

Area 40 Fall 2023 Assembly Minutes

Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom

September 8-10, 2023

Table of Contents

Assembly Welcome Friday: 2 Saturday: 4

Area Chair Report: 6

Delegate Report: 8

Roll Call: 11

Secretary Report: 12

Elections: 14

Motions from this Assembly: 14

Financial Highlights: 15

DCM Reports

District 11 Report: 28

District 12 Report: 29

District 21 Report: no report given

District 23 Report: no report given

District 31 Report: 29

District 41 Report: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

District 42 Report: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

District 51 Report: 30

District 61 Report: 31

District 71 Report: 32

District 72 Report: 33

District 81 Report: 34

District 91 Report: 35

District 93 Report: 36

Workshop: See Past Delegate Sharing

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy: 36

Hotline/Report & Charter: 40

Public Information/Website: 42

Treatment Facilities/Agenda: 44

Bridging the Gap: 45

Corrections/International Conventions: 47

Finance: 48

Literature: 51

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees: 53

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions: 55

GSR Breakout: 60

DCM Breakout: 61

Archivist Report: 36

Webmaster Report: 43

Roundup Reports: 61

Intergroup Report: 62

Forum Report: 63

Past Delegate Sharing: 67

Appendix 1 Budget Proposal: 82

Friday, September 8, 2023

➤ **Assembly Welcome, Friday Evening- Kacie N**

Good evening! My name is Kacie N, and I am an alcoholic. I am honored and privileged to be serving as your Panel 73 Delegate. Let's open this evening with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

I'd like to extend the warmest of welcomes to all of you, online and in-person, and thank you for choosing to spend your weekend participating in Area 40's biannual business meeting... also known as Area Assembly.

Let's start getting to know each other with a few questions. Please raise your hand if:

- This is the first Area Assembly you've ever attended
- You are a DCM – you should be in the other room with Lisa...
- You are a GSR
- You are a District Committee Chairperson
- You are a guest here to check out what all this craziness is about
- How many of you are serving in your first service position ever?

How about a sense of sobriety... How many of you have been sober:

- Longer than 30 years
- 20 – 29 years
- 10 – 19 years
- 5 – 9 years
- 1 – 4 years
- Less than one year?

As you can see by looking around at the hands that were raised, we are quite a cross-section of sobriety and service experience.

Most of us are still pretty new to our service positions, and although we may be a bit more comfortable than we were in the Spring, there is still so much we may not know. One of the reasons for this welcoming session is to familiarize you with what will happen this weekend and to get more acquainted with one another.

Acronym Absurdity! These are some acronyms you may hear over the weekend:

GSR – General Service Representative

DCM – District Committee Member

CPC – Cooperation with the Professional Community

PI – Public Information

GSC – General Service Conference

GSO – General Service Office

GSB – General Service Board

AAWS – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services

PAI – Proposed Agenda Item

YPAA – Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

WCRAASC – West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference

Helpful Resources:

Each Other! Nearly everything we do in service relies on accurate information and effective communication. An informed group conscience.

The Area Website www.aa-montana.org – There is a wealth of information available on our website under the Area Committee tab. The first thing you'll notice at the top of the page is the Zoom meeting info for the monthly Area 40 Concepts Study. This meeting occurs on the third Saturday of every month, and everyone is invited. The other things you'll discover here are Treasury reports, Past Assembly minutes and agendas, District mini-sites, GSC Final Reports, past editions of the Triangle Newsletter, the Area 40 Policy and Procedures, and Past Actions. This is where you will find the Area Trusted Servants email list and the addresses for where to send 7th Tradition contributions. The Forms and Other Documents tab provides a host of documents including the very important Proposed Agenda Item Form.

--aa.org, Box 459, the Grapevine, the Service Manual, pamphlets – The Home Group

--**Composition: 21 trustees** - 7 Class A (nonalcoholic); 14 Class B (alcoholic); 8 regional trustees (6 US, 2 Canada); 2 Trustees-at-Large (1 US, 1 Canada); 4 general service trustees

--**A.A. World Services Inc (Corporate Board)** Oversees the General Service Office (GSO) and publishes A.A. books and pamphlets. 9 directors: 2 general service trustees; 2 regional or at-large trustees; 3 non-trustee directors, one paid staff member, GSO general manager (president of the corporation) Meets 8 times a year

--**A.A. Grapevine, Inc (Corporate Board)** Oversees the Grapevine office and publishes and distributes the A.A. Grapevine magazine 9 directors: 2 general service trustees; 2 regional trustees; 1 class A Trustee; 3 non-trustee directors, and the executive editor (serves as president of the corporation) Meets quarterly, plus four meetings as a planning committee

Overview of Assembly agenda – the schedule and flow for what is going to happen

Minority opinion: In the spirit of Concept V, after each vote, members who voted on the side that did not prevail are given an opportunity to speak. Not all members may state a minority opinion, who can?

d) Reconsideration: A member who voted with the prevailing side may move to reconsider a vote (usually because of a minority opinion). Only a simple majority is required. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro, and con, is resumed (members are encouraged to limit discussion to new considerations) No action may be reconsidered twice. Not all members may make a motion to reconsider, who can

General guidelines: People wishing to speak line up at the microphones and the chair will call on them in order. Introduce yourself at the microphone (each time you speak): name, service position, district. Each person may speak for 3 minutes (hard stop when the time goes off) Everyone who wishes to speak will have a turn before anyone may speak for a second time Full discussion should take place before the vote. Everyone is entitled to, and should, express their opinion. However, if it has already been stated, it is not necessary to repeat it. Everyone is asked to refrain from clapping when people share, pro and con, in order to NOT discourage those who may have opposing opinions or facts

-Voting is by a show of hands

-Listen with an open mind, particularly to those who speak on the other side of an issue from you, and remember that the loudest or most repetitive voice is not always right!

-Tabling a motion: postpones discussion to a later time during the assembly Must be made without comment Requires a second Not debatable Only simple majority to pass

Area Standing Committee Meeting: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

Saturday, September 9, 2023

12 Traditions: Bob

12 Concepts: Lenore

➤ Assembly Welcome, Saturday Morning- Kacie N

Good morning, everyone! My name is Kacie and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Montana Delegate. Thank you all so much for being here today.

Would all of you who are attending Assembly for the first time, please stand? Those of you online attending for the first time, please raise your virtual hand.

Welcome! We are so glad to have you here. Look around at the people who are still seated or whose hands are not raised. At one point it was also their first assembly ever. They've been where you are and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Those of you still seated or without your hand raised, please take time during the weekend to reach out, welcome, and offer your experience to any of our first-time attendees. Please have a seat and lower your hands.

Will all DCMs stand, please? Thank you for your service and for taking on such an important leadership and communication role in the service triangle. I am so grateful you are there to help me communicate from the General Service Office, Board, and Conference at the bottom of the triangle back up to the GSRs and groups at the top of the triangle. After our secretary, Lynne does roll call, we will ask DCMs to complete the sign-in sheet for their districts. Those voting members who are attending virtually should let Alex M know that they are voting members. GSRs and DCMs are the only voting members of the district. Alternate GSRs will only have a vote if their GSR is not present virtually or in person. Alternate DCMs will only have a vote if their DCM is not present virtually or in person. DCMs, please identify your District Reps who have been appointed to be a member of one of the Area Standing Committees. These appointed District Reps are voting members of the Area Standing Committee only and do not have a vote on the floor of the general assembly unless they are also a GSR.

The DCMs will return their sign-in sheets to Lynne by the first break. The information necessary to establish a quorum, which is two-thirds of the eligible voters, is gathered from these sign-in sheets. With very few exceptions, votes taken this weekend are decided by "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. Lisa will explain this in more detail as it comes up.

Will all Past Delegates stand, please? Thank you for taking your turn in each service position you've held. Thank you for the sacrifice and service you've given to Area 40 and the AA fellowship as a Delegate. Thank you for being present and leading by example.

Will all past Trustees please stand?

Our responsibility this weekend is to establish and gather the informed group conscience of Area 40 regarding the items on our agenda. Lisa, our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, will be facilitating the assembly according to a loose interpretation of Robert's 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, "Lisa makes the call."

Lisa has prepared this weekend's agenda and has decided the order in which we will conduct our business. Soon we will start to hear reports from our Area Officers, Area Chairs, and DCMs. At 9:15 we will stop the reports, take a short break, and convene Standing Committee meetings in their respective breakout rooms. Anyone can attend the committee meetings, but remember, only the Committee Chair, appointed DCMs, and District Reps are eligible to vote in committee. If you choose not to attend a committee meeting, Past Delegates Sharon S. and Gerry R. will be conducting workshops here in this main room. After the committee breakouts and workshop conclude, we will break for lunch.

This is a special Assembly for two different reasons. One is that we will be conducting an Area Inventory. This is a unique opportunity that does not happen every rotation and you do not have to be a voting member to participate. Everyone has an equal voice during this process. Our Area Advisor, Connie R., will be sharing a more thorough orientation on this process when we return from lunch. The second reason is that this weekend we have the opportunity to elect Area 40's nominee for West Central Regional Trustee. Later this afternoon, I will share a brief description of what a Regional Trustee does and then we will follow the Third Legacy procedure to select our candidate.

This is certain to be a very productive and exciting weekend!

We have a lot of Area 40 business to discuss and vote on this weekend. If during their discussions, a committee decides to bring an item to the floor to be voted on by the entire Assembly, it will come to the floor in the form of a Recommendation, which is considered a made and seconded motion. Lisa 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 mic or raise your hand. You will have 3 minutes to express your opinion. Once your 3 minutes have been reached Lynne will notify us by the clang of the cowbell. (Ask Lynne to ring it.) If Lisa 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. Remember that for an item to pass it must have a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

At 9:00 tonight, there will be two breakout sessions. One for GSRs here in the Mansfield Room and one for DCMs across the hall in the Russel Room. There are Ask-It Baskets online and in the back of the room. If you have a question you'd like addressed during one of these breakout sessions, please put it

in the basket. These sessions are an excellent opportunity to bring any questions, concerns, or shared experiences regarding general service, the assembly, your home group, district, or other related items.

And what better way to conclude a packed day of AA business than with some fun and fellowship! Anyone who's still awake and wants to hang out can meet in the Trigg room next door.

In closing, I'd like to just encourage each of you to really be an active participant this weekend. Join in the discussion, ask questions, listen to one another, and don't be afraid of the mic. People are suffering and dying from alcoholism right now. The work that we do this weekend is to ensure that what we've found in AA remains available and accessible to all. "When ANYONE, ANYWHERE reaches out, I want the hand of AA to always be there." For that we are responsible.

In Love and Service,
Kacie N, A40, P73 Delegate
September 09, 2023

➤ **Area Chair Report, Lisa C-D**

I'm Lisa, I'm an alcoholic. It's been a busy few months serving as your Area 40 Chair and Alternate Delegate. I got to attend the spring roundup in May and the regional forum in August, both in Missoula. I got to hear Kacie deliver her Delegate's Report several times, including once online in July with people from all over the state. I conducted an agenda writing workshop in June, and we fleshed out an idea proposed by Kelly Q., which is now one of the items of business we'll consider and vote on this weekend. In fact, there have been so many events that when I sat down to write this report, I quickly realized that I would need to focus on just a few things in order to fit this into the time allotted.

One of my writing teachers taught me that there is rhetorical power in threes – he was adamant that two is too few, and four is too many. So here are three things from the past few months that I want to share with you.

In June, I got to attend the 3rd Annual Founder's Day campout at a vast and beautiful U of M research forest that we were fortunate enough to call our own for the weekend. On Saturday night at the campout, which was June 10, we had a meeting around the campfire. At some point, the man next to me handed me a Big Book and asked me to read something. I wasn't sure why he was asking me -- I figured maybe he couldn't make out the text in the relative darkness – but I agreed and launched in without even knowing what I was about to read. It was this, from Dr. Bob's Nightmare, describing an encounter with his "new friend," Bill W:

He came and got me home and to bed, gave me a few drinks that night, and one bottle of beer the next morning.

That was June 10, 1935, and that was my last drink. As I write, nearly four years have passed.

The question which might naturally come into your mind would be: "What did the man do or say that was different from what others had done or said?" It must be remembered that I had read a great deal and talked to everyone who knew or thought they knew anything about the subject of alcoholism. But this was a man who had experienced many years of frightful drinking, who had had almost all the drunkard's experiences known to man, but who had been cured by the very means I had been trying to employ, that is to say the spiritual approach. He gave me information about the subject of alcoholism which was undoubtedly helpful. *Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience. In other words, he talked my language.*

By the time I finished reading that passage around the campfire, I had tears in my eyes, a lump in my throat, and goosebumps on my arms. To read those words exactly 88 years later around a campfire with a dozen or so others

“who talked my language” was one of those moments when I really felt how incredibly lucky I am, how lucky we all are, that those two met, and figured this thing out, and cared enough to pass it on in a way that it could reach all of us and so many others.

The second moment I want to share happened in July, when I attended Kacie’s delegate report in Bozeman. District 72 hosted a wonderful event with a great turnout and fabulous food. As I caught up with people in attendance, one of them was a man I had worked with on some district-related stuff between 2017 and 2019. I hadn’t seen him since before the pandemic. After we hugged, he immediately asked me, “How are your kids?” I was touched that he remembered that my two oldest kids have some health issues, which were just coming to light back when he and I were working together. I told him that it was so kind of him to remember that they’ve been ill, and he said, “Of course I remember, I pray for them every day.” The look in his eyes – such compassion – made me know right away that he was telling the truth. I immediately started crying, which embarrassed both of us, and when I thanked him, he humbly said, “That’s just what we do.”

As I’ve thought about that moment in the months since, I’ve considered that while it’s what *some* of us do, it’s not what *all* of us do. It’s not something that I would have done... but it’s what I want to do and it’s the way I want to be. And I don’t think it’s an accident that this person who set that example for me is someone I met doing service in AA. That’s not to say that we can’t have moments like this one in meetings or during “the meeting after the meeting” or at fellowship events – we can, and I have. But as I’ve reflected on that moment, it occurs to me that I have more of those moments and meet more of the people who are living demonstrations of how I want to grow spiritually when I do service in AA.

The third and last thing I want to share with you is a moment from just a couple of weeks ago at the West Central Regional Forum in Missoula. We had a fantastic weekend, well attended by people from all over Area 40 and from the other areas in our region – Northern and Southern Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Kacie encouraged everyone from Area 40 to go to the mic at some point during the weekend... her encouragement was gentle at first, and less gentle as the weekend progressed. Many people from our area bravely spoke Friday night and throughout Saturday, undaunted by the 250+ people present and unintimidated by the presence of several staff members from GSO, present and former trustees, and present and former non-trustee directors, who are collectively an impressive and accomplished group of people. In truth, many of the people who spoke at the mic probably *were* daunted, maybe even a little intimidated, but they spoke anyway. I did not. Not until the final minutes of the final session Sunday morning did I finally make it to the mic. I was so nervous as I spoke that I literally couldn’t feel my face.

I wanted to tell you that story, because I want to encourage each and every one of you to do something this weekend that challenges you. Invite someone you don’t know to join you for lunch or dinner. During a break, turn to someone you’ve never met before and introduce yourself. And come to the mic. AA service is a place where we sometimes manage to step well outside our comfort zone and grow – sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, sometimes with a gentle nudge, sometimes with a mighty shove. Sometimes afterwards I think: “That was not bad.” Other times I cringe at my awkwardness, at the fact that my voice audibly shook or that what I meant to say is not at all what came out of my mouth. But the thing is... that’s also not bad. Maybe in those moments, maybe my willingness to flail through a challenging moment is what tells others that it’s okay to be nervous and it’s okay if your point doesn’t come out exactly the way you intended. When we do things that scare us, we are relieved of the bondage of self, and that’s often when we make new service friends or discover something in AA service that we’re passionate about or just help one another overcome whatever is holding us back from being a part of.

Thank you for allowing me to be your trusted servant and to have experiences like these. It truly is an honor.

In love and service,

Lisa C., Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate

➤ **Delegate Report , Kacie N**

In the Fall of 2006, in a room similar to this, 106 miles East of here in Lewistown, Montana, Andrew W. opened an Assembly as the Area Chair and closed the Assembly having been elected the Delegate for the next rotation. At that same Assembly, my friend and fellow home group member Paul W. was serving as Area Secretary, Gerry R. was serving as the Archivist, and Connie was serving as the Public Information chair. Of course, there were so many others there being of service and doing the business of AA in that meeting room, too many to list, but all equally essential. A budget was discussed and passed. Committees met, discussed, and presented items that were passed by the voting body on the Assembly floor. Just exactly like we are doing this weekend in this room.

In that same Fall of 2006, I was 25, over \$30,000 in credit card debt, running short on friends, barely holding a job, and scared to answer my door because men knew where I lived that I don't even remember meeting. I was a year divorced and spent nearly every morning smoking out of a bong with vodka bong water, and every evening getting wasted on \$5 plastic liters of Gordon's vodka trying to work out how I could make suicide by revolver look like an accident.

I was there while you were here. You didn't know me, but you were making a way for me. You were showing up, taking time away from your spouses, partners, children, jobs, and fur babies. You were talking about how to improve AA in Area 40, how to be self-supporting, how to ensure the preservation of this life-saving program... and you did. You saved my life. I found you. One of you carried some hope to me and let me know it was okay to sit on the furniture even though I didn't even think I was worth the space I took up sitting on the floor. You told me I didn't have to sit in the dark and, more importantly, that I didn't have to sit alone. Eventually, I joined a home group that valued Sponsorship and Step Work, the Traditions, and service. And then.... Then I was invited to my first Assembly. "But I have NO money! Seriously, you guys, I owe soooo much money. I can't afford to go to this thing you're talking about and eat out, sleep in a hotel, pitch in for gas. Impossible!" What was I told? "Get in the car." And not just 'get in the car', but "it's SO much fun, just come, you'll love it. You might get to meet the Grapevine Chair. I got to meet the Grapevine Chair one year when they wore this big grape costume, it was hilarious!" (That's a real conversation.) Not once did anyone say, it's boring, or people argue, or don't do this or that, or you're not sober enough, or experienced enough, or you don't belong. And so, I went. I shared beds, split meals, and clung as tightly as I could to the coattails of my sponsor. And you know what, it was amazing. I don't remember many specifics because as you can imagine it was a whirlwind, but I had been bit by the bug and I was in. You guys were so freaking happy. I wanted what you had more than I could put into words. Was it position or status or prestige that I was enamored with? Nope. It was just you. It was you and your dang hugs and your dang laughter and your overwhelming, undeniable love for one another in Alcoholics Anonymous. Your undeniable love for me.

To get what you have you showed me that I have to do what you do. So, I did – as best I could – a couple more 'get in the cars' and many service positions later, you weirdos elected to be your Delegate, your conduit of information, your spiritual contribution to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you for that. Since I saw you at our Spring Assembly, I got to participate in the 73rd General Service Conference in Brooklyn, New York. You may not know it, but you all were with me.

How many people in this room use toilet paper? How many of you feel strongly about having toilet paper available to you when you go to the bathroom? Okay, so we're all pretty much on the same page, right? Let me ask you, how many of you believe toilet paper should go over the top when you pull it off the roll? Strongly? How many of you believe it should go under? Do you feel strongly about that? Could you have an argument about it? Ok. So, I go to the General Service Conference, and I've got an Area that believes toilet paper is important, but some believe it should go over and some believe it should go under and both sides believe their way is the right way - with conviction. How does one person vote on behalf of all of you who

don't entirely agree on one topic except that it is important? It's very difficult. But what I can do is listen to you. When you share your opposition with me in a constructive way, I can take that to the Conference and pass on your thoughts and feedback while the conversation is happening. Or when you are strongly in favor of an idea and share with me why you feel so in detail, I can take that to the Conference and share that during the discussion. And when the vote comes up, I can sit quietly, pray, and ask, "Ok, God, what would you have me do?" I can reflect on the sense of the Area in the discussions we've held, consider what is best not just for Montana, but AA as a whole, and vote with faith in you, the process, and our Higher Power. And when I report back to all of you, I can let you know that the toilet paper won't be going over the top this time, even though that's how it *should* go, but instead, it's going to go under. I will accept the group conscience, even when I'm in the minority opinion, and share with you what led to those results.

Toilet Paper is a fairly benign topic. There is meant to be some humor in this pretty accurate analogy, but I hope you can understand that is what it's like. I care about what each one of you thinks. As does every Delegate who has served before me to represent us at the General Service Conference. There's just no way to vote *your* way each and every single time on an agenda item and it doesn't mean we're not listening. Please, always be willing to share how you're feeling about something even if you think a decision has already been made. The minority opinions are important.

In this report, I have the opportunity to be accountable to you. You guys spend a lot of money on me. You spend money on me to go to the Conference, to go to West Central Regional events, and to truck around Montana and report back on the Conference to each of your Districts. Things are different than they were in 2006. I have the privilege of being funded to do this service, but I do need to tell you where your money is going. I have had the privilege of delivering my Delegate's Report back on the Conference eight and a half times so far. (Going to Great Falls was amazing! But I didn't give a full conference report back there, so I only feel right about counting it as half a report.) Everywhere I've been invited, the hospitality has been amazing. The food is always delicious. And you are always kind with your open arms and the love that you show me as I share with you the return on your investment in me. I have three more reports scheduled in the upcoming weeks in Laurel, Helena, and Havre. If I have not yet been to your district and you would like me to come and share my report, please reach out and we'll work to get it on the calendar.

In May, I went on vacation to the Oregon Coast with my amazing husband to celebrate our 8th year of being married. (You guys didn't pay for that! We paid for it because I'm no longer \$30,000 in debt. In fact, I have a pretty amazing credit score that I'm quite proud of. A gift of working the steps!) Thank you for teaching me how to be a wife.

In June, I participated in the Agenda Item Writing Workshop hosted by our Area Chair, Lisa. It was lowly attended but not poorly attended and I'm very excited about the outcome of what happened there.

Also in June, I went to Fiddler on the Roof with my mom to celebrate being alive and getting to have a 42nd birthday because I got sober at 25 instead of drinking myself to death or dying by suicide. Thanks to you all, my mom likes me today and enjoys spending time with me.

I attend monthly meetings of the West Central Regional Delegates and am currently serving on a sub-committee of the West Central Region revamping guidelines and the Voice Book for our Regional conferences.

On August 16th, the members of the General Service Conference met together on Zoom to participate in a sharing session as the result of a motion passed in the Spring. We will have two more virtual sharing sessions before we meet at the 74th GSC next April. Those sharing sessions are a result of a frustrating situation producing some silver linings. I wasn't sure what to expect or what it would be like on the 16th. We did have

three sharing sessions prior to the conference this year but they were for the express purpose of addressing the events of the January Board meeting. They were not typical meetings and were a one-time occurrence at that time. The August 16th sharing session was very different. Each of the Trustees gave a summary report of the most recent events from the July Board weekend. There was time for some questions and answers. I was so relieved that we were having the Forum the following weekend because all that information was presented there. My hope and intention for the next two sharing sessions is to schedule an Area 40 Zoom meeting shortly after each session. This will allow me to immediately report back to you all what I learned in the Conference Sharing Session. Please keep an eye on the Area Calendar for those meetings.

I attended the Regional Forum a few weekends ago, which was amazing. I was given the opportunity to be the MC for the CPC workshop planned and executed by our Area CPC Committee Chair, Ty, and his incredible committee. Additionally, I got to moderate a workshop at the Forum titled, "Overcoming Barriers to Participation in AA." I believe this is a really important topic to consider in AA right now. We all get to be here and be sober and somewhere in a dark room somewhere, there's an alcoholic thinking about taking their own life because they can't figure out how to go on with or without drinking. And we're here doing this business so they can find us. It shouldn't have to be hard for them to find us. It's hard enough to get here. There are a lot of barriers we have yet to break so that people will get and stay here. There are barriers that we, here in Montana, might not ever experience. An incredible byproduct of attending the General Service Conference is being able to interact with alcoholics from all walks of life, a cross-section of the US and Canada, speaking different languages but sharing the language of the heart. We had visitors who came from Poland, Central Mexico, and Puerto Rico. One of the members of my Policy and Admissions committee is a French-speaking Canadian so we have a translator with us in the committee the whole time. One of my favorite things I learned is that the word "wordsmith" doesn't translate well from English to French. Instead, the translator says, "dawdling with commas." How appropriate! What an important lesson! Translation is a remarkable thing, but if I had a translator here right now, they would not be translating word for word the things I'm saying. It isn't possible. Sometimes language is a barrier. Did you know there are currently 7,117 known languages in the world? The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is translated into just over 70. Should someone be excluded from our membership because they don't speak the right language? I want everyone to get this. I don't want anyone to be left out of the opportunity to receive the gifts I've been blessed with. There are a lot of other ways to get sober these days. We don't have a monopoly, we never have. (We just have the best way, I think.) You know what I need almost more than anything in my sobriety? A newcomer. I need a new person. If I don't have a new person, I've got nothing, really. If I don't have someone to share my experience, strength, and hope with, if I don't have someone to show me that it doesn't work anymore, then what is the point? So, I'd rather have the newcomer walk in and stay with me, than walk in somewhere else and find an option that doesn't include sponsorship, service, steps, and traditions. I'm selfish! I don't want to miss out on what the newcomer has to offer. I want to keep them! So, if we can overcome those barriers to participation, we can make sure there is a chair available, a meeting is open, the phone is answered, the high school has pamphlets, and the professional has resources from us. We're doing so much good work, but there is so much more work to do. That's why we're here this weekend.

I got to get here and stay here. And what it took for me to get here and stay here might not be the same as it is for someone who walks in today. Times and experiences change. I believe it is my responsibility, our responsibility, to be willing to meet the newcomers where they are. What I saw at the Conference that I took so much comfort in, is that there isn't anything decided without reaching Substantial Unanimity. The committee process is inspired and remarkable. There are no sneaky decisions being made under the cloak of darkness in the middle of the night. Thorough discussion is had, minority opinions are heard, and votes only pass if at least 2/3 of the voting members agree. Things do change in Alcoholics Anonymous. I would encourage you to show up, get involved, and ask questions. The information is being shared, but if you're not present to hear it, you may just think someone is trying to pull one over on you. Show up to the business

meetings, ask your GSR questions, show up to the Delegate reports in your District, and ask your DCM and Delegate questions. If you don't like what's going on, vote and share your opinion.

This time next year, we'll be holding elections again. It will be someone else's turn to punch in and take the Delegate shift. Someone else's turn to be Secretary, DCM, GSR, and maybe even Archivist. There is never a time that is too early to start thinking about what you might do next. Consider what you might be interested in doing next rotation, find the person currently doing that job, ask questions, and tag along with them to see how it's done. Read the job description in the Service Manual. Participate and be part of what we have here.

People die from alcoholism. One of my best friends from high school died from Cirrhosis at age 42 this year. Members of our Area have buried family due to death from Cirrhosis. This disease kills people. Suffering from alcoholism wears a lot of different masks. But for as many ways as there are to suffer, there are just as many ways we can work to reach those suffering. Just because one way worked for me, doesn't mean that is the only way that will ever work. This isn't a game. We have Traditions and Concepts as guidelines, but there is no hard-set rule as to the only way for us to reach the suffering alcoholic. We have a lot of different tools, and we can still create new ones. I'm really excited about what is in store for us. I hope we can proceed with open minds, honest hearts, and willing spirits as we do the business of AA. Being always mindful of why it is we're doing what we're doing.

With that, let's get busy doing the work of AA and enjoy the rest of our weekend. Thank you for my sobriety!

In Service,
Kacie N. A40/P73 Delegate
09.09.2023

➤ **Roll Call**

ROLL CALL (Vote Count)				
Name	Service Position	Present	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Kacie N	Area 40 Delegate	X		
Lisa C-D	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	X		
Jake L	Treasurer	X		
Lynne W	Secretary	X		
Jody T	Archives Chair	X		
Ty K	CPC Chair	X		
Mark H	Corrections Chair	X		
Martin N	Grapevine Chair	X		
Xavier G-G	Hotline Chair	X		
Jessica S-K	Literature Chair			
Rick H	Public Information (PI) Chair	X		
Hugh M	Treatment Chair	X		
Connie R	Area Advisor	X		
Earl F	Archivist	X		
Jessica W	Bridging the Gap	X		
Alex M	Webmaster	X		

Dianne W	D 11 DCM	X	8	3
Tony O	D 12 DCM	X	2	1
	D 21 DCM			
	D 23 DCM			
Corrina H	D 31 DCM	X		
Lance W	D 41 DCM	X	5	
Darrel H	D 42 DCM		4	
Ryan M	D 51 DCM	X	5	
Krissy S	D 61 DCM	X	10	4
Jim J (Alternate)	D 71 DCM	X	1	
Betty M	D 72 DCM	X	6	2
Daniel S	D 81 DCM	X	7	
Steve St	D 91 DCM	X	4	4
	D 93 DCM		6	
	Online Voting Members		13	
	Voting Members Present		96	
	Quorum (2/3)		64	

➤ **Secretary Report, Lynne W**

Hi ya'll, I'm Lynne and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

DCMs, if you haven't already sent me a sign-up sheet for your district, please be sure to send it to me by 10 am so that we can establish our quorum. Your sign-in sheets should only list the people from your district who are attending assembly in-person. If someone from your district is attending virtually, please do not list that person on your sign-in sheets, as they will be counted by one of our zoom advisors. If you submitted a sign-up sheet that you need to add or subtract some people from, please let me know. Lastly, please email your DCM reports to me at secretary@aa-montana.org before the end of the Assembly.

Committee chairs, please email me your reports and the notes or minutes taken during your committee meeting along with a list of the voting members in attendance. If your committee brings a recommendation to the floor, please email me a written copy prior to presenting the motion (secretary@aa-montana.org).

Here are the motions and elections from the last assembly.

2023 Spring Elections:

Tech Co-Chairs: Mike D: June 25, 2009. GSR, DCM 11, handful of district committees, Area 40 Archives chair, Triangle editor for half the rotation. Been fulfilling role as interim tech person since inception of tech committee, would be honored to serve.

Jack W: Jan 18, 2021. Greater, coffee maker, big book study meeting chair (Rebellion Dogs), half term as alt. GSR. 3rd area he's helped with the tech committee after being told to help, background in audio/video technology systems.

Dave O: Dec 14, 1994. group secretary, meeting chair, alt GSR, DCM 11, district bridging the gap chair, doing all virtual meetings and hybrid meetings.

Counters: Michael C, Jake H, Pat P
Round 1: Mike D (53 votes, 26, 17)
Round 2: Jack W (58 votes, 37)

Archives Chair: Jody T: January 17, 1988. Mini-conference chair (every position except treasurer) all for Intergroup (except treasurer), District all except Treasure, Area 40 Grapevine Chair, currently district 51 hotline
Eric: Feb 10, 2000. Secretary, treasurer, GSR. Dist Workshop Chair, CPC Chair, secretary, treasurer, DCM
Katherine: Nov 27, 1999. GSR, PI for district, all positions at group level, DCM, District Archives chair

Counters: Michael C, Jake H, Pat P
Round 1: Jody T: 44 votes, Eric 31, Katherine 17
Round 2: Jody T: 53 votes, Eric 34

Archives

MOTION 1: Archives committee recommend that Area 40 approve the Co-Chairs Roles and Responsibilities with the identified changes. MOTION PASSED: 73 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. Minority opinion heard, no motion to reconsider.

MOTION 2: Archives committee recommends that Area 40 Chair appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee be appointed to review, revise and update the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. The AdHoc committee should include the Area Archivist and Area Chair. The committee will bring back a completed document to the 2024 Area 40 Spring Assembly. MOTION PASSED: 88 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Minority opinion kept silent.

Finance

MOTION: Amend the 2023 budget, approved at Fall Assembly 2022, to include a line item for the Bridging the Gap chair in the amount of \$1,000.
MOTION PASSED: 81 in favor, none opposed

Treatment

MOTION: The Treatment Committee recommends that we send the Area 40 Bridging The Gap Chair to the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend(BTGWW) in Houston, TX in September 8th- 10th, 2023 with the financial support by the use of up to \$1500 that is a current line item in the Area 40 2023 budget that is allotted for chair travel to National Conferences.
MOTION PASSED: 82 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. Minority opinion kept silent.

General Floor Motion

MOTION: Grant O (d. 91), 2nd Bert (d.42) Extend the assembly 30 minutes, or less if less time is needed. Most in favor, 1 opposed. No minority opinion

Hotline

MOTION 1: #2: Consider current job description of Area 40 Hotline Chair and propose revisions, if necessary. Area 40 Hotline committee recommends the Area 40 Archivist and Area 40 Advisor remove the last sentence on pg. 32 item G18.1 job description which reads:

“Area 40 shall discontinue the use of all Northern Directory Publishing (NDP) phone directories.”
MOTION PASSED: 54 in favor, 13 opposed, 14 abstention. An abstention said why they abstained, but Minority Opinion kept silent

MOTION 2: Area 40 Committee recommends that we end our association with Thryv previously known as DexYP.
MOTION PASSED: 76 in favor, 1 opposed. Minority opinion kept silent

➤ **Election: West Central Regional Trustee Nomination**

Earl F: sober 9-3-1989, Central Indiana for 7 years, very active in District 18 of Area 23. Worked a lot with corrections in that district. Moved to MT and got involved in Ennis, started as literature chair in 72, 3 years of DCM of 72, was Delegate Panel 53. In 2004 was Area Chair for Conference agenda committee & Remote Communities. Was Area Advisor for 2 years, then attended Assembly to serve on the committees. In 2012, was voted in as Area 40 Archivist and is still serving.

Libbie L: sober 3-25-2000 panel 65 Delegate, currently serving as Policy and Procedures ad hoc committee, homegroup archives chair, district 91 treatment, a number of different positions at District and home group level, plans on retiring in Oct. 2024

Gerry R: 12-7-1990. All positions of homegroup service. Helped with local AA events. Area 40 Archivist for 7 years, put on a national workshop for the committee. Area chair & Delegate for panel 2017-2018, Area Advisor for 2 years and the 1st regional administrator for the region. He is a current ACM, helping re-write a couple different pamphlets and committees through GSO. Also helps coordinate workshops.

Voting Members: 84
Goal Vote: 55

Candidate	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round
Earl F	31	27	32	29
Libbie L	19	11	out	out
Gerry R	34	47	52	54

After the 4th ballot, Earl F withdrew from running and suggested Gerry R be elected by acclamation.

➤ **Motions from This Assembly**

Archives/Structure and Policy

Motion: Item C. The committee recommends whether to make permanent the reassignment of Report And Charter General Service Conference from the Public Information Committee to the Hotline Committee.

It was discussed, motion to approve and passed unanimously.

Vote-- Approved: 78 Opposed: 1 motion **PASSED**, no minority opinion

Item D. Consider revising the Area Advisor job description to make the Venue Liaison duties applicable for the four assemblies of the Advisor's rotation (currently, the Venue Liaison duties are for the last two Area Assemblies of the Advisor's rotation and the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation).

Motion: Recommendations Passed by simple majority, the change is as follows:

G15.4 Will serve as Venue Liaison. In this position they are provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites during the four Area Assemblies of their rotation. The outgoing Area Advisor will set the dates for the following year and communicate with the incoming Area Advisor.

Vote-- Approved: 72 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 1, motion **PASSED**

Treatment

Item D. The committee recommends submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: The committee unanimously recommends a two-year (2) moratorium on all new agenda items at the General Service Conference (GSC) starting in 2025. The exception would be the filling of General Service Board and Corporate positions.

Vote-- Approved: 27 Opposed: 50 Abstain: 5 **FAILED** Minority Opinion heard,
motion to reconsider with a 2nd

Motion to Reconsider: In favor: 30 Opposed: 36 Abstain: 7 **FAILED**

Finance

MOTION: Budget Proposal

- Proposed 2024 budget of \$46,750
- 5% increase from 2023
- Suggested contribution for delegate expense be increased from \$1800 to \$2200
- Motion by Kacie N that the finance committee recommends to approve the 2024 budget of \$46,750. Second by Ryan Partain. Motion passed 4-0.

Vote-- Approved: 74 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 1 **PASSED** no minority opinion

Literature

Rewrite Item C as follows: Consider Submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: Consider developing a pamphlet on *AA and the Unhoused Person* that specifically addresses alcoholism, what AA is and is not; and includes personal stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness.

Vote-- Approved: 64 Opposed: 5 Abstained: 6 **PASSED** minority opinion heard,
motion to reconsider with a 2nd

Motion to Reconsider: Favor: 8 Opposed: 60 Abstain: 9 **FAILED**

Item D: Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: Consider writing a new meditation book for the fellowship. This would be in addition to the current Daily Reflections.

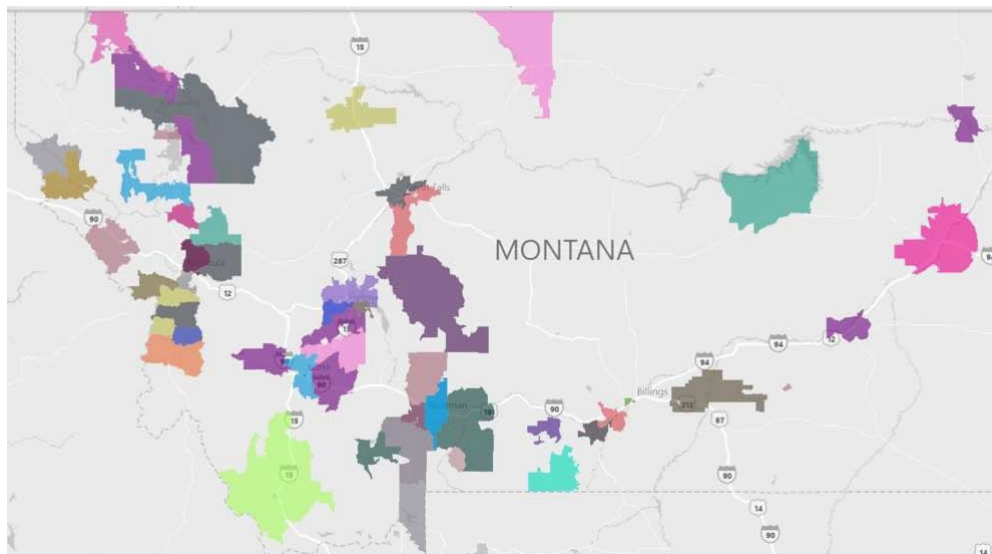
Vote—Approved: 30 Opposed: 40 Abstained: 7 **FAILED** minority opinion
heard, no motion to reconsider

Motion to Extend the Assembly: Aryel M, Jessica SK 2nd In Favor: 68, Opposed: 8

Floor Action: Reimburse Jack W \$250 Point of Order: the motion was submitted after business was closed so it wasn't voted on

➤ **Financial Highlights, Jake L**

Slides prepared by Jake L



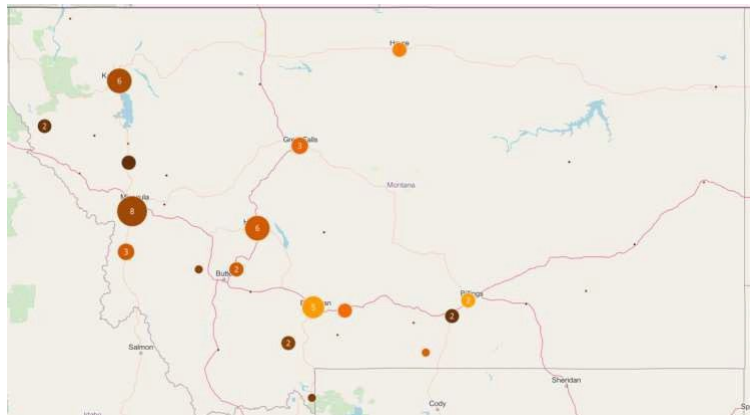
AREA 40 Fall 2023

Financial Highlights

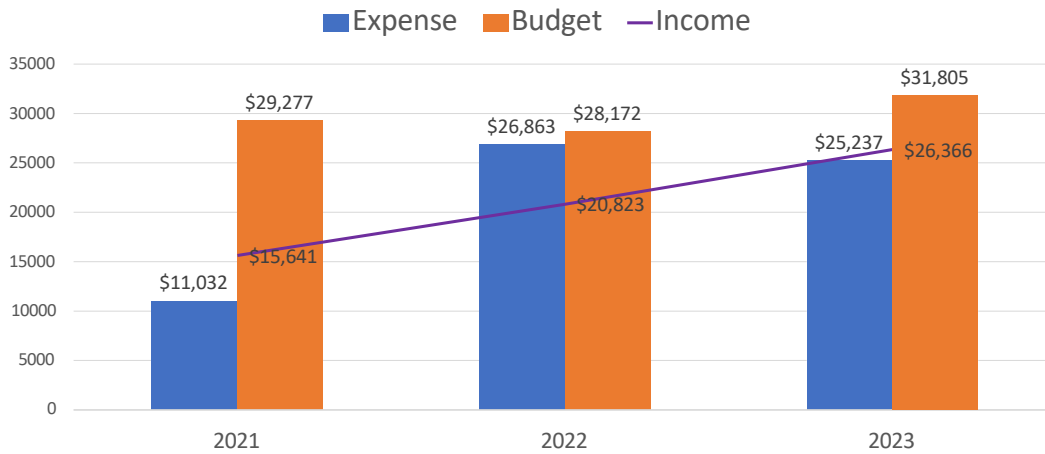
1

September 2023 Updates

- Accounts in good standing
- Expenses are down
- Strengthening cash flow
- PO Box Remains the same

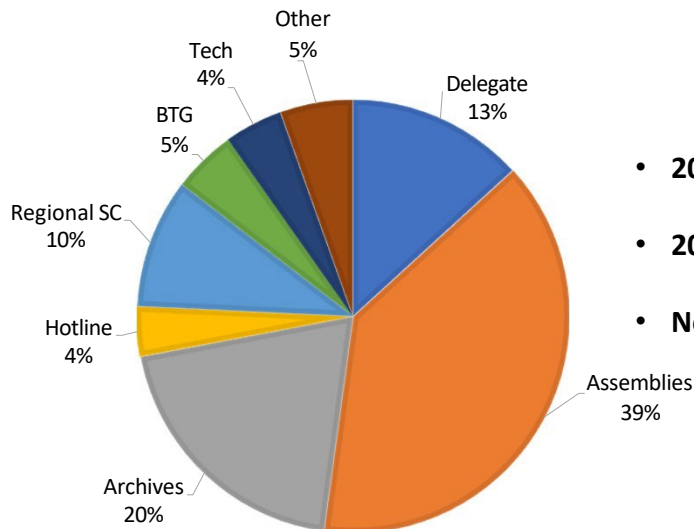


Income & Expense vs. Budget (2023 through YTD)



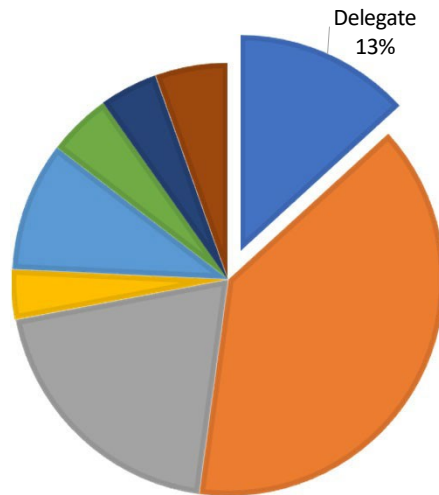
3

2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- **2023 YTD expenses: \$25,237**
- **2023 income: \$26,366**
- **Net income: \$1,129**

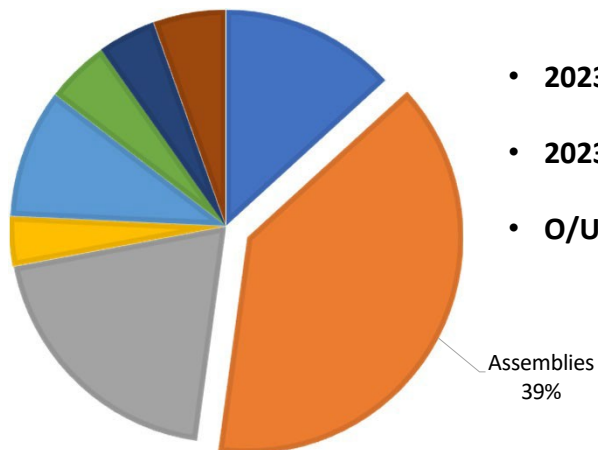
2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$3,342
- 2023 budget: \$4,135
- O/U: \$982

5

2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project

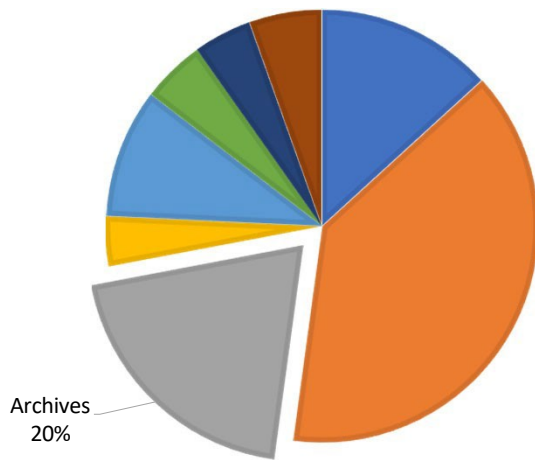


- 2023 YTD expenses: \$9,821
- 2023 budget: \$9,400
- O/U: -\$421

Of of

18 of 82

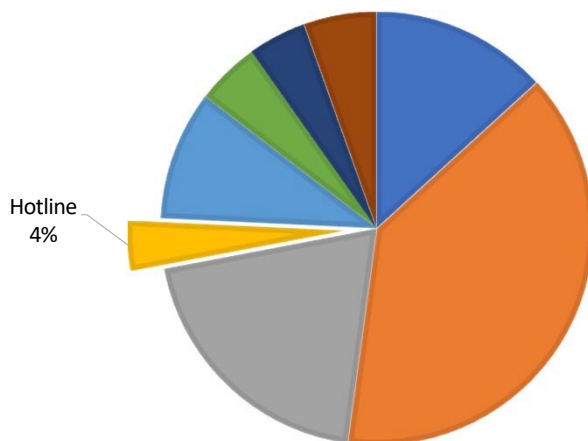
2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$5,012
- 2023 budget: \$5,095
- O/U: \$83

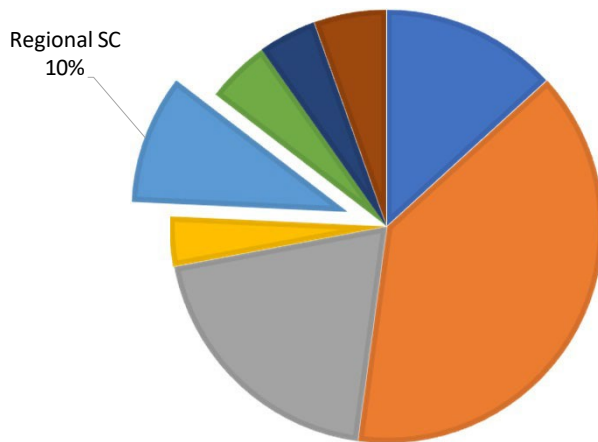
7

2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$942
- 2023 budget: \$2,000
- O/U: \$1,058

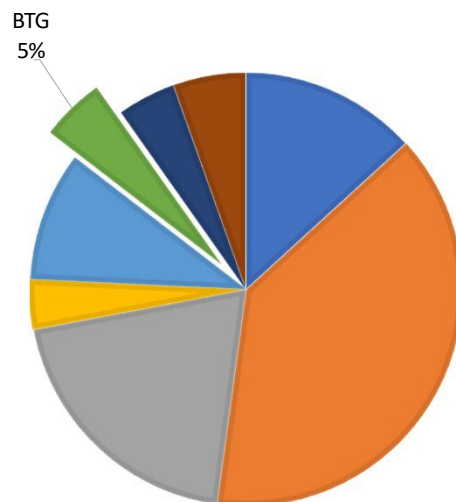
2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$2,442
- 2023 budget: \$2,300
- O/U: **\$142**

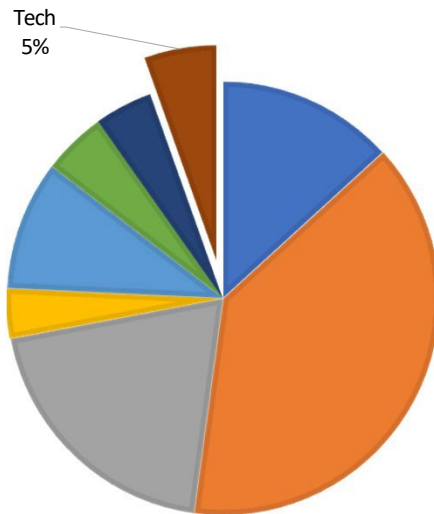
9

2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$1,204
- 2023 budget: \$1,000
- O/U: **-\$204**

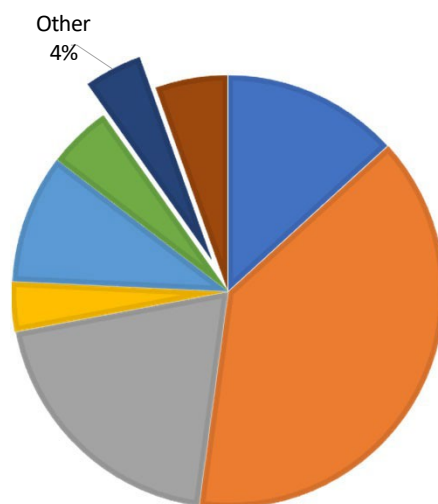
2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$1,097
- 2023 budget: \$2,055
- O/U: \$958

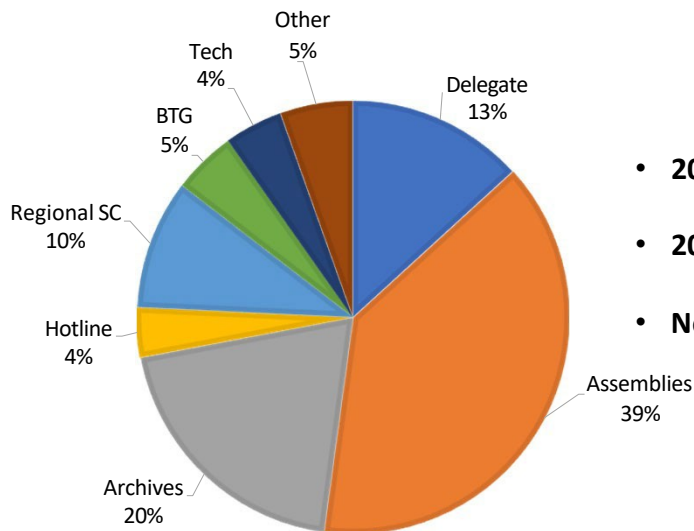
11

2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$1,377
- 2023 budget: \$3,645
- O/U: \$1,890

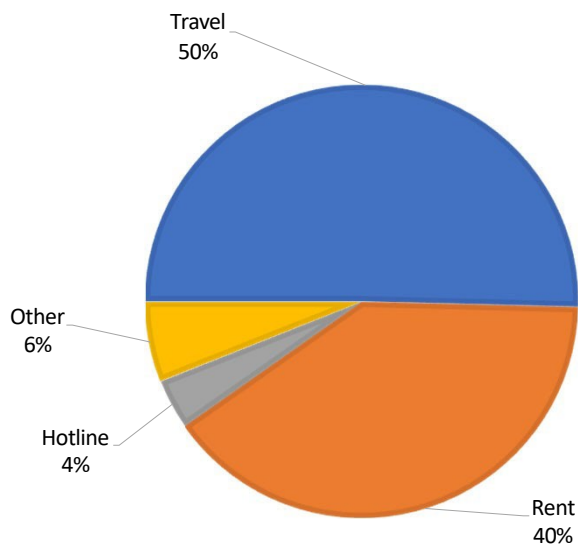
2023 YTD Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$25,237
- 2023 income: \$26,366
- Net income: \$1,129

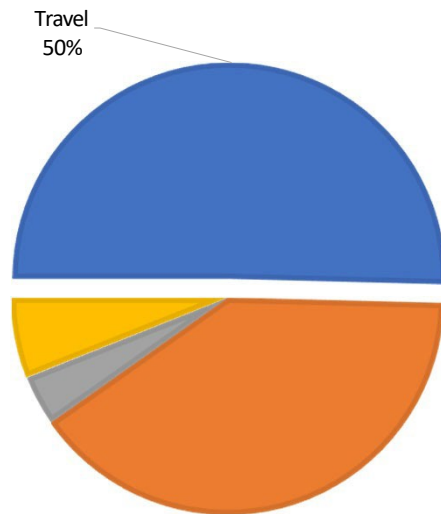
13

2023 YTD Expenses by Line Item



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$25,237
- 2023 income: \$26,366
- Net income: \$1,129

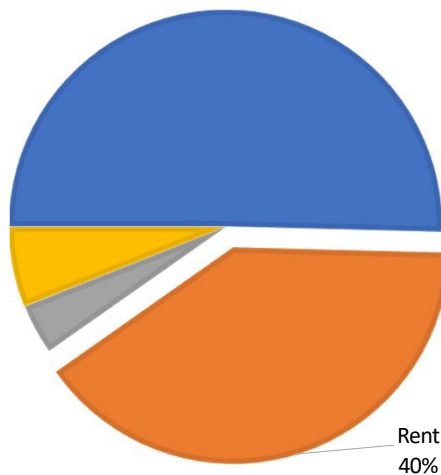
2023 YTD Expenses by Line Item



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$12,719
- 2023 Budget: \$16,435
- O/U: \$3,716

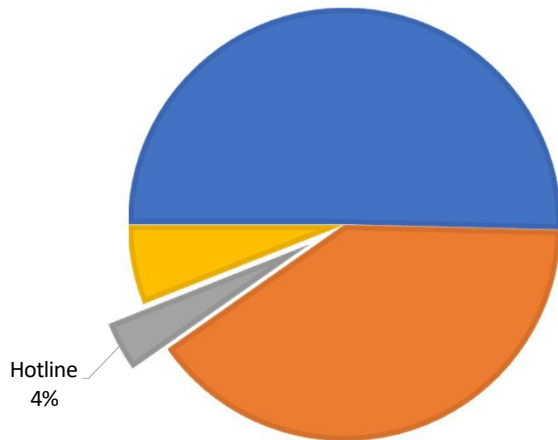
15

2023 YTD Expenses by Line Item



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$10,058
- 2023 Budget: \$9,345
- O/U: \$713

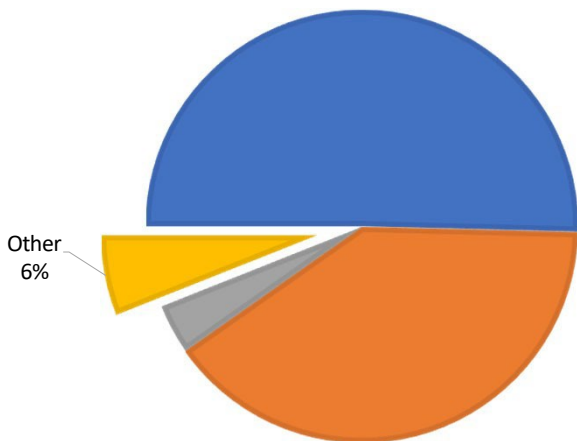
2023 YTD Expenses by Line Item



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$942
- 2023 Budget: \$2,000
- O/U: \$1,058

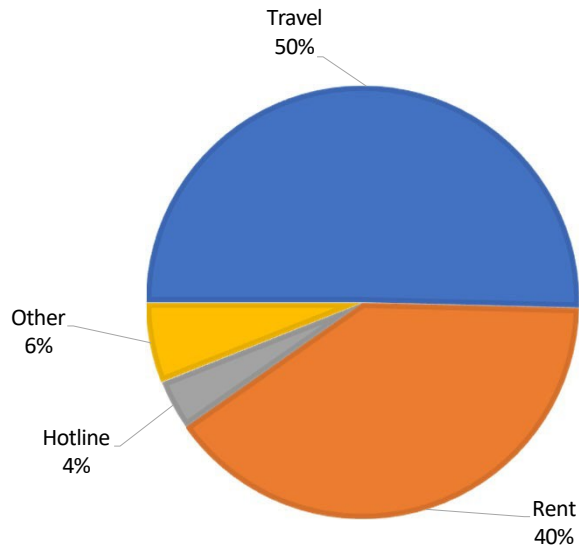
17

2023 YTD Expenses by Line Item



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$1,518
- 2023 Budget: \$4,025
- O/U: \$2,507

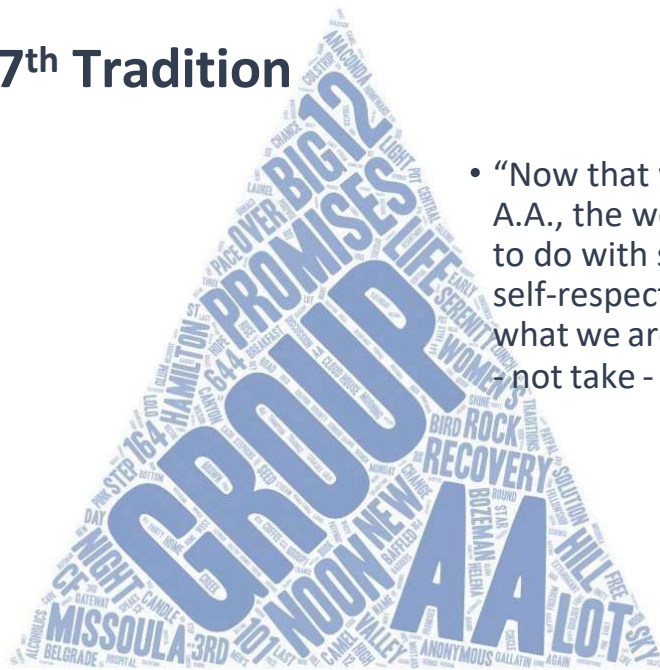
2023 YTD Expenses by Line Item



- 2023 YTD expenses: \$25,237
- 2023 income: \$26,366
- Net income: \$1,129

19

7th Tradition



- “Now that we are sober in A.A., the word ‘support’ has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give - not take - in material terms.”

HOW AREA 40 GROUPS SUPPORT SERVICES

Area 40 2023 budget = \$45,525

Registered groups in Area 40 ~ 279

\$45,525.00 / 279 groups = \$163 cost per group

Out of 318 Groups who have historically contributed,

86 groups (~27%) have contributed \$26,365.56 in 2023

Average of \$306.58 (\$311 in 2022) per Group

Area 40 2022 Expenses were \$45,525 or \$143/Group

27% of Groups supported an average of \$529 (\$438 in 2022) towards expenses

21

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>

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

Gratitude in Action



25

➤ **DCM Reports**

District 11 Report

Since our last Area Assembly, we have been seeking ways to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Committee chairs in Corrections, Treatment, and Bridging the Gap have opened avenues of communication which have allowed members to expand the number of ways they can reach out and share their experience, strength, and hope with those who are unable to attend in-person meetings. It is our hope that District 11 will be offering a workshop withing those three areas.

A Literature Committee has been created, and it is our hope that a member will seek to chair that committee in this roation. We continue to pursue the separation of the PI/CPC Committee into two separate entities, and it is my hope that this will take place. It is with great diligence that I will pursue that goal.

Communication within the district is a goal to which I am striving, and I am grateful to my Alternate DCM, Secretary, and Treasurer who have worked so diligently to assume their duties.

I must express my appreciation to all the GSRs in District 11. They have represented their groups faithfully and sometimes spiritedly, and for that I am grateful. It is a commitment to serve others as faithfully as they do. I wish to express my congratulations to the 644 Group in Billings who celebrated an incredible milestone of service to us all. It was a celebration, and I commend Don M. and his committee.

Billings will host the 2024 Spring Roundup, and we look forward to welcoming all of you to a weekend “Beyond Your Wildest Dreams.” The committee under the able leadership of Terri M. and Lynne W. will be reporting to you all as to their progress.
Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to be of service to you all. ALOHA!

District 12 Report

Greetings Area 40

District 12 has had a positive summer this year with regular meetings, despite the heat, as well as District gatherings such as a Founders Day picnic. We have, unfortunately, seen the passing of several AA members with many years of positive sobriety. One of those was my personal sponsor Louis M with 41+ years of sobriety. It is these members which bring life giving experience, strength and hope to all those who are able to interact with them.

Due to circumstances beyond our control our annual Fireman’s Point Campout, usually held in August, had to be moved to September this year.

Here is the shameless plug for our event..

District 12 Fireman’s Point Campout September 15th and 16th 2023

Friday has our world famous Spam cook off and pot luck starting at 6:30pm Cool prizes for the top dishes. This is followed by a campfire speaker meeting at 8 pm

Saturday starts with Breakfast at 9 am followed by Area 40 delegate report by Kacie

We have a Noon (12 oclock) Corn Shuckers AA meeting

Games and fellowship continue until 430 pm when we start the meet and great before The Big Feed starting at 530 pm. BBQ and potluck with the meat provided by the District

We conclude the weekend with an 8pm Campfire Speaker meeting.

All camping is free of charge and all are welcome!

District 12 continues to serve with great GSR’s and many meetings held in great towns throughout the district, give us a try in South Central Montana.

As always

In service

Tony O Dist 12 DCM

District 21 Report: no report given

District 23 Report: no report given

District 31 Report

Greetings from District 31

We are doing well in Southeastern Montana. We still have meetings every night of the week in Miles City. The meetings are as follows:

- The "Unity Group" meets Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays at 7:00 pm. They also have one noon meeting on Tuesday.
- The "We Care Group" meets Friday & Saturday at 8:00 pm, as well as Wednesdays at 5:30, and Sundays at 7:00 pm.
- There's also a "Beyond Belief Secular" that meets every Sunday at 10:00 am. There's a phone number to call on the aa-montana.org if and when you are going to attend.

Colstrip's meetings are:

- Monday night @ 7:30 pm. This is an open meeting. Tuesday night is a woman's A.A. Meeting at 6:30 pm. And Wednesday night is a closed A.A. Meeting.

Lame Deer Meetings are held at the Pentecostal Church on Mondays and Fridays at 8:00, and there's another meeting on Wednesday night at 8:00, but that one is at the Catholic Church.

There are two *new* meetings in our District.

There is a new meeting in Forsyth at the Forsyth jail. That one is on Friday nights at 6:00 pm. And, it's NOT every Friday night either - it's every OTHER Friday. We alternate with N.A. every other Friday.

The OTHER new meeting we have is in Ashland. It's at the Tin Hall in Rabbit Town. That one is on Thursday nights.

Also, let me say thanks to Kacie for coming to Colstrip for a simple lunch in late June. We asked her to come present to the group her "Delegate's Report." It was a great meeting - well attended for the size of the building that day. Thank you Kacie, for representing us so well.

That's my report. Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

-Corrina H.

District 41 Report: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

District 42 Report: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

District 51 Report

Hello my name is Ryan McLean and I am an alcoholic. I am the current DCM for District 51.

District 51 consists of Box Elder, Dodson, Ft Belknap, Harlem, Havre, Hays, Malta, Rudyard and all the small towns in between. There are currently 15 groups in District 51 with 31 meetings a week.

We as a District meet every month on the 4th Sunday of the month. We've been having great participation from our GSRs and our district chairs. Most chair positions are filled with the exception of our treatment chair, hotline chair and speaker/audio chair. Even though Jody had to step down from the district hotline chair in order to fill her role as area archives chair she is still making sure the

hotline business is getting done and calls are being answered. Our CPC chair, Jay has been getting out in the public and making sure the professional community has one point of contact. Our PI chair, Clyde has been making sure our meeting schedules are up to date, that the newspaper has the right info and Alex the webmaster has the most current info for the website. Our Literature chair, Haily has been keeping the shelves stocked with literature and also staying on top of the price increases coming very soon. Our grapevine chair Connie is stocking up and getting ready to share all the great literature that grapevine has to offer. Oh that reminds has anyone heard that AA Grapevine is now available on an app! Our bridging the gap chair Jerry and he is currently waiting by the phone ready to get that fresh newcomer a sponsor and to the next available meeting.

We at District 51 are super excited because our mini conference is right around the corner. It starts October 6th, Friday evening and lasts until Sunday at noon. It'll be a great time for fellowship, food, workshops, AA and al-anon speakers and entertainment. I hope to see everyone there. We will be having one last mini conference fundraiser in the coming weeks and it'll be a horseshoe tournament/ chili cook off and should be a great time. If you need more info it is on our AA-montana.org website or you can talk to anyone of us from District 51.

We as a District are a pretty close group and we try to get as much fellowship outside of the rooms as we do inside of the rooms. I'll be forever grateful for District 51. When my sponsor told me to find the herd and get in the middle of ot these people welcomed me with open arms, made room for me and my family and gave us a place to call home.

I owe a big thank you for the members of District 51 and the members of Area 40 for all the help I've received.

Thank you for letting me be of service and trying to pay back all the gifts I have received from this program. Thank you

District 61 Report

Heeeeeeyyyyy area 40!!!! I'm Krissy, I'm in alcoholic, DCM for district 61.

Looking back through all the events since spring assembly, I am humbled by the amount of work, time and passion the members of AA in our district display!

In April, we had an archives workshop where we got to hear from our area archivist Earl... What a treat!

Amy, Jamie, Deborah and Kari put a great deal of time and effort into the 20th annual corrections and treatment workshop. It was a significant turn out of alcoholics and professionals mixing together for the greater good.

Our treatment chair Amy is a rockstar and does such a good job at organizing volunteers to take meetings into Elkhorn treatment center, MCDC, the YWCA, Florence Crittenton, Boyd Andrew and the BHU!

Deborah, who is our magnificent CPC chair has been plotting some thing about business cards for alcoholics and professionals alike that have a QR code that links to local meetings for the alcoholics and links to GSO for the professionals, a borrowed and neat idea from district 72.

Our literature chair Kaitlyn keeps our bookstore stocked up and in shipshape. It's open three days a week thanks to many AA volunteers.

Jamie our correction chair does an amazing job at arranging AA men and women to take meetings into a Lewis and Clark county jail, Townsend and Boulder jail, the Montana state prison and the Helena pre-release.

Over the summer groups in our district hosted plenty of barbecues, Campouts and river floats and of course, my home group hosted our second annual bad bitch beach day, which was a blast! There were even a couple of husbands that showed up, claiming to be bad bitches.

In August a solid bunch from district 61 attended the forum in Missoula. It was my first time at a forum and it was way less boring than I expected! We got to have lunch with James H from the New York office along with Ty and Joanna.

Now to the future tripping portion of my report... Rebecca our grapevine chair and Karla, our workshops chair are gearing up to host the Grapefest on September 23. We will get to hear Kacie's delegate report at that time and the night before at the Wilson house at 6:30, we'll get to hear Kacies experience, strength, and hope from the podium of 'recovery speaks'. We're all looking forward to that party!

And finally keep the 69th Annual Attitude of Gratitude in your sights... It will be taking place on November 18th, I believe we'll have save the date flyers out any minute!

Thanks for allowing me to serve... Love, Krissy

District 71 Report

My name is Jim and I am an alcoholic. I am the alternate DCM for district 71 filling in for Jordana our DCM. District 71 serves the southwest Montana communities of Anaconda butte, Deer Lodge, Dillon Phillipsburg, Twinbridges, Whitehal Phillipsburg, Twinbridges, Whitehall, Sheridan, and Wiseriver. District 71 provides 75 weekly meetings for the still suffering alcoholic, our district activities chair. John W has been busy providing fun and fellowship for our district. We have meetings going into MCDC and Warm Springs Aaron and Shannon are doing a great job. Our delegates day picnic was a huge success we had over 35 people in attendance and Casey gave a great report and a lot of good food fun and fellowship shared. We are still struggling to Phil District Service positions, and if anyone has any ideas, I'm all ears. We have a Great District that carries the message to the still suffering alcoholic in trenches.

Thank You for allowing Me to serve,
Jim J.

District 72 Report

Hi everybody! My name is Betty and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as the DCM for District 72.

Geographically, District 72 includes Gallatin, Park and Madison counties. We offer both open & closed meetings, options for men & women, as well as an option for those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community and friends/allies. Each group determines whether their meeting is online, in-person or hybrid. Hybrid District meetings are held the last Saturday of the month, and we average about 28 attendees/month. 20% of those are visitors!

The AA Preamble states that "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." That's exactly what we've been doing this year.

Our GSRs report that their meetings are doing well and growing. They are getting newcomers from a variety of sources, including Bridging the Gap, treatment centers & correctional facilities. Once through our doors, newcomers are being offered the opportunity to get involved in AA through service – setting up the room, hosting & chairing meetings, greeting, making coffee – as well as fellowship activities like kickball, BBQs combined with speaker meetings and fun.

Obviously, these things don't happen by accident – they are accomplished through the combined efforts of our dedicated trusted servants at the group, district and area levels. We collaborate with each other and our counterparts in Area 40 to share questions, ideas and approaches on how best to accomplish our primary purpose. For example, under the leadership of our Area Chair, our District CPC chair worked her counterparts in Districts 61 & 81 to put on a hybrid CPC panel before Regional Forum. Judge and Class A trustee, Kerry Meyer spoke about her experience in dealing with alcoholic/addicts in her court, and her view of the efficacy of the AA program. Medical, law, and criminal justice professionals heard how AA supports people in recovering and leading healthy lives. I heard that it was very good and well attended.

We had over 25 members attend West Central Regional Forum. The GSO Staff, Regional Trustees & Delegates talked with and listened to the AAs in attendance. Both presenters & attendees were treated respectfully, enabling an open exchange of information & ideas. I saw that AA's trusted servants, even the ones I don't know, are people who are passionate about A.A. and committed to our primary purpose. I believe that with the help of God and an informed group conscience, A.A. is and will continue to be in good hands forever.

District 72 is financially stable, hovering a little over prudent reserve. Our cabinets are full of literature. Our Technology Committee purchased equipment to support district meetings and special events. We've used it once on the road already without a hitch.

Administratively, we look at our processes and allow ourselves the freedom to consider what we might be able to do better for the Fellowship. We implemented a new standard approach for bringing new business before District. This approach makes it easier for GSRs to share and explain what is being considered to their groups, why, and at what estimated cost. Discussion is much more efficient & effective; more business may be accomplished.

We have a variety of events scheduled between now and yearend: a HOW group speaker event on October 14th. Our Roundup Committee is hosting Fall Assembly the weekend of October 27th. You'll hear more about this event Sunday morning. Flyers & registration forms are available on the table. The Technology Committee is working with the HOW group and the Roundup team to finalize what they might want to make available to online attendees. Stay tuned for more information. We hope to see all of you there!

I love the energy in District 72 and am grateful to be part of it. Thank you!

Yours in service,
Betty M
DCM, District 72

District 81 Report

It is an honor and privilege to serve District 81 as District Committee Member. District 81 is located in western Montana; although our biggest population center is Missoula, we have meetings as far west as Trout Creek, as far north as Polson, and as far east as Seeley Lake. Our district has approximately 45 groups with 100 meetings per week.

Our business meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 2-4pm in a hybrid format. While any member is able to attend our meetings virtually via zoom, we also meet in-person at the 4th D Club in Missoula (1500 West Broadway, Suite B, Missoula, MT 59801). District 81 hosted the spring roundup which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn May 19-21 in Missoula. Last month on August 25-28th the west regional forum was held in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn, it was an amazing experience for all to attend and it reignites why we do service work for the alcoholic who still suffers. There was an individual with 1 week sober that attended due to the forum being hosted in Missoula. There was a total of 291 registrations.

Thank you for everyone to continue to show up and be of service!

A lot of changes have happened in district 81. Recovery center in Missoula sadly shut their doors. This was one of the treatment facilities that we had regular meetings taken into and they attended in person to various meetings in Missoula. With this closure we have been in contact with the Kramer facility in Clinton about 20 miles outside of Missoula. We are still figuring out what scheduled meetings look like with taking meetings in the facility for the recovery center of Montana. We take weekly meetings into the providence center in their locked floor. Also we have the 3rd Saturday commitment for MCDC every month.

Our corrections chair has been in contact with the local detention facility about new training to allow new individuals to be allowed in for bi-weekly meetings. We have scheduled meetings taken into Deer Lodge. I don't have the exact dates for when we go into the various facilities.

CPC has been hitting the ground running. Setting up different events with the University of Montana. They also had a luncheon with a speaker from GSO August 15th.

More will be revealed

Yours in service
Daniel

District 91 Report

Greetings! My name is Steve, and I am an alcoholic.

I'm grateful to be serving as the new DCM for District 91 as our DCM Grant O. had to step down due to family matters. As the Alternate DCM, I am happy to take on this new role.

I'm happy to report that AA is alive and well in the northwest corner of the state. District 91 extends from the Canadian border past Eureka south to mid-way through Flathead Lake, from West Glacier in the east, all the way to the town of Libby in the west. Our major towns include Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, and Bigfork. Our district has over 80 meetings per week from 6:30 am all the way until 8 p.m.

I started in service early in my sobriety and it took off like a wildfire from the pink can, GSR etc. in my home group, Flathead Valley Intergroup Chair, Alt DCM and now District 91 DCM.

The thing we are not short of in district 91 is events. We have no less than a half dozen campouts throughout the summer the one I was able to attend was the Flathead Valley Serenity groups Founders day camp out at Tally lake June 9,10,11 due to wildfires in Hungry Horse reservoir the Emery Bay camp out was canceled and was this weekend of the Area Assembly please check the calendar on the Flathead Valley Intergroup's web site aanwmt.org and area 40 website for upcoming events.

On the service side of things, I am grateful to report that our district only has two open positions, the newest one is Alternate DCM of right now. I am grateful to be serving such an active and enthusiastic district. My committee and GSRs are very interested in this year's GSC agenda items, and many of them are present here this weekend. I'm excited to be back at Area Assembly. I know there are many here for their first time.

I want to finish my report by sharing a spiritual awakening I had while in a new job. I experienced some anger, resentments, and fear. A thought crossed my mind to stop and have a drink. At this time, I wasn't attending meetings and wasn't in service. My sponsor wasn't either. He didn't have a sponsor. The Great Spirit intervened and I pick up that 1000-pound phone and called a friend in the program that moment. I got a new sponsor and immediately got back into service because that was working for me earlier in my sobriety. At the next District 91 business meeting I took on the role of ALT DCM and sat down and began the meeting, of course, with the Serenity Prayer. In the midst of that prayer, I was struck by the realization that all of you were here, in this very room, that day to make sure that Alcoholics Anonymous was running for the newcomer who was going to walk into a meeting that night. A second realization hit that all of you were here knew at that moment that I had found the way to repay the debt I owed to Alcoholics Anonymous. I have a service sponsor Paul L, who helped me begin a plan of action to help me through this new service position in my life. I have a new Job I like, a new sponsor, wonderful wife, friends & family, and a home group that talks about service and practices it. Most importantly, I haven't had to take a drink for over 16 years, in part because of service. I hope and pray that all the first timers have their own experience this weekend.

I am grateful and indebted to all of you for my sobriety and my life

in service,

District 91 DCM, Steve S

District 93 Report (given by spiritual contribution Libba C.)

Libba Alcoholic, I'm currently the Special Events Chair for District 93- asked to fill in help communicate what has been happening in our AA District, as DCM and Alt. DCM are open positions. Hopefully the positions will be filled next Sunday at our District Meeting.

We have 2 new meetings in the Bitterroot Valley- Promises Groups Sunday at 4pm in Victor

And Flip It Group Sunday at 6pm in Stevensville.

The Regional Forum was well attended by many from the 93 District and I believe I can speak for myself and many others that it was refreshing and renewed and stirred our love of service.

Founder's Day, in June we had a Camp Out at Lake Como and it was well attended and had several visitors join us from outside the Bitterroot Valley

In Aug. we had our 48th annual Lake Como Camp Out which was a great fun and success.

At both Camp Outs, we had young visitors brought down from the Trapper Creek Job Corp. In that attendance, we AA's learned many of them were interested in our AA community bringing meetings to them. So we as a District have been taking steps to provide Rotating AA folks to bring meetings. There young people were also invited to the Regional Forum, and many did attend for a day.

Corrections has been going well, with new crates for literature, alternating folks on Wednesday evenings for jail meetings for people incarcerated and interested in attending an AA meeting.

Special Holiday Events will be coming up that we would like to invite all of you to- Fliers will be posted to the Area website as soon as they are made available.

Thanks everyone for allowing me the opportunity participate in my Recovery and District.

Libba C.

➤ Standing Committee Reports **Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy: Jody T**

○ Chair Report:

Area 40 Archives and Structure and Policy

Let me begin my report by thanking everyone for allowing me to be of service. I am slowly learning what my position is with the help of Connie, Kacey, Lisa and Earl, I have a long way to go.

In May I attended the Bridging the Gap workshop in Shelby Mt. It was a very nice turnout, but I think the best part was the participation from our Canadian friends. It reminded me of our Area Assemblies, the passion of those who attend.

I was able to download and print the Archives workbook from World Service. Still going over it. I have received multiple emails which I am reading through and will be discussing during our breakout session.

I tried getting together with my committee on zoom, mainly just to get to know each other. Ryan M. DCM District 51 and Bryan S. District 61 Archives chair attended.

I do apologize, I have not had the opportunity to do more with this position, yet!

Yours in service

Jody Toner A40 Archives/Structure and Policy

○ **Archivist Report:**

Good day Area 40,

My name is Earl Fink and I am an Alcoholic. I also have the honor of serving Area 40 as the Area Archivist.

Being the Archivist this year has been very beneficial to me as I have been very busy with life in general, but there have been several requests for me to attend events and to give a presentation or talk and that has kept me grounded and attached to Alcoholics Anonymous and my friends in Area 40.

Shortly after the Spring Assembly, I was invited to attend an Archives Workshop in District 61. I had a great time with the small crowd in attendance.

I was invited to attend the Spring Round-up in Missoula . It is always a pleasure to attend these events and meet with new friends and to touch base with old friends from around the Area and sit and visit about old times and current times. I was asked to do a mock Archival Interview with Bill McC. Who served as the panel 48 Area Chair. It is a lot of fun to just ask a few questions and start the conversation rolling, and the interview just takes a life of its on and a lot of information comes from the persons memories. I wanted to record Bill for an official interview while I was in the vicinity, but he had previous plans, so this is to be picked up in the future. I made plans with a couple of long-timers to interview and I stayed an extra day after the Round-up. I spent the morning with Andrew W. , Panel 57 Delegate and Area 40's First Regional Trustee. The afternoon was spent with Tom W., who was Area 40's First Archivist. Both men have close to or over 40 years of Sobriety and have been and are still very active in Service of Alcoholics Anonymous. This extra day inspired me to try to do more interviews throughout the year.

I was invited to attend Founders Day in Great Falls and gave a little history talk and I also got into a wicked Horseshoe game. The potluck was great and the conference report from Kacie was informative and fun.

I was fortunate to attend the West Central Regional Forum a few weeks ago and I enjoyed visiting with and getting to know the Staff and Trustees who were in attendance. There are a lot of new trusted servants working with and for us in the General Service Office and I was able to visit with several of them. Ice cream socials are a lot of fun.

I have been invited to attend the Fall 2023 Round-up in Bozeman and also the Spring 2024 Round-up in Billings.

A big part of my position it to try to keep a history of the happenings of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40. This requires that I do things that are unfamiliar to my regular day to day life. It seems to be very difficult for me to sit at a computer and file correspondence, reports, flyers, and minutes from activities around our Area. Make printings and store these in our repository. Sometimes, it seems as if this is the last thing I want to do. Sometimes it **is** the last thing that I do, as is evident by the late update to Policy and Procedures. I am sorry for my tardiness and will try to not let this happen in the future. I am serving on the ad hoc committee which is reviewing the Policy and Procedures Document and I am hoping we come up with an accurate easy to use document that allows us all to know what our jobs and responsibilities are.

I would like to ask for some help from the DCM's and Committee Chairs and Officers. Please visit with me over the weekend and inform me where or how I can get copies of the minutes of your District meetings and records of your activities, both planning and results. Some Districts are great about including me, others, not so much. Please help me to collect your experiences and history.

I have revisited a display this weekend that I did a few years back, "The History of Our Basic Text." It is a display of information and changes that our "Big Book" has gone through over the years and we will be having another edition coming out in the next year or two. Please stop by and learn some facts about our book.

I stood for and was elected to serve in this position at the Fall Assembly of 2012. It has been very rewarding and fulfilling as well as sometimes trying. I have learned a lot and have been humbled by your trust and thoughtfulness. When originally considering serving in this capacity, I thought around 10 to 12 years would be adequate. I am not ready to resign yet as there are some goals that I would still like to accomplish before I rotate, I am willing to continue this commitment for another two to three years, barring any significant life changes. I would encourage the Area to start a search for willing and qualified candidates to serve in this capacity. If you know someone interested, please have them contact any of the past archivists, Tom W. or Gerry R., or me so that they get a grasp of the scope and responsibilities of the position.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Earl

Are there any questions?

○ **Committee Report:**

Archives-Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair
 - *Gave my report, short and sweet. Looking forward to getting more involved.
- B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist
 - * Earl gave his report.
- C. Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts Throughout Area 40
 - *Krissy asked about if Earl had a replacement in mind and if it would stay in

Ennis. Mike said it is a mobile unit that moves to where the Archivist is.

Earl said the facility right now is a 30 x 40 ft. and climate controlled, which is highly advised. Whoever takes over would have to move archives. He does have guidelines set up on how to move and what Archives entails.

Structure and Policy-Area 40

A. Review Spring 2023 Assembly Evaluation Report

*First off, the evaluation is online at aa-montana.org, this is for this assembly. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone attending, either in person or online fill this out. If anyone needs help, please get in touch with me and I will help in any way I can. Last assembly there were only 53 responses to the evaluation. I don't remember the exact count of members that were here but I think it was around 135.

B. Review assembly report of Ad Hoc Committee on Area 40 Policy & Procedures Revisions

*The ad hoc committee charged with updating the Area 40 Policies and Procedures Manual met virtually on August 19th, 2023. It was decided that Libbie L. will Chair and Karla I. will be secretary. The group decided to meet every third Saturday of each month until the revisions are complete and are presented to the Spring 2024 Assembly. Our next meeting is September 16th, 2023 at 8:30 am. All members were charged to read the current manual and have a handle on areas that need revising/updating by this next meeting. We will proceed forward with each section after that.

Libbie L. Chair

Karla I. Secretary

Lisaa C. Area Chair/Alt. Delegate

Earl F. Archivist

Jake L. Treasurer

Mac M.

Jack W.

Item C.

Consider whether to make permanent the reassignment of Report and Charter General Service Conference from the Public Information Committee to the Hotline Committee.

It was discussed, motion to approve and passed unanimously.

Item D.

Consider revising the Area Advisor job description to make the Venue Liaison duties applicable for the four assemblies of the Advisor's rotation (currently, the Venue Liaison duties are for the last two Area Assemblies of the Advisor's rotation and the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation).

Recommendations Passed by simple majority, the change is as follows:

G15.4 Will serve as Venue Liaison. In this position they are provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites during the four Area Assemblies of their rotation. The outgoing Area Advisor will set the dates for the following year and communicate with the incoming Area Advisor.

Archives-GSC

A. Review the results of all Archives committee items considered, reviewed and discussed at the 2023 General Service Conf

* There was no discussion.

We closed with the Responsibility Declaration

I would like to thank Eli D91 for being standing up to be the secretary/unicorn of our committee.

Also Krissy DCM D61, Ryan DCM D51, Mike D81 and Sam D42 as the voting members.

Leo D51 and Jana D41 for attending.

Connie and Earl for being there and helping me out, I will be forever grateful. Please don't ever change your phone number!!!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service

Jody Toner A40 Archive/Structure and Policy

Hotline/Report & Charter: Xavier Gonzales-Graybill

Chair Report:

Hi my name is Xavier and I am an Alcoholic. I want to first say how grateful I am to be here. Serving as your area 40 hotline has been lifesaving to my sobriety. Since the last assembly I had got married graduated from college then faced the hardest thing I have ever faced in sobriety when I lost my grandma. These were days I didn't know if I could keep going but because of the hand of AA and my service commitment to this area and my sponsor I have been able to stand strong. The biggest thing I learned over the last couple month is that even if I'm thinking about drink and just giving up on life I don't have to because their people out there who actually care about me. I also want to Thank Paul district 41 hotline chair and the hotline alternate chair. He has stepped up when I needed and handle the responsibility of the hotline so thank you. So now let's talk about what I have been going on in area 40 with the hotline.

Before we get started on what I have been doing as your hotline chair I would like to talk about what the hotline is. We are a group of alcoholics that can be the only connection other alcoholics may ever have with AA. It is very important that every district has a hotline committee member or at least 1 male and 1 female who are willing to answer calls. The way that works is everyone who is willing to answer calls would save the hotline number which is 4065405131. This is the only number that a call would come from. Which then if a call is missed I am notified and I reach out to the district that the miss call come from and ask for them to have someone return the call. No one should ever call the hotline to try and find out who called if they missed a call, they should contact me directly if I haven't already contacted them. The answering service only keeps 2 numbers per district to send calls to. These people need to know the number how to answer the calls and information for their district on people to contact and meeting going on. So, it is important to have a couple of people that can be rotated out. Now let's talk about what I been doing.

Since the last assembly the first thing I did was get Paul District 41 hotline chair and the alternate hotline chair signed up and connect with the hotline service and teach him how to communicate with answer service and response to miss calls

Then I started to work on getting our service cancelled with Thryv/DexYp which was a motion that was seconded discussed and passed. This was a task that wasn't easy. They did not want to let us go

and were trying to still charge us until end of the 2024 because they have already started print. Lucky I did my research and was able to let them know that there was a lack of communication and the information they had was outdated and which meant we could cancel our service without having to pay any more fee. It did require me filling out a lot of paperwork emails and phone calls but after about 3 months I finally got it done. By doing this we will be saving 1750 a year. So far this year we have spent 942.09 dollar on the hotline.

Next, I was invited by the Area 40 CPC chair Ty to help facilitate a CPC Luncheon during the regional forum in which we had A Class A Trustee come and speak. During this luncheon I realized that hotline can be involved in more than just the hotline like CPC and/or bridging the gap. Because a professional can give the hotline number to a suffering alcoholic and if someone coming out of the hospital and is wanting to talk with an alcoholic they can reach out to the hotline who then could get them connect with bridging the gap.

With that thought in mind I created a card that on one side says Montana Area 40 AA looking to talk with another Alcoholic call the Montana AA Hotline. 833 800 8553. Then on the other side it says looking for a meeting download AA meeting Guide App it has a QR card and the AA-montana.org web address. When a person scans the code, it will allow them to download the meeting guide app the grape vine app and send you to the AA-Montana .org website.

I also attended the regional forum which was not at all what I was expecting but let me be honest I didn't know what to expect. I was able to meet a lot of amazing people and connect with people I would never have connected with before. I went to dinner with a class B trustee Cathryn from Canada and talk about how they do hotline in Canada as well as just to connect and see that AA is much different in other places they care the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic. Which I got out of this was event at the end of the weekend was that I know what my 5 year service plan looks like with God willing.

Ok now we will talk about the different districts. I want to thank all the district hotline chair for their hard work in overseeing their communities and making sure all calls are being answered so I want to thank all the hotline committee members for their service without you my job would be a lot harder. I still do not have any contact for District 12 and district 31 so if these districts are active please connect with me and provide me with 1 male and 1 female contact for the hotline service thank you for that

District 11 – 47 calls
District 12 – 6 calls
District 21 – 2 call
District 23 - 2 calls
District 31 - 7 calls
District 41 - 13 calls
District 42 - 13 calls
District 51 - 5 calls
District 61 - 26 calls
District 71 – 14 calls
District 72 - 67 calls
District 81 - 44 calls

District 91 - 28 calls
District 93 - 13 calls
Other calls- 33 calls
Total calls 320

Committee Report:

Area 40.

Jake H – D91 – report – looking for qualified answerers *missing calls previously ~ separate Hotline with Intergroup – Flathead Valley pays for it - discontinue that hotline (considering). Area 40 Hotline would take those volunteers if they came over from Intergroup – 5 people are involved. Would like backup volunteers to be added. Sending text if call is missed to get connected with the caller. Family members reaching out, bosses as well. Direct callers to aa-montana.org. Position is rewarding. D41 – enough interest to be functional (Paul). Haily – D51 – appreciate Hotline exists – taking Hotline cards back to Havre – callers have come to meetings. 1 man and 1 woman to answer – Jody T. is rotating volunteers who answer. Alternates – get them trained for the next rotation (comment from Xavier). Diane – have Hotline chair who reports – 1-month rotating man/woman. How to increase awareness of Hotline in Billings. 47 calls in the last 4 months. Xavier suggests workshops to share the importance of the position. Passion and commitment when answering a call – the person answering could be 1st contact with AA. Service work = carrying the message! Print outs available with information on calls – how many, what was said, etc. Can let person on other end know to call 911 (if detoxing, etc.), be willing to go to coffee – take them to a meeting – do 12 step calls. Text chain in D81 being utilized. Jake H. comments – Hotline NEEDS to be answered – could be life or death. People answering need to have knowledge to send caller where they need to go! Hotlines chairs should know other chairs in District – stay connected!

We need to work together to inform other the important of service work and

B. Review activities related to the Hotline in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Report and Charter –

GSC

A. Review the results of all Report and Charter committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2023 General Service Conference

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition:

B. Reviewed and discussed in detail.

End with talking about the important of service work and how we should be talking about how service work has helped sobriety

Also thank the area for the ability to serve.

Public Information & Website: Rick H & Alex M

○ **Chair Report:**

Hello, Area 40

My name is Rick and I am an alcoholic. Currently I have the privilege of serving as the area 40 Public Information Chair, AKA P.I. When I was first introduced to service in AA the acronyms were confusing. A 40, D72, CPC, PI etcetera. I remember thinking that the PI one sounded cool, but I really couldn't figure out why AA would need a private investigator. I now have a clearer understanding of what the PI committee's role is in the service structure, I have a workbook.

After the spring assembly I had a period of resting on my laurels or as Kurt used to say resting in my Levi's. God had other plans, the Co-chair of the district 71 Pi committee Sarah had read the assembly minutes from fall 2022 and was interested in the Flyers that the committee had printed and sent to the DCM's. I brought it to my meeting with my advisor and we were able to come up with a PDF for Sarah to be able to print off Flyers that could be put on public bulletin boards. There are three versions that we took out of the PI workbook. #1 if you want to keep drinking that's your business. If you want to stop that's ours. #2 if alcohol is causing problems in your life contact AA. We're Alcoholics helping other Alcoholics get sober. #3 have you sometimes wished you could spend a holiday sober? On the bottom of each isthea-montana.org web address. If anyone is interested in using these get me your contact info and I can send it to you.

The district 72 PI chair Katie and her committee have been busy making sure schedules and pamphlets are in as many facilities as they can as they can. Also, they have set up a regular monthly meeting at the warming center, this is a recovery meeting not an actual AA meeting, two volunteers share their stories in a general way.

I attended the West central regional forum a couple weeks ago in Missoula. Wow I forgot how much of a boost to my desire to do service that is. While at the CPC event hosted by Area 40 and District 81, I was able to get the contact info for the new district 81 PI chair Linda. I was able to meet up with her on Saturday and give her part of the workbook that I had with me I later sent her one of the PI kits that I had as a GSO had sent me two.

On a little larger scale, I received notice that the second annual North American CPC and PI conference will be held online on December 2nd and 3rd 2023, the inaugural one had over 400 attendees. The planning committee is looking for help if anyone is interested, I have a couple of e-mail addresses for that.

In closing I would like to say that this position has been a bit daunting for me, I have a real aversion to the electronic forms of communication especially e-mail. Slowly with help from other Alcoholics that is changing. I heard a young speaker recently from a large area in California who had just been elected area chair from the hat in a third legacy vote, she is five years sober. She said, in AA God doesn't choose the qualified, God qualifies the chosen, thank you for the life I have today.

In love and service, Rick H

○ **Webmaster Report:**

Greetings Area 40, I am Alex Mariño, alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Webmaster.

I want the DCMs and PI chairs to introduce the elected admins for their districts in the district meetings. If you require assistance in obtaining this information, please contact me at

webmaster@aamontana.org. Maintaining an up-to-date online listing of our meetings is crucial for those who are still struggling with alcoholism.

Since the Spring Assembly, our website has recorded 129,464 page views, 27,348 users, and 6,024 downloads. Additionally, we've gained over 27,000 new users. These statistics demonstrate the significant traffic our website receives, with a substantial number of downloads of flyers and documents. Notably, the most popular pages are Home and Virtual Meeting listings, closely followed by Meeting listings in various cities around our Area.

Thank you, Kacie, for alerting me to the necessity of changing the wording on our website from "Zoom" to "Virtual." I have now updated all those pages.

I appreciate your ongoing trust in me as your webmaster!!

In love and Service,
Alex Mariño
Area 40 Webmaster

○ **Committee Report:**

First, I want to thank everyone who attended the PI committee meeting, Theresa from district 42, Matt and Ashley from 72, Steve from 91, Morgan from 61 and Mark from district 11. Thank you, Theresa, for taking notes. We opened the meeting at about 9:45 with the serenity prayer.

Public Information-Area 40

Item A Review assembly report of the area 40 public information chair-no discussion

Item B Review assembly report of the area 40 Webmaster-Alex went over his report in the committee meeting, and we didn't have any questions or comments.

Item C Review assembly report of ad hoc committee on Area 40 website guidelines-we didn't have any report at the committee meeting but Paul W who is on the committee was able to give us a little information during the floor assembly. The committee is meeting once a month.

Item D review activities of public information committees in groups and districts throughout area 40-

District 91 the CPC and PI are working together to make sure literature is up to date and distributed throughout the valley.

District 42 now has a literature rack at the Cut Bank Senior Center, we discussed as a committee encouraging GSR's to get groups to sponsor literature racks in public places.

District 72 working hard to get meeting schedules and a information to the places they need to be also started a recovery meeting at the warming center once a month.

Public Information-GSC

Item A review the results of all Public Information committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 20 23 General Service Conference- there was only one advisory action that came out of the committee, they approved the updates to the membership survey pamphlet to reflect the findings of the 2022 survey we discussed the minor editorial change that was included in this action

and the committee thought it was acceptable.

We then spent the rest of the meeting time going over and discussing the items the committee went through at the conference, we had some questions about one item, create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media we thought this would be a good one to keep an eye on. We adjourned at about 11:45 with the responsibility pledge

Yours in service Rick H.

Treatment & Accessibilities/Agenda; Bridging the Gap: Hugh M & Jessica W

○ Chair Report:

Hi my name is Hugh and I am an alcoholic. I'm proud to be serving as your Treatment and Accessibilities chair in Area 40. Since our last assembly I was able to attend our Spring Round Up in beautiful Missoula. It was great to see so many of our fellowship and person again smiling laughing and enjoying life. I had the privilege of hearing Kacie's story for the first time wow she knocked it out of the park. In June I was able to go to the Unity Camp Out in beautiful Little Belt mountains. The speakers were great and the rain was minimal for a change. In August I went to the West Central Regional Forum it was wonderful to see the passion from 7 different states gathered for one reason the love of Alcoholics Anonymous. I look forward to working with any and all the districts this fall and please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way sincerely in service Hugh

Committee report

First I would like to thank Annie for taking notes for me we had 11 people tender break out and 2 on zoom. And of course we had baby Hank which was attending his second area assembly in his young Life. We had great discussion about bridging the gap and what it is going on in other districts for treatment we had one agenda item to discuss and we had great talks about it pros and cons and what that said we the committee by unanimous vote Recommend a 2 year moratorium on all agenda items at the general service conference starting in 2025 the exception would be the filling of general service board or corporate positions.

After discussion Alexandria had asked about sending books in the treatment facilities the pink can money was talked about and was explained that it was only for DOC treatment jails prisons not private non DOC treatment centers. I also mentioned the need for money to be sent into our area pink can't fun because there is a need so that mark may be able to send books when called upon thank you Hugh

○ Bridging the Gap Chair Report:

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

I am traveling this weekend to attend the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend(BTGWW) in Houston, Texas. I want to thank the Area for the support to go and represent us as the BTGWW Host Committee Chair. We successfully won the bid to host the 2024 BTGWW which will be held in Missoula Montana, September 4-6th. That is next year!!! Flyers are available online. Please help me announce this around the Area. This is a National Conference and we are looking forward to hosting it next fall.

After the Spring Assembly, Sean, our alt BTG Chair, and I continued to work on preparing for the May 6th, 2023 BTG workshop and committee meeting in Shelby, Montana. We were excited to have Area 78 BTG(Calgary Canada) presenting Teachouts for all our AA attendees and have our first in-person BTG committee meeting for the 23 - 24 rotation.

We have one in person meeting a year and the rest are held remotely. Our goal has been to hold these in person meetings in rural areas that do not necessarily have BTG chairs so that we can build our connections around the state.

I want to thank all of the groups around Area 40 that supported your BTG district chairs travel. I also want to thank Jerry T D51, Bandi D 91, and John A and Darrel H, D42 for everyone's work. Darrel and John in Shelby handled the venue and setup which was so nice. Thank you.

Next year, the in-person Committee meeting will be held during the National Conference in Missoula to save on travel with only one trip.

I have continued to connect with BTG participants sending requests to be connected with AA members around the state. I have been getting consistent requests through the electronic BTG link (about 20 since last assembly) and more via email from our facilities. When I receive a request through the BTG link, I often send 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.

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 E.W.

○ **Committee Report:**

First I would like to thank Annie for taking notes for me we had 11 people tender break out and 2 on zoom. And of course we had baby Hank which was attending his second area assembly in his young life. We had great discussion about bridging the gap and what it is going on in other districts for treatment we had one agenda item to discuss and we had great talks about it pros and cons and with that said we the committee by unanimous vote Recommend a 2 year moratorium on all agenda items at the general service conference starting in 2025 the exception would be the filling of general service board or corporate positions.

After discussion Alexandria had asked about sending books in the treatment facilities the pink can money was talked about and was explained that it was only for DOC treatment jails prisons not

private non-DOC treatment centers. I also mentioned the need for money to be sent into our area pink can't fun because there is a need so that mark may be able to send books when called upon. Thank you, Hugh

MOTION: Item D. The committee recommends submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: The committee unanimously recommends a two-year (2) moratorium on all new agenda items at the General Service Conference (GSC) starting in 2025. The exception would be the filling of General Service Board and Corporate positions.

Vote-- Approved: 27 Opposed: 50 Abstain: 5 **FAILED** Minority Opinion heard, motion to reconsider with a 2nd

Motion to Reconsider: In favor: 30 Opposed: 36 Abstain: 7 **FAILED**

Corrections/International Conventions & Regional Forums: Mark H

○ Chair Report:

Greetings area 40. My names Mark and I'm an alcoholic serving as your corrections chair.

Still trying to settle into this and trying to learn my roles. Since last assembly only a few new things to report. I was able to attend the BTG workshop in Shelby, very excellent. I went to the treatment and corrections workshop in Helena, very awesome. Like many here I attended the regional forum in Missoula a couple weeks ago. Always an amazing experience.

So part of my service is pink can. I'm glad to say that is starting to get more participation. I've been trying to fulfill orders on a first ask basis as finances will allow. Thank you to all the groups and districts who've contributed. Hopefully it will continue to grow. I've been talking with people about some ideas and thoughts about how to improve this hopefully in time for the next chair.

As always it's a privilege to serve the area that kept the doors open for this alcoholic to walk through. I have a blessed life I never could of imagined. Thank you all for being here and your support.

In love and service, Mark H

○ Committee Report:

Thanks to all who participated in the committee:

*Josh. D11

*Susan. D91

*Pat. D11

*Daniel. D11

*Heather D41

*Tony. D12

*Nell. D72

*Jana. D11

*Gary E.(MSP Liason)

Our MSP liaison Gary E. was present and gave his report. Thank you Gary, for your report and participation. Our B.T.G chair Sean R. is attending the national B.T.G workshop in Texas so was unable to attend. Wishing him the best of luck.

So we had a pretty simple assignment of reviewing the G.S.C. finale report. We did go through the information paying particular attention to the agenda items brought up this spring. There was a lot of great discussions and ideas.

We also have the assignment of International Conventions and regional forums. We went through this also.

Thank you again to all those who put up with me in the committee. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Yours in service, Mark H.

Finance: Jake L

○ Chair Report:

Good evening! 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 this morning. I want to clarify a couple of things from my report.

- Thryv is the new name of Dex YP which we used to publish the hotline number. In fall of 22, we voted to discontinue the use of this service. Xavier diligence got us separated to the tune of approximately \$1,750.
- All the graphs and images displayed were end of August, YTD.

Since the Spring Assembly, I had the pleasure of attending the Forum in Missoula and I would like to compliment the committee on how well executed this event was.

I continue to tinker with the books, keeping Area 40 accounts current and depositing any received contributions. Although I do not mail any acknowledgment to each contributor, I can look up any group's donations by request. I am happy to report, I have not been in contact with any groups who have had contributions returned in the mail. If you have been at Area for the past few years you know this is always an issue but, it is possible, after 2.5 years. We got there, thank you.

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. I am sad to report for some, this address will not be changing anytime in the near future.

A few structural changes to note this year:

Changes in how expenses are recorded:

- Meeting space -> Rent

Changes in how contributions are recorded

- Recorded at time of deposit

Surprises

- CPC Workshop with the Forum

Income/Contributions

- Revenue forecast is looking positive, trend looks like we will receive ~\$40,000 which is ~\$5,000 under budget. Given our operating balance, which is 2x our prudent reserve, we continue to draw down slowly. Eventually we need contributions to increase to match our commitment to the Area for the services we provide. But there is no need to ring the cow bell at this time. My hope is that our draw down slows and returns to a healthy balance.

If you are considering this position for the next rotation. 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, knowledge about bookkeeping which you can learn on the job, organization skills, and time. No Treasurer has ever died while in the position. Please consider the gifts sobriety has provided and step up to serve where and when you are able. Alcoholics generally thrive when faced with adversity 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 continued the trend, light on income compared to expenses for the year to date. However, we are under budget for the year on expenses with a net income of \$1,128.77. Currently our expenses are under budget to the tune of \$6,568.21, this is due to the elimination of directory services for the hotline even with the increase in the cost of travel expenses.

Returning to an in-person assembly will continue take some calibration to ensure we are back on track from a budget and expense perspective. We are current on our annual rent for the archives storage which runs on a rolling 13-month schedule.

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 did have a Venmo account which made our virtual participants able to contribute as well as those who shamefully forgot to bring cash. However, in the return to in-person meetings, this has gone away. 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.

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!

○ **Committee Report:**

Jake

Kacie N

Lisa C-D

Ryan P - District 91 voting member

- \$380k contributions since 2010
- YTD 2023 \$26k from 88 groups
- Jake's contribution map, post on dashboard so groups can see YTD contributions? - Pros: Transparency across groups
 - Cons: Facility in maintaining the data for future treasurers; how to maintain anonymity of groups/ contributors
- Do meetings not registered in the group have voting power? Left up to the group to make that determination
 - Do only contributing groups/individuals have voting power? No
 - Does every contributor have a vote? No
- In MT, there are 284 registered groups, 100 of which contribute
 - In order to be self-sustaining either every group contributes, or the contributing groups share the burden
 - Contributions are down, but so are expenses. Annual contributions are not meeting annual expenses. Currently drawing down prudent reserve
 - On the website, post financial highlights. Real state vs ideal state financial status
 - Considerations: Is every registered group active? Is every group financially able to contribute? • Assumption: Lack of contribution = group desires fewer services, *unless* there is communication from the group regarding why their group is not contributing
- Report - see Jake's report...
 - Jake made a massive mistake. He will need to rectify this
- Budget 1 (See Appendix 1 for the complete proposal)
 - Proposed 2024 budget of \$46,750
 - 5% increase from 2023
 - Suggested contribution for delegate expense be increased from \$1800 to \$2200 -Motion by Kacie N that the finance committee recommends to approve the 2024 budget of \$46,750. Second by Ryan Partain. Motion passed 4-0.
- Finance GSC item A
 - Clarified the GSB is the entity which receives all voluntary contributions and GSO performs contribution processing

MOTION1 : Budget Proposal (See Appendix 1 for the complete proposal)

- Proposed 2024 budget of \$46,750
- 5% increase from 2023
- Suggested contribution for delegate expense be increased from \$1800 to \$2200
- Motion by Kacie N that the finance committee recommends to approve the 2024 budget of \$46,750. Second by Ryan Partain. Motion passed 4-0.

MOTION 2: Finance GSC item A

- Clarified the GSB is the entity which receives all voluntary contributions and GSO performs contribution processing

Literature: Jessica S-K

○ Chair Report:

Heyyyyyyyy Area 40! I am thrilled to serve as Area 40's Literature Chair. Like many area committee chairs, I haven't received my literate packet. I did find out from Connie who attended the Forum that there is a paper shortage and as a result many things needing to be printed are backlogged. I was however able to print my packet from the website.

Since we were together last, I have had the opportunity to update all of the display boards. If you notice anything missing, please let me know so I can fix it.

Current Service Manuals are available for \$4 each. If you need one and don't have the cash, please let me know. Because of the paper shortage and the printing priority being Big Books and 12 and 12s the Service Manuals are on backorder. I do not plan to order more because we should be getting New Service manual in 2024 and because of the paper shortage and the printing priority being Big Books and 12 and 12s.

In August, I had the opportunity to bring the Literature Display to Great Falls for Fellowship at the Falls. Thank you for asking me to be there. I am available to bring a display to your district or group, please let me know how I can be helpful.

○ Committee Report:

Voting members 21, 71, 41, 93

- I would like to thank all of the amazing folks that attended the literature Committee: Eric C. from District 41, Sean B. from District 41, Dan F. from District 51, Jim J from District 71, Molly M. from District 41, Libba C. from District 93, Jon C. from District 61, Megan B. from District 81, Jeff C. from District 93, Kristi D. from District 72, Vernon T from District 42, Laurie C. from District 61, Susan J. from District 11 and Todd C. from District 91. I would also like to thank those that showed up virtually: Merida S. from District 61, Don from District 11, T-Bone from District 81, and
- Several group members mentioned that they had trouble access the backroad materials on the website.
- We did not have a voting member from District 21 but Merida S. from District 61 volunteered to continue to serve as a voting member of the Committee. As a result we have the following 4 voting members: Jim J from District 71, Merida S. from District 61, Libba C. from District 93 and Molly M. from District 41.
- A big thank you to Lori C. from District 61 for taking notes for our Committee.
 - I would like to add that this group has been a delight to work with. Thank you for all you do to carry the message and practice the principles.

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

1. We discussed the Literature activities in groups and districts.
 1. District 11 just created a Literature service position that they are excited to get filled.
 2. District 42 does not have an official Literature position, but Vern is doing the job and they have been waiting literature for several months, due to the paper shortage.
 3. District 41's Literature Chair stepped down and they have yet to fill the position.
 4. District 81 has a brand-new Literature Chairperson.

B. Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference:

Consider developing a pamphlet addressing Alcoholics Anonymous and the Unhoused Alcoholic

- a. The committee consider the agenda item and had a thoughtful discussion regarding the background material and the proposal. chose to bring forward the item with edits from the committee.
 1. Molly. M. made a motion that was seconded by Libba to consider the proposed agenda item as write. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. Molly then made a motion to reconsider that motion was seconded by Liba
1. The committee then discussed editing the agenda item to be more specific to who the pamphlet intends to serve. The committee discussed and agreed on the need to be more specific to who the pamphlet should be directed to.
2. Thank you to Paul L. for providing insight on our ability as a committee to edit an agenda item before bring it to the floor.
3. The committee took editorial liberty on Agenda Item C. The following Ageda item was Made by Molly M and seconded by Libba and passed unanimously:
 1. Consider Submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: Consider developing a pamphlet on *AA and the Unhoused Person* that specifically addresses alcoholism, what AA is and is not; and includes personal stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness.

D. Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference:

writing a new meditation book for the fellowship. This would be in addition to the current Daily Reflections.

- a. The following proposed agenda item was made by Jim and seconded by Merida and passed unanimously: Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: Consider writing a new meditation book for the fellowship. This would be in addition to the current Daily Reflections.

Literature – GSC

A. Review the results of all Literature committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2023 General Service Conference

1. The committee considered, reviewed the committee items at the 2023 General Service Conference.

1. We would like it noted, should AA choose to continue to use the Equal Distribution of Workload (EDW), it would be helpful to note where particular EDW items can be found in the report.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees

○ Chair Report:

Hello Area 40

It has been a great honor serving on the Area Committee. At the Regional Forum I heard someone say “if you are new, come all the way in and sit all the way down” Service in Alcoholics Anonymous continues to remind me of this and continues to help me to stay all the way in and sit all the way down and for that I am forever grateful. In June, I attended the Founders Day Campout at Lubrecht Experimental Forest near Missoula. Kacie happened to be there giving her Delegate’s Report and she previously had a sneaking suspicion that I have been looking pretty hard for a CPC project. She informed me that we had a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee, Kerry Meyer, a district trial judge, coming to the West Central Regional Forum and she was hoping we could put together a CPC luncheon where she could speak. Of course I was honored and excited to have a project that fit right into my service position. Immediately my excitement turned to panic as I realized we only had a little over 3 months to plan this event during my busiest work months. Me and Xavier were on the campout committee and it seemed fitting to ask him to co-chair this committee. We went to it and had weekly planning meetings, found a venue, picked some food and started inviting some professionals. We had the event at the Missoula Public Library Friday August 25th from 12-2 and 8 professionals attended in person and 3 virtually. We are sorry you were not invited, in fact we did not really invite any AA members and still about 30 people from AA attended including delegates, trustees, area committee members, GSRs and district CPC chairs. Kacie was the MC for the event and we had a 10 min AA speaker, followed by Kerry and a Q and A period for the last half of the luncheon. We felt the event was an overall success, we had great questions and made great connections with legal, healthcare and mental health professionals. One of the wonderful tools that evolved out of this event was the Meeting Guide QR code card. We are super excited for all of the possibilities to use this tool in the future. We are very grateful to Angela District 81 CPC Chair, Karon District 72 CPC Chair, Deborah District 61 CPC Chair, Andrew W, Kacie, Xavier, Tim H, and everyone else who helped on the committee. This was truly an honor to be a part of. The total cost of the event including food, venue, flyers, supplies and pamphlets was \$499.25. We had a 7th tradition for AA members and we took in \$283.50. Overall the cost of the event was \$215.75. This is not included in my budget and we were hoping that the Area would be willing to reimburse us.

If you have questions or would like some help putting on a CPC Luncheon in your district, please feel free to reach out to me at cpc@aa-montana.org.

Truly thank you for allowing me to serve!

Ty Kraft

Cost Breakdown:

\$12.50 Supplies

\$48.75 Flyers

\$396 Food

\$42.00 AA Pamphlets

\$499.25 Total Expense

\$283.50 7th Tradition

\$215.75 Overall Cost Including 7th Tradition

○ **Committee Report:**

13 in attendance Led by Ty K.

1. Review assembly report by CPC chair
 1. Discussion of report and Q and A
 2. "Understanding Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous" speaker luncheon
 3. Google voice account to provide contact for the "professional" community to the CPC/PI committee
 4. Card with QR code and AA website
 5. Pamphlet "If you are a professional?"
1. Review activities of CPC committees in groups and districts throughout Area 40
 1. Finding more opportunities to share AA with the professional community
 2. Panel on Oct 12, D72 (Bozeman) hosting a senior level nursing event with Alanon/AA -how a professional influenced their first experience with AA
 3. District 61 Is hosting a CPC event presenting to the Kiwanas Club
 4. Sponsor Your Professional Workshops
 5. Area CPC Luncheon?
 1. Review the results of all CPC committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at 2023 GSC.
 1. The pamphlet "AA in your community" be approved with minor editorial changes.
 2. Consider the request to retire the pamphlet "A member's eye view."
 1. No Action taken
 1. The committee reviewed the progress on the LinkedIn page and received verbal updates.
 2. The committee reviewed the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and expressed their appreciation for the work completed to date.
 3. The committee reviewed the content and format of the CPC Kit and workbook and noted the updates that were suggested by the 2022 Conference committee in CPC.
 1. Review the results if the trustees committee items considered, reviewed and discussed at the 2023 General Service Conference.
 1. The committee reviewed the resumes and approved as eligible for election all Class B trustee candidates for Northeast Regional Trustee, Southwest Regional Trustee, and trustee-at-large/Canada.

2. The Committee thoroughly discussed the GSBs actions at the Jan 29, 2023 Board Planning and sharing session that led to the resignation of the board chair.
3. The committee met individually with each current GSB trustee to hear their vision for the future of AA, assessment of the current state of the board, and what action can be taken to improve communication.
4. The committee requested that the GSB find time and space to continue to develop spiritual practices in harmony with the AA principles of reflection, accountability, and healing.

Grapevine and La Vina/Policy and Admissions

○ Chair Report:

Hello Area 40 Spring Round up 2023 participants here and online, My name is Martin NoRunner, I am your Area 40 Grapevine Representative.

The AA Grapevine is a publication within Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) that serves as a forum for members to share their experiences, strength, and hope in recovery from alcoholism. It has played a significant role in the fellowship since its inception. Here is a brief history of the AA Grapevine: Early Years: The AA Grapevine was first published in June 1944, more than nine years after the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. The idea for the magazine emerged as a means to facilitate communication and unity among AA members across different geographic locations.

Ruth Hock and the First Issue:

Ruth Hock, an early AA member, was instrumental in the establishment of the Grapevine. She served as the magazine's first editor and handled the initial printing and distribution logistics. The first issue of the AA Grapevine was a four-page, mimeographed newsletter.

Development and Growth:

Over time, the Grapevine evolved and grew in both content and readership. It began to include personal stories of recovery, articles on AA principles and practices, book reviews, and news from AA groups around the world. The magazine expanded from a regional publication to an international one, with translations available in several languages.

Independence and Organization:

Initially, the Grapevine operated under the auspices of the Alcoholic Foundation, which later became the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, in 1948, it became an independent corporation, the AA Grapevine, Inc., governed by a separate board of directors. This independence allowed the Grapevine to maintain its own editorial policy and financial self-sufficiency.

Contributions and Submissions:

The Grapevine's content primarily comes from AA members themselves. Anyone in AA can submit articles, personal stories, poems, artwork, or letters for publication consideration. The magazine aims to represent the collective voice of AA and the experience of its members.

Outreach and Impact:

The AA Grapevine has been influential in carrying the message of recovery to individuals both within and outside the fellowship. It has served as a lifeline for many AA members, offering stories of hope, identification, and inspiration. The magazine has been distributed to prisons, treatment centers, hospitals, and libraries worldwide, contributing to the understanding of alcoholism as a treatable condition.

Digital Age:

With the advent of the internet and digital publishing, the Grapevine has embraced online platforms to reach a broader audience. It maintains a website, and in fall of 2023 will implement an iOS and Android Grapevine Apps allowing members to access articles and subscribe to the magazine digitally. The Grapevine also offers a podcast series featuring personal stories, interviews, and discussions related to recovery.

The AA Grapevine continues to be an invaluable resource within the AA fellowship, providing a platform for members to share their experience, strength, and hope, and fostering unity and connection among those seeking recovery from alcoholism.

○ **Committee Report:**

Grapevine A40

GVAC w Janet Bryan, next one June
Committee:

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

Updated handbooks catalogs and postcards

88 chairs 10,500 grapevine reps 873 Lavinia reps

Moving towards applying resources to digital delivery services although traditional magazine will be available for use with directions systems H and I and 12 step work

Carry the message YouTube

Grapevine podcast has 365,000 downloads to date

92% mobile

Top 5% of all pod casts in listenership

12% growth last month January 2023

Over 627k meeting guide app

596k active users

10k+ Instagram followers

56% female followers GV, largest age group 45-54/24%

55% Male followers LV, largest age group 35-44/24%

Grapevine and Lavina apps being worked on currently iOS and Android

More room for more stories and aa content

Digital AA self

Privacy?
Beta Testing this summer w/
Limited Launch to trusted servants
Launch in September

Workbook in rep resources
Reviewed every year by conference committee

Name	District	Role
Connie F	51	District Rep
Devin S	81	Solution Grp Rep
Amber M	41	District Rep
James W	41	S.O.P Grp Rep
	31	DCM (Com member)
	93	DCM (Com member)
	21	District Rep
Angela F	11	District Rep(Recovery Grp)
Cheryl P	91	District Rep
Rebecca S	61	District Rep
Ron A	81	
Kari E	91	
Savannah D	72	District Rep
Corrina H	31	District Rep

ITEM A: Review G.S.O. General Manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.

- Where money and spirituality mix melds financial, logistical and spiritual. If there are logistical or financial challenges due to hosting within the regions, it will create spiritual difficulties.
 - The Conference would miss out on Stepping Stones and GSO visits during Conference week. Visiting the office during Conference weeks was one of the reasons the early members chose to meet in NYC.
 - International observers would miss out on the Fellowships history tied to NYC.
 - Similar to international observers, some area delegates would feel left out of the NYC experience and history of the Fellowship.
 - The history of the Conference being held in NYC has been a central part of a long history of unity and comradery among area delegates, trustees, and staff.

Conference Discussions:

In October 1955, the former GSB Policy Committee discussed a suggestion from two delegates, to pursue the “possibility of having alternating sessions of the General Service Conference in cities other than New York.” Further, “this would be done in odd years, thereby giving each delegate a chance to visit Headquarters in even years.

The proposal was discussed at the 1956 General Service Conference but was tabled for consideration at “some future date.”

ITEM B: Review dates for the 2027 (77th) General Service Conference.

The committee noted that the month of April 2027 weekend dates do not conflict with any significant holidays and allow the Fellowship ample time before the Conference to review and discuss agenda items.

ITEM C: Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the G.S.C. between meetings.

Excerpts from the January 2023 trustees’ General Service Conference meeting: The committee continued their discussion of a draft plan process for polling the GSC between meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies and offered several suggestions to the plan and invited participation from delegate chairpersons. The committee agreed that alternate delegates should be invited by the sitting delegate if the Delegate cannot attend. The committee agreed that the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions would meet prior to the GSC meeting to accept admissions, noting that circumstances involving great emergencies may have their own deadlines. The committee agree to forward the revised draft process plan for polling the GSC between meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies to 2023 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

An antiquated process:

Voting Process Conference members may vote by email or by phone. All responses will be made to the email address and phone provided in the original poll. Conference members will be sent a voting form by email. To vote by email, Conference members mark an "X" next to their choice and return it to the email address indicated. The poll document will include a space to indicate yes or no. To vote by phone, Conference members may call the number provided and leave a message with their name, service position and vote.

Do not be Willfully Ignorant

ITEM D: Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process (EDW)

Proposed Agend Items (PAI’s)

EDW Pilot is a test to see if redistribution works to make conference committee time more effective and balance workloads. In 2021 Advisory Action of the General Service Conference It was recommended that: The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 Trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference (GSC) on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.

- 184 PAIs
- Fillable PAI PDF form is cumbersome to use during the overall process. The committee encourages GSO staff to explore and implement an alternative format that streamlines the overall PAI process, including submission, disposition, consideration, and possible translation as Conference background.
- The Conference Agenda Item Routing (CAR) Form is cumbersome to process or use to populate the EDW sandbox tool, which employs the use of a spreadsheet.

Translations Costs: To increase translation capacity, we developed an in-house Language Services Department composed of a translation manager and two translators. This department is expected to have significant savings by reducing the use of outsourced translators.

SECTION 3 – THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR THREE

- Work toward greater clarity and consistency across the trustees' committees regarding points of contact with the conference committee and/or conference committee chairs.
- GSO Staff to consider what the best options are for PAI submission (fillable forms, online forms, or?) and look for opportunities to align new processes with the CAR forms that are completed by the Trustees Committees.
- Consider possible methods to inform and support those submitting PAIs: Video resources? Webinar?
- Shared experience on the value of **robust** group conscience at the local or area level prior to proposing for the GSC?

SECTION 4 – QUESTIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND ADMISSIONS REGARDING PAI FORMS

- How and from who should members gain access to the PAI form?
- What is the role of delegates? Is there a need to prevent PAI forms being used as petitions/suggestion box forms? If so, how might this be achieved?
- What can be done to encourage submission prior to the deadline to prevent everything coming in at once?
- Consider character limits per field, and maximum attachment sizes to ease document management and translation and foster similarity in the amount of content attached.
- Should the PAI form ask specifically whether the idea has been discussed at an area assembly and what the outcome of the vote was?
- How heavily should whether the PAI was supported by group conscience factor into decisions to move items onto the GSC agenda or not?

ITEM E: Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure.

It was recommended that: The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation by listing groups who request to be listed in Fellowship Connection according to the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This replaces the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings." It was recommended that: The General Service Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

It might also be helpful to gather shared experience on ways that online groups have used their particular expertise in working with district and area service committees to:

- Bring online meetings to treatment facilities, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers
- Reach out and connect with remote communities
- Help members who are homebound or have mobility issues
- Offer more options for the Hard of Hearing, Blind members, and Deaf members
- Use simultaneous interpretation to offer meetings in more languages
- Provide meetings for immunocompromised members
- Offer meetings 24/7 for A.A.s who are shift workers, new parents, or caregivers.

- Make meetings accessible to those who have lost their driving privileges Lastly, it would be helpful to collect shared experiences from districts and areas who are holding assemblies or other events in a hybrid format. What considerations went into the decision to try a hybrid format? What have the challenges been? Has it led to greater participation of online groups? What were the costs? Some survey responses touched on this, but more sharing would be helpful.

Section 8 – The Ongoing Conversation

There are still, as there were with the first progress report, more questions than answers. However, the shape of the questions continues to evolve and change. It is apparent that many conversations are happening at Area, District and Group levels, and that there is a need and an appetite for continued shared experience. There are voices that we continue to need to seek out and hear from in this still-evolving picture and process. It is a remarkable one to be a part of.

➤ **GSR Breakout:**

Question: I am the GSR for a small group that meets once a week. I also attend a meeting 5 days a week. Can I hold a position at both?

Answer: Groups can be autonomous on this issue.

A: The GSR pamphlet states it is your only job.

A: One person said they hold both GSR and speaker-finding position.

A: Taking 2 positions is not helping to include more people.

A: 2 homegroups, but one is where you are truly committed, vote, and hold a position.

Question: Why do we have to rotate positions?

Answer: To try something new, and give newcomers a chance to participate.

A: Service keeps you sober and out of your head.

A: To avoid control of one person.

A: I need AA, AA doesn't need me.

There were also plenty of examples given of what not to do.

Question: Is there a required business meeting format?

Answer: Reports first, Roberts Rules, then new/old business. Removing Roberts Rules helped the meeting to run more smoothly.

A: Use the group conscious. The GSR brings information from the district to the group.

A: Having a format helps to maintain order.

A: Invite God in, group conscious is different than a rigid decision making process.

Question: What do we do with members who no longer show up to business meetings that they hold a position in?

Answer: Have group guidelines that specify. For example, if a person misses more than 3 meetings, they will be replaced. Make sure to have the guidelines in place beforehand.

A: Have a group conscious about what do we do with these positions that are not being honored.

A: Remember, just because a position is good for someone, doesn't mean they are good for that position. It isn't personal.

Question: A person asked for experience about Group Inventory.

Answer: Area can provide different formats for groups to then choose from.

A: It was suggested to have food and fellowship along with the inventory. Also, make sure conversation stays open, particularly with the newcomers.

A: One type that was mentioned is survey style resulting in reading the papers in a meeting together.

A: AA Group Inventory has 13 suggested questions.

A: Use an outside of the group member to facilitate the inventory meeting.

➤ **DCM Breakout:**

Question: Discussion opened by trying to find a role as DCM rather than let the GSRs run the business of the meeting.

Answer: Thought it was the hardest thing to do as DCM was to let other people take the wheel.

A: This person feels that it is on the right track with motions, etc. Also, sets a good point of order.

A: Shared experience filling in to arbitrate a few times, and pointed out that GSRs look to us for guidance. Also said it is important not to give opinions.

A: Pointed out there is lots of material for helping run the meeting.

A: Said only one of the cities in their district participate in district meetings. It was speculated other cities are holding out. They have also been thinking about building a clubhouse.

A: Suggested attending each group's business meeting in the district and sharing with them the importance of participating in district.

A: Another DCM knew of a group in their district that doesn't go to district meetings in protest.

A: Encourage dark groups to show up to find out what district and area are doing. Also, reach out to other districts for help.

Question: A district has a non-alcoholic wanting to join and hold a service position. Also, one of their chair members is smoking weed.

Answer: Don't take outside contributions. Make sure to ask the question: Do they meet the sobriety requirements?

A: It sorta sorts itself out, and trying to control the situation can be bad.

A: Suggested a policy stating that each position holder needs to have a sponsor, be working the steps, and have a homegroup.

A: Remember that the groups GSRs are just as new and help them in their struggles.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

➤ **Roundup Reports**

Fall 2023 Roundup – Bozeman

Greetings from the 2023 Fall Roundup team in Bozeman, Montana! It is a pleasure to be with you through our DCM, Betty M.

This is our way of inviting you to our "We Are Not Saints" Roundup event at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman the weekend of October 27th. We have a great event planned for you featuring AA and AlAnon speakers, panels, workshops, marathon meetings and more. Like what, you ask?

Well, in keeping with our Halloween spirit, we're having a masquerade party complete with costume contest. Sign up today by clicking on the QR code on the flyer and signing up online, or print off a registration form.

You can be assured that this is not a trick, it will be a treat for your spiritual soul.

Thank you!
The 2023 Fall Roundup Team

Spring 2024 Roundup — Billings

Greetings Area 40 Assembly,
The District 11 2024 Spring Roundup Committee is excited to bring you "beyond your wildest dreams" May 17-19, 2024 in Billings. The speakers will be outstanding as is our site at the Big Horn Resort. Bring your swimming suits to enjoy the Big Horn indoor water park. Don't forget to grab a handful of flyers for your groups and districts!

➤ Intergroup Reports

Hi Area 40,
My name is Aryel and I am an alcoholic.

I am the GSR of the Kalispell New Hope Group, I am also the District 91 Intergroup Liason. I am reporting on behalf of the Flathead Valley Intergroup.

I know a lot of you are wondering what Intergroup does. Well I'd be happy to tell you. Flathead Valley Intergroup serves more than 15 groups and meetings in Northwest Montana, within district 91. Intergroup offers more than 10 separate service positions, some of which differ from the common district positions, those include an entertainment chair and co-chair, which organize events such as, an annual campout, alcathons, and several holiday and fellowship events, dinners, sobriety birthday meetings. They also have a meeting schedules chair, who is tasked with organizing, editing, printing and distributing paper meeting schedules throughout District 91. We also participate in and contribute to district 91 functions and events, in addition to providing a separate local hotline number and a local website aanwmt.org.

In the last year Flathead Valley Intergroup has held 12 monthly business meetings and 12 monthly sobriety birthday meetings which are on the last Saturday of every month at the North Valley Senior Center in Columbia Falls. We have also received over 60,000 views on the local website.

The local intergroup website provides a variety of services, including a calendar of events, with printable pdf fliers, contact information for all district and intergroup service positions, it also provides a wealth of useful information such as job descriptions, bylaws, and policy and procedures. The website also announces and informs the fellowship of several services, and workshops including, "Into Action", Corrections meetings orientation, in addition to an abundance of family friendly fellowship events and activities, such as the annual New Years Alcathon, Valentines Day party, annual Whitefish Sober Ski, St Patricks Day Dinner and Potluck,

Spring Fling Barbecue, annual EZ-Duz It Golf Tournament, Founders Day Campout, Great Northern Hike, Annual Intergroup Emery Bay Campout, Halloween Party, Thanksgiving Dinner and Potluck, Eureka White Elephant gift exchange and Christmas Party, and the Annual Christmas Alcathon.

I am honored and privileged to be an active participant in the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous, District, Intergroup, and group level. I cannot accurately express the amount of gratitude that I have for the life that God and Alcoholics Anonymous have given me, therefore the closest I can come is to take every opportunity I am presented to suit up and show up, by being of service in Alcoholics Anonymous, and to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Thank you to each and every one of you and to Alcoholics Anonymous.
As always gratefully yours in service
Aryel M

➤ **Forum Report**

My name is Greg T., and I'm an alcoholic. Currently serving as the District 12 alternate CM, my home group is the Laurel Home Group.

Since this was just my second Forum, after the event Lisa asked me to share my thoughts to this Assembly. My sponsor trained me never to say no to service opportunities, most especially the ones that may seem uncomfortable. Therefore, without further consideration, I immediately replied "of course." My experience is it often is better not to think about service too much, but to just do it.

In later chatting with Kacie, she said she expected a +500 page extensive report. I don't think this is what you would appreciate so I will try to keep my thoughts brief.

Many years ago, when residing in Ann Arbor, MI I attended my first Forum that occurred in Indianapolis, IN. As I recall, this Indiana Forum was an exciting whirlwind of activity. Like my very first meeting, I recall few details of this weekend other than the New York delegation really impressed me with their knowledge, serenity, and joy. They had something that I wanted, really wanted. Additionally, I also finally got to personally meet Amy Brophy, the then Grapevine editor.

At the time, I was the District Grapevine Rep, which was my first service position outside of my home group. I had just hosted a three-Area Michigan statewide Grapevine Writing Workshop. Preparing for this workshop, on several occasions, I telephoned Amy with numerous questions. She graciously invested a significant amount of her time (and patience) in helping me. Amy also provided extensive GV and La Vina materials for the booths. Amy was my window into New York, and I wanted to thank her in person for all her friendly help. I have never forgotten this very positive interaction and very first real service experience.

When I learned our Montana Area hosts Regional Forums only every 16 years through regular rotation, I realized I needed to take advantage of this infrequent opportunity. Therefore, this August I attended my second Regional Forum. I am so very glad I did! Our recent Missoula Regional Forum was much better than my fondest Midwest first Forum memories!

If you have never attended a Regional Forum, I highly encourage you to do so, even if it requires further less convenient travel to another state in our geographically large and disperse region. You will certainly never regret it!

My sense is our AA adage of “keep coming back” applies particularly well to our Forums. The Forums get better and better the more I attend and become more involved. Please don’t wait another sixteen years until the Regional Forum returns to Montana.

For those unfamiliar, Regional Forums are slightly differently structured than our Area Roundups and Assemblies. These Forums rotate between the various Areas of each Region, and by definition are multi-state. These Forums are primarily led by New York-based AA bodies including the AAWS and GV Boards of Trustees, GSO and staff, and participating Area Delegates. The primary objective of Regional Forums is to share information between and with the specific region and New York.

Our West Central Region consists of seven states and eight Areas. Attendees hailed from Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, North & South Dakota, Iowa, and both Minnesota Areas. Being the local host, Montana attendance and participation dominated.

At this Forum I was pleased to see many Montana friends, and to meet many other very interesting representatives from the other states. The large New York and very well-prepared contingent impressed me most of all. They were a class act well-coordinated team with polished information and content-rich presentations. Their personal and professional qualifications were inspiring.

Their grace, serenity, peace and calm were motivating. During the Q&A sessions, their responses always exhumed grace. Many questions posed by the audience were sensitive, difficult, or at best extremely challenging. They always thanked in a heart-felt manner the person asking the question and seemed very honest and sincere in doing so. I was amazed at how all questions were replied, especially the most pointed ones. Like my first Forum, I came away with the deep feeling that they possessed something I really really wanted.

When I arrived Friday afternoon, after checking in, I went directly to the great room hall which served as the center of most activity. Awaiting me were several large booths filled with literature. I was amazed at the extent that went far beyond the usual generous supply of different literature found at our Area events. One of the most memorable sights greeting me was a table containing Big Book and pamphlet translations in over 70 foreign languages. I awed at the Braille Big Book.

Being raised in Europe, I recognized many different languages of my youth, but also admired Big Books written in uncommon languages from far off exotic countries. I even spotted a copy of the Big Book written in low German, which I spoke as a teen. It is commonly called Plattdeutsch, which I didn’t even know existed as a Big Book translation. Low German is a dying dialect spoken in rural areas only along the German border next to the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxemburg.

The weekend kicked off at 06:00pm sharp with an overview orientation provided by Mike L., our Interim General Service Board Chairman. He supplemented his opening remarks with a very informative video presentation. The rest of Friday evening was filled by various presentations including Bob W., the GSO General Manager, Corporate Board presentations AAWS Trustee Director Carolyn W., and AAGV non-Trustee Director Cindy F.

We also learned about the General Service Board (GSB) and the non-alcoholic Class A and alcoholic Class B different roles through presentations by judge Kerry Meyer and Carolyn W., respectively. Indeed, judge Meyer, one of our non-alcoholic trustee board members, essentially chaired many weekend events.

Saturday morning, the Area Delegates held various complimentary presentations. All held different perspectives reflective of their cohort, geographic region, and background. However, I was extremely impacted by their unity, and common bonds which were immediately apparent in their interactions with each other.

The early morning Delegate Presentations were followed until lunch by our own Gerry R., Appointed Committee Member, presenting on very encouraging developments he champions related to "Opening A.A.'s Doors Wider: Sharing the Indigenous Story." His presentation was fascinating. Gerry was followed by Chris C., the Grapevine Publisher, describing the since launched new AAGV app, and French-Canadian Robert L., Canada Trustee at Large, who shared a PowerPoint and video presentation about his recent trip to Mongolia celebrating their anniversary. It was inspiring and fascinating how our message has spread globally.

Kacie graciously invited 3-4 attendees, including myself, to have a special lunch with judge Meyer. It was indeed a rare opportunity to get to know Kerry as an individual and not just as our non-alcoholic Class A Trustee. It is amazing how much love and caring a non-alcoholic such as Kerry can have for our fellowship. She is indeed a very approachable, warm, and friendly leader.

The Saturday afternoon sessions focused on General Service Office presentations by Bob W., the GM, as well as several members of his staff. Karina C. elaborated particularly well on the Group Services functions, which impact us most. The afternoon sessions concluded with an extensive presentation by Kevin Prior, our non-alcoholic GSB Treasurer. Finances and financial management of our fellowship are very sound and in very capable hands. Kevin even shared his Alanon story.

Saturday evening there were five different workshops to choose from that the Delegates led. The choice was very difficult, but I opted to attend Kacie's workshop about "Overcoming Barriers to Participation in AA", because I thought the topic particularly salient to our Area. Kacie was magical in her style, as usual, and the group was very engaging.

However, something unexpected happened earlier Saturday, and repeated it after Kacie's workshop. Let me first explain with a little context.

My District 12 Laurel Home Group has a meeting every other Wednesday evening at the Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch. These meetings are usually the high point of our week. YBGR, as we fondly call this Montana institution, is a non-profit institution for adolescents who suffer from alcohol and drug-related problems. These teenagers are involuntarily sent into YBGR by their parents or the courts for several months, or until their 18th birthday. It is usually their last stop before prison if they were adults. YBGR is a blend between a teen prison and recovery center. The kids' biggest fears surround "graduating YBGR," returning home to their broken dysfunctional families or mis-behaving friends.

Almost one year ago we gave an 8-month token to one of the young girls who was approaching graduation. She also asked for a 12-month token to mail to her big sister, who had recently given birth. She had not seen her sister, except on Zoom, for a year, which is how she met her first

nephew. Of course, we gave her a 12-month token to mail to her sister, adding that her sister must give it back to her when she also celebrates her own 12-month sobriety. The next time we had a meeting in YBGR, this girl had left. Since the kids come from all over the state, we usually never hear what happens to them, but hope and pray for the best.

Saturday midday between events, just before lunch, I briefly saw what I thought was a familiar smile. She said hello and hurried on to wherever she was headed with her friends before I could place the smile. After Kacie's Saturday evening workshop, I spotted this same smile at the rear of the room with her friends. I was amazed to meet this same girl, now a young woman in recovery. She had already received back the twelve-month token from her sister. Both young women were doing well in their recoveries.

Our YBGR graduate was nearing her 18-month anniversary. I reminded her to make sure she receives an 18-month brass "whiner chip" from her home group. (My home group coined the term "whiner chip" for those who were spoiled by monthly aluminum tokens and didn't want to wait a full year for their next brass token...just like me!). She laughed at my explanation, and we parted ways.

Unexpectedly meeting one of the YBGR students, and seeing how they grow and thrive in sobriety, is reassuring. The experience brought tears to my eyes, as it did to several home group members when I recounted this story.

These types of "God-shot" experiences reinforce the feeling that my actions are important. I may be the closest thing to a Big Book someone else meets today. These experiences also remind me that our program works, it truly does.

Sunday events concluded with Ask It Basket questions, first-time Forum attendees sharing, and past trustees sharing. Kerry, Class A Trustee, Bob W, GSO GM, and Mike L., Interim GSB Chair, made final Forum closing comments.

After we closed, Kerry mentioned that only 175 people pre-registered for this Forum but at the last minute, in true AA fashion, 281 actually attended, which represents a typical Forum attendance. Karina C., of the GSO staff, offered to send participants electronic copies of presentation materials if we requested them, which I plan to do to relive this wonderful experience.

I personally have so many fond memories from this Forum. Numerous too many to count unexpected experiences, precious "God shots," and all that I have learned are some of the benefits I gained. Most importantly, however, the refreshed friendships from across our beautiful state and deepened new relationships both from our Area, the Region and now New York, will always remain.

If you ever get the opportunity to attend a fist Forum, please do so. Your sobriety will be deeply impacted. If you are already a frequent attendee, I hope to see you again as our journeys cross.

In Loving Service,

Greg T.

➤ Past Delegate Sharing

Saturday Morning Gerry R Workshop

1



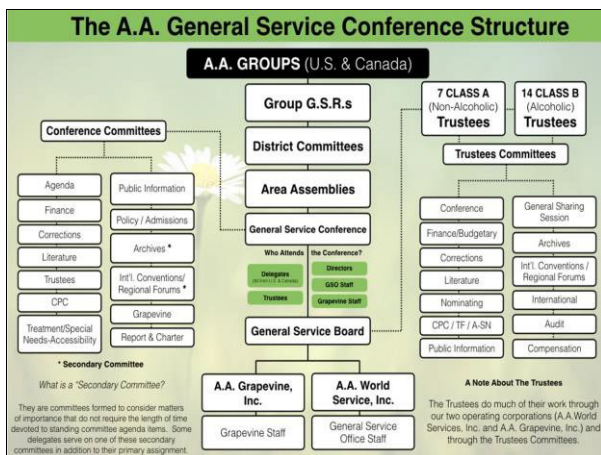
Many people in AA struggle with trying to approach, let alone understand the 12 Concepts.

2

THE TWELVE STEPS	THE TWELVE TRADITIONS	The Twelve Concepts for World Service
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable. 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all. 9. Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it. 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity. 2. For our group purposes there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as we may express Himself in our group consciousness. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. 3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. 5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. 6. An A.A. group might accept outside financial aid, but the A.A. name for any related facility or outside collection, and positions of money, property, and privilege must be kept separate from our primary purpose. 7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. 8. Alcoholism Anonymous should remain forever nonsectarian, but our service centers may employ special workers. 9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. 10. Alcoholism Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy. 11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than proselytism; we must always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each responsibility and shared authority for A.A. world service should always reside in the collective wisdom of our whole Membership. 2. The General Service Conference of A.A., Inc. serves, for nearly every practical purpose, the active role and the ultimate wisdom of our whole body in its world efforts. 3. In those efforts including, we should make such division of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service agencies, units, committees, and members—with a traditional "right of choice." 4. If all responsibility could be assigned to a traditional "right of choice," thereby making responsibility to be made proportionate to the responsibility that each must discharge. 5. Discharge our service in a traditional "right of choice" right to proceed, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal freedom would be maintained. 6. The Conference recognizes that the final authority and active responsibility to our world service actions should be according to the wisdom of the Conference acting in the General Service Board. 7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments regarding the trustees in running and control of world service. 8. The Conference Charter is our legal document; it takes upon tradition and the A.A. name for full disclosure. 9. The trustees are the principal players and administrators of world policy and laws. They have selected oversight of the respective responsibility and control of world service, according to the legal role of the A.A. as a whole. 10. Each member has the right to be heard in all matters of the A.A. as a whole, but the right to be heard is not the right to be heard in all matters of the A.A. as a whole. 11. The trustees should always have the last public position, except on service matters, and they will always be heard in all matters of the A.A. as a whole. 12. The Conference shall always be the right of A.A. tradition, and they will always be heard in all matters of the A.A. as a whole.

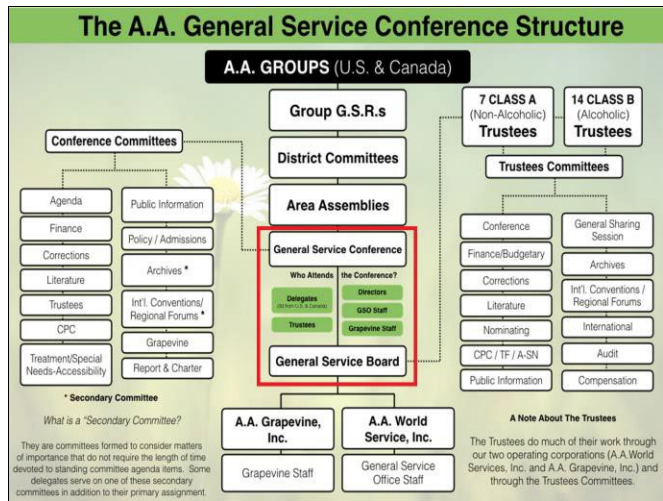
...and with good reason. When placed next to the Steps and Traditions, they look and sound more like a legal document.

3



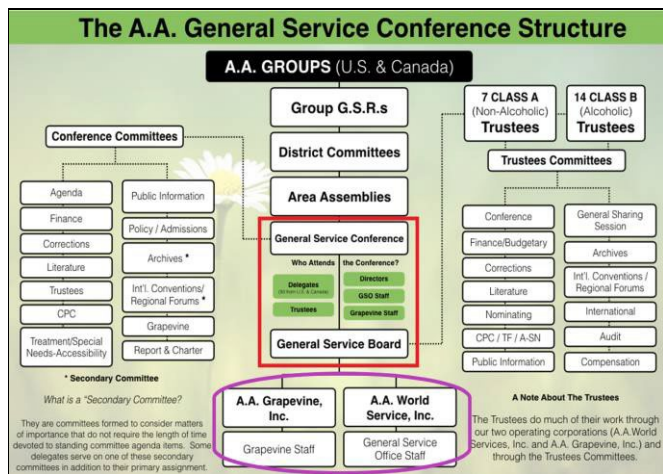
In their introduction it says they can be used throughout the entire A.A. Service Structure...

4



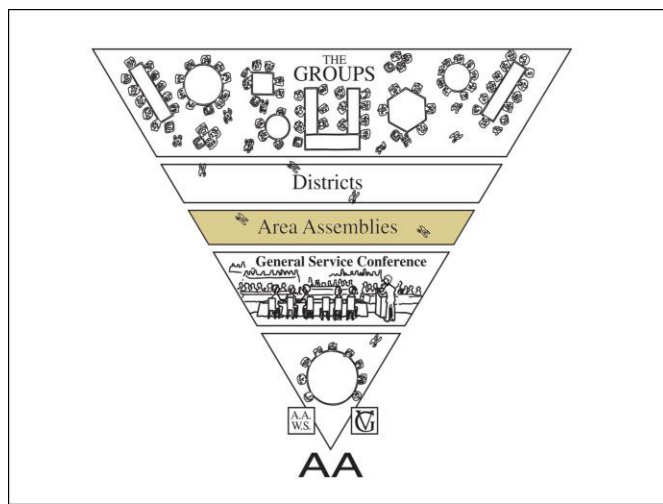
...but they primarily address only the relationship between the GSC and the GSB.

5



They do also touch lightly on AAWS and the Grapevine...

6



...but only a few of the Concepts mention how the principles found within them apply to the **entire** A.A. service structure. Because of this, A.A. members often think the Concepts don't really apply to them at their level of service.

7



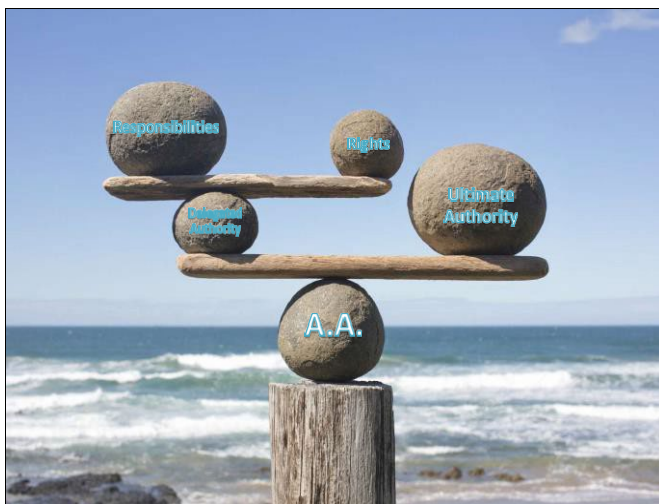
For many, the esoteric language of the Concepts does more to conceal the basic principles of spiritual balance than it does to reveal and explain them... much like a scientific equation can be confusing for someone who is trying to understand the basic principles of physical balance.

8



Principles are intended to be guides to a better understanding of obligations and right conduct. To be best understood, they should serve to clarify. It helps if they can be explained with the least amount of intimidating or exclusionary language.

9



Put simply, the principles of conduct found throughout the 12 Concepts address the balance between Ultimate Authority and Delegated Authority, and the necessary balance that exists between each service position's Rights and Responsibilities.

1
0

12 Concepts

Basic Principles of Balance

Found throughout the entire Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous

This presentation examines how the basic principles found in the Concepts can be guides to understanding the rights and responsibilities of trusted servants across the entire A.A. service structure. They are related through a brief story about one such trusted servant, Joe the Coffee Maker.

1
1

12 Concepts

I Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our fellowship.

Authority, Unity, Communication

1 **Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our fellowship.**

Each Concept will be presented in its current short form, followed by a short, partial list of basic principles found in it. If applicable, a revised version of the Concept will be offered to better present how these principles can be applied across the entire A.A. service structure. A few, like #1, will remain unchanged as they already address the entire structure.

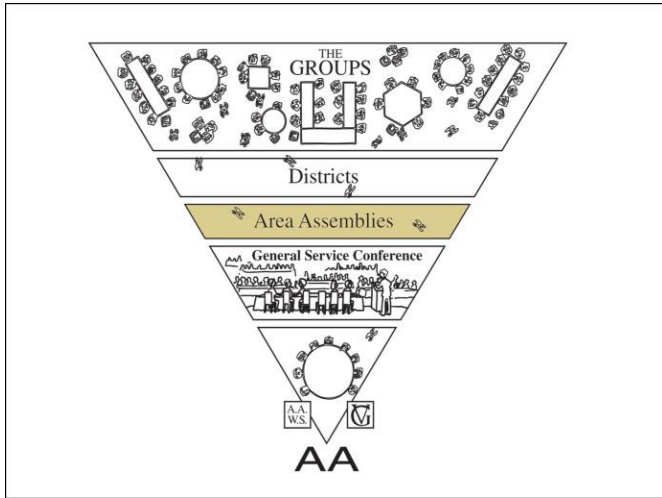
1
2



Concept One speaks to the ultimate authority of the A.A. groups.

1

3



They are, after all, at the top of the inverted triangle and are, in fact, the CEO's of A.A. Collectively, they are the ultimate authority and have the final say in all matters.

1

4

12 Concepts

Principles:

II The General Service Conference of AA has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in world affairs

Delegation of Authority, Trust, Communication

2 Our trusted servants, at all levels of the AA service structure, have become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and effective conscience of our Fellowship.

Concept Two speaks to the very real fact that, to be effective, the groups must delegate authority to their trusted servants at every level of the A.A. service structure, be it the GSB, the GSC, Area, District, or Home Group.

It is impossible for our society to function effectively otherwise.

1

5



Delegated authority is nimbler and, therefore, more effective.

Most readily agree that the General Service Conference, and all its related committees do a lot of good and necessary work for A.A., and for the still suffering alcoholic...

1

6



...but so does the home group coffee maker. In fact, this one, Joe, goes above and beyond the call to provide his home group with only the best filtered coffee he can make. He is a professional barista after all, and coffee is his life. Indeed, coffee and the Concepts, that's what Joe's life is all about. Joe is a new, but dedicated, trusted servant.

1

7

12 Concepts

Principles:

III To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committee, and executives – with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Trust, Responsibility, Communication

3 To insure effective leadership we should endow all our trusted servants with a traditional "Right of Decision."

As a trusted servant, Joe is aware of and enjoys the freedom of choice provided for him by the "Right of Decision" in Concept Three.

1

8



Joe uses that right of decision to buy and make only the best coffee that he can find for his group. Mustachio Pistachio coffee.

(No affiliation or endorsement implied or rendered)
However, after a few weeks on the job...

1

9



...a few of the group old-timers approached Joe and informed him that they preferred their old coffee, Folgers Classic Roast.

(No affiliation or endorsement implied or rendered)

This did not sit well with Joe and he refused to change, citing his Concept 3, Right of Decision.

2

0

12 Concepts

IV At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation", allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Principles:

Communication, Trust, Participation

4 "At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation", allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."

The group decided to have a vote on the matter. Concept Four told them that, since they were all active and responsible members of their group, they all had a voice and a vote.

2

1



So, the vote was taken and Joe was encouraged by the strong show of hands in favor of his brand of coffee...

2

2



...but then came the vote for the regular brand.

Typically, a trusted servant's Right of Decision is honored in A.A., but when those decisions affect our common welfare in the way our coffee does... well... you can count on someone to write an agenda item.

2

3

12 Concepts

V Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

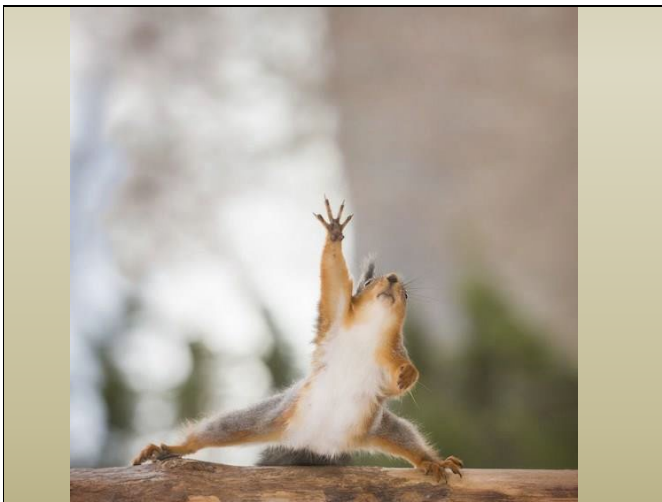
Courage, Humility, Communication

5 "Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration."

Though he was disheartened, Joe knew that Concept Five gave him the "Right of Appeal," and boy, did he plan to appeal.

2

4



Joe raised his hand high when the secretary asked for "Minority Opinion," and then he laid his heart on the line.

2

5



Unfortunately for Joe, no one made a motion to reconsider.

Joe was devastated.

2

6

12 Concepts

VI The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most World Service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Principles:

Responsibility, Authority, Trust

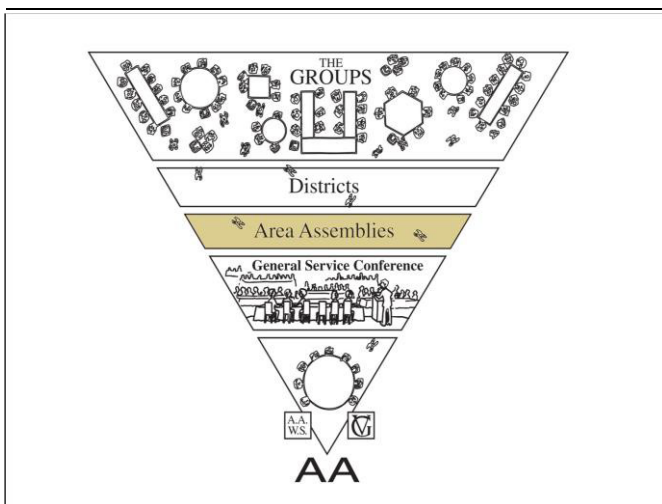
6 The delegation of the primary administrative responsibilities of AA extends throughout the fellowship as a whole, in our service structure, and ultimately rests with the trustees of the General Service Board.

Joe nursed his resentments for a while as he studied Concept Six. In doing so, he realized that the further down the service structure they go, the more trusted servants have a say in service matters.

Joe felt a spiritual awakening come over him. He'd take the matter to District and get them to make his group honor his decision.

2

7



Unfortunately, the DCM told him that Tradition 4 gave groups autonomy, so his group could do whatever they wanted with their coffee, but he also mentioned that the district meeting was looking for a new coffee maker.

2

8



Soon, Joe was back in business as the new coffee maker for the district meeting.

2

9

12 Concepts

VII The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies on tradition and the AA purse for final effectiveness.

Principles:

Authority, Balance, Accountability

7 The AA group's "power of the purse" and the force of tradition provide an effective counterbalance to the legal authority of our trusted servants when they use AA funds and conduct our arms of service.

Unfortunately, Concept Seven ended things. Certain groups in the district protested about the high coffee expenses that were suddenly incurred by their district committee.

The DCM explained to Joe the importance of maintaining balance between the group's "Power of the Purse" and the district's "legal instruments."

3

0



It was simple really. The groups provided the district with money to provide services, and they determined that less-expensive, regular coffee was good enough at district meetings. This meant that the district treasurer could write a legally-binding check for expensive coffee if he wanted to but...

3

1



...there would be consequences.

Groups would/could withhold Seventh Tradition contributions and the district would/could go broke.

(Of course, the groups would do the responsible thing and let the district know WHY they stopped sending in money, otherwise the Power of the Purse becomes a meaningless drying up of the funds.)

3

2



Joe had a hard time dealing with Concept Seven...

3

3

12 Concepts

Principles:

VIII The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

Trust, Authority, Balance, Accountability

8 Our trusted servants at all levels serve in two capacities; as principal planners and administrators in matters of policy and finance, and with custodial oversight for other services, through the delegation of authority and responsibility.

...so much so, that he immediately read up on Concept Eight and decided he would stand for DCM at the next district election. His reasoning was that, as DCM, he would be a “principal planner and administrator,” meaning (in his mind) that he could make the decisions, and make sure things were done his way.

3

4



He figured he could influence the district budget to make it work the way he wanted it to, so he could get his way...

3

5



He fancied himself as a leader with a better vision.

3

6

12 Concepts

Principles:

IX Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Trust, Leadership, Responsibility

9 Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them are, at all levels of AA service, indispensable for our future functioning and safety.

Fortunately, the district had a different vision and he didn't get elected. Concept Nine safeguarded the election process and district was able to elect someone else.

3

7



They saw that Joe's idea of leadership had nothing to do with the group conscience. He wanted to make it all about him and his choices instead.

3

8



In not electing Joe, they actually did him a favor. When you make it all about you in A.A. service work, it can quickly become all about you in a way you don't like.

3

9



In A.A., servant leadership is about helping the group (at all levels of service) to achieve their own goals.

It's more about serving the group's vision rather than our personal one. A trusted servant is a facilitator of the Group Conscience, not it's director.

We help the group achieve it's goals, not ours.

4

0

12 Concepts

X Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined

Principles:

Balance, Leadership, Authority, Responsibility

10 **Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.*

As a result of Joe's attempt to take control, both Joe's old home group, and the district, decided to follow the recommendations of Concept Ten and develop a set of guidelines to define the responsibilities and authority of each of their coffee maker positions.

4

1

YE OLDE
COFFEE MAKER GUIDELINES

1. Make it as strong as you want
2. Start when you want, just have it ready BEFORE the meeting starts!
3. Freedom to make drip, perk, press, filtered... however you want.
4. USE ONLY FOLGERS COFFEE!

The guidelines were clearly stated and helped everyone understand the duties of a coffee maker much, much better.

4

2

12 Concepts

XI The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualification, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Principles:

Responsibility, Accountability, Diligence, Willingness

11 *Our service leadership should always have the best possible committees, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualification, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.*

The whole predicament served to reinforce Concept Eleven and the need to have competent, qualified, people around our chosen leaders for them to consult with, and to remind them that no one does this for themselves, or by themselves. It turned out to be a great opportunity for spiritual growth for everyone involved... even Joe.

4
3



Good leaders with vision are indeed hard to find and we in A.A. must do all we can to ensure that we chose ours thoughtfully.

4
4

12 Concepts

XII The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action

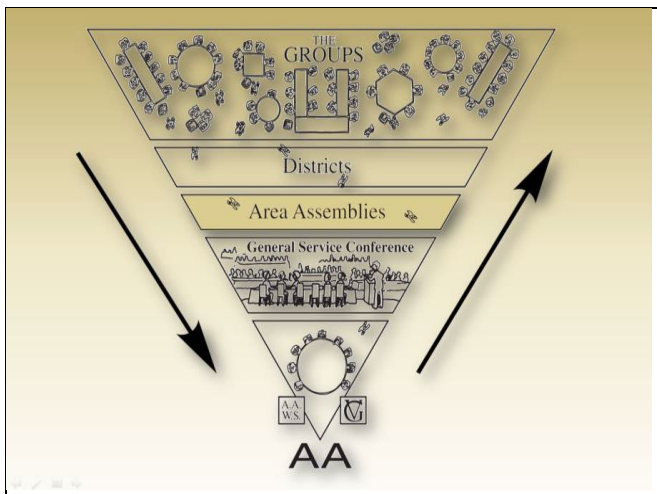
Principles:

Equality, Accountability, Prudence, Humility

12 The six warranties of AA, as they apply to our entire service structure, are; That no member shall be the holder of perilous wealth or power; That sufficient operating funds, plus ample reserve, be our prudent financial principle; That no member be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any other; That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible by substantial unanimity; That no AA action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; That AA shall always remain democratic in thought and action

Concept Twelve contains the “Six Warranties,” which serve as great reminders and are an excellent summary of many of the principles found throughout the Concepts. They provide us all with a clear vision of how we can stay safe and continue to grow as trusted servants, at all levels of service, and as a society.

4
5



In the end, these Concepts are about communication and balance. We must strive to maintain clear and consistent communication so that all levels of our service structure are provided both the servants and services they require to maintain the careful balance that is necessary for our inverted triangle to continue to function effectively.

Proposed 2023 Budget (Passed)

		Proposed 2023 Budget	
Spring Assembly		9,400.00	
Fall Assembly		9,400.00	
Regional Service Conference		2,300.00	
Regional Forum		1,200.00	Missoula Hotel @ \$140
Regional Trustee		800.00	
Delegate Expenses			
	Area 40 share to GSC	1,800.00	
	Other Expenses	500.00	
	Other Expenses NYC	475.00	
	Roundups	500.00	
	Travel expenses	1,825.00	
Total Delegate Expenses		5,100.00	
Area Chair Expenses		600.00	
Archivist Account			
	Archivist Display,Supplies & Travel	150.00	
	Archives Storage & Utilities	5,030.00	
Total Archivist Account		5,180.00	
Literature			
	General literature purchases	200.00	
Total Literature		200.00	
Bridging the Gap			
	Annual BTG Workshop	1,000.00	per Spring 2018 action
Total Bridging the Gap		1,000.00	
Public Information			
	Area Hotline Expenses	3,000.00	
	Directory Listings	0.00	Done in 2022
Total Public Information		3,000.00	
Technology			
	Equipment & Hardware	1,000.00	
	Software	300.00	
	Supplies	100.00	
	Travel	100.00	
Total Technology		1,500.00	
Website		200.00	
Triangle		0.00	
Committee Chair Post/Supplies		400.00	
Committee Chair Travel		2,200.00	
Computer Hardware/Software		125.00	
Ad Hoc Committee		0.00	
Other/Nat'l Workshops		1,500.00	
Annual Filing Fee		20.00	
TOTAL		44,125.00	