 12th-Step work at all levels of service. For the first time, I am aware of, GSO is fully self-supporting. Let's keep it up.

We are deadly serious about our work but we should not forget the levity in it all. Please take it seriously if you are considering stepping up to serve. We need the best possible option for all levels of service.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to be of service!

Finance Committee Report

9/10/2022 – Finance Standing Committee Breakout

Attendance: Jeff L., *Connie R., *Kacie N., *Tony O., *Jake L., Dave R., Dave G.

*Denotes voting members

Item A. Report reviewed

Discussion - Why isn't projected income included in the budget?

Not possible to project. Area operates on a cash accrual model and relies on the defined budget to project what groups need to contribute. When we don't have enough - we ask the Groups to contribute more. When we have too much - we ask for a pause in contributions. Discussion ensued.

We also discussed the bank balance, or cash on hand, and how we account and plan for the upcoming year.

B. Agenda reviewed and discussed.

We discussed several of the line items. In general, travel expenses are rising and the Spring and Fall Assembly budgets are based on 2019 levels, it was discussed to increase the budget for each of these to \$9,000.

We discussed the possibility that the motions for NDP, Hotline, and Tech committee could pass and there would be included changes dependent on these outcomes.

Motion made by Tony O. "The committee recommends to approve the budget as presented for 2023." Seconded by Connie R. and passed unanimously by the committee.

C. Suggestion to get a debit card for the Treasurer to use when a paper check isn't possible.

Finance GSC - no report to review yet.

Literature

Literature Chair Report

When these minutes were published, a Literature Chair report was not available. If a written

report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

Literature Committee Report

Area 40 Literature minutes

Meeting opened: 10:01

There were 12 people present in the room for the meeting and 5 on Zoom.

Thanks to Joey, Isabelle, Laurie, Susan, Jana, Jeff, Ed, Brandon, Chachi, Angie, Rebecca, Adam, Bob F., Bob R., Karon and Tabitha for participating in this meeting. We had 4 of 5 voting members present.

We went around the table, made introductions and spoke of our experience with literature:

One person spoke about being overseas and the importance of translations of A.A. literature; big picture to carry the message

Attendees all expressed why they are here in the lit committee, experience and reason to be in lit.

Discussion about plain language and importance of plain language for folks with lower reading levels. A member related their experience, that due to the fact that the language was not in plain English, he felt compelled to reach out to others for explanation and also for guidance.

Each person shared how their group or District interacts with literature.

That pretty much covered Agenda Item C for Area 40

Agenda Item A for the General Service Conference:

We reviewed all of the Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations that came out of the 71st General Service Conference. Some Discussion about a few of the items. A list of those items is below.

Agenda Item A for Literature Area 40

No report available at this time

Item B Agenda Item for Area 40:

We reviewed the job description for the Area 40 Literature Chair and saw that it was necessary to change Item G7.4 We added the word **current** to it. It would now read: **The Literature Committee will have available one (1) copy of all current literature from the G.S.O. for viewing.**

A motion was made and seconded by voting members. All people attending joined in the discussion about it and all agreed it was a good change to make. It was voted on by the voting members present to unanimously make that change.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16

Results and advisory actions

- 1) Revised pamphlet or sponsorship
- 2) Booklet “living Sober” chapter 29 page 74
- 3) Pamphlet/ video 12 concepts illustrated
- 4) Pamphlet updated – “young people in AA”
- 5) Traditions illustrated updated with graphics and unoffensive language
- 6) Update is “AA for young” pamphlet
- 7) Update is there and alcoholic in your life; Paul discussed keeping the message consistent
- 8) Updated “frequently asked questions” pamphlet
- 9) Updated “This is AA”
- 10) AA 3 legacies – requested the draft go to conference 2023
- 11) Pamphlets that are in drafts or revision:

- a. Too young
- b. Black and African American
- c. Native American

12) Translating AA in Spanish – to make changes to be better understood

13) Translating big book into plain and simple language; not rewriting, just translating.

Discussions ensued about whether the plain language translation would eliminate the need for a sponsor

14) The workbook is being drafted and sent back to conference. They think that they are moving in the right direction with the AA approved workbook

15) Literature accessibility in all formats. Keeping current with technology

16) Study guide more information is necessary

17) 12 x 12, 2 changes were made and it has caused problems – looking for opportunities to improve

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

- have a matrix of literature that will be reviewed on a regular basis

- Progress report – a new edition of Big Book 5th edition getting input and stories – 22 years since 4th edition

Agenda Item B) Area 40 policy and procedures – qualification for area literature chair.

- G7.4

Joey made a motion to consider making changes – considered adding the work “current” to the literature chair job description. Bob F seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:16

Corrections/International Conventions & Regional Forums

Corrections Chair Report

Hello Area 40!

I would like to start off by acknowledging my deep gratitude and appreciation for Alcoholics Anonymous. My life is truly beautiful and full as a direct result of AA, The 12 Steps, and God. Service work has played a massive role in keeping me honest, humble, keeps me taking action even when I don't feel like it, and most importantly keeping me glued into the fabric of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am truly grateful for you allowing me to serve and am truly humbled by the experience of serving Area 40 as your Corrections Chair.

I would like to start off by thanking all of the District Chairs, DCMs, and everyone doing corrections work around the Area. I would especially like to give a shout out to Gary E., the Montana State Prison Liaison for all the work he has been doing keeping in contact with the prison and coordinating volunteers to go into the weekly Saturday meeting at the prison. I would also like to thank Big Ed for keeping an AA presence in all of the facilities in District 71. Thanks to everyone who has persisted and not given up due to inconsistent schedules due to staffing shortages which seem to be the new challenge we face in almost every facility across the state. I also would like to thank all of the people who placed Pink Can literature orders and helped me spend nearly \$6,000 providing literature to correctional facilities since the start of my rotation!

The Corrections Committee has a secondary assignment of International Conventions and Regional Forums. We are excited to announce that the 2023 West Central Regional Forum will

be held in our very own Missoula, MT August 25-27 at the Hilton Garden Inn!!! Please help spread the word, everyone is welcome to attend. The International Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia July 3-6, 2025. I would encourage everyone thinking about attending to check out the qualifications to get across the border into Canada. They are pretty strict about letting people in with criminal records and DUIs. AA.org has helpful links with FAQs and links to how to resolve some of these issues.

We had great discussions in our committee about corrections work across the Area. We were informed about bulk Grapevine past issues available at a discount to provide to facilities. Gary is hoping to have a Prison Mini Conference next year if staffing issues improve at MSP. It was brought up that the idea of having a liaison for each correctional facility that does not rotate would be useful in nearly every situation to keep continuity in communication between AA and staff members. We talked about the use of a non-rotating Google Voice number to use for facilities to have a number to contact that does not change for liaison positions. We also discussed making people aware of Corrections Correspondence forms and various ways Corrections Committees operate around Area 40.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. It has truly been an honor and I look forward to doing more with all of you in the future.

Corrections Committee Report

Area 40 Corrections Breakout 9/10/22

Corrections - Area 40

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair.

Report Discussed.

Report on Pink Can income and disbursements.

With a request from GSO, literature bundles can be provided at a discount rate with request from a corrections committee.

Pink can funds had a starting balance of \$5602.66. Current balance is \$1413.17 after donations.

Review the service guidelines and qualifications in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures manual.

Qualifications discussed and approved by District chairs. No change requested.

Corrections -GSC

Review the actions of the Corrections Committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference.

Addition of online meeting availability for inmates in addition to corrections workbook discussed.

Person In Custody change to Inmate is currently being reconsidered.
Google Voice proposed as option for call out system. Update to follow.
Committee suggested that during development of 5th addition, in review of Appendices 3 and 5, that additional information is available at aa.org.

International Conventions and Regional Forums - GSC

Review the results of all International Conventions and Regional Forums committee items considered, reviewed and discussed at the 2021 General Service Conference.

International Convention - please beware of Canadian Entry for attendees with prior convictions.

Breakout attendees-

Darrel H.
darrelh2016@outlook.com
406-450-1950
District 42 GSR

Jennifer M.
jennifermcorrections@gmail.com
District 72 Corrections Chair and GSR

Gary E.
retired.10@live.com
District 61 MT ST Prison Liason

Tom W.
wyniatom@gmail.com
District 81 GSR

Desiree M.
dezrn1@hotmail.com
District 51 Corrections Chair

Lynne W
lynne.wedul@gmail.com
District 11 DCM

Deb C.
Deb
District 93 Alternate GSR

Dan M.
District41aamt@gmail.com
406-217-2735

District 41 Technical

Ty L.
lafountaintyron@gmail.com
406-564-2397
District 41 Corrections Chair

Ty K.
corrections@aa-montana.org
Area Corrections Chair

At 12:00 pm MST Lynne W. made a motion to extend the Assembly by twenty minutes, which was seconded and passed.

2023-2024 Elections (Panel 73) (cont'd)

Area 40 Service Chairs (cont'd) (elected by simple majority)

- Hotline Chair: Xavier G.

At 12:07 pm MST, a motion to close was made, seconded, and passed. The Assembly closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Appendix A



AREA 40 Fall 2022

Financial Highlights















August 2022 Updates

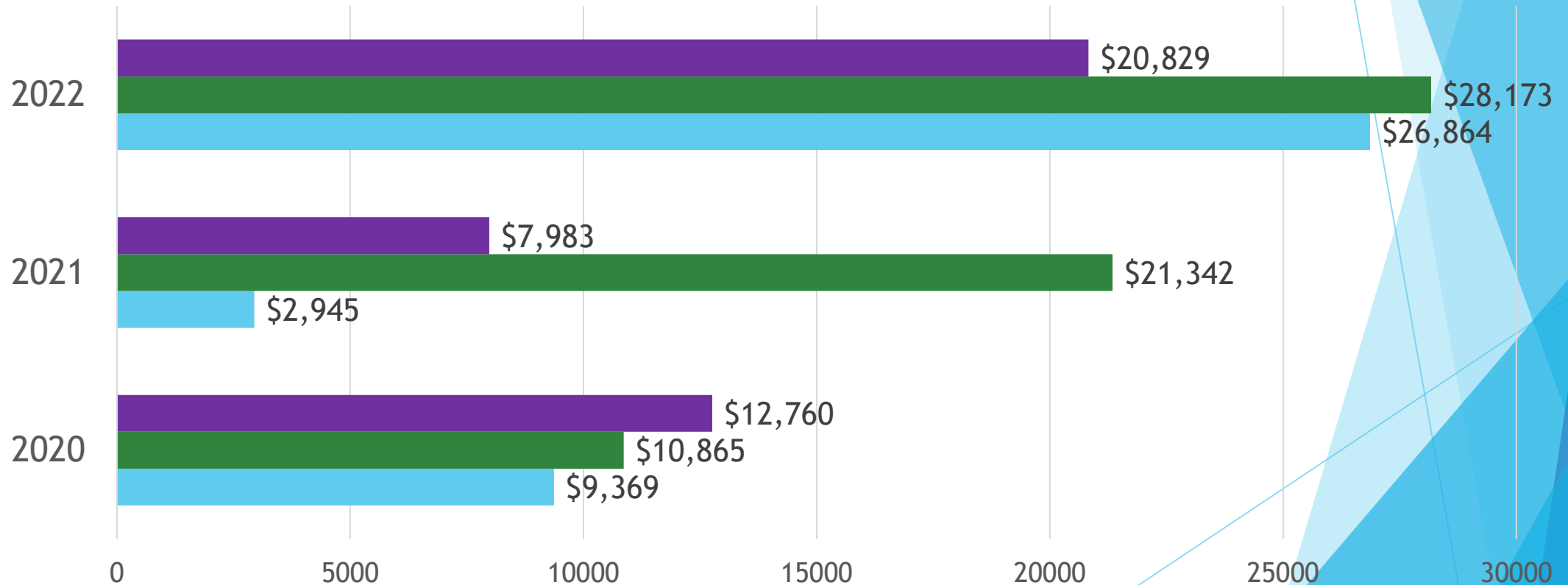
- ▶ Accounts in good standing
- ▶ Strong cash reserves
- ▶ Incorrect address still persists



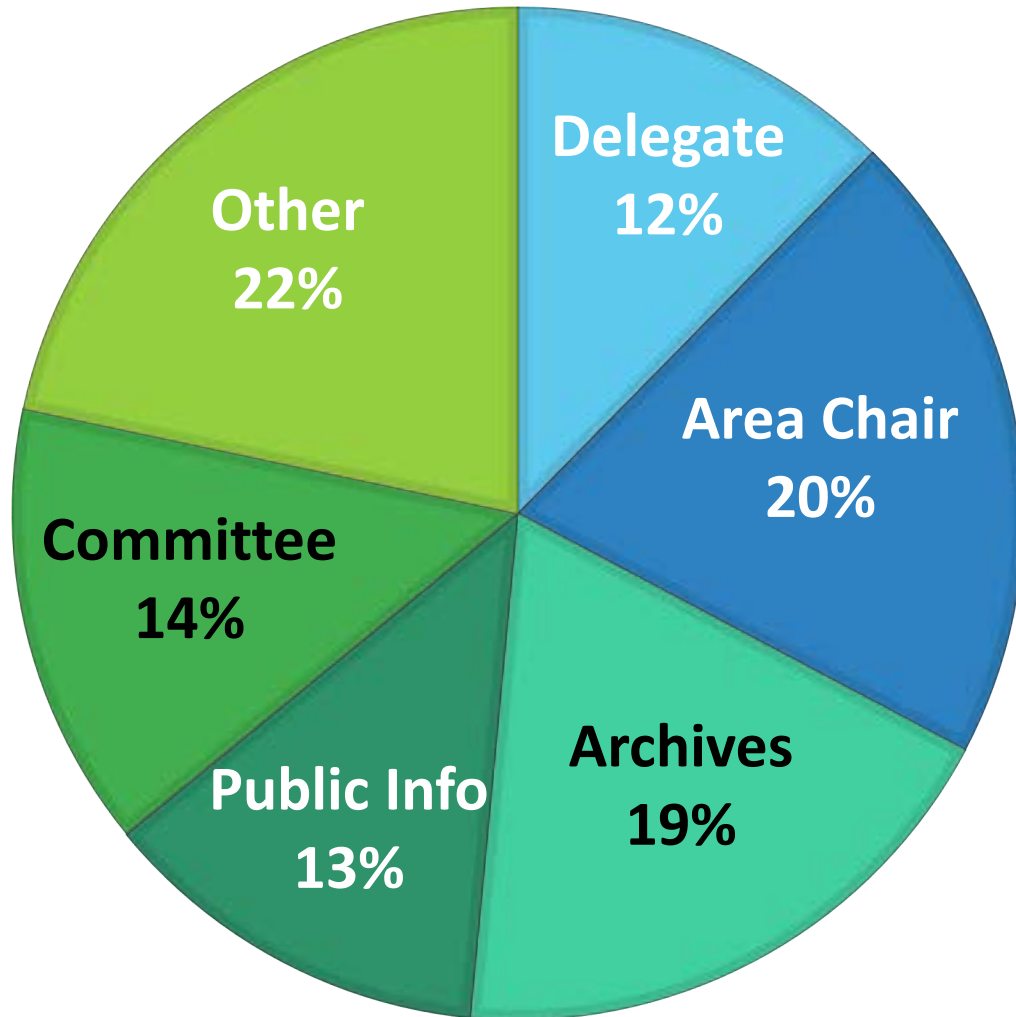


Income & Expense vs. Budget (2022 through Sept 1st)

■ Income ■ Budget ■ Expense



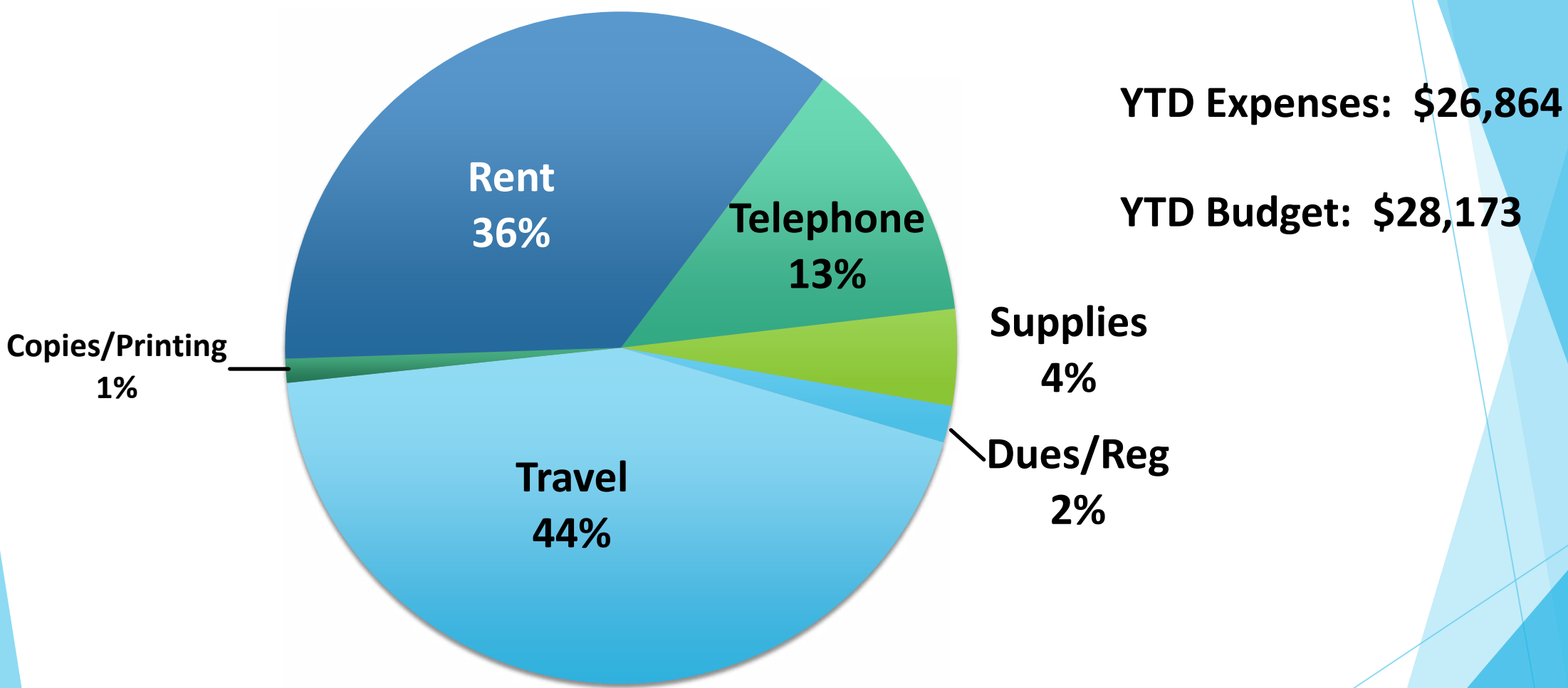
YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- YTD expenses: \$26,864
- YTD income: \$20,829
- Net income: **-\$6,036**



YTD Expenses by Line Item



th Tradition



► “Now that we a
word ‘support’
people, self-re
what we are pr
- in material te

- e sober in A.A., the
as to do with sharing,
ect, gratitude, and
ileged to give - not take
ms.”

HOW AREA 40 GROUPS SUPPORT SERVICES

Area 40 2022 budget = \$42,550

Registered groups in Area 40 = 277

$\$42,550 / 277 \text{ groups} = \$154 \text{ cost per group}$

Out of 277 Groups, 74 (~27%) have contributed \$20,828 as of Aug 31st

Average of \$281 per Group

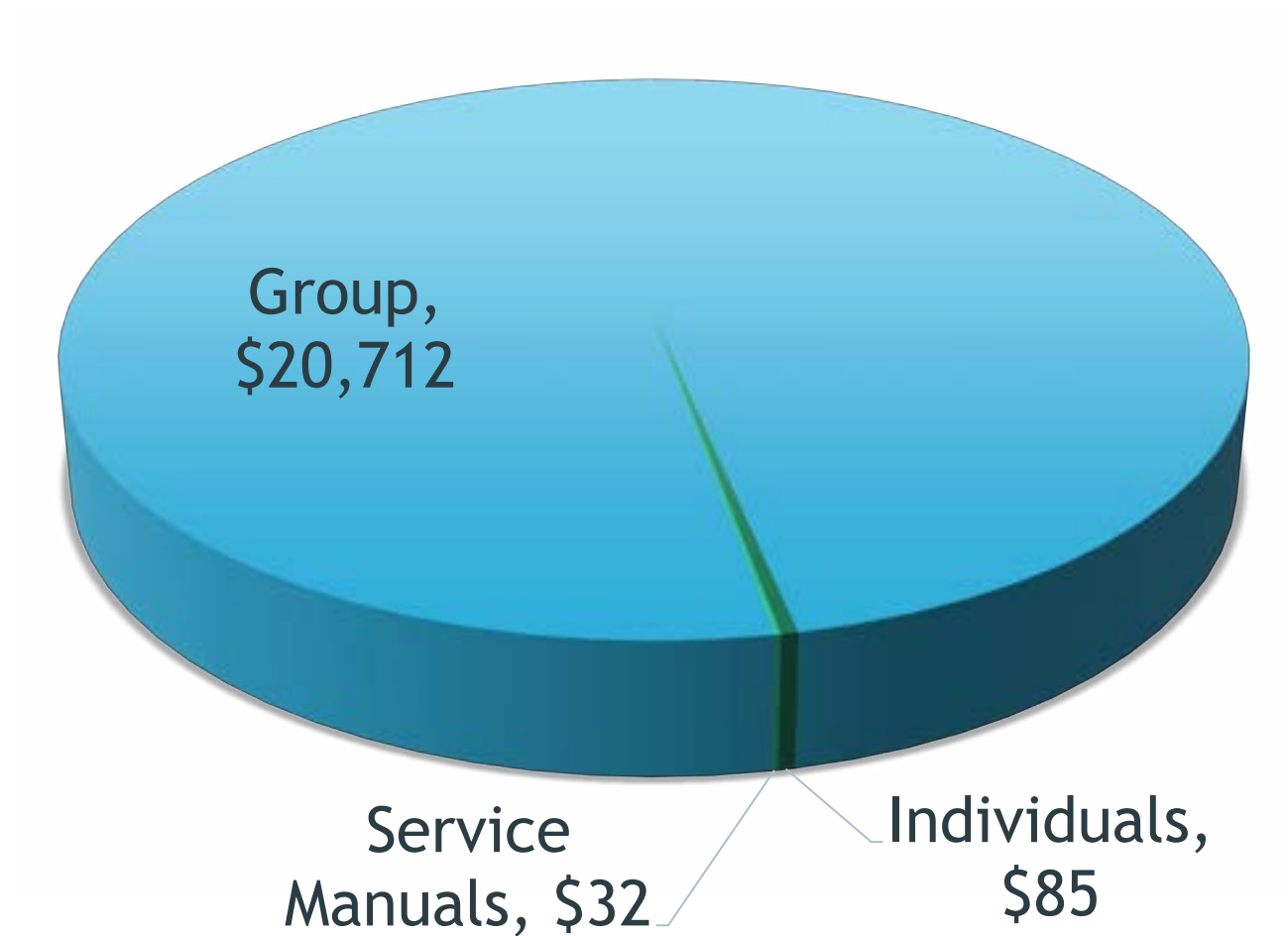
Area 40 YTD Expenses are \$26,864 or \$97/Group

27% of Groups have supported an average of \$362 towards expenses



Income YTD – 8/31/2022

\$20,828.88



- Group
- Individuals
- Service Manuals



Gratitude in Action



Area 40 Policies and Procedures - Area Treasurer

- Any Area Committee member, or ad hoc committee chairperson who is not reimbursed in the capacity of G.S.R. or D.C.M. shall be reimbursed for all miles driven on Area 40 business, at a rate of \$0.05 per mile, as well as actual spent monies of food, gas and lodging. No money will be paid without proper receipts. The use of the Area Committee Expense Form is suggested.
- The Area will fund the Area Delegate to attend Spring and Fall Roundups.
- The Area will also pay the expenses of two past delegates to attend Area Assembly. This does not include the immediate past delegate whose expenses are also paid by the Area.
- The Area will fund the Area Delegate, at the GSO suggested level of Area contribution for expenses, to attend the General Service Conference each spring.
- The Area will fund the Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate/Area Chair for expenses to attend the annual meeting of the West Central Region.
- The Area will fund the Area Assembly biannually. Arrangements and negotiations for meeting space and coffee will be the responsibility of the Area Advisor.
- The Area Treasurer is allowed to advance funds for approved travel and lodging expenses to events for Area 40 Representatives.

Expense Form

TRAVEL

Date: _____

Destination: _____

Purpose of Trip: _____

Mileage, Before: _____ After: _____ Total: _____

Gas Expense: _____

Mileage Allowance (\$0.05/mile):* _____

Meals, # of: _____ Total Expense: _____

Lodging, # of nights: _____ Total Expense: _____

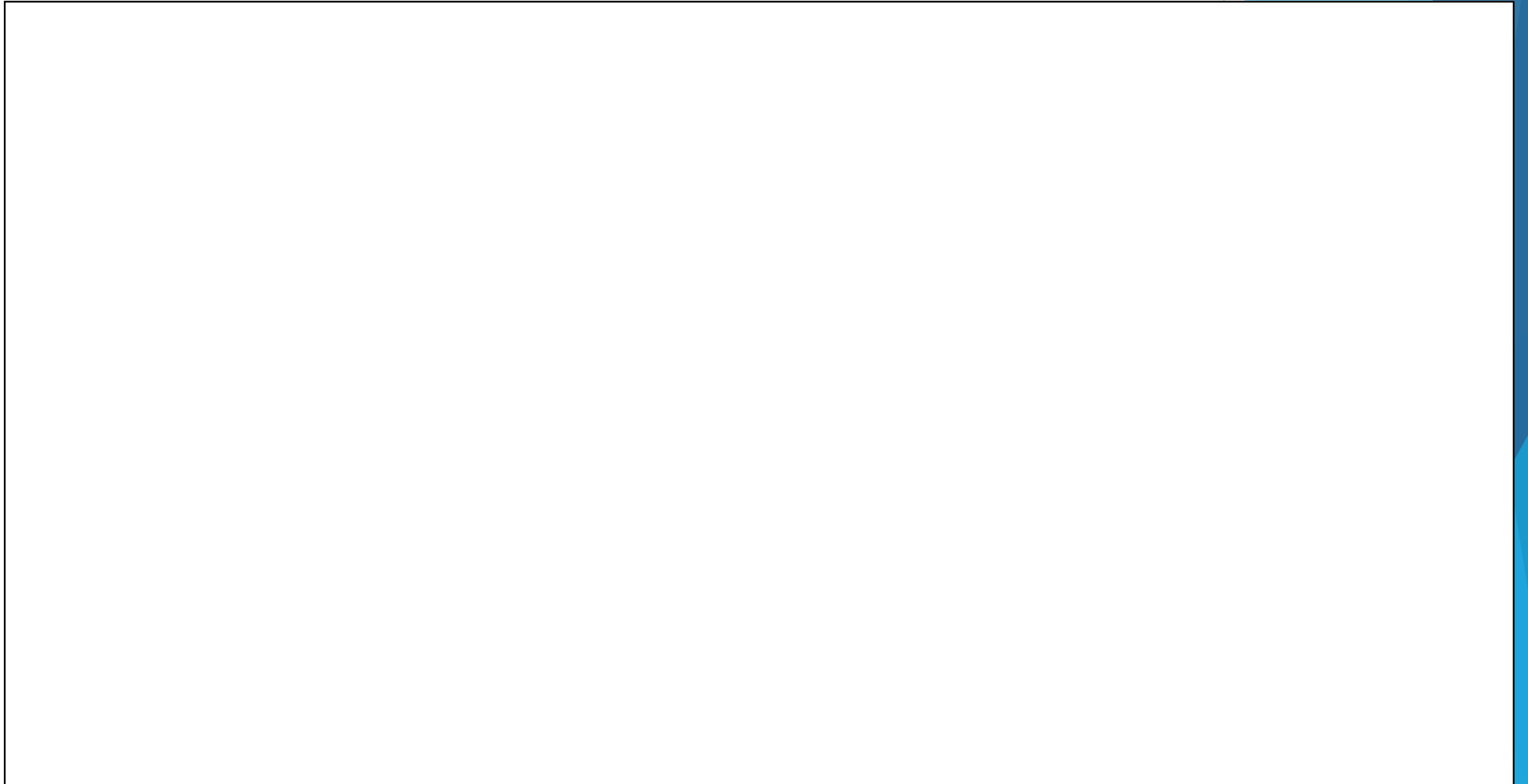
Other: _____

<https://www.aa-montana.org/pdf/area/Area40ExpenseReport.pdf>

**BEAUTIFUL, COOL, CALM ON THE
SURFACE**



PADDLING LIKE HELL UNDERNEATH



Area 40
P.O. Box 155
Bozeman, MT
59771-0155

Cr r gpf k z 'B

THIRD LEGACY VOTING

Establish that a quorum is present prior to voting.

DELEGATE CANDIDATES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

AREA CHAIR/ALT DELEGATE CANDIDATES:

- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.

THIRD LEGACY VOTING

SECRETARY CANDIDATES:

- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.

TREASURER CANDIDATES:

- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.

Committee Chairs election:

SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTING:

To win the candidate must receive more than fifty percent of all votes cast.

Establish that a quorum is present prior to voting.

Quorum is:_____.

There are 8 standing committee chairs that will be elected at this Assembly. They are listed here with their alternate assignments:

TREATMENT FACILITIES / AGENDA

PUBLIC INFORMATION / REPORT & CHARTER / WEBMASTER / HOTLINE

LITERATURE

HOTLINE / TRIANGLE EDITOR

GRAPEVINE / POLICY & ADMISSIONS (GSC)

CORRECTIONS / INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY / TRUSTEES

ARCHIVES / AREA 40 STRUCTURE & POLICY

We will vote on them in reverse alphabetical order.

TREATMENT CANDIDATES:

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

LITERATURE:

HOTLINE:

GRAPEVINE:

CORRECTIONS:

CPC:

ARCHIVES & AREA 40 POLICY AND STRUCTURE

Cr r gpf k z 'C

**Area 40 District Assignments
2023-2024
Panel 73**

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
<u>DISTRICT 11</u> DCM: 11 District Rep: 11 District Rep: 11	Hotline Grapevine Corrections
<u>DISTRICT 12</u> DCM: 12 District Rep: 12	Treatment CPC
<u>DISTRICT 21</u> DCM: 21 District Rep: 21	Literature Grapevine
<u>DISTRICT 23</u> DCM: 23 District Rep: 23	Treatment PI
<u>DISTRICT 31</u> DCM: 31 District Rep: 31	Grapevine Treatment
<u>DISTRICT 41</u> DCM: 41 District Rep: 41 District Rep: 41	Corrections Literature Hotline
<u>DISTRICT 42</u> DCM: 42 District Rep: 42	PI Archives

DISTRICT 51

DCM: 51

District Rep: 51

District Rep: 51

Archives**CPC****Hotline****DISTRICT 61**

DCM: 61

District Rep: 61

District Rep: 61

Archives**Corrections****Finance****DISTRICT 71**

DCM: 71

District Rep: 71

Literature**PI****DISTRICT 72**

DCM: 72

District Rep: 72

CPC**Treatment****DISTRICT 81**

DCM: 81

District Rep: 81

CPC**Archives****DISTRICT 91**

DCM: 91

District Rep: 91

District Rep: 91

PI**Corrections****Hotline****DISTRICT 93**

DCM: 93

District Rep: 93

Grapevine**Literature**

Panel 73 Assignment by Committee

Archives - Don M.

DCM - 61
DCM - 51
Rep - 81
Rep - 42

CPC - Ty K.

DCM - 72
DMC - 81
Rep - 12
Rep - 51

Corrections - Mark H.

DCM - 41
Rep - 11
Rep - 61
Rep - 91

Grapevine - Martin N.

DCM - 31
DCM - 93
Rep - 21
Rep - 11

Hotline - Xavier G.

DCM - 11
Rep - 51
Rep - 91
Rep - 41

Literature - Jessica S-K

DCM - 71
DCM - 21
Rep - 41
Rep - 93

Public Information - Rick H.

DCM - 42
DCM - 91
Rep - 71
Rep - 23

Treatment - Hugh M.

DCM - 12
DCM - 23
Rep - 31
Rep - 72

Finance - Jake L.

Delegate
Area Chair
Rep - 61

Cr r gpf k z D

GSR BREAKOUT

①

We have a man stalking newer women, what can we do?

- don't confront w/ group, pull him 1:1.
- we have a right to go to AA + feel safe.
- watch out for women
- BUT not just men are predators

Comments -

- * safety cards available @ bookstore or @ AA.org.
- * group of men - took 1 man aside & spoke to him.
- * safety card, print it big & post @ group.

- ② Does punk can still take contributors?
- Depends on group; MP goes to district.
 - Group Conscience

Comments:

Q: what is punk can?

A: Started in OK - spare change to get books into jails + prisons.

C: One group collects + also goes to meet - again, autonomy of groups.

③ Q: Do you allow non-alcoholics to speak at open meetings?

A: - Group autonomy

ex: al-anon hybrid

ex: welcome to attend but don't share

ex: students from college - allowed to share, also newcomers unsure of whether they are alcoholic or not

ex: open meeting - spiritual leader,
alanon does participate.

ex: conference approved literature
only?

* must be sure first and
foremost not to harm AA.

ex: Al anons attending AA found they
identified w/ AA + joined AA.

ex: nursing students - we explain
to them that they are visitors,
understand anonymity, &
don't share

C: Blue card read -

Q:

④ what happens when non-AA literature is read?

A: Gives newcomers the mistaken assumption that non AA literature is AA literature. Could be harmful.

C: Spouse works own separate program, careful to keep two programs separate (AA + Alanon)

C: Policies + procedures importance - groups - have in writing as a principle, what is a groups format, rules, etc. In a document rather than relying on personalities

C: Drugs - small community, accepts addicts, esp. when NA meeting unavailable

- pg. 77 primary purpose is to be

of maximum service to God & to
carry message. - We can take
suffering by the hand & show
them where to get help.

"Drug is a drug is a drug" can be
dangerous to an addict receiving
help only from AA.

Q: Why is Lord's prayer OK? (Not
conference literature).

A: Because we always have, etc.
Don't have to!

- Didn't say it originally (in NY),
started in CA.

5Q: OK to discuss group conscience
issues at a regular meeting?
(as opposed to a business
meeting)

AA mtg = 12th step work - for still
suffering alcoholic -

C: guidelines for chair, stick to process to avoid crossover into other topics. Business meetings are for other issues.

Q: How often do groups have group conscience meetings, & how long do they last?

A: yearly, monthly, depends

A: Agenda items, summarize & provide to group.

* orientation for new service positions on how to write a report; how to provide information to your group!

* Thanks to TECH support from ZOOM LAND.

ADJOURN 😊