

# The Triangle

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## Spiritual and Practical Aspects of Funding AA

Alcoholics Anonymous should never sell literature for a profit. The Fellowship should support itself only by the financial contributions of AA groups and individuals—at least according to some members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Other AA members remind us that from almost the very beginning,

Alcoholics Anonymous has relied on profits from literature sales. It was not a problem then and it is not a problem now.

In one form or another, the debate over literature profits has rumbled around AA service conferences, area assemblies, and other business meetings for many years. More often than not, the

implication is that literature profits are bad, and that one day we hope to support AA solely by group contributions.

But are literature profits bad for AA? And are they really profits or are they just another form of contribution?

It seemed to me that it would be good for the en-  
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## From your editor

Hi everybody! Editing this newsletter is kind of like cooking for me. I'm always afraid there won't be enough (hmmm! maybe not just cooking), so I buy and cook more and there's always too much! Thanks everyone who wrote articles and sent information!

I hope you will enjoy the discussions on the "funding AA" topic and the articles about principles and responsibility which go right along with our discussion. Lori has some valuable information on literature and Linda has an article on the audit and has provided copies of the year end financial reports.

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## Responsibility

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

From my very first service meeting (for my first home group, the West End Group in Billings, in 1995), the question I have heard most often about any service activity, current or proposed, is, "How does this help the still suffering alcoholic?" The first past delegate I met, Faye W., explained it to me this way, "If I am unable to explain how the service action I am supporting or proposing helps the still suffering alcoholic, then it is probably just ego." I don't remember what I was proposing we do, but I remember Faye's comment about it because (a) it hurt my feelings and (b) he was right.

Business meetings and group conscience meetings often get heated. We  
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## Principles

Greetings Area 40! Sharon, our Triangle Editor, asked for articles regarding the Trustees' request for feedback from the Fellowship about the issue of AA World Services literature sales supporting the General Service Office. Like any good alcoholic, I of course have opinions on this issue, but I will try not to share them with you since I don't feel that is my job as your Delegate. Instead I will try to talk to you about the principles of unity, self-support, substantial unanimity and patience and tolerance in all issues, which face AA today. The principles are the same regardless of what the specific issue is at the group, district, area or national level. Concept Twelve, Warranty Four in the Service Manual provides a great discussion of substantial unanimity. But, basically AA makes decisions based on a majority.

Then what is the responsibility of  
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There is information about a pre-assembly teleconference and Tim has written an article that should answer most, if not all, of your concerns and questions with the Hotline. Grab a cup of coffee and read away and then be sure to take it to your group!

The March issue will have information from the Regional Service Conference (in Casper Wy) and the agenda for the Spring Assembly. The deadline for articles is February 20.

Thanks for trusting me with this awesome job!

Yours in love and service,  
Sharon

PS If your Triangle should be sent to a new address, please send me the change. Also, please check the back page to see if your subscription has expired! (the expiration month and year are printed above the mailing address.)

## Literature Leads from Lori

Greetings, friends! My name is Lori and I am an alcoholic. I am honored and delighted to be Area 40's new Literature Committee Chair. Recently, I picked up a piece of our literature that most likely is not featured in many book study meetings – our "Conference Approved Literature and Other Service Material" Catalog. The catalog contains an astonishing amount of material – books, pamphlets, audio and video cassettes, DVDs – that we can use as tools in recovery and service. I shouldn't have been surprised at the sheer volume of stuff as there are boxes, racks and displays of most of AA's available resources taking up room in my office as I write this.

For instance, the book "Alcoholics Anonymous", which contains our program of recovery from alcoholism, is currently available in hard cover, soft cover, large print, pocket version, audio cassette abridged, audio cassette complete, ½" VHS video American Sign Language, Braille, audio CD, and text version on CD ROM. It has also been translated into 43 different languages in addition to our English, Spanish and French versions.

We sure have come a long way since the first pages of the Big Book came off the presses almost 70 years ago in March of 1939!

In the November 2008 A.A. Quarterly Report from GSO, it was indicated that the price of most books and booklets will increase effective July 1, 2009. Now may be a good time to check your group's literature inventory to see if you want to stock up before the prices go up. I encourage groups to order literature through their districts or intergroups. In supporting these entities, you may also be able to avoid paying small order shipping charges.

I am excited to be entering this new phase in service and grateful for the opportunity. I hope you will join me in exploring AA's vast library!

Yours in service,

Lori F., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair



## Pre-Assembly Teleconfer-

There will be a teleconference pre-assembly meeting on Saturday, March 21 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The meeting can be accessed using a toll-free number. You can access the call and leave the call anytime during the meeting. As a courtesy to all callers, if your phone has the capability to mute, please do so to eliminate background noise. This will allow all to be able to hear the call, even old timers like myself. Just to clarify, I mean bellybutton old timers. Also, when you do speak, please state your name.

The Delegate will speak first, followed by the Area Committee Chairs. For simplicity, we will schedule the chairs alphabetically with 30 minutes

apiece— Archives, CPC, Corrections, Grapevine, Literature, PI, and Treatment. Each person will speak for about 15 minutes

to share background information on their committee's agenda items and then

there will be ten minutes of question and answer. We suggest a potluck or treats around the phone with an attitude of gratitude because this is a wonderful way to meet without having to travel.

There are costs associated with the call so please remember to send the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to our district. Remember too that you are saving megabucks with no travel. We estimate that each phone will cost approximately \$4.00 per hour. If you are on the call for only one hour, that is all we will be charged.

If you have any questions or need more details, such as the toll-free number, please email BilliJo D, the District 51 DCM at [dcm51@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm51@aa-montana.org)



## Archives Chair Needed

**The Area 40 Archives Committee Chair vacancy must be filled** by appointment by the Area Chair as soon as possible. The job is described in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual, Section G2 available at [www.aa-montana.org](http://www.aa-montana.org). Click on Area Business, then Area 40 Articles and Documents. Responsibilities include chairing and documenting the Archives Standing Committee, reporting to the Assemblies on GSC and Area Archives and Structure and Policy agenda items, assisting the Area Archivist, promoting interest in Area Archives and encouraging District Archives Chairs in collection of historical information and items. The Area Archives Committee, with the Area Archivist and Area Advisor, maintain and update the Area 40 Past Actions document and the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. It is suggested that you have a couple of years of continuous sobriety, an interest in AA history and its preservation, and prior experience in service work at the group or district level. If you

*(Continued on page 3)*



# Area Finances

11:24 PM  
01/15/09  
Accrual Basis

Dear Area 40 Groups, I would like to thank you for your 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to Area 40 already in January and I want to give you the new address for the Area Treasurer. This is the post office box where you will be sending your future 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions for the next two year rotation:

Area 40, Inc.  
PO Box 21577  
Billings MT 59104

On Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> there was an audit performed on the Area 40 financials at an historic home site in Helena. The past and incoming delegate, the area chair, and the past and incoming treasurer were present to have a roundtable inventory of the accounting of Area 40. We first were invited on a tour of this registered historic home. Thank



you, Ann, for your hospitality. We began with a general sharing of ideas and duties. Curt

arrived with four full file boxes of papers to pass on to me. I just rotated from being the Literature chair and thought my days of tot-

ing boxes were over. (Guess again!) I came home with three of those boxes and the remainder will be reposed in the Area Archives. It is a good time of year to do some committee housekeeping.

Our Triangle editor has asked that I share about the audit procedure with you. Are we good stewards of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds that we put in the basket? Our treasurers are to maintain good records and keep the groups informed about how much money is taken in and how it is spent. Periodic reports keep the fellowship well informed. Problems can be avoided by regular auditing practices. This is a procedure that happens within our whole AA structure, from the General Service office to our Area treasuries and on through the district and groups. We are reminded that the funds we are entrusted with are for the benefit of all AA groups and their activities carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Our current Area Advisor, Andrew W. chaired this audit. Curt sat back and watched as the four of us (Andrew, Carole, Terry, and I) explored the journal entries from the years 2007 and 2008. We randomly checked payments and

## Area 40, Inc. Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2008

	Dec 31, 08	Dec 31, 07	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Checking account	21,115.28	18,428.83	2,686.45	15%
Accounts Receivable	955.20	1,030.70	(75.50)	(7%)
Prepaid expenses	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	(100%)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>22,070.48</b>	<b>19,559.53</b>	<b>2,510.95</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	955.20	226.53	728.67	322%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>955.20</b>	<b>226.53</b>	<b>728.67</b>	<b>322%</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Operating Reserve	8,795.78	8,532.07	263.71	3%
Prudent Reserve	10,272.00	10,190.00	82.00	1%
Archivist Account	2,047.50	610.93	1,436.57	235%
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>21,115.28</b>	<b>19,333.00</b>	<b>1,782.28</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>22,070.48</b>	<b>19,559.53</b>	<b>2,510.95</b>	<b>13%</b>

deposits for their accuracy. We examined receipts and expense reports of our officers and standing committee chairs.

We were given written reports of the Area 40's Financial Position. We also had reports on the Budget vs. Actual Cost by Committee and also by line item. Copies of these reports appear on this and the following pages. We poured over the books and talked about the financial soundness of Area 40. I am happy to report, that the bookkeeping and accounting performed by Curt K., our outgoing treasurer, were spotless. I am the receiver of the Area Treasury funds and financial records that will make my new service position an easier task to step into. I would encourage all groups to take their own inventory and audit and see how your group is doing. An informed group conscience makes for a healthy beginning for 2009. Thank you. I look forward to seeing all at the spring assembly. Yours in service,

Linda B., Treasurer

*(Archives Chair Continued from page 2)*

are interested, contact your DCM or the Area Chair immediately. because the vacant position is being filled as soon as possible.

**Area 40, Inc.**  
**Budget vs. Actual by Committee / Project**  
December 2008

	<u>Jan - Dec 08</u>	<u>Annual Bdgt</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	28,673.07	25,000.00	3,673.07
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Spring Assembly	4,738.94	5,010.00	(271.06)
Fall Assembly	4,780.79	4,740.00	40.79
Regional Service Conference	1,596.68	1,620.00	(23.32)
Delegate Expenses			
Area 40 share to GSC	3,239.00	3,239.00	0.00
Other Expenses NYC	330.00	700.00	(370.00)
Travel expenses	982.26	1,354.00	(371.74)
Roundups	322.19	488.00	(165.81)
Other Expenses	59.01	340.00	(280.99)
Total Delegate Expenses	4,932.46	6,121.00	(1,188.54)
Area Chair Expenses	232.53	1,030.00	(797.47)
Archives Chair			
Archives Storage	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
Archivist Training	1,249.17	1,500.00	(250.83)
Archives Chair - Other	257.96	225.00	32.96
Total Archives Chair	5,107.13	5,325.00	(217.87)
Corrections Chair	79.15	215.00	(135.85)
CPC Chair	210.12	215.00	(4.88)
GrapeVine Chair	283.18	305.00	(21.82)
Literature Chair	475.11	445.00	30.11
Public Information Chair	1,118.14	215.00	903.14
Treatment Chair	77.00	215.00	(138.00)
Secretary	0.00	345.00	(345.00)
Treasurer	215.54	305.00	(89.46)
WebSite	174.30	150.00	24.30
Triangle	1,593.01	2,645.00	(1,051.99)
Area Workshops	713.28	1,915.00	(1,201.72)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	26,327.36	30,816.00	(4,488.64)
<b>NET INCOME</b>	2,345.71	(5,816.00)	8,161.71
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
Archivist Contributions	1,938.99		
Archivist Expenses	502.42		
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	1,436.57		

Area 40, Inc.  
Budget vs. Actual by Line Item  
December 2008

	Jan - Dec 08	Annual Bgdt	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Individual contribution	60.75	80.00	(19.25)
Group Contributions	24,239.81	21,000.00	3,239.81
District Contribution	382.27	300.00	82.27
Roundup Contribution	866.58	500.00	366.58
7th Tradition	1,788.68	1,500.00	288.68
Triangle Subscriptions	745.00	1,100.00	(355.00)
<b>Other Income (recouped from)</b>			
Service Manuals	314.45	250.00	64.45
Background Information	140.64	125.00	15.64
Literature	111.30	100.00	11.30
<b>Total Other Income (recouped from)</b>	<b>566.40</b>	<b>475.00</b>	<b>91.40</b>
Interest	23.58	45.00	(21.42)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,673.07</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>3,673.07</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Travel Expenses</b>			
Gas	3,430.40	4,580.00	(1,149.60)
Mileage	1,014.95	1,603.00	(588.05)
Meals	1,876.57	2,554.00	(677.43)
Lodging	5,295.89	5,920.00	(624.11)
Air/Train/Taxi fare	1,600.98	1,628.00	(27.02)
Area 40 contribution to GSC	3,239.00	3,239.00	0.00
Travel Expenses - Other	20.00	320.00	(300.00)
<b>Total Travel Expenses</b>	<b>16,477.79</b>	<b>19,844.00</b>	<b>(3,366.21)</b>
<b>Rent</b>			
Archives storage	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
Meeting space	2,007.65	2,200.00	(192.35)
<b>Total Rent</b>	<b>5,607.65</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>(192.35)</b>
<b>Literature Expenses</b>			
Lit purchases (not cvo manuals)	133.55	150.00	(26.44)
Service manuals (for resale)	247.40	100.00	147.40
<b>Total Literature Expenses</b>	<b>380.95</b>	<b>250.00</b>	<b>120.95</b>
<b>Photocopies / printing</b>			
Background Information	161.50	300.00	(138.50)
Photocopies / printing - Other	1,321.87	2,110.00	(788.13)
<b>Total Photocopies / printing</b>	<b>1,483.37</b>	<b>2,410.00</b>	<b>(926.63)</b>
Duec, registration, fees	235.30	222.00	13.30
Postage	717.79	1,650.00	(932.21)
Supplies	318.45	400.00	(81.54)
<b>Telephone</b>			
800 Number	1,033.00		
Telephone - Other	14.04	50.00	(35.96)
<b>Total Telephone</b>	<b>1,047.04</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>997.04</b>
Miscellaneous expense	59.00	180.00	(121.00)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>26,327.35</b>	<b>30,816.00</b>	<b>(4,488.64)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,345.71</b>	<b>(5,816.00)</b>	<b>8,161.71</b>

# Triangle Asks:

## What are the spiritual and practical aspects of funding AA by group contributions

Here are some of the responses:

**At Primary Purpose, our group conscience** was that literature proceeds are not really profits. We think things are fine the way they are set up now at the GSO level. In reviewing our own annual contributions to GSO

we discovered that, as a group, we have not been contributing enough. Our group decided that we would all try to put \$2 in the basket at meetings instead of \$1, and that we would be more mindful of our annual contributions to GSO. As well, we discussed the birthday contribution envelopes and the need for each of us to be sure that we are also contributing through that channel. It appears that if each member of Alcoholics Anonymous were to contribute \$12 annually in addition to our 7th tradition contributions, that AA would be truly self supporting. Maybe if we are successful in supporting GSO through worldwide group contributions for a number of years in a row, GSO could consider actually reducing the price of books or other options besides funding GSO through book sales. Primary Purpose Group, District 72



**This could be debated** until the cows come home, and it almost has, but I finally resolved in my mind and in my heart, what I believe the original intent was when I came across the following from page 27 section (d) in the pamphlet AA Tradition - How It Developed, "That the voluntary contributions or pledge of A.A. members should be our principal and eventually our sole support; that this kind of self-support would always prevent our clubs and offices from getting out of hand, because their funds could

readily be cut off whenever they failed to serve us well."

What we are currently doing is not in line with this. By relying on literature sales to fund approximately 25% of GSO functional expenses, we are not being totally self-supporting nor does it lend itself to the power of the purse.

Sincerely, Tim M.s, Past DCM – District 61

**I saw this great discussion topic** about self support and the liabilities and benefits of having AA truly become self supporting through our own contributions.

First, I looked at the 2008 Final Report (the pink and brown book). I saw that about 57.3% of our income comes from the profit of selling literature and about 42.6% of the income comes from voluntary group contributions. (Consolidated Statement of Activity, p71; contributions \$6,526,002; A.A. World Services and Grapevine \$8,781,840).

Does the profit from our literature fall within our traditions? One voice would say it is our book and selling it is our contribution. The other might say that outside enterprises purchase the books and that falls outside of our traditions. If my figures are correct, the cost to produce a big book is about \$3.21. If the sale of our books is self supporting, then we can continue with the practice of raising the price of the books to meet the request for services.

The second thought I have is how to increase group contributions to meet the current demand for services. I have heard some great ideas on how to increase the money in the basket: give two dollars instead of one; not make change in the basket; put in the price of a drink; double whatever you currently put in.

The final report shows the national percentage of groups that contribute to GSO is 46.2%. I would guess that in the areas, districts, and meetings the participation would be shockingly similar. We have tried workshops

and discussion topics to try to increase that percentage. It has been suggested that it would be better to contribute anything (\$10, \$1, 10 cents) than to give nothing.

Another thought is to cut back on services. These are the services that we have asked for and services that are required to operate GSO, World Service, Inc and the Grapevine—printing, shipping and management of literature, payroll and benefits for employees and general office expenses. At first glance, these don't look like they are frivolous, and, at best, could be trimmed by only a small percentage.

It seems to me that the sale of books to any outside person or organization should be considered an outside contribution. In the long form of Tradition 7, it is worded as "highly dangerous" ... "unwise". In addition, it looks like the group contributions are going to be status quo, about half of AA will participate, supplying us with about half of our current budget.

*Money wasn't the problem, lack of money wasn't the problem, and more money would not fix the short fall. I had to learn how to live within my means.*



In my own finances, I had to come to the conclusion that money wasn't the problem, lack of money wasn't the problem, and more money would not fix the short fall. I had to learn how to live within my means. My experience is that when I take the right actions with money, I seem to all of a sudden have too much money and when I don't take principled action with money, it seems like I can never get ahead. My suggestion would be to lower the cost of our books immediately to the cost of production and a prudent overage amount, then to examine our cost of services. Maybe the conference would cost significantly less if held somewhere else; maybe we need fewer pamphlets; perhaps conferences and meetings could be held electronically and carrying our message could be done by individuals, not videos.

Frank B., Bozeman

# Area 40 Hotline

Hello, My name is Tim and it will be my pleasure to serve as the Area 40 Public Information (PI) chair for the 2009-2010 rotation. One topic that generated considerable attention during the last rotation was the Area 40 Hotline. I hope the following will help you get acquainted with this service along with answering some frequently asked questions about it.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions and concerns on this subject, or any others concerning PI.

Thanks in Advance, Tim M.s, Area 40 PI Chair [pi@aa-montana.org](mailto:pi@aa-montana.org)



## **How the system will connect one alcoholic with another**

- Each District Answering Service chair will assemble and distribute the list of people from their District who want to serve as AA contacts. The template can be found at the Area 40 website <http://www.aa-montana.org/>
- Each District Answering Service chair will then go to a secured area on the Area 40 website to enter the contact names from this list. Contact our Area 40 webmaster Alex M. [webmaster@aa-montana.org](mailto:webmaster@aa-montana.org) for access to this secured site.
- When a call comes in, the answering service will obtain a randomly generated AA contact from the District that the caller is calling from. The service will then connect the incoming caller with the AA contact. If the answering service cannot make contact with someone from the District the caller is calling from, they will search other Districts starting with the Districts closest to the one where the call is from until an AA contact can be reached.
- Once the contact between the caller and the AA member is made, the District that the caller is trying to reach is billed 50 cents per minute. *It is therefore a prudent use of your District's funds to make the call as short as possible by asking the caller for their number so you can call them back directly.*

## **Billing**

One of the main problems during implementation of the State-Wide AA number was billing. I am happy to report that, after much work by AnswerNet, Sean, Curt and the Districts involved, we have reached an equitable agreement regarding past amounts billed and we are going into 2009 with a clean slate and a better process in place.

The billing will work as follows:

- A call will come into the answering service.
- The call will go directly to a live agent who will ask what city they are calling from.
- The operator will have access to all the cities in Montana and what District they are in and the call will be billed to that District.
- If the caller is looking for meeting information, the operator will use the AA-Montana website and provide them with the information.
- If the caller is asking to be connected to another alcoholic, the process under "How the system will connect one alcoholic with another" will be followed.
- At month end AnswerNet will bill each District individually sending the bills out to the District DCM. The bills will include an itemized list of calls. If the District answering service chair emailing address is on file, a copy of the bill will also be sent there.
- The Districts will in turn make payment directly to AnswerNet at:

AnswerNet  
735 Grand Ave  
Billings, MT 59102

***Please remember to note what District the payment is for on your check***

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

- Q** How have the problems reported at the Fall Assembly with callers first getting connected to a computer that made them push buttons depending on what they wanted been resolved?
- A** *This has been resolved by eliminating the router all together and connecting the person directly to a live agent.*

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Hotline Continued from page 7)*

**Q** I understood some Districts were getting billed nothing and some were getting billed too much. How was this resolved?

**A** *The Area Treasurer worked with AnswerNet to provide an updated accounting of the amount owed. A conference call with the four Districts responsible for the most usage of the Area 40 answering service was held. The outcome was that the Districts all agreed to the revised billing amounts, agreeing to pay more where due, and, in some cases, accept the credit amount. District 11 was concerned about the period December 2007 through February 2008 but will resolve this independently with AnswerNet.*

**Q** How much does the service cost?

**A** *The basic rate is \$55.00 a month which the Area pays and patch calls are billed at \$0.50 a minute billable to the District where the calls originated. Out of Area calls will be billed to Area 40.*

**Q** I know our District did not receive any calls from someone wanting to talk to an alcoholic but we still received a bill. How can this be?

**A** *If someone calls the Answering service looking for information about AA in your District you will get charged for it.*

**Q** What do I do when there is a problem with the service?

**A** *If you become aware of a problem with the service please note the following:*

- *What time the problem occurred*
- *What the date was that it occurred*
- *A brief explanation of what the problem was*

*Contact Debra Rogers, General Manager of AnswerNet Montana at:*

*Tel: 1-406-238-4607*

*1-800-264-2338*

*efax: 1-800-230-9871*

*fax: 1-406-248-9371*

*email: [debra.rogers@answernet.com](mailto:debra.rogers@answernet.com)*

*Please cc: the Area 40 PI chair also at [pi@aa-montana.org](mailto:pi@aa-montana.org)*

**Q** The new number did not make it into all of the Dex and yellowbook phone directories. Who will take on this task?

**A** *AnswerNet owns the number, it is their responsibility and they are working on getting this done.*

I hope this helps to explain the new service and also answers any questions you have. I also sincerely hope it reveals the many benefits of implementing it:

- There is only one number needed to contact AA throughout the entire state.
- The process of entering AA contacts is streamlined by the use of the secured website.
- The system provides a randomized method for AA contacts so everyone who wants this opportunity gets an equal chance to participate.
- The ability to be there when an Alcoholic reaches out for help is vastly expanded even for remote Districts due to the answering service having access to all the contacts in the state.



## **Self Support**

**Time for a split?**

**Send Area contributions to:**

**Area 40, Inc.**

**PO BOX 21577**

**BILLINGS MT 59104**

**Send GSO contributions to:**

**GSO**

**PO BOX 459**

**GRAND CENTRAL STATION**

**NEW YORK NY 10163**

## **Concept II:**

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

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the "Conference")?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

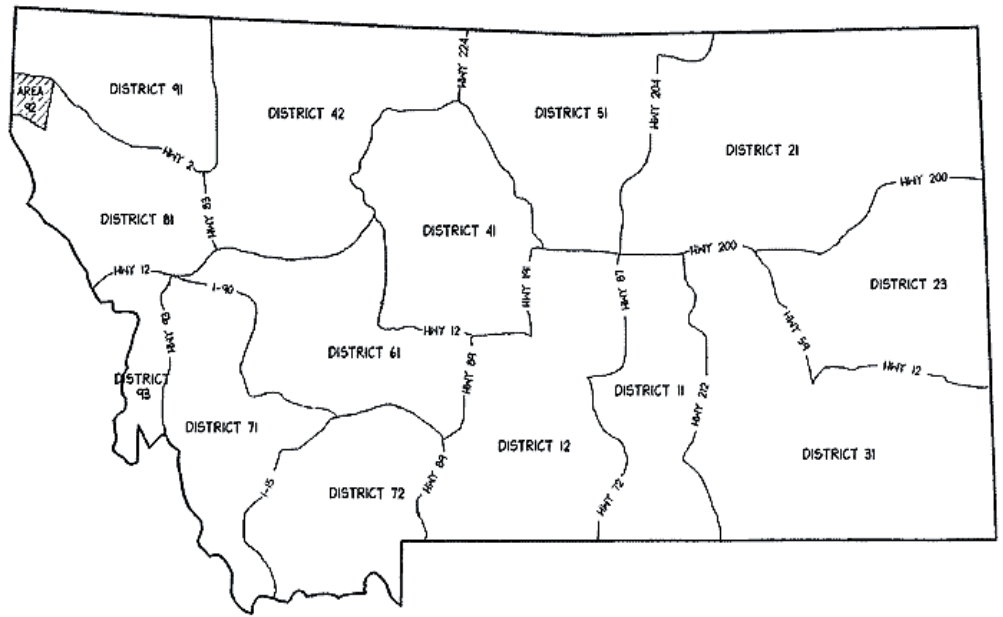
*Concepts Checklist (Service Material from the General Service Office for home groups, districts areas.) Some of these discussion points were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office.*



## Area 40 Officers and Committee Chairs 2009-2010

POSITION	NAME	CITY	EMAIL
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Secretary	April A.	Kalispell	<a href="mailto:secretary@aa-montana.org">secretary@aa-montana.org</a>
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- District 11—Billings
- District 12—Laurel
- District 21—Wolf Point, Glasgow
- District 23—Glendive
- District 31—Miles City
- District 41—Great Falls
- District 42—Cut Bank, Choteau, Shelby
- District 51—Havre
- District 61—Helena
- District 71—Butte
- District 72—Bozeman
- District 81—Missoula
- District 91—Kalispell, Whitefish, Eureka
- District 93—Bitterroot Valley



## Standing Committee Membership

The membership of standing committees is made up by drawing DCM's and District Representative from the hat at the fall election assembly, according to the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual, page 6. Committee membership for the 2009-2010 service rotation is identified below. 'DR' designates a district representative, selected by that district.

- Finance**—Delegate, Area Chair, DCM 72, DR 11
- Archives**—DCM 11, DCM 71, DR 23, DR91
- CPC**—DCM 21, DCM 51, DR 42, DR 81
- Corrections**—DCM 41, DCM 42, DR 31, DR 72

- Grapevine**—DCM 81, DCM 91, DR 61, DR 71
- Literature**—DCM 12, DCM 31, DR 91, DR93
- Public Information**—DCM 23, DCM 93, DR 12, DR 51

## Calendar of Events

- HAVRE—GSR School—February 15, 2009—BilliJo D.**
- KALISPELL—Into Action Weekend--February 20-21, 2009—Sam B.**
- JOLIET—Mid-Winter Social—February 21, 2009—Sandy A.**
- CASPER, WY—West Central Region Service Conference—February 27- March 1, 2009—Carole B.**
- HELENA—Pockets of Enthusiasm—March 20-21, 2009—Kevin S.**
- WHERE YOU ARE—Pre-Assembly Teleconference—March 21, 2009—Karen T.**
- LEWISTOWN—Spring Assembly—April 18-19, 2009—Terry S., 444-9689/565-5542**
- MISSOULA—Spring Roundup—April 24-26, 2009— Jim H.**
- NEW YORK CITY—59th General Service Conference—April 26-May 2, 2009**
- MCLEOD—Beartooth Mountain Conference—June 26-28, 2009—Kerry N., www.beartoothmountainconference.com**
- ST CLOUD, MN—West Central Regional Forum—September 11-13, 2009—Carole B.**
- LEWISTOWN—Fall Assembly—September 18-19, 2009—Terry S.**
- BOZEMAN—Fall Roundup—October 2-4, 2009—Arch W.**
- SAN ANTONIO, TX—A.A.'s 75th Birthday Party—July 1-4, 2010**



Please send your event information to :  
[Triangle@aa-montana.org](mailto:Triangle@aa-montana.org)  
 or PO Box 542, Bozeman, MT 59771



Time to start saving for AA's 75th celebration in San Antonio!!

*(Funding AA Continued from page 1)*

tire Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous to discuss this issue. So, I typed up a proposal to discuss the spiritual and practical aspects of funding AA by group contributions alone, and sent it to GSO. This became an agenda item for the 2008 General Service Conference. The Conference decided to ask all AA groups and members to submit their ideas on this subject to their Area Delegates. All of this input will be presented to the 2009 General Service Conference for further discussion and we will see where it goes from there.

Within this one item there are a variety of related issues to consider.

- What does Bill W. say about it?
- How would we increase contributions to support all of AA's services if we did away with literature profits?
- Would we eliminate literature profits all at once, or ease into it?
- Would we then sell literature at cost?

I know there are many people in AA who want to talk about this subject. After this item came out on last year's GSC agenda, a DCM in California called me to say that his District had been working on a similar agenda item, so he was glad

to see it on the agenda. The Delegate from Alaska emailed me asking for more information because he was putting together a presentation on the same subject.

I am eager to see how this item comes back to the 2009 General Service Conference. It will be exciting to read all the different ideas from AA groups in places like Florida, Kansas, Michigan, and Saskatchewan, in addition to Montana. I hope your group and district had a chance to discuss it. As with all matters of importance in AA, we are best served when we have an informed group conscience.

In Service, Loren B.

*(Responsibility Continued from page 1)*

are passionate about AA's primary purpose, perhaps because it saved our lives when we first arrived. But our passion is properly based upon our principles rather than any personalities involved in the debate.

It is difficult to distinguish my passion for recovery from my need to be right. But I see long-time members of our Fellowship argue hotly with each other about service questions and then leave the meeting arm in arm. I want what they have.

I try to remember that we are together responsible for the hand of

AA being there whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help with their alcoholism, even when we disagree passionately about how to be of service. When I remember, then it is possible to rise above my need to be right and hear what you are saying.

We are all in this together, and if we fail to hang together we may be left hanging separately, alone again, clinging to our own sense of how important it is to be right. I had to unlearn some of the lessons I thought I had learned in the military—I got some things wrong. I hang on to one lesson I learned, which seems to me to apply to AA—

we don't leave anybody behind. No matter how much I may disagree with you, we are still together on this path to freedom, upon which we can absolutely agree, even if our particular positions on a service question may differ.

The responsibility statement, without unity, can be a justification for conflict and controversy. With unity, it is the heart of our Fellowship, despite any and all disagreements on particular service activities.

Terry S., Area Chair

*(Principles Continued from page 1)*

those voting in the minority? Well, here enters Tradition One – AA must live or most of us will surely die. My job, as an AA member, is to support decisions made by the majority of the Fellowship regardless of my vote.

How do I do that? By being self-supporting through my voluntary contributions – whether it be

my time or financially – I show my faith in the process and put into action the responsibility statement.

The other thing I must do is try to practice the principles of patience and tolerance. Nothing happens instantly and perfectly in the world and certainly not here in AA with a bunch of drunks, and we must accept the reality of slow gradual progress over time.

We recently completed the au-

dit of the Area's finances and contributions are up over 2007. Thank you, Area 40, for accepting the challenge to make Area 40 self-supporting. We have made much progress but still have room to grow. Please remember to fully support your groups and districts as well.

In Love and Service,  
Carole B., Area 40, Panel 59 Delegate

# Area 40 Newsletter

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