The Triangle

Area 40's Newletter

From Your Area Delegate

Dearest Area 40:

Thank you, thank you, and thank you. The honor to serve as your contribution to the 55th General Service Conference and the gift of traveling all over Montana to give the Conference Report has been nothing short of amazing. I met so many new friends and rekindled so many old friendships. What an honor.

By the time this issue of the Triangle is published I will have given the Conference Report to almost all of the Districts in Montana. If your District wants a report, please contact me soon as my calendar for the remainder of the year is starting to fill up.

Enclosed in this issue of the Triangle is a copy of the Agenda for the Fall Assembly to be held on September 17 & 18 at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, MT. I want to thank Andrew W. our Area Chair for his excellent work and for getting the Agenda out in such a timely manner. I want to also thank the groups, districts and individuals

who submitted items for consideration at the Assembly. Your love of our Fellowship is reflected in your caring thoughtfulness and commitment of time & energy to prepare the items.

Please take a few minutes and review the Agenda prior to Assembly. There may be an item or two that catches your attention and you have the opportunity to contact the Area Committee Chair for a copy of the background information for the item. Please discuss the items with your home group and District. Our Fellowship makes its best decisions when we have an informed group conscience.

Linda Chezem, past class A Trustee will be joining us for the Assembly. She will be putting on a workshop on Saturday morning and sharing with us on Saturday night. I am grateful she is able to spend the time with us. (Please see the article about Linda on Page 3.)

Another item that will

follow shortly after the Assembly is the West Central Regional Forum to be held in Great Falls, MT on September 30 through October 2 at the Heritage Inn. There is



no registration fee. However, please register via mail or email (www.aa.org) with the General Service Office so they may better prepare for the number of attendees.

The Forums are weekend sharing sessions designed to improve communication and participation among A.A. service workers in a region, the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff. I know of no better venue than a Regional Forum to ascertain a better understanding of General Service and the workings of our office in

September 2005

Volume 13, Issue 6

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New York. I enthusiastically encourage you to bring as many people as you can fit in your car to the Forum. Registration starts at 2pm on Friday the 30th with the welcoming and introductory remarks by the Board and Staff at 7pm and we will conclude the Forum at noon on Sunday the 2nd. This event only comes to Montana

Continued on Page 2

From Your Area Delegate Continued..

once every 16 years – get in the car.

Next September we will be electing a new rotation of servants for Area 40. Those servants will be new GSRs, new DCMs, Area 40 Committee Chairs and Officers. Now is the time to start looking around your home group, your district and at the Assembly for the next rotation of servants. Be aware of the members of our Fellowship who have kept their service commitments, are they willing to serve in another capacity in Area 40, do

they have the time to fulfill the service position? Ask them and yourself the hard questions. I also believe it is incumbent upon us who are currently serving to lead by example and bring "our replacements up in service" as we rotate on. Who better to share the information regarding what duties the service position encompasses than the person who is currently serving in that capacity.

Thank you again for the blessing to be your servant. I came to Alcoholics Anonymous to get the heat off. I knew if I could just "be good" for a month or two I could go back to what I wanted to do. Little did I know this was the plan. And more importantly, little did I know you had so much to give to a fellow member of our Society. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and giving me a life beyond my wildest dreams.

In Service,

Scott W.

From Your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Dear Area 40,

I hope you are all having a fun, sober summer. I have been on the road quite often this summer attending a number of different district meetings. It has been great for me to meet many of you and get to know how things are going in your districts. Recently my focus has been on putting together the

agenda for our upcoming Fall Assembly.

Thanks to all of you who sent in agenda items. We have an interesting and varied slate of agenda items. I hope to see you all at the Assembly in Lewistown, September 17-18 and again at the Regional Forum in Great Falls, September 29 – October 1. As a reminder, I'm often on

the road but you can always reach me by email at chair@aa-montana.org

Thank you all for this opportunity to be of service,

Andrew W.

Triangle Tidbits

- Thanks to all of you who submitted articles for this issue of the Triangle. The next Triangle issue will be dedicated to the Fall Assembly and the Regional Forum. If you would like to share your experience at these events with us, please do so by submitting an article.
- The next issue will come out in mid-October. Deadline for submission of articles is October 9, 2005. Send to the address below.
- Also send in your "Overheard at Meetings" and "You might be an alcoholic if...".
- Check your subscription date located on the mailing label. If your subscription has expired, please mail \$10 to the Triangle at the address below. Checks should be payable to Area 40. If your group cannot afford the subscription, you will continue to receive a copy.
- The mailing list is continually being updated. If your group is not receiving the Triangle, please send the correct mailing address to the address below.
- The Triangle's address is 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101 or Triangle@aa-montana.org.
- Contributions to Area 40 should be mailed to Area 40 Treasurer, PO Box 495, Helena, MT 59624.

From Your Area Advisor

Non-alcoholic (Class A) Trustees

AA's debt to those who do not share our disease but willingly share our problems is immense, going back to the beginning. Bill W. wrote: "In the days when AA was unknown, it was the non-alcoholic trustees who held up our hands before the general public. They supplied us with ideas...they voluntarily spent hours on end, working side by side with us and among the grubbiest of details. They gave freely of their professional and financial wisdom. Now and then, they helpfully mediated our difficulties." Written in 1966, those words hold true today. Non-alcoholic trustees remain a rich source of wisdom and perspective, and since they need not maintain anonymity, they are available to appear in public on behalf of AA.

Board members make an effort to choose Class A trustees from a variety of professional backgrounds, and the board has included doctors, lawyers, clergy, sociologists, business people and financial experts among its members. Whatever their backgrounds, the bylaws make one key provision for non-alcoholic trustees: they "shall be persons who are not and have not been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and who express a profound faith in the recovery program upon which the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded." (pg S60, The AA Service Manual)

Due to a scheduling conflict our Regional Trustee is unable to attend our Fall Area 40 Assembly. In his absence, a past Class A Trustee, Linda Chezem, has graciously accepted our invitation and will be there for the weekend to visit and share her experience, strength and hope. Linda served on the General Service Board from 1997 to 2003, and exemplified the de-

scription of a Class A trustee given above. She is a graduate of Indiana University School of Law and a former Judge, Court of Appeals of Indiana. She started the first certified court alcohol and drug program in Indiana and has conducted seminars and written articles on such subjects as DWI, family and addiction. She is a professor at Purdue University and has a part-time appointment at the Indiana School of Medicine. Linda served on various committees during her six years on the Board including Nominating, Correctional Facilities, Archives, International Conventions/Regional Forums, Conference and Finance. She also presented the Keynote Address at the 53rd General Service Conference.

Following are some quotes from presentations that Linda gave at different Conferences:

"I want to share back with you what you have taught me. You the members of the Fellowship have befriended me and taught me with unselfish hearts. Safeguarding unity comes about as each member grows in the understanding that the good of the group and the good of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole comes first: that what we may personally feel, may not be a good thing for AA as a whole, and that we need to keep an open and loving mind and trust the process. We need to repeatedly surrender our personal ambitions and wishes for the greater good." Further, "I define humility as acting with the conviction that the common good is more important than individual self-interests or convenience." (pg 22, 49th Final Conference Report)

"It is funny how when I try to determine where my fault or failure lies before doing anything else, my understanding of the situation changes. If I

try to figure out what I can do to correct myself, the whole situation becomes easier. Disagreements and critics seem to be part of the universal human condition. For AA to have people who criticize or hold different views...is indicative of the fact that we are a part of humanity. How we treat our critics...is critical to the ability of the Fellowship to hold the hand of recovery out to the alcoholic. Petty bickering or large infighting will hurt or prevent the recovery of those who engage in the pettiness, as well as discourage a newcomer." She further stated, "Respectfulness to a critic, yes, refusal to let go of something that we disagree with, no. We cannot afford to chew the same cabbage forever." (pg 39, 51st Final Conference Report)

"I do not attempt to speak for AA ever. But when given the opportunity to share with my professional community the value of cooperating with AA, I am grateful to share the story. Sharing about AA, not preaching, not promoting. I hope to be supportive of my AA friends who carry the message that might save a life. Cooperation is not an outside influence." (pg 21, 52nd Final conference Report)

I believe that we are in for a great opportunity to get to know a trusted servant and a great friend of AA a little better. Please join me in welcoming Linda to Montana and to our Area 40 Fall Assembly. — Earl F.

Regional Forum Fact: Area 40 belongs to the West Central Region. A Regional Forum is held in each region every two years. There are 8 areas in the WC Region which have decided to rotate hosting the regions. Therefore, Area 40 hosts the forum every 16 years.

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2005 Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda

Yogo Inn Lewistown, Montana September 17 & 18, 2005

Friday, September 16- Sapphire Rooms

AA meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

(This meeting is held separately from the Assembly and is self-supporting).

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>September 17</u>-Sapphire Rooms 7:30/8:00

Registration—GSR's and visitors sign in with their District's DCM. (DCM's please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than 10:00 a.m.)

8:00/9:45

- Welcome Serenity Prayer, Traditions, and Concepts
- Roll Call Area Secretary
- Orientation to the Assembly Area Delegate, Scott
- Reports from the Area Committee Members
 - Area Chair*
 - Area Secretary*
 - Area Treasurer*
 - Triangle Editor*
 - Area Service Chairs*
 - DCM's*
 - Standing, nonvoting service positions*

9:45/10:00 Coffee Break

10:00/10:30 Past Delegate Sharing – Robbie S. and Bob H.

10:30/12:00

- Standing Committee Meetings:
 - ◆ Archives/Structure—Kendall Room
 - Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums—Terrace Room
 - ♦ CPC/Trustees— Employee Lounge
 - ◆ Finance—Gypsum Room
 - Grapevine/Policy & Admissions—Board Room

- Literature—Room 306
- Public Information/Report—Room 328
- Treatment/Agenda—Room 310

(IF YOUR COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS BUSINESS DURING THIS SESSION, PLEASE NOTIFY THE AREA CHAIR)

Workshop for those not attending committee meetings: "Making sure the hand of AA is always there" led by Linda Chezem, JD, Past Class A (Non-alcoholic)
 Trustee

12:00/1:30 Recess for Lunch

1:30/2:00

- Standing Committee Meetings (continued)
- Workshop (continued)

2:00/2:30 Past Delegate Sharing – Robbie S. and Bob H.
 2:30/2:45 Coffee Break
 2:45/5:00 Floor Assembly – Committee Re-

Floor Assembly – Committee Reports/Motions and Discussion

- Corrections/Intn'l Conventions-Regional Forums - Gary O.
- CPC/Trustees Lloyd B.
- Treatment/Agenda Lee G.
- Public Information/Report & Charter -Connie R.
- Archives/Structure Dennis O.
- Finance Sid G.
- Grapevine/Policy & Admissions Gail M.
- Literature Louise M.

5:00/7:00 Recess for Dinner
7:00/8:00 Speaker/Past Class A Trustee - Linda Chezem, JD

^{*}Reports: 5-minute time limit with two written copies given to the Area Secretary.

2005 Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda Continued

8:00/8:15 Coffee Break

8:15/9:00 Floor Assembly / Committee Reports-

Motions and Discussion Continued

9:00/10:00

- GSR Breakout Led by Past Delegates: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing
- DCM Breakout Led by Past Delegates: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing

Sunday, September 18

8:00/8:30

- Roundup Reports: Spring 2005 Kalispell; Fall 2005 Missoula; Spring 2006 Bozeman
- Intergroup Reports
- Report on the upcoming West Central Regional Forum – Patty C.

8:30/9:45 **Delegates Report** – Scott W.

9:45/10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00/12:00 Floor Assembly / Committee Reports-

Motions and Discussion Continued– Recommendations – Discussion, Gen-

eral Sharing

12 Noon ADJOURN / DRIVE SAFELY!!!

<u>Please note that the rooms this Assembly meets in have been designated smoke free by past action.</u> The Yogo Inn has graciously placed ashtrays/receptacles just outside the outside doors. They have requested that smoking be limited to that area, the cafe portion of the dining area and the "<u>bar</u>" and that we not smoke in the meeting rooms, hallways or lobby area. Your thoughtful compliance and courtesy are appreciated.

The following is a list of agenda items and the Area Committees they have been assigned to for review. All items are Agenda Items that pertain to Area 40 or are items that Area 40 may consider submitting to the General Service Conference for the following year.

The Committee Chairs should have received a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information sometime in August. This information is

then passed on to other members of those committees for research, review and discussion, in turn providing for a well-informed conscience/decision. If your Group has any comments, questions, and concerns or would like copies of any background information, please contact the appropriate Area Committee Chair. Your DCM has the names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee should you need them. (NOTE: the process by which items are submitted, dispersed, considered and brought to the Assembly is detailed in the Area 40 Committee System Policies & Procedures manual which is available through your DCM).

The following Committees/Committee agenda items are listed in order of presentation.

<u>Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums</u> – Gary O.

- Corrections:
 - Discuss Area 40 experience in carrying A.A. meetings into correctional facilities.
- International Conventions/Regional Forums:
 - 1. Discuss the upcoming Regional Forum in Great Falls.

CPC/Trustees - Lloyd B.

- Cooperation with Professional Community
 - 1. Discuss Area 40 experience in helping keep professionals in the health and correctional communities better informed about A.A.
 - Discuss whether current C.P.C. literature provides easily accessible information on singleness of purpose, open and closed meetings, proof of attendance at meetings, anonymity, and how to contact A.A. locally.

Treatment/Agenda – Lee G.

- Treatment
 - 1. Discuss Area 40 experience in carrying A.A. meetings into treatment facilities.

Public Information/Report & Charter – Connie R.

- Public Information:
 - 1. Consider the recommendation that Area 40 obtain and manage an 800 number.

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2005 Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda Continued

- 2. Consider the recommendation that the current Policy and Procedures Document be made available to the Area on the Area Website and that updates and revisions will be the responsibility of the Archives Committee after each assembly. Corrections to the Policy and Procedures document need to be submitted to the Area Chair for furtherance to the Archives Committee in accordance with Area Timelines to be included under the committee's agenda.
- Consider the development of a procedure for handling e-mails addressed to Area 40 committee chairs that do not have a personal e-mail address.
- Report & Charter
 - Consider whether Area 40, through its Public Information Chair, will encourage and assist (as requested) our districts and inter-groups to list their answering service/hot line numbers and/or addresses in the Western US Directory, to provide another contact source for persons seeking AA meetings and information through the directory.

Archives/Structure - Dennis O.

- Archives
 - 1. Discuss the recommendation that the current Policy and Procedures Document be made available to the Area on the Area Website and that updates and revisions will be the responsibility of the Archives Committee after each assembly. Corrections to the Policy and Procedures document need to be submitted to the Area Chair for furtherance to the Archives Committee in accordance with Area Timelines to be included under the committee's agenda.
 - Discuss the recommendation that the Policy and Procedure Document be reproduced and distributed by the Archives Committee at the first Area Assembly of the New Rotation. Cost of the reproduction to be paid out of the General Fund. It is suggested that the number of copies be deter-

- mined by the average Area Assembly attendance during the previous rotation plus 10%.
- Consider the recommendation that the Archives Committee conduct, with the Area Archivist, an update of the Past Actions Document to insure the applicability of any Past Actions and to insure the historical position of certain Past Actions. This review will be conducted during the second year of each rotation.
- Consider the recommendation that the Area 40
 Archives-Structure Committee bring forward a
 recommendation to the Fall 2005 Assembly fa cilitating Area Workshops beginning in 2006.

Finance – Sid Godolphin

 Consider the proposal that Area 40 submit the following Agenda Item to the 2006 General Service Conference:

> "Consider the addition of a reference to the publications A.A. Guidelines: Finance and The A.A. Group Treasurer in the pamphlet, Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

- 2. Discuss the financial impact of Area 40 facilitating Area Workshops beginning in 2006.
- 3. Consider the proposal that Area 40 institute a mileage reimbursement policy for area officers, area committee chairs, area advisor, and special invitees of the Area Chair at a rate of \$0.30 per mile for all miles driven on behalf of Area 40. This mileage reimbursement would supersede all other mileage and gas reimbursement previously adopted by Area 40.
- 4. Consider the proposal that Area 40 pay the expenses of the Area 40 Delegate to attend the General Service Conference based on the following formula: To the extent that excess funds are available over and above the prudent reserve as of December 31st of each year, we will pay the full cost of our delegate according to the

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2005 Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda Continued

full cost estimate of the previous year's GSC (that includes both "direct" and "indirect" costs).

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions - Gail M.

- Grapevine
 - Discuss ways the Area 40 Grapevine Committee can encourage submission of articles to the Grapevine.
- Policy & Admissions
 - Consider the recommendation that the Area adopt the new Policy and Procedures Document dated 4/10/2005.
 - Consider a proposal for Area 40 to submit the following Agenda Item to the 2006 General Service Conference:

"As a matter of policy, Alcoholics Anony-

mous should be mindful to balance the number of odd and even panel Delegates, watching for future addition of Delegate Areas and current Delegate Areas that may switch to opposite panel elections to better achieve balance within their Regions."

Literature - Louise M

- I. Consider the proposal that Area 40 submit the following Agenda Item to the 2006 General Service Conference:

 "Consider the elimination of the freight charge of 10% for literature orders under \$250.00, which was instituted effective July 1, 2005."
- 2. Consider the proposal that Area 40 submit the following Agenda Item to the 2006 General Service Conference: "Consider the elimination of volume discounts on literature orders."

Just What is a Regional Forum?

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of the late Chair Emeritus of the General Service Board of Trustees, Dr. Jack Norris. They are weekend sharing sessions designed to improve communication and participation among A.A. service workers in a region, the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporation Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff.

At the invitation of a region, four Regional Forums are held each year. Since the U.S./Canada service structure is composed of eight regions, a Regional Forum may be held in alternate years in a particular region on a rotating basis.

The location and agenda for a Regional Forum are decided jointly by the Regional Trustee, Area Delegates and G.S.O. The respon-

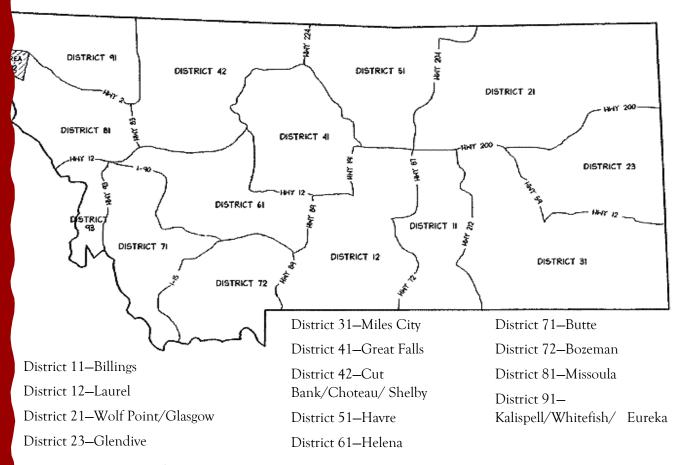
sibility for direct contact with the hotel is assumed by a local A.A. Host Contact working with the Regional Forums Coordinator and Regional Trustee. The Regional Forums Coordinator at G.S.O. distributes registration forms and invitations to groups and service workers through the region and, working with the Host Contact and Regional Trustee, coordinates the details of the Forum.

A region may request a Special Forum which has fewer participants from the boards and staff over shorter time periods. Special Forums require the approval of the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. They may be designed for remote, sparsely populated or urban areas. The Regional Forums Coordinator works closely with the Regional Trustee and Host Contact to tailor each agenda to local needs.

There is no registration fee for a Regional or Special Forum. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms, transportation and hotel rooms for its board and staff personnel. In many places, area committees, districts and groups cover or defray the transportation and lodging expenses of the trusted servants representing them at a forum.

Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, thus no formal actions result. Forums provide unique opportunities to share valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. Regional and Special Forums carry the A.A. message through service.

Please pre-register for the 2005 West Central Regional Forum in Great Falls September 30-October 2 by visiting www.aa.org.



2005 Regional Forum Invitation

Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to the West Central Regional Forum to be held during the weekend of September 30-October 2, 2005 at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana. Representatives of the General Service Board and members of the General Service Office and Grapevine staffs will be present at the Forum to share experiences, respond to questions and hear suggestions. It will be a participation weekend for all concerned.

Registration will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2005. The opening session will start at 7:00 p.m. and the Forum will close at 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 2, 2005. There is no registration fee for the Forum.

You may register online at our Web Site: www.aa.org. All persons registering online must include their full name and address. Also, online registrations must be received before September 26, 2005 in order to be processed. If you miss the deadline we welcome on-site registration. It is not necessary to call G.S.O. to pre-register; advance registration simply helps our planning.

A Hotel Reservation Card is available for you to complete. You are encouraged to duplicate the Reservation Card as needed. Mail the "Reservation Card" directly to the Best Western Heritage Inn to arrive no later than September 15, 2005. After that date our room block will be released and made available to the general public. However, the hotel has agreed to rent forum goers any rooms that remain available at the discounted rate.

If you wish a particular topic to be presented and discussed on the floor or at one of the workshops during the weekend, feel free to send your ideas via E-mail to regional forums@aa.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Great Falls, Montana. - Warren S., Regional Forums Coordinator, regional forums@aa.org.

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Calendar of Events

- MISSOULA- Fall Roundup- Sep 9-11
- LEWISTOWN—Area 40 Assembly-Sept 17-18— www.aamontana.org
- HELENA-It's in the Book Group Birthday-Sept 23-24
- GREAT FALLS- Regional Forum- Sept 30, Oct 1-2
- KALISPELL-Fall Refresher- Oct 15-16
- KALISPELL—Women's Retreat- Oct 28-30
- GREAT FALLS—12 Step Study—Nov 12
- BOZEMAN—HOW Group Speaker Event—Nov 12
- HELENA-Attitude of Gratitude-Nov 19
- BILLINGS- First Saturday—Dec 2-3
- LEWISTOWN-Area 40 Spring Assembly- April 8-10, 2006 www.aamontana.org
- SAN ANTONIO, TX-AA's 75th Birthday Party-2010

If you would like your event listed here, please email the editor at Triangle@aa·montana.org or send it to 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101

We absolutely insist on enjoying life!





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Individuals: If your subscription has expired, this will be your last issue of the Triangle.

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If you would like a subscription for yourself, a friend or your group, $\label{eq:please} \text{please return this form.}$

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