

Spring 2011 Assembly Issue

From Your Editor

I am striving to provide a newsletter that will be as informative as it is unifying; as accurate as it is relatable. Two of my biggest concerns at this point are getting the group contact information accurately updated, and improving the scope of members participating in

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Welcome to the Assembly

There were 14 of 14 districts present with 107 voting members and 30 visitors for a total of 137 attendees at this assembly. The officers, committee chairs, district committee members, area advisor, archivist, and webmaster were all in attendance except for Gary E., Grapevine Chair. Gary had a death in his family and was unable to attend the assembly weekend. (Our sympathies to your family.) Carol B, Area Advisor, stepped into the Grapevine Chair position and past delegate, Andrew W.,

then assumed the role of Area Advisor. Thanks to all, everything went smoothly. There were 7 past delegates in attendance at this spring assembly.



A.A. business decisions require substantial unanimity. Substantial unanimity means that at least 2/3rd of the votes cast on business decision must be in favor of taking the proposed action, or the motion fails. And before we vote on a proposed action, we want to discuss it fully, to hear what all of us think and feel about it. Decisions here in Alcoholics Anonymous are not matters of victory or defeat, with one faction winning and another faction losing. Our decisions reflect our informed group conscience, where a loving God may express Himself.

Our Delegate Defines

Between Area 40 and the General Service Conference there are other service entities, the regions. Area 40 is one of the 8 areas in the West Central Region, comprising of Northern Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota Iowa, and Nebraska.

Our Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual

describe the process we follow, using a committee system, similar to that of the General Service Conference. The manual, which can be downloaded or printed off of our Area web site, also describes the qualifications and responsibilities of each of the Area service positions, the time lines for Spring and Fall Assemblies, and

other aspects of how Area 40 functions. It is your friend. It is your guide.

Each Area Service Committee consists of two DCM's, two District representatives and the Committee Chair for that committee, with a couple of exceptions. The Area Treasurer chairs the

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(Assembly continued from page 1)

Finance Committee, which consists of the Delegate, the Area Chair, one DCM and one District Representative. Literature has one DCM and three District Representatives. Any member of the Fellowship can attend the committee meetings. If Area 40 specific items are voted on in the committee, only committee members vote. Typically, the chairs will make sure the voting members of the committee share first, but most chairs welcome participation by non-voting interested members of the Fellowship who attend that committee meeting. Which DCM is on which committee, and which District gets to select the voting District representatives for each committee, is decided by lot, right after the elections at the last of the four assemblies in each rotation, for the next two year rotation.

While the committees were meeting, two of our past Area 40 delegates, Bob H. and Loren B., led workshops. Bob and Loren are two of our long-time trusted servants, and considered “elder statesmen,” who have much wisdom to offer us.

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

My job, as chairperson, is to keep us on track. We “loosely apply” Roberts Rules of Order. “Robert’s Rules for Dummies” says we use the principles of Roberts Rules to make meetings meaningful. I am hoping we have that experience. You have a big part in the “meaningfulness” of this meeting, too. Particularly, I encourage you to share if you have thoughts, questions, experience, information or an opinion that appears to be in the minority. A well-informed sense of the assembly can only be achieved if all sides are heard. To this end, please consider whether your enthusiastic support of one person’s position might dissuade someone with a different position from speaking.

I have had some great A.A. service experience since our last Assembly. I traveled with Carole, Terry and Lee to the Additional Forum in Rapid City in November, participated in the Area Audit in January, got to attend the West Central Region Service Conference in March, and got in the car with Colby and Catherine to attend a great pre-assembly in Missoula.

Most of my work in the past few months has been about communication. I wrote to the incoming DCM’s and standing committee chairs welcoming them to their service positions and providing information to help them get started in

their new service positions. I assembled information for this assembly, developed the agenda and distributed it and background material to the Area Committee. I also organized and participated in two audio conferences for the Area committee.

The elected Literature Chair resigned her position in February. Following the policy and procedures manual, I solicited input from the Area Committee regarding a replacement. I got to talk to several qualified, enthusiastic A.A. members who considered their ability to serve. The outcome of that process was that Mary M. accepted the appointment and jumped in with both feet. Thank you, Mary for your enthusiastic willingness to serve.

These two years will be very busy ones for all of us in Area 40. You’ll be hearing more details about most of these things in the reports later this morning and tomorrow morning, but please mark your calendars and try to attend, and help out if you can, the following events:

- June 18 Local Forum in Great Falls
 - June 19 Local Forum in Miles City
 - September 10-11 West Central Region Forum in Davenport Iowa
 - September 17-18 Fall Assembly in Lewistown (make your reservations early. The room block expires September 1 and the hotels fill up early as this is a busy time of year for Lewistown!)
 - September 22-25 National A.A. Archives Workshop in Helena
 - March 2-4, 2012 West Central Region Service Conference in Billings
 - April 14-15, 2012 Spring Assembly in Lewistown
- September 22-23, 2012 Fall Assembly in Lewistown I have been invited to participate in District 21’s Wild West Soberfest in August and hope to make arrangements with other Districts for visits sometime this year. The deadline for agenda items for the Fall Assembly is July 1; perhaps I can help your district with the process of getting an item on the agenda.

And, lastly, Terry will be in New York City at the General Service Conference May 1-7. He will be putting in many long hours representing Area 40 and trying to understand and decide what is best for A.A. as a whole. There are labels at each of your tables that you can use to send cards and letters. Past delegates have all expressed their appreciation as they received cards and letters from home.

Thank you for trusting me to serve you and thanks for helping make this a great and meaningful weekend. Area Chair/Alternate Delegate- Sharon S.

More Area 40 Chair Reports

Secretary

Hello everyone, my name is Linda B. and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 40 for the next two years as your secretary/registrar.

All those giving reports may e-mail your report to me. If you choose to submit your report in hard copy, I will need two copies.

I have been busy updating Area 40's group information at GSO through our database, Fellowship New Vision. I have sent out the group update forms to all district DCM's. The packets were mailed out on February 24th. There are two ways of updating group information. The first is the group update form that you can download from aa.org website. This helps keep your group current in the database and identifies the primary contact mailing address, the new and alternate GSR's. The other way is by the group update sheets that I have mailed out to each district DCM. I need to have time to input all new information before the deadline for inclusion in the regional directory. If your group hasn't done their update yet, get with your DCM; they have the update form to fill out.

Recommendations from committees that came to the floor at the fall 2010 assembly were:

Finance: Vote to approve the 2011 Budget. 102 For; 0 Against; Motion passed.

International Conventions-Regional Forums: Area 40 budgets an allowance of \$900 for expenses that we will incur putting on the Local Forum. 82 For; 5 Against- no minority opinion; Motion passed.

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policies: The committee recommend that the Area Chair form and AdHoc Committee for the purpose of establishing a protocol and a time line for Area 40 to conduct an inventory of itself. This inventory is to be held at an area assembly preferably in the fall. 110 For; 2 Against- no minority opinion. Motion passed.



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contributing articles.

We have had a lot of returns from the Postal Service. This could be due to the rotational changes. Let's work together to reconcile the necessary corrections so that every group can remain in contact with Area and receive a copy of the Triangle. This is *your* news. What's going on in and around Area 40 and how we, as trusted servants, feel about the work we are allowed to participate in. Are we carrying the message, and *how* are we going about doing it? So far, I have your Delegate as the major contributor. Is the purpose of the Triangle: to be his forum?

I continue to be excited about upcoming months. This is a great rotation with a lot of rare opportunities. I really appreciate those of you who *have* submitted an article, or those who *are*

Public Information/Report & Charter/Webs

Good morning, my name is Paula H. and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for entrusting the Public Information Committee to me this rotation. Much of the focus of the committee for the past four years has been setting up and working out the kinks of the 1-888 hot-line number. Many thanks to Sean and Tim and everyone else who worked on this and thanks to the folks at AnswerNet too! It is now time to focus on other aspects of the PI committee some of which we will discuss in the afternoon session today of the committee.

I'd first like to report on the 1-888 phone line. All the contracts for numbers in phone books have been signed as they come in. They run between \$5 and \$14 per month. I have heard no complaints from the membership or from AnswerNet. Our website was down for a couple of days last month, but Alex fixed it in a record amount of time. So far this year, we have not exceeded the \$250 limit per month that Area pays. Therefore, Districts have not had to pay extra. Some district's volunteers might want to ask patch callers if they can call them back so we aren't spending so much money in minutes. It is not always possible to do that. You'll have to use your best judgment. Please encourage your groups to send a little extra to Area to cover this 12th step work.

Lastly, please update the volunteer contact and availability information for the hot-line. Alex can help you update the database so that AnswerNet can patch calls quickly without out-of-date numbers and contact availability. By-the-way Alex shuffles the order of contacts every 30 days.

Alex has spruced up the Area Website. It has improved functionality for finding meetings and a wonderful drop-down menu to navigate the various areas in the website. Thank you Alex!

Missoula hosted a well attended Pre-Assembly, Sunday, March 13. I was glad to be able to present the General Service Public Information background. We had a good discussion on some of the items. It is always helpful to me to learn about different perspectives on issues.

Districts have been hard at work trying to get their committee chairs elected. I understand how hard that can be sometimes. Kudos to everyone who made it to Assembly and who serve in all our many capacities in the program. Thanks to all who let me know what is going on in their districts. Districts 12, 21, 41, 51, 61, 71, 72, 81, 91 and 93 all have PI Chairs. Some Districts have Phone Chairs too! The DCMs in the other Districts are doing double duty to keep their District's phone information up-to-date and let the public know about AA. Some activities Districts are doing are:

Thank you for allowing me serve! I look forward to traveling through Montana this rotation should I be asked.



considering a contribution to the Triangle. This month is like Christmas for me. Everyone is expected to turn in their reports to both Linda and myself: great responses, lots of material, however, don't forget the following months. I look forward to serving you and hearing from you. While I tried to include as much information as possible if you are interested in finding out more on what went on at Area Spring 2010 Assembly I refer you to the minutes of the event. Better yet, make it a plan to attend Area Assemblies in the future.

In service, Lee T. Area 40 Triangle Editor

Treatment Facilities/Agenda-

Good morning my name is Colby D., and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to report as your Area 40 Treatment Facilities Chair. It seems only yesterday that we were all gathered together making selections and voting in a new slate of rotational trusted servants. I am excited to serve and be here this weekend addressing new challenges and opportunities.

Since stepping into this new position the phone calls and emails have been flying. Luke S. in Kalispell was the first to make contact as he was very much excited to "get busy" and get things going in his district. Thank you Luke for your enthusiasm and I look forward to sharing more with you. Some districts are reporting increases for meetings at local crisis centers and outpatient facilities. Active requests from District 11 have been answered by taking several new meeting commitments in the local community on a regular basis supported by the local groups on a rotating basis. Many districts are updating Bridging The Gap and temporary contact information to be passed along to local treatment centers and institutions. As always having an active committee can assist with maintaining the process and continuity as requests are made to have members available to talk with the newcomer. One of the keys to a successful treatment facilities district plan is to have and maintain current updated contact information; I encourage all of you to be diligent in this area. This can only be supported by a host of volunteers willing to carry our message.

April 16, 2011 District 61 will be hosting a Corrections and Treatment Workshop, cost is \$10.

I was able to attend the Pre-Assembly conference in Missoula, and meet with some of you regarding treatment activities and opportunities in your local areas. The dialogue was great! I would welcome the opportunity to make the trips to your districts and be an integral part of assisting you with getting meetings or other educational opportunities into in the treatment facilities in your areas. I look forward to your requests and participation thus ensuring access to information and meetings to all who suffer from alcoholism.

Webmaster-

The new design of the website went live last week in January. What follows is a list of the main points

1. Infrastructure:

- A. Moved from deprecated ASP to mainstream PHP code. Easier to maintain for current and future webmasters. Easy to find support
- B. Moved from Windows server to Linux server – (faster, more secure, cheaper)
- C. Moved from two Access databases to a single MySQL database – (faster, more secure, added functionality – enterprise database model, easier to maintain)
- D. Moved away from Frames base design. The list is long as to why Frames are a bad idea so I am providing a link for reference.
- E. Moved away from HTML4 to HTML5 and CSS3 to leverage and support emerging technologies
- F. Created a testing server that allows the webmaster to test all functionality as long as needed before pushing to the live server
- G. Implemented SVN as code repository and revisioning system which allows to see all historical changes done to each file on the website
- H. Added functionality to receive emails and text alerts if any of the dynamic pages are not returning data
- I. Added code to the all pages to leverage reports from Google Analytics

2. Design and use:

- A. Made finding meetings the main event of the website.
 - 1. Number of clicks to find a meeting in any specific city has been reduced from 4 clicks to one click. Two clicks if needing to print
 - 2. The print function is now on the same page. Do not need to go to a separate page
 - 3. Print page will now format automatically.
 - 4. All information on any particular meeting is now available on one page removing the need to click to a new page to get address.

(continued on facing page)

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

My name is Joe H., and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to the first of four Assemblies in this rotation. I especially want to welcome those of you who are attending your first assembly, what an exciting time. Everything is new and fresh and at times a little confusing, but you are with others who have experienced this before and are willing to share their experience with you.

I have the honor and privilege of serving as your Archives Chair. There are 5 of us on this committee. The other 4 members consist of 2 DCM's from District 23 and District 91, and two representatives chosen from District's 11 and 81. In addition to our archives duties our other assignment is Structure and Policy for Area 40. Our Area is also hosting the National Archives workshop in Helena, MT. This will take place September 22nd through the 25th.

I am in the process of preserving and digitizing the archives for District 41. If your district is interested in this process, I would love to participate in a workshop at your district and share what we have done in District 41.

I am looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones as we trudge this road of happy destiny while we conduct our Area business and send our Area Delegate off with a sense of our area as he conducts the business at the General Service Conference. Yours in love and service.

Corrections/International Conventions-

Hello, My name is Terry H. and I am an alcoholic. I am grateful to serve as your Area 40 Corrections Chair. I started out my rotation participating in the Area 40 Audit. Pink Can Funds were transferred to a new account and the new mailing address for contributions is PO Box 135 Shepherd Mt. 59079. I have had many requests for formats for meetings in jails and Montana State Prison and for shared experience on starting meetings in correctional facilities. To some I have supplied literature or formats or pink can information and pink can covers. To others, I have supplied contact information from other districts so they can communicate with each other. The Pink Can Funds have provided 120 soft cover Big Books to alcoholics who are confined since starting this rotation. *(continued on page 5)*

(continued from *Corrections.Int'l Conv.* page 4)

I have been in communication with Pat Wright; our liaison with Montana State Prison. On Jan. 22, 2011, I attended a volunteer orientation at Montana State Prison along with two other AA members. It was very interesting and even a little frightening but lunch was great. I would encourage anyone with a possible interest to attend the next orientation which is May 14th. The orientation starts at 8 a.m. and last until about 3 p.m. and lunch is served on site. Applications need to be received about 3 weeks prior to the orientation. They can be sent to: Tom Wilson RAC Montana State Prison 500 Conley Rd. Deer Lodge Mt. 59722. I have applications with me.

The Montana Women's Prison has orientations quarterly and no application is necessary. See me if you want to get on the list to be notified of the next orientation. Women only are allowed to take meetings into the Women's Prison but men and women can participate at Montana State Prison.

I will be attending the Corrections and Treatment workshop and Luncheon in Helena on April 16th. I have been invited to put on a workshop by District 21 at the Wild West Soberfest on the weekend of Aug. 12th and I look forward to doing that. I can't wait to hear music from the band, Halcoholic.

We started out the year with a balance of \$5825.19 in the Pink Can Fund. There have been group contributions of \$1588.85 and an expenditure of \$856.80 for literature. The current balance of the Pink Can Fund is \$6557.24. There are several issues regarding the Pink Can Funds, such as," How are these funds distributed? The Area corrections Committee and hopefully the District Corrections Chairs will be communicating about this and we will have more to report at the Fall Assembly.

Literature

Hello everyone, my name is Mary and I am an alcoholic. As of March 1st I have had the honor as serving as the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair for this rotation. I served on the Literature Committee last rotation when Lori F was the Chair, so I had an awesome example of service at the Area level. When Sharon called me and asked if I would be willing to stand for the Area Literature Committee Chair, fear said 'not at this time' but God and my sponsor said, 'walk thru your fear.' So thank you for this opportunity.

I want to thank Jay T, DCM District 93 for bringing the Area Literature Display to me in Missoula at the Pre-Assembly we attended March 13th. I also would like to thank Lori F, Area Treasurer, for ordering Service Manuals, Literature catalogs, and restocking the current literature display. .

I've placed some important information from G.S.O. Literature on your tables to take back to your groups and I would like to share some of it with you now.

"Deadline Extension for Story Solicitation-"A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlets: In December of 2010, a call went out for new stories to update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services," with a deadline of February 2011. They had received 15 stories by February so the deadline has now been extended to July 15, 2011. They want stories to include recent experiences from members in active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed service.... For information on how and where to submit your stories contact me.

Projects ongoing: The 2010 Advisory Action that the revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved became available upon depletion of old inventory in February 2011. [word 'local' removed on pg 22] The 2010 Advisory Action that a paragraph regarding closed meetings be changed in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.," will be included at the next printing of the pamphlet (around May 2011).

Other literature that is frequently overlooked:

Box 459, About AA, and the Archives newsletter, *Markings*, are available via the AA.org website for a free digital subscription, or a hard copy can be sent by postal subscription, except for *Markings* is only available in a digital format. Digital format helps GSO reduce costs & requests seem to be picking up 300-400 people a month. Come join the Literature Committee meeting today and thank you for this opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous and thank you for my sobriety.

(continued from *Webmaster*, page 4)

- B. Reduced the number of files needed to display the identical data by 300%
 - C. Used the concept of Progressive Enhancement to give modern browsers a better experience while allowing older browsers to render the site correctly
 - D.. Leveraged media-queries which allow for alternate layout to accommodate mobile devices including iPhone, iPad and Android phone, without having to create special pages for such devices
 - E.. All sections of the committee page are one click away using the footer links. The footer exists on all the pages of the site
 - F. The design and layout of the AnswerNet pages were left untouched to allow them a seamless transition to the new design
3. Admin Sections
- A. Reduced the login pages to one for both the Meetings and 888 admins
 - B. Streamlined the look of all admin pages for easier use.
 - C. Removed the need to check if the cities are in the database
 - D. Added functionality to admin pages to facilitate repetitive entries

Lastly, I would like to thank the folks around the state that volunteer their time and keep current the information we provide on the site.

Thanks for letting me serve; it is a privilege and an honor, Area Webmaster- Alex M.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees-

Thank you all for coming here this weekend. Welcome to all who have come for the first time, and to all those who have been here before. I am very excited to be your Area 40 Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Chair. I look forward to a great two year rotation and I am sure I will have many opportunities to learn and grow. I've enjoyed studying the background material and am excited to share this with you this weekend.

I recently returned from a 2 week trip to Haiti. During my visit, I attended the only AA meeting held in this island country of approximately 10 million. They meet every day at 5 PM at #9 Delmas 60 in Port au Prince. It happened to be about 10 minutes away from where I was staying. At the meeting, they read from a French Big Book and shared in Haitian Creole. One of the men at the meeting had 28 years of sobriety. He spoke English and told me that they have translated the first five chapters of the Big Book into Haitian Creole. He showed me his plastic spiral bound type-written copy. It is his desire to bring this work that they have started to GSO in New York City. They would love to get the whole book translated and printed into the language of the people of Haiti, not in French, which is not understood or read by the majority. This is what is needed there to help our fellow suffering alcoholics. I've been inspired to see what I can do to help make this happen, and it also reinforced my commitment to support GSO in their global efforts.

I also did some of my first CPC work while there. I provided the meeting information, Grapevines and a pocket big book and 12x12 to the contact people in Country who will be working with future volunteer groups to this area. Their background in mental health and counseling has brought them some familiarity with our program. This information was very well received and was much appreciated. Now I

have to get to work in my own jurisdiction.

While looking through my new CPC information I found an article that Bill W wrote in a 1958 Grapevine publication. He writes in Let's Be Friendly with Our Friends: Friends on the Alcoholism Front:

Today, the vast majority of us welcome any new light that can be throw on the alcoholic's mysterious and baffling malady. We don't care too much whether new and valuable knowledge issues from a test tube, a psychiatrist's couch, or from revealing social studies. We are glad of any kind of education that accurately informs the public and changes its age-old attitude toward the drunk. More and more, we regard all who labor in the total field of alcoholism as our companions on a march from darkness into light. We see that we can accomplish together what we could never accomplish in separation and in rivalry.

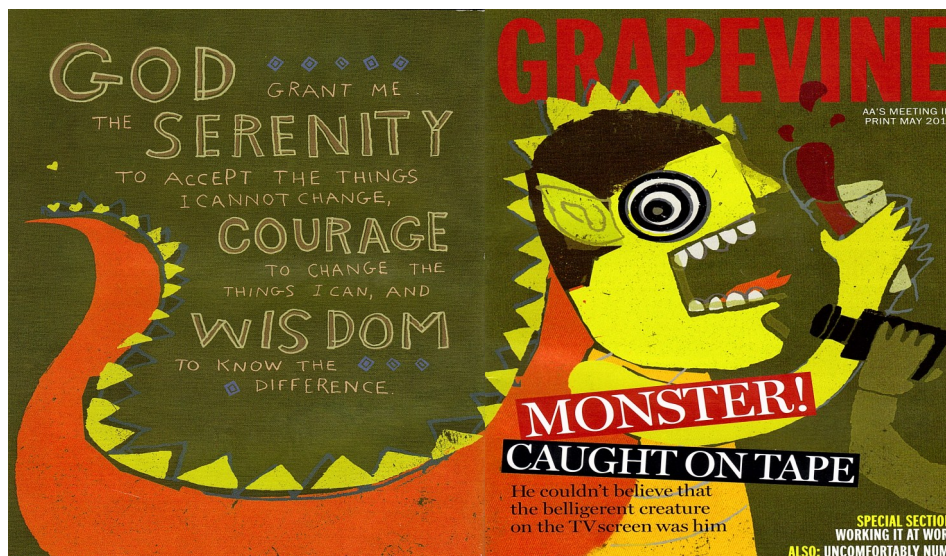
In working with a newcomer in AA, with an Area committee, or with professionals in this Area, I plan to remember those words. We can accomplish great things together by forgoing separation and rivalry. I will gladly share and provide information about CPC work and our program to anyone who will listen.

"You can never go where God is not." is something I recently heard in a prayer. It struck me as being a simple, comforting truth. I know that God is with us here this weekend, and will continue to be with us in our future ventures. Thanks for being part of my sobriety. .

Area 40 CPC Chair- Libbie L.

AAGRAPEVINE.org
The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

The May 2011 Grapevine is Here



True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.

Bill W. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

From Your Area 40 Treasurer

Self Support at the Area Level:

Area 40 2011 Budget = \$36,359.94

Total Registered Groups in Area 40 = 292*

IF all groups contribute and

IF Area 40 spends entire budget, **THEN:** $\$36,359.94 / 292$
Groups =

\$124.52 per Group

How Area 40 groups support services:

Number of Area 40 Groups Contributing

To GSO (2009)	$133/292 = 45.4\%$
To Area (2009)	$109/292 = 37.3\%$
To Area (2010)	$110/292 = 37.7\%$

Dollar amount contributed from Area 40 groups

To GSO (2009)	\$29,201.15
To Area 40 (2009)	\$26,224.5
To Area 40 (2010)	\$24,275.79

*from 2010 Final Report of the 60th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

Treasurer

Greetings, Area 40! My name is Lori F. and I am honored and delighted to be Area 40's Treasurer for the 2011-12 rotation. I am also pleased to report that the checkbook is balanced as of March 31, 2011.

My first official act as your treasurer was to accept the books and files from Linda B., who did a terrific job last rotation. On Friday, January 14th, Terry S., Sharon S., Carole B., Terry H., Linda and I completed an audit of our books as provided for in our Policy and Procedures document. All was found to be in order.

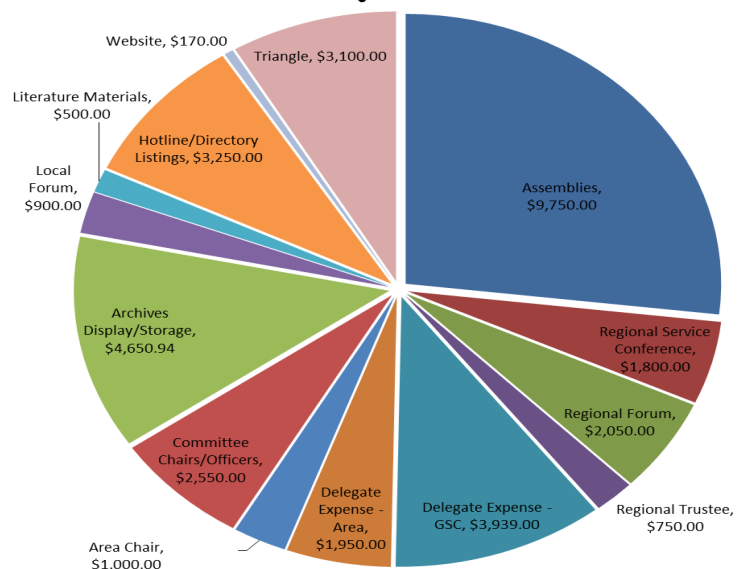
On behalf of Area 40, I want to thank all the groups, individuals and districts that have contributed 7th Tradition funds to the area. We have an ambitious budget this year of \$36,359.94. (*Pie Chart Transparency*). The large blue area on this pie chart, representing 27% of our budget (or \$9,750.00), is for the two assemblies this year. The portion of our budget allocated to expenses for our Delegate totals about 16% (or \$5,889.00), including 11% (\$3,939.00) for funding Terry to attend the General Service Conference later this month and 5% (or \$1,950.00) for travel and other expenses to fulfill his duties within the area. The other "slices" pictured may or may not be self explanatory – I will have a

copy of this chart available up front if you would like to take a longer look and ask questions.

(*"Self Support at the Area Level" Transparency*) According to the 2010 Final Report of the 60th General Service Conference, there are 292 registered groups in Area 40. **If** all the groups contributed to Area 40, and **if** we spend our entire budget, the amount needed from each group would be \$124.52. (*"How Area 40 Groups Support Services" Transparency*) In 2009, 133 groups (45.4%) in Area 40 sent contributions to the General Service Office. In 2010, 110 groups (37.7%) sent contributions to Area 40. Also, groups in Montana sent \$29,201.15 to GSO in 2009, a larger amount than was contributed to Area 40 for both 2009 and 2010. (*Graph Transparency*) This graph shows group contributions to Area 40 from 2007 through 2010. Group contributions for the first quarter of 2010 were \$5,705.73. If contribution levels remain the same for the rest of the year, Area could expect approximately \$22,823.00.

Please take a look at the reports I have provided which are on the table at the entry with the agendas. These reports basically show how our spending so far this year compares with our budget. The two reports, Budget vs. Actual by Line Item and Budget vs. Actual by Committee/Project, are just two ways of presenting the same information. So far we have spent about \$4,200 more than we have taken in. This is not unusual, as with the Spring Assembly, the Regional Service Conference, and the General Service Conference, Area spends a large chunk of our budgeted funds in the first four months of the year. We have also spent about \$1,000.00 more than budgeted to date, largely because we purchased a computer for our Triangle Editor to replace one that seemed to be dying – but I'll let Lee fill you in on that. Our current checkbook balance is \$22,976.68. Our prudent reserve is \$12,119.98, the archivist account balance is \$1,255.95, and our current accounts payable is \$102.32, leaving an operating balance of \$9,498.43.

Area 40 2011 Budget Allocation
Total Budget = \$36,359.94



Area Officers, Committee Chairs, and DCM's 2010-2011

Position	Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Cell	email
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CHAIRS

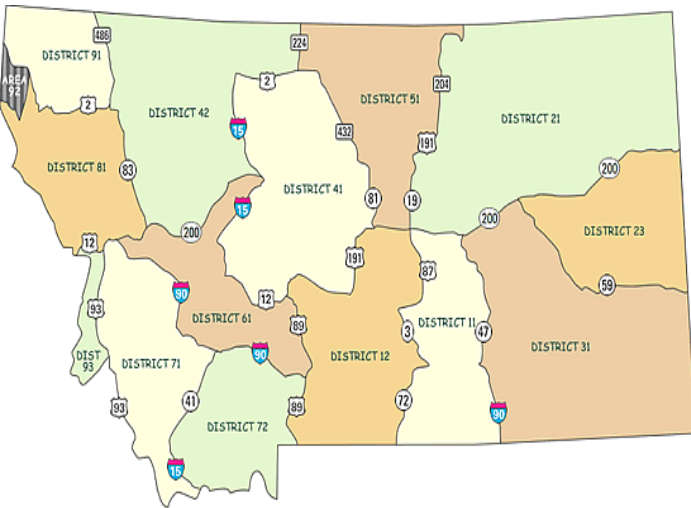
Delegate	Terry S..		Helena				delegate@aa-montana.org
Area Chair/Alt Del.	Sharon S.		Bozeman				chair@aa-montana.org
Secretary	Linda B.		Billings				secretary@aa-montana.org
Treasurer	Lori F.		Ennis				treasurer@aa-montana.org
Archives	Joe H.		Belt				archives@aa-montana.org
CPC	Libbie L.		Kalispell				cpc@aa-montana.org
Corrections	Terry H.		Billings				corrections@aa-montana.org
Grapevine	Gary E.		Helena				grapevine@aa-montana.org
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Triangle Editor	Lee T.		Great Falls				triangle@aa-montana.org

DCM's

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41	Casey L.		Great Falls				dcm41@aa-montana.org
42	Duane C.		Choteau				dcm42@aa-montana.org
51	Leo B.		Havre				dcm51@aa-montana.org
61	Anne B.		Helena				dcm61@aa-montana.org
71	Peggy H.		Butte				dcm71@aa-montana.org
72	Catherine J.		Bozeman				dcm72@aa-montana.org
81	Erin G.		Missoula				dcm81@aa-montana.org
91	Sam B.		Kalispell				dcm91@aa-montana.org
93	Jay T.		Darby				dcm93@aa-montana.org

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Advisor	Carole B.		Billings				advisor@aa-montana.org
Archivist	Gerry R.		Clancy				archivist@aa-montana.org
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District 11—Billings, Garry Owen, Hardin, Huntley, Lodge Grass, Pryor, Roundup
 District 12—Big Timber, Bridger, Columbus, Fromberg, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, Red Lodge
 District 21—Culbertson, Glasgow, Plentywood, Poplar, Scooby, Winnett, Wolf Point
 District 23—Crane, Glendive, Fairview, Savage, Sidney
 District 31—Absarokee, Baker, Broadus, Busby, Colstrip, Crow Agency, Forsyth, Jordan, Lame Deer, Miles City, Terry
 District 41—Fort Benton, Fort Shaw, Great Falls, Lewistown, Stanford
 District 42—Browning, Chester, Conrad, Cut Bank, Choteau, Shelby, Valier
 District 51—Box Elder, Chinook, Dodson, Fort Belknap, Harlem, Havre, Hays, Malta
 District 61—Boulder, Elliston, E. Helena, Helena, Lincoln, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs
 District 71—Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Drummond, Hall, Jackson, Lima, Phillipsburg, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Warm Springs, Whitehall
 District 72—Big Sky, Belgrade, Bozeman, Emigrant, Ennis, Gallatin Gateway, Gardiner, Livingston, Manhattan, Pony, Three Forks, Virginia City, West Yellowstone, Wilsall
 District 81—Alberton, Arlee, Clinton, Frenchtown, Haugan, Hot Springs, Missoula, Noxon, Seeley Lake, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Ronan, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior, Thompson Falls, Trout Creek
 District 91—Big Fork, Columbia Falls, Coram, Eureka, Kalispell, Lakeside, Somers, West Glacier, Whitefish
 District 93—Conner, Corvallis, Darby, Florence, Hamilton, Lolo, Stevensville, Victor

DCM Reports

District 11-

Greetings Area 40 from District 11. My name is Brandon M., and I am an alcoholic, currently serving as DCM for District 11. Currently, District 11 is composed of 26 groups with approx. 126 meetings during the week. District 11 boundaries are on the north, Roundup, on the west Laurel (well, Laurel is actually in District 12), southern side includes Busby, Ashland and Lame Deer, with Hysham being our eastern border.

Out district meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at 2931 Colton in Billings. Late last year we moved to our current location, which we share with South Central Intergroup of Montana. On the average we have around 6 - 8 GSRs attending our meeting.

All of District 11's chair positions have been filled, I would like to thank Eric E. from the Traditions Group for stepping into the role of Alt. DCM after Dan had to step down. Financially our district is doing well, sitting at or above prudent reserve most of the time. Group contributions also remain steady. Our district currently has 6 service commitments for our groups on a monthly basis. These include a First-Tuesday meeting at Rimrock Foundation, a Men's and Women's shelter meeting, a meeting at the Psych center in Billings, and one at the crisis center. We draw out of the hat to choose groups to fulfill these commitments.

The Alt. DCM and I have made a list of groups we will be visiting this year. Our goal is to visit every group in District 11 at least twice a year. The first round of visits we hope to conclude in the next two months.

Now on to the WSRAASC - the district was kind enough to send me to Nisswa, MN for the 2011 WSRAASC, held in March 2011. This is my first experience at a regional event, and the event did not let me down. Seeing 300+ alcoholics in one place, at one time, was quite the sight. I am proud to say that while there was some heated discussion, no fights broke out, and no police were called - a tribute to power of this program. In June, I will be attending the Local Forum being held in Miles City. Another one of those opportunities that I am excited to be able to participate in. In September of this year, I plan on attending the Regional forum, being held in Davenport, IA. Considering my native state is

Minnesota, and knowing all of the banter that goes back and forth between these states, I am sure there are some amends that need to be made - HAHA. I am looking forward to this event as well, as I have never been to a Regional Forum. Some upcoming events in District 11 are as follow: May 6th - 7th, the Yellowstone Group (Billings) is having a Big Book weekend. This event will include a speaker meeting on Friday and a Big Book study on Saturday. Detail can be found on the Area website (I believe there is a flyer available for download there).

In closing, I would like to thank the groups and members of District 11 for allowing me the opportunity to serve District 11 and Alcoholics Anonymous as DCM this rotation. Service works has always been (A big thanks to the Traditions group and my sponsor for driving this home) and continues to be a cornerstone of my recovery.

District 12- Sandy A.

District 12 has currently has 35 meetings in 8 towns, which includes 2 new meetings in Big Timber on Wednesday & Sundays at 315 W. 8th St., Apt. C1, and a new 12x12/Big Book meeting in Harlowton at the American Lutheran Church on Monday nights at 7 pm. As well as a meeting that is held each Tuesday night at 7 pm at the Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch for the girls. The women's meeting that was held in Laurel on Thursday nights at 6 pm has disbanded.

The district is financially sound and retains no debt. GSR's for 5 of our 8 communities are active at the district level. We currently have four committees, Grapevine Rep, Daniel M., PI & CPC, Steve O., Treatment & Corrections, Cheryl D., Literature, Nick G. We have a new secretary/treasurer, a District PO Box and EIN number.

District 12's Annual Mid-Winter Social was held Feb. 19th in Joliet with the district providing ham and turkey, and attendees providing a delicious assortment of side dishes. Our speakers sharing their experience, strength and hope for the evening were Pam R, Absarokee Al-Anon and Nick D, Joliet AA and previous DCM for District 12. Our gratitude to the many that attended and continue to attend this successful and joyous event every year. The Mid-Winter Social for 1012 is tentatively planned for February 19th in Joliet, save the date, we'd love to have you all attend.

A future workshop is in the planning stages. Once details have been completed, Flyers will be available on the Montana AA website. The upcoming Annual Fireman's Point Campout has been set for

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(continued from DCM reports page 9)

August 19-21, 2011 at Fireman's Point, ½ a mile south of Columbus on Hwy 78. The campout has evolved to 2 nights and 3 days. Friday night kicks off the event with a potluck and speaker to follow at 7 pm. New to the campout this year is a SOB (Sober Old Bikers) Poker run slated to start at 10:30 am with a meeting by the river at the half-way point, ending again at Fireman's Point by 5 pm for our Area 40 Delegate, Terry S. giving his report from the GSO conference at 5 pm. Also new is a scheduled river rafting trip on the Stillwater with a rafting company out of Absarokee, there is a cost to participate and Carpooling from Fireman's Point to Absarokee will happen at 12:45 PM on Saturday. A BBQ Saturday night with Chef Dave R., grill master, preparing the meat provided by the district. A 7 pm around the campfire, a yet to be announced Speaker will share at 7 pm, "Resentment Burning" will end the evening after dark. Sunday morning a pancake breakfast and camp clean up will end the weekend. Camping is free, with no utility hookups. Flyers are located on the back table. Please put the date Aug 19-21 on your calendar for Great Food, Fishing, Sharing & Story Telling, Fellowship, Friendship plus So Much Fun - it may be Illegal!
District 21- Laura S.

We are a huge piece of real estate with a teeny-tiny population. It is a two to four hour drive between groups. Plentywood, Wolf Point and Poplar have two meetings a week and Glasgow has ten meetings a week. Culbertson and Scobey are inactive. The long distance between groups makes it hard to form decisions that include everyone and cohesion is difficult. At the last Assembly I called our District "the little District that could". This Assembly I call our District "Far-rural Country".

On the fun side, we are celebrating our "Second Annual Wild West Soberfest August 12 through 14 near Fort Peck Lake. Terry S. will give his Delegate Report, Sharon S. will give a workshop on "Spirituality and Recovery" and Terry H. will give a workshop on "Corrections". We will have speakers and Big Book, Twelve & Twelve and Discussion Meetings. There will be lots of good food and plenty of other activities. Flyers Available. Come visit us under the true Big Sky.

District 23-

Everlasting Regards from the Sunrise District: I'm J. Scott W. and I am an alcoholic. The past six months have seen the number of the District's groups diminish by one with one group becoming inactive and no longer meeting. There are (6) Groups in the District-- (3) registered, (2) unregistered and (1) inactive:

*In February, the Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group decided to no longer hold meetings, a special Thank You to Jody R. for her dedication as trusted servant for that meeting; *Glendive has (2): the Life Again and the 12 to Life Groups; *Sidney has (2): the Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Groups; *And (1) in Fairview, the Young People's Second Chance Big Book Group. The Fairview Young People's Group continues to meet on Monday Nights at the trusted servant's home. Another special Thank You to Zach D. for his dedication. The Glendive groups met (5) days a week between them. Monday through Friday. The two (2) Sidney groups, also hold meetings (5) days of the week between them. Attendance has been steady for both groups. The Monday Noon Group, which meets on Mondays at Noon (duh), features a lunch-

eon, prepared by yours truly, on the last Monday of the month. If in Sidney on that day, stop on by for a meeting plus lunch on me. The Welcome Home Group meets on Tuesday, Saturday -am and pm, and Sunday. The Sidney Groups meet at the same location, which is handy for those seeking a meeting. Since the last assembly we have held (3) District Meetings, (1) which was not held due to a lack of a quorum, but was held in conjunction with a New Years Eve Party/Potluck so not all was for naught; (1) where we elected incoming trusted servants-myself included; and the most recent where we held a potluck and discussed the upcoming Spring Assembly and other business. We have had (2) Festival/Party's down at the Savage Community Center. A Halloween Festival sponsored by the Welcome Home Group and a New Years Eve Party sponsored by District 23. Good food, fellowship and fun was had by those in attendance. For those of you interested, continue to look on the Area website for future events. One future event to plan for is the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest at the Glendive MT Lions Camp in Makoshika State Park, which is held the third weekend of August. This year's event, August 19-21, is still in the planning stages. so more will be revealed.

District 31-

Piv-Woh-na'ut (Good Morning in Cheyenne)!

My name is Corrina H. and I am an alcoholic. I am DCM for District #31, and my home group is the "Colstrip 3&4 Group". We have quite a few meetings in our District, considering the size of our District. The Baker group meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The Colstrip group meets Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., with a "Speaker Meeting" being the first Friday of the month at 7:30. The Forsyth Group meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. The Jordan Group meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. The Miles City Group meets every day of the week. The Terry Group meets on Monday evenings, and we are not sure if they are going to join our District or the Billings district. I understand the Lame Deer Group wants to join our district too, but I'm not sure how we are to go about requesting that they join our district. Al lots of the members attend the Colstrip meetings and showed interest in joining our district. I am new to this job as "DCM" and so any advice I can get would be greatly appreciated.

We had our first District Meeting of the year in Colstrip, on 2-5-11. Scott W. came from Billings and addressed our group. This was great! He presented some history of our upcoming "forum". He told us that Jim M. of New York will be a speaker at our "forum". His topic will be corrections.

Scott also told us the importance of organizing our district for the upcoming forum. We will need to expect 150 people and we need to establish committees for: Greeters, chair set-up, meeting clean-up, coffee makers, etc....

Our meeting closed at 12:40.

We had another district meeting on March 31, 2011, in Miles City at the Convent. At that time, Lance was nominated and voted to the task of being our Treasurer once again. He gave us a report of having \$664.24 in our account. At that meeting, we also voted on the idea of all the GSR's being co-signers for our checking account. The motion carried.

At that meeting, we authorized funds for our DCM to attend
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the assembly. Voted, and a check was written at that time. Meeting was adjourned.

I'm not sure if I need to write down all this information for this presentation, but here it is! Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 41- Casey L.

As a new DCM, I have truly appreciated the help and support from former DCM's like Lee T. Many thanks. A lot of love and support from so many other GSR's and group members. What a great bunch of AA's to serve with. I had a terrific time at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Nisswa, MN. I learned so much and what great hosts. I look forward to many among us being able to attend the next year's West Central Regional Conference in Billings.

Our treatment and corrections meetings are well attended with a Friday night speaker meeting at the RMT. Our CPC chair, Jeannie R., is putting on a clinic on how to get a committee together. CPC is doing a great job.

We currently have 16 active groups in District 41 and 180 meetings per month. District 41 is having good group participation. Eleven of sixteen groups have updated their group information. Hopefully, all 16 will be done shortly. Most committee chair positions are filled and their committee members are growing with great support.

We are excited to be hosting the Spring Roundup in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn. We welcome you all to join us May 13-15. Founders Day picnic will be June 11th at Ryan's Dam and the Local Forum is June 18th also at the Heritage Inn. This year at this assembly, we have a small table with a large turnout of GSR's and committee members, thus are unity is at an all time high. AA in District 41 feels energized. I would like to take this time to thank the fellowship in District 41 for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

District 42-

Hi everyone, my name is Duane C. and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 42. Since we visited here last fall District 42 has been doing pretty well. We have 7 groups in our district and in a short time we may get one more. Some of the Choteau Group helped start another meeting in Augusta. All our groups say they are doing well; several groups report getting new members.

On a sad note, the GSR for the Chester Group passed away. He was active in district and will be missed. The Shelby Group held a Christmas party on Dec 18, 2010. It was well attended.

As DCM for District 42, I got to participate in two teleconference calls, one on Feb 11th and then again on March 27th. I didn't say much, but I listened a lot.

District 51-

Hello, my name is Leo B. and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 51 from Havre. I am looking forward to the assembly this weekend and to sitting on the Treatment Committee. We also have a member, Jim B., sitting on the Literature Committee. I am Pleased to see that we have a wonderful representation from our district at the assembly. Our District Meeting is held the third Sunday of the Month with the exception of the months of the Area Assembly. We have 35 meetings weekly throughout the Dis-

trict as well as a meeting at the Detention Center in Havre and the jail in Harlem and a meeting at the assisted living center in Havre. Two of our groups have monthly speakers. and we are looking for persons willing to speak as we have nearly exhausted our resources. All groups are represented by a GSR with the exception of two. We also have all of our District positions filled with the exception of one; the Corrections Committee Chair. Our BTG and Treatment Committee Chairpersons are one in the same. I am pleased as well to announce that we have a new noon meeting at the Van Orsdel Methodist Church on 5th Ave. in Havre. It is called aptly The Noon Meeting. It is a closed meeting and it is doing very well, perhaps one of the better attended meetings in the district.

We have several activities scheduled for the summer. We are making plans currently for the Havre Mini Conference which is Oct 7, 8, 9, 2011 at the H.R.D.C. Building which is located at 2229 5th Ave. in Havre. Those are always a very good representation of Hi-Line recovery and they always have some very good speakers. In the planning phases also are four Sobriety Campouts one in each of the months of June, July, August, September. They are all held at Beaver Creek County Park which is the largest county park in the nation and one of if not the nicest. Flyers for both the campouts and the Assembly are on the flyer table. I hope to see many of you at the Mini Conference as well as the campouts. They are certain to be a very good time and a wonderful opportunity to fellowship. Additionally in the planning phases is a joint district potluck/workshop which will be held later this Spring. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 61- Anne B.

Greetings, Area 40! District 61 enjoys 95 meetings put on by 44 groups in Helena, Boulder, Townsend, Lincoln, White Sulphur Springs, and Elliston. Attendance at District meetings is good and we just filled our Literature chair position. We have 15 GSRs in attendance at this assembly. We've got a lot going on in District 61. Next weekend, April 16, starting at 11 AM, we will put on the annual Corrections and Treatment workshop which features AA speakers and professionals sharing with one another to provide information about what AA does and does not do as well as give AAs a better appreciation of the professionals and their work. This mutual sharing has led to improved relationships and understanding about AA in the community. Please come join us; I am selling lunch tickets at \$10 apiece so come get yours before I run out. June 25 we will host our annual Grapefest in Helena. Along with Grapevine-related fun and festivities, our Delegate, Terry S, will give his Conference report.

September 22-25 we are thrilled to host, for the first time in Montana, the National Archives Workshop. I am personally very excited about the learning more about Archives and seeing the displays that illuminate our history.

October 14-16 we will host the Fall Roundup and later on Karla will give you a report about the exciting goings-on there. We have a dynamite group of speakers selected and it will be a great celebration of recovery.

We don't have a date set for the annual Attitude of Gratitude in November, but stay tuned. It is a privilege to serve you as DCM in District 61 and I thank you.

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District 71-

Hi, My name is Peggy H., and I'm an alcoholic. I am also the new D.C.M for district 71 which includes Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Drummond, Jackson, Lima, Phillipsburg, Opportunity, Sheridan, Twin Bridges and Whitehall.

We have a lot of corrections and treatment facilities in our district. We have meetings available to our pre-release as well as the other correctional and treatment facilities. We set them up with sponsors who help the ones in the centers to be able to get to the meetings that are held, as well as sponsor them to get out among other things. The CCP (corrections connections program) is the pre-release treatment program. They hold one speaker meeting every month and they are allowed to go to a meeting that has been around AA called "Back to Basics." It helps people start in the 12 step program in four weeks. It assists in getting people into the right frame of mind, to get a sponsor, and get to more meetings.

Second, there is the WATCH program for DUI offenders. They are in the program 24 hours a day for 6-8 months. They are allowed to attend meeting a couple of times a week. Jimmy R. who had gone through the program and lives in Opportunity started a "dinner meeting" which has been a great experience. Bridging the Gap, Fred P. comes to attend this meeting which has also added to the greatness of these get-togethers, in my opinion. Third, there is a START program for re-offenders at MCDC. The state treatment facility which holds meetings on Friday at 2 PM is "Thank God" being run by Helena, Missoula, Bozeman and if there are any districts I forgot please forgive me. District 71 is very grateful for all of your help. We have the state hospital in Warm Springs which we do get people into for meetings also.

I also want to talk briefly of the Bridging the Gap program on behalf of Fred P. He goes around to some of the treatment facilities and does his thing, re:AA. He passes out cards to the individuals who are pending release and which hold the details of the names to be able to be contacted to get to their first meeting. Fred P. and I are going to discuss the situation of the chances of this information being misplaced or lost, as AA representatives we are responsible for "being there" for these people. A way to form two systems so that no one is left behind.

The Jail meeting is still going. We have some volunteers but do need more. We are also planning a workshop on sponsorship, the date has been picked as June 11th. Gary O. and his committee are working out the details for that. When they the rest of the details are worked out flyers will be dispersed.

The district has purchased a computer for district use and I am not computer literate, but am learning and attending a class in May. I would like to thank Sharon, Linda, Alex, and everyone who has been so helpful to me.

District 72- Catherine J.

Our district is very busy planning and thinking about some events we can organize and support in 2011, like a Founder's Day event in June to host our Delegate's Share and a Unity Day is being discussed for the fall of

2011. Our CPC has been very active from organizing events like a talk at Montana State University for the Sack Lunch Seminar, and making contact with counselors. Ennis put on a Cabin Fever Party and it was very successful.

PI has been doing there best getting meeting lists out and collaborating with the high school. Treatment and Corrections work together like CPC and PI in getting people involved in service. Our Archives Chair will be attending the Archives Conference.

We now have a facility called Vince Grant Hall in Bozeman. District is now holding its monthly meetings there. We have enthusiastic GSR's and Active District Chairs. It has been great these first few months of serving in the District, visiting groups and attending group conscience meetings regarding the 61st Annual Conference Agenda, sharing information online and in person.

District 81

Hello my name is Erin G., and I am an alcoholic: and I am the District 81 DCM. Our district spans from Thompson Falls to Superior with many towns in between. There are approximately 115 meetings held each week in this district by 41 AA groups. Our district meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Alano Club (450 W. Broadway Street in Missoula) from 2-4 p.m. Currently, all of our committee chairs are filled and between 15 and 20 GSRs are usually in attendance. Since our district spans across such a large geographical area we see less attendance from some of the smaller towns, although we do have regular attendance from several GSRs who travel over an hour to reach us every month. Now that the snow is melting (hopefully) the alternate DCM and I will be expanding our group visits to include all the towns in our district. We are looking forward to meeting more people who may not be able to attend the district meeting.

Our service commitments include: meetings to MCDC in Butte on the 4th Friday of each month; meetings to the Providence Mental Health Center two times per month; meetings weekly to two correctional facilities; and, meetings weekly to the Teen Recovery Center.

Most recently our District hosted Pre-Assembly and we thank everyone who attended from across the state. We had over 40 out-of-towners including several Area Chairs, our Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate. It was a very informative afternoon.

The Area 40 2012 Fall Roundup committee has been busy planning the festivities that will be held October 5-7 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. The committee meets almost monthly. A Valentine's Day Party/Fundraiser was well-attended by AA members. Our Round up PI chair is in attendance today with plenty of save the date fliers for you to distribute in your districts.

District 91- Sam B.

District 91 still reaches from Eureka to Elmo. There are 21 active groups with 8-10 groups regularly attending our monthly district meeting. That is 113 meetings a week. The District business meeting is held at 3 PM the 4th Sunday of every month with a rotating meeting location where the host group representative volunteers their meeting hall for the upcoming meeting. Once in awhile there are a few group members attending that actually are interested in General Service. It seems to work very well as it brings the district to the group.

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We have had approximately half of all groups represented at district. A motion was passed to assist in the funding of GSR's to the Area Assembly for groups that cannot afford to send a representative. Into Action Weekend in February was outstanding. Terry and Virginia were most excellent speakers. Next year, The chair of the event is Matt H.. who is our new, most active, Grapevine Chair. Venue and Speaker have already been picked. Sheldon from Las Vegas will be our guest for that event February 17th and 18th of next year. Keep your eye open for the flier. We have Delegate's day scheduled for next month on the 22nd. Four of our standing committees, PI, CPC, Treatment, and Corrections are planning a joint workshop later in the year. The Spring 2012 Spring roundup committee is now meeting monthly with speakers and venue already chosen. Also, keep your eyes open for fliers for The Flathead Valley Intergroup Campout at Emery bay on the Hungary Horse Reservoir. The last one had about 80 people at the Speakers meeting on Saturday Night. The Serenity Group's Founders Day Campout at Talley Lake and the Whitefish Groups Campout are also big events. Last month, I had the privilege to attend my first WCRSC in Minnesota. It was a life changer. I presented on the topic of Diversity in AA: Inclusiveness not exclusiveness. My focus was on Spirituality: Agnostics and Atheists in AA. I found it very difficult to be objective.

District 93-

My name is Jay T. and I am an alcoholic, District 93 DCM. Greetings from the Bitterroot Valley. We have 15 groups with 29 meetings a week. We will be starting this spring off with our Spring Fling Saturday April 30th. There will be a potluck, talent show ending with a candlelight meeting. Then we will have Norm's Picnic put on by The Darby/Conner Group on the West Fork River on June 18th & 19th. Potluck Saturday night followed by a campfire meeting. Sunday morning potluck breakfast followed by a Speakers meeting. If you like you can camp-out also. Then on the next weekend June 24th, 25th & 26th we will be having our Annual Bitterroot Picnic & Camp-out at Painted Rocks State Park Campgrounds. There will be potlucks Friday & Saturday nights and we will supply hamburgers & hot dog. Sunday morning we will have breakfast and we will supply eggs, sausage & potatoes around 8:00 am. Then around 10:00 am Terry S. will be giving his Delegate's report. You can come up earlier in the week as some of us get there Wednesday. There are fliers on the back table that will give you more information. In closing we would like to thank District 81 for putting on the pre-assembly and all who were there.

Area Advisor- Carole B.

Greetings, Hello Area 40 For the first time in two years, I've submitted my report on time! In November, I participated in the outgoing and incoming delegate discussion with Terry. Then in January per the Area Policy and Procedures, I participated in my final Area Audit. Your contributions are being spent in accordance with the Policy and Procedures. I provided advice in the two Area Committee conference calls. If Coop from Rhode Island is listening, I am also active in corrections work in District 11. He strongly encourages past delegates to stay active. Throughout the weekend, I'll make sure the coffee is flowing and I will continue to be available if advice is needed.

WCRAASC-2012

Hello my name is Don and I am an Alcoholic. I would like to thank Terry for asking me to Chair this event. The Conference is going to be held at the Holiday Inn in Billings on March 2, 3, and 4 2012. Thanks to Scott W. for securing the facility. There is a block of rooms for \$84 a night. We are holding Committee meetings on the third Saturday of the Month at the Intergroup Office, 2931 Colton BLVD, at 10 AM. We are still looking for people to work on the Committee. It is Area 40 responsibility to have a literature, grapevine, and archives displays at the event. I have contacted the Chair persons and let them know to keep the dates open so they can attend. We will not have Literature or Grapevine Materials for Sale, just display only. The committee in Minnesota said not much materials selling so we will have order blanks if people want to order something. Paul W is going to tape the event. I brought some preliminary flyers for the event. Once we have information for the agenda, we will get the registration forms printed and distributed. We are still waiting for the 2011 committee to send seed money so we can get a Bank Account and P.O. Box. You can contact me if interested in serving on the committee or just show up at the meeting.

National Archives Convention Report

Good morning, my name is Gerry and I'm an alcoholic. I also have the privilege of serving as your Archivist as well as Chair for the 15th National AA Archives Workshop. In true AA fashion, we must claim workshop progress, rather than workshop perfection; however, we think you'll appreciate what we've accomplished thus far. As the program reads, right now we have, among others, confirmations of presentations by; GSO Archivist, Michelle Mirza, the Executive Director of Stepping Stones, Anna Perth, Past Akron Archivist and current Historian, Gail L., a Co-Editor of the internet site - Silkworth.net, Mike G., along with a past West Central Regional Trustee, Carl B. We will also have many of the most dedicated and knowledgeable AA archivists and historians from around the U.S. and Canada. Many of these archivists will also be presenting in breakouts on various topics throughout the weekend. In addition, we will have traveling archive displays from GSO and Stepping Stones, and also have confirmations of displays from Area 92, Eastern Washington, Area 18 Idaho, Area 76, Wyoming, Area 35 Northern Minnesota, and Area 78, Alberta Canada. Yes folks, we've gone international. We are still waiting on confirmation from other Area's including, hopefully, a couple more from Canada. Also, seeing as Al Anon had a presence at the beginning of AA, we feel it is only right that they also have a presence at this workshop. Al Anon will have both an Archives display and breakout at the workshop. Most people don't know that Montana has the only non-rotating Al-Anon Archivist in the nation. That is Jeanne H. Local flavor that will be included in the program are presentations by past Area 40 Archivist Tom W. Past District 61 Archives Chair Laurie C. and current Area Archives Chair Joe H. We received \$1,500.00 in seed money from the previous host, Macon Georgia, and have put that money to work already. We have confirmed a block of fifty rooms at the Wingate Inn

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Calendar of Events

MAY 2011

6-7—**BILLINGS**—Big Book Weekend—Carole B.

13-15—**GREAT FALLS**—"Together We Can, Together We Grow" 2011 Spring Roundup. Best Western Heritage Inn. Jamie L.

JUNE 2011

18—**GREAT FALLS**—Local Forum—Best Western Heritage—Scott W.

19 **MILES CITY**—Local forum—Scott W.

19-21 **NEIHART**—Unity Campout—Steve D.

AUGUST 2011

12-14 **FORT PECK**—Wild West Sober Fest—Laura S.

19-21 **FIREMAN'S POINT S. OF COLUMBUS**—Campout—Sandy A.

24-26—**BILLINGS**—19th Annual Beartooth Mountain Conference

SEPTEMBER 2011

9-11—**DAVENPORT, IOWA**—West Central Regional Forum—Terry S.

17-18—**LEWISTOWN**—Fall Assembly—Sharon S.

22-25—**HELENA**—15th Annual National A.A. Archives Workshop—Gerry R.

OCTOBER 2011

14-16—**HELENA**—Fall Roundup—at the Red Lion Colonial Inn Karla I.

MARCH 2012

2-4—**BILLINGS**—West Central Region Service Conference—Don B.

MAY 2012

4-6 **KALISPELL**—Spring Roundup—.Mary M. Chair

OCTOBER 2012

5-7 **MISSOULA**—Fall Roundup—Rob H. Andrew W. or Heather

(continued from NAAAWS page 13)
in Helena with the ability to expand that number if needed. We have also reserved meeting rooms for those portions of the event that will be held there. We have reserved The Gateway Convention Center, where the bulk of the event will take place, along with confirmation of our caterer for the Friday luncheon and Saturday evening Banquet. We will be utilizing a shuttle service between the hotel and convention center, and have confirmed those arrangements as well.

Alex M. the Area 40 Webmaster has been moonlighting as the Workshop Webmaster and has done a fantastic job. Many of the past workshop chairs have written me just to gush about what a great job he's done and how good the site looks. The website address is - aanationalarchives-workshop.com. I invite you all to check it out. You can download a registration flyer there, as well as check out the program for the event. I do need to note one disappointment that we've experienced in the program. We originally were told that we would be able to present a play on Saturday night, called Bill and Lois: In Their Own Words. This play was developed by Stepping Stones and is composed primarily of the reading of actual letters written between Bill and Lois over the years. I've been informed recently that due to production issues and proprietary requirements, we will need to present a video of the play instead of having an actual production of it. This was a real disappointment for us, especially since we had a troupe of actors headed by John A. from Missoula ready to take on the production. I and the committee both would like to thank John and the others for being willing to help, and regret not being able to proceed with this as we would have liked. We do hope that John, his

friends, and anyone else who is interested in helping out with the workshop please don't hesitate step up. There are many places where we could use your help.

That said, the workshop remains a truly unique event that has never been held in our area, or region for that matter. It promises to be an educational, entertaining and thought provoking weekend for all who attend. We have flyers for the event on the back table and really hope that we can get some early registrations. We know that, on average, we can expect about 80 to 90 people from outside the state to attend. That number may be a bit higher based on personal discussions with people. What we don't know is how well the Area 40 Fellowship will support the event. So, please, if you are planning on attending, get your registration in early to help us get some gauge of what we can expect. It is truly the level of the Area 40's support that will determine the success of this event.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Gerry R., Area 40 Archivist, XV NAAAW Chair

Past Delegate Sharing

There was great sharing from Bob H. and Loren B. Bob talked about God opening the doors so we can be of maximum service to God and the people about us. Our service structure enables us to do this vital work. Loren talked about no committee system when he started as delegate from 2000-2002, how, we are fortunate now with the committee system in place, the 4th edition Big Book was approved during his tenure as Delegate in 2001. His stories about how the fellowship didn't want Pg. 449 (Acceptance is the answer...) changed. There were a few resentments over this, but then, Loren remarked, "Acceptance is the answer."

Local Forum

At the Spring Assembly in 2008, the Area 40 Corrections Committee had an idea to have a Local Forum in Montana. The idea was discussed at that Assembly and the following Assembly. That idea went through the committee process and was approved at the Spring Assembly in 2009. One consistent question that came forth during the discussions was “what is a Local Forum”? Due to the large number of new servants at this Assembly, I would like to take a moment to share a bit on the difference of Regional and Local Forums.

Regional Forums take place in the West Central Region on a rotating basis. Regional Forums are generally three day events with participation by the Delegates in the West Central Region and participants from the General Service Office, Class A & Class B Trustees, members of the Grapevine & AAWS Boards to name a few. There are variant presentations by the attendees with concentration on services available from GSO, financial presentations on our Fellowship, Grapevine & AAWS discussions and lots of sharing from the Trustees in attendance. Simply, a great way to find out about Alcoholics Anonymous outside of our Home Groups and local Districts. The next Regional Forum in Montana will take place in 2021, ten years from now.

Local Forums are not intended to replace or be a substitute for service workshops. Local Forums are A.A. events put on by A.A.s for A.A.s about A.A. A Local Forum is coordinated by a Local Forum Committee and supported by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous to provide a Forum experience. Forum presentations and sharing sessions are made to meet population needs within local A.A. communities who for any reason are unable to attend regular Regional Forums.

Due to the length of time before the next Regional Forum will be in Area 40 – Montana and the challenges of attending Regional Forums in the West Central Region, be they distance, time or lack of resources – the idea of a Local Forum took hold and as mentioned earlier was put into motion in the Spring of 2009.

In an attempt to be of service to the new rotation of servants present this weekend, here is a quick synopsis of the actions and time line that brings us to today; Recommendation voted in the affirmative by the Spring 2009 Assembly to have a Local Forum in 2011

Recommendation voted in the affirmative by the Fall 2009 Assembly to have a two day, two location Local

Forum: Great Falls and Miles City

Local Forum request form submitted to the International Conferences/Regional Forums desk at the General Service Office in March of 2010

Local Forum request was assigned to the agenda of the Trustee's committee on International Conferences/Regional Forums at their July 2010 Board meeting Notification in August of 2010 from GSO indicating our Local Forum request had been approved

Invitation for participation at the Local Forum extended & accepted by Ken B, West Central Regional Trustee and Jim M, GSO Staff currently serving on the Corrections desk

Progress report to the Fall 2010 Assembly indicating the dates of the Local Forum: June 18 in Great Falls and June 19 in Miles City

That is the short version of the background on the upcoming Local Forum. Additional activities have taken place at District Meetings in Great Falls, Miles City and Colstrip. Follow up committee meetings prior to the event will be taking place. Volunteers to assist at both locations would be welcome. The agenda for the event will be the same both days. Ken B, West Central Regional Trustee and Jim M, GSO Staff will be the presenters. The topics they have been asked to discuss are: AAWS – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, the financial status of GSO, services available from GSO, Grapevine, and shared experience by Jim M from his time on the Corrections desk at the General Service Office.

Fliers are on the back table and also available on the Area 40 website. Registration starts at 8am both days. A lot of work has gone into preparation for this event and your participation would be appreciated. Simply, if you have any questions about the General Service Office, Grapevine, AAWS, the General Service Board or anything else about AA – this will be your opportunity to ask those questions. I look forward to seeing you there. Respectfully submitted, Local Forum Co Chairs Scott W. & Jewel Lea G.

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Planning a Future Event?

Want to be included in the *Triangle* Calendar, information should be sent at least by the month prior to the event. For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail or email to the Area 40 Editor:

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 20 _____

Name of event: _____

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