Area 40 Triangle

# Pre-Assembly Spring 2013

#### Welcome to Area 40!

Welcome to Sacred Space Sobriety! A new group meeting Thursdays at 730 pm at the Unity Church in Billings.



Volume 21, Issue 3

### It's Go Time

What I like to call "Service Season" is now upon us. As you read this article, the 2013 West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Rapid City South Dakota is history, and the March 9, 2013 Pre-assembly in Billings is probably underway, if not completed. That leaves Pre-assemblies in Somers (near Kalispell) on the 16th of March and in Boulder on the 23rd. If you are involved at any level of the General Service structure of AA, please make it a point to attend at least one of these events.

All this activity is, of course, intended to help prepare us for the upcoming Area 40 Spring Assembly at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, April 5-7, where we will all gather to discuss the agenda items, posted in this issue of the Triangle, with other AA's from across our state. Our purpose is to decide what is best for local AA on the Area 40 items, and to give our Delegate, Sharon S. a sense of what our thoughts are, as an Area, regarding each item on the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda. She will then travel to the Conference at the end of April carrying with her the Informed Group Conscience of Area 40.

Exciting stuff you say? But wait, there's more! The Spring 2013 Area 40 Assembly agenda will feature some interesting changes in procedure which will no doubt have seasoned trusted-servants, and first-timers alike, scratching their heads at different points during the weekend. Past Archives Chair, Joe H. outlines one of these changes in a succinct article, elsewhere in this issue of the Triangle, which will end a decade's long tradition of holding an AA meeting on Friday night and, instead, introduces a pair of welcome sessions, one for GSRs and DCMs, and another for Area Standing Committee Chairs, both designed to help attendees learn more about the upcoming weekend and their part in it.

I encourage you all to take part in service to AA as a whole and the still-suffering alcoholic by participating in these important events. It's "go time", folks.

Gerry R. Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate



## Area 40 Spring Assembly Agenda

## Yogo Inn - Lewistown, MT

## April 5-7 2013

## **Friday Session**

8:00-10:00 GSR and DCM Welcome Session – led by the Area 40 Delegate (GSRs, please sign in with your District's DCM at this time)

8:00-10:00 Area Standing Committee Chair Welcome Session – led by the Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate

#### **SATURDAY SESSION**

7:30-8:00	GSRs and visitors sign in with your District's DCM. (DCMs please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than noon.)				
8:00-9:00	Welcome—Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Housekeeping				
	Roll Call, Passed Actions of last Assembly — Area Secretary				
	Financial Highlights — Area Treasurer				
	Orientation to the Assembly — Delegate				
	DCM Reports (hard stop at 9:00 am—to be continued in the afternoon)				
9:00-12:00	Standing Committee Meetings:				
	Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy				
	CPC/Trustees				
	Corrections/International ConventionsTerrace Room				
	FinanceGypsum Room				
	Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC)Room 164				
	LiteratureSnowy Room				
	Public Information/Report and Charter & WebsiteJudith Room				
	Treatment/Special Needs/AgendaMoccasin Room				
	(Committee Chairs-If your committee finishes its business during this session, please notify the Area Chair)				
	WorkshopsSapphire Room				
	(For those not attending committee meetings)				
	9:00 - "AA-Beyond your Home Group walls."				
	Led by Past Delegate				
	10:00 - "Autonomy and Unity: How's that work?"				
	Led by Past Delegate				
12:00-1:00	Recess for Lunch				
1:00-1:30	Demonstration of Area 40 Website - Area 40 Webmaster Alex M.				
1:30 - 2:00	Remaining DCM Reports				
2:00-2:45	Delegate's Report with Q&A				
2:45-3:00	Coffee Break				

300-5:00	Floor Assembly	/ - Committee Repo	orts, Motions,	and Discussion

Corrections/International Conventions-RegionalForums

Public Information/Report & Charter

Literature

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions

Archives/Structure

Finance

CPC/Trustees

Treatment Facilities/Agenda

5:00-7:00	Recess for Dinner
7:00-8:45	${\bf Floor\ Assembly-Committee\ Reports,\ Motions,\ and\ Discussion}$
8:45-9:00	Coffee Break
9:00-10:00	<b>GSR Breakout</b> —Led by Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket/sharing

**DCM Breakout** — Led by Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket/sharing

#### SUNDAY SESSION

8:00-8:30	Roundup Reports
	Intergroup Reports
8:30-9:00 9:00-9:45	Past Delegate Sharing (15 minutes each) Floor Assembly - Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion
9:45-10:00	Coffee Break
10:00-12:00	Floor Assembly - Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

(followed by general sharing as time allows.)

#### Adjourn - Travel Safely

#### Fall Assembly - September 20. 21 & 22, 2013

#### Remember to make your reservations before you leave.

**Smoking:** The Yogo Inn is a non-smoking facility. Smoking areas have been established outside away from the doors. Please limit your smoking to these designated areas, use the receptacles provided, and stay away from the doorways.

The following is a list of agenda items and the Area Committees they have been assigned to for review. All items come from the General Service Conference (GSC) and will be fully addressed at the General Service Conference later this month. In addition, there are Agenda Items that pertain to Area 40.

The Committee Chairs should have received a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information sometime in February. This information is then passed on to other members of those committees for research, review and discussion, in turn providing for a well-informed conscience/decision. If your Group has any comments, questions, and concerns, or would like copies of any background information, please contact the appropriate Area Committee Chair. Your DCM has the names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee should you need them. The names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the Area Committee members are also in The Triangle (the Area newsletter) and on the Area's website www.aa-montana.org.

The General Service Conference items that were submitted to the committees for review will not come to the floor of the Assembly as recommendations (a motion passed and seconded) but will instead be addressed through discussion to ensure that our Delegate is provided with a sense of Area 40's informed group conscience and to help her in preparation for the upcoming General Service Conference.

#### Corrections/International Conventions Regional Forums - Lee G.

#### Corrections - Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair

#### Corrections - GSC

A. Pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals":

Review draft replacement for the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" and two additional revisions. Discuss a review of the entire pamphlet.

- B. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
- C. Discuss how we engage A.A. members in corrections service.
- D. Discuss how we use available resources in support of local corrections Twelfth Step work.

#### International Conventions Regional Forums

Discuss selection of three cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2025.

Discuss inviting up to twenty-one non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2015 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

#### Public Information/Report & Charter - Peggy H.

#### Public Information - Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair
- B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster.

#### **Public Information - GSC**

- A. Review 2012 annual report from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- B. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
  - 1. Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s.
  - 2. Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.
  - 3. Consider production of new video P.S.A.s.
  - 4. Review interim report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the video P.S.A. for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza."
- C. Discuss Fellowship sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven.
- D. Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page.
- E. Consider a request from A.A.W.S. for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature.
- F. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

#### Report & Charter

- A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2013-2014 Edition:
  - 1. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.
  - 2. Review suggested text describing the duties of the chairperson of the General Service Board.
  - 3. Review list of editorial updates.
  - 3. Consider adding "Advisory Action" and "Additional Committee Consideration" to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19.
  - 4. Consider suggested text from Publishing Department on the "spirit of rotation,"
  - 5. Consider request that "the definition and composition of an Area Assembly be modified for consistency and clarity in Chapter Four."

#### **Report and Charter Continued**

- 7. Consider request to revise the description of "Director (nontrustee)" in the Glossary of General Service Terms on page S19.
- 8. Consider request to update information about suggested qualifications for area registrars on page S45.
- B. Review revised draft text to add to Article 3 in the Current Conference Charter that includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal.
- C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).
- D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report and consider request regarding editing Area Highlights.

#### Literature - Bob T.

#### Literature - Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair

#### Literature - GSC

- A. Review the revised draft pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service."
- B. Review final report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality, along with the draft pamphlet.
- C. Consider a request to replace language in the second paragraph of the dust jacket of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- D. Consider a suggestion to add "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the *open* meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.
- E. Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
- F. Consider a request to add the subtitle 'None Left Behind' to the newly revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.

#### <u>Grapevine/GSC Policy & Admissions - Sam B.</u>

#### <u>Grapevine – Area 40</u>

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine Chair

#### Grapevine - GSC

- A. Review Audio Strategy status report.
- B. La Viña magazine:
  - 1. Review the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine.
  - 2. Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound).
- C. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2014 and later.
- D. Review the Grapevine Workbook.

#### **Policy & Admissions**

- A. Review dates for the 2016 General Service Conference.
- B. Consider suggestion that delegates who are elected to be alternate chairperson of a primary Conference committee would not be eligible to serve as chairperson of a secondary Conference committee.
- C. Review suggestion to revise the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference."
- D. Review report from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference regarding the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting admission to international observers at the General Service Conference.
- E. Consider changing the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items from January 15<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Policy and Admissions Continued**

- F. Consider request to revise the timetable for the election of one of the four delegates in Ontario to allow for two odd and two even panels in that province.
- G. Discuss the concept of combining the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy/Admissions Committees.

#### Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy - Kira A.

#### <u> Archives – Area 40</u>

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair
- B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist

#### Archives - GSC

- A. Consider a proposal to revise the video *Markings on the Journey*.
- B. Consider a proposal to publish a commemorative "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition" of the First Edition, First Printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 2014.
- C. Consider a request to post selected archival audio recordings on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- D. Review Archives Workbook.

#### **Area 40 Structure & Policy**

- A. Consider the request to revise article G7.6 of the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual
- B. Consider the request to move the Area 40 archives repository, from its current location in Helena, to Ennis, MT 59729

#### Finance - Libbie L.

#### Finance - Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair
- B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Triangle Chair

#### Finance - GSC

- A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- B. Review Self-Support Packet.
- C. Review report on self-support from the trustees' Finance Committee.

#### Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees - Serena R.

#### Cooperation with the Professional Community - Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine Chair

#### Cooperation with the Professional Community - GSC

- A. Discuss suggestion to revise text in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities* in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." to reflect current A.A. experience.
- B. Discuss how local C.P.C. Committees are utilizing new technologies to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to professionals.
- C. Discuss ways of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service work.
- D. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

#### **Trustees**

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
  - 1. East Central Regional Trustee
  - 2. Southeast Regional Trustee
  - 3. Trustee-at-Large/U.S.
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

#### **Trustees Continued**

E. Review the General Service Board's proposed plan regarding the slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board.

#### <u>Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities/Agenda - Brandon M.</u>

#### <u>Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities - Area 40</u>

#### <u>Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities - GSC</u>

- A. Review report on Spanish and French translations of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.
- B. Review report on the pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs" formatted for alcoholics who are blind, deaf or learning challenged.
- C. Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
- E. Discuss how Special Needs-Accessibilities Committees can communicate the various ways to make meeting places accessible to *all* alcoholics.
- F. Discuss ways that Special Needs committees might help groups prepare in advance for the arrival of deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics.

#### <u>Agenda</u>

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2014 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2014 General Service Conference.
- C. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Fall Assembly - September 20, 21 & 22, 2013



## **Delegate's Address at General Service Conference:**

Some groups and districts send cards to our Delegate while she is at the GSC. We provide the address in case your group would like to do this. Since this is the anonymity-protected version please email triangle@aa-montana.com to receive the address.

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District 91	Paul L.		dcm91@aa-montana.org
District 93	Kevin C.		dcm93@aa-montana.org

## The All-In-All Of AA's Organization

Hello to my A.A. friends in Area 40 and around the region and the country.

This time of the year is very exciting as we fully participate in the A.A. service structure. Bill W. says in **The Language of the Heart,** "We organize our principles merely so that they can be better understood, and we continue to organize our services that AA's life-blood can be transfused into those who must otherwise die. That is the all-in-all of AA's 'organization.' There can never be any more than this." These words provide good guidance for us the next few weeks as we study and discuss Area and General Service Conference business. I know today what my purpose is, and will do my best to keep this in mind and use our simple kit of spiritual tools to address my character defects (selfishness, ego, fear) that would interfere with that purpose.

The visual of the triangle helps me understand both our Three Legacies and our Service Structure. My home group buddy Rick says the triangle is strong, a good form for us! My sponsor told me that Recovery is the base of that Three Legacies Triangle and once I have worked the steps the only place to go is around the angle to the Service leg of the triangle. When we flip that triangle over, we have the General Service Structure. The groups are at the top, with the "final responsibility and ultimate authority for our world services" (Concept I) and the General Service Board (trustees), with "final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration" (Concept XI) is at the bottom. The General Service Board receives its advice and direction as advisory actions from the General Service Conference.

The pre-assemblies during March help us understand information about our services and business and financial condition, including:

- status of projects that are in progress as a result of previous decisions (such as new literature or revisions to existing literature),
- recommendations for new projects, and
- results of actions taken at the last assembly or general service conference.

We then take that information back to our groups and districts to help them understand and give us an informed sense (or conscience) on items needing decisions. GSR's and DCM's then attend the Area Assembly with this informed conscience to determine what the sense of the Area is. Thank you to everyone involved in this process. When I leave for the General Service Conference in April, I will be well prepared to contribute the conscience of Area 40 and to participate in decisions that are in the best interest of A.A. as a whole and our purpose "to transfuse A.A.'s life-blood" to those who would die without it.

Thank you for your trust.

Sharon S.

Delegate Panel 63 Area 40 (Montana)

## The Quote Corner

- 1. "Service is gratitude made visible. AA service work has given me a sense of self value by providing me the opportunity to give back to the program that has saved my life."
- 2. "First Tradition-no fighting in the life boat."
- 3. "I am really happy to be a member of AA, but it is up to me to make sure that AA is happy to have me as a member."
- 4. "I have a sense of comfort that things may not work out the way I want them to, but they always turn out okay because God is in Charge."

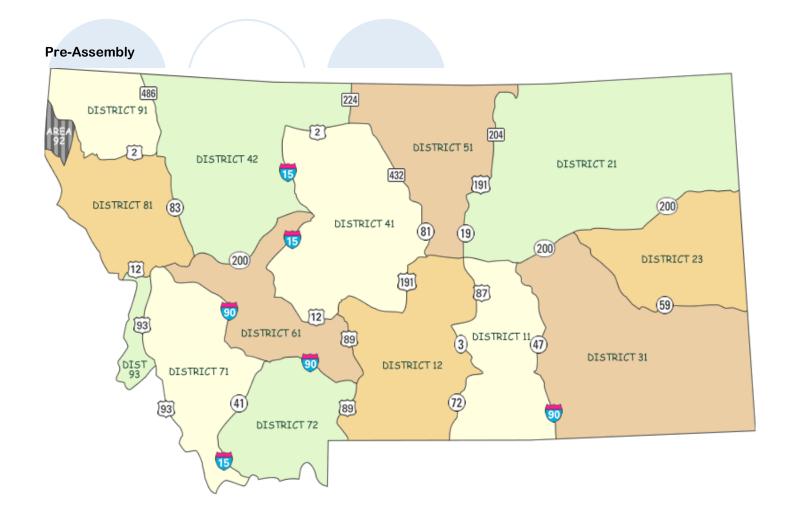
Quotes compiled by Tom W. of the Missoula Group

## **Area 40 Calendar of Events**

- \*\* Banff Round Up, Banff Alberta—March 8th through 10th
- \*\* Northwest Pockets of Enthusiasm, Spokane WA March 8th through 10th
- \*\* Pre-Assembly, Recovery Group Meeting Hall in Billings, March 9th
- \*\* Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm, First Presbyterian Church in Helena, March 15th & 16th
- \*\* St. Patrick's Day Soberfest, Community Center Hall in Savage, March 16th
- \*\* Pre-Assembly, Eidsvold Church in Somers, March 16th
- \*\* Pre-Assembly, Boulder Hot Springs in Boulder, March 23rd
- \*\* Area Assembly (Spring), Yogo Inn in Lewistown, April 5th through 7th
- \*\* Spring Round-Up, GranTree and Holiday Inn in Bozeman, April 12th through 14th
- \*\* 12 Step Study, Civic Center in Great Falls, May 4th
- \*\* Treatment/Corrections Workshop, 1st Presbyterian Church in Helena, June 8th
- \*\* Beartooth Mountain Conference, South of Big Timber, June 28th through 30th
- \*\* Deadline for Submitting Fall Agenda Items-, July 1st
- \*\* West Central Regional Forum, Bloomington Minnesota, September 2nd through 4th
- \*\* Area Assembly (Fall), Yogo Inn in Lewistown, September 20th through 22nd
- \*\* Fall Round-Up, Crown Plaza Hotel in Billings, October 11th through 13th



To have your event included in the Triangle please email it to: calendar@aa-montana.org.



## Friday Sessions at Area

Hello Area 40. Thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Area Archives Chair for the past rotation (2011-2012). It has truly been an honor and a privilege. I hope all of you will notice a change to the agenda for the spring assembly. In the past there was an A.A. meeting on Friday night that was not a part of the Assembly. The Assembly started on Saturday morning. At the fall 2012 assembly one of the agenda items for the Area 40 Structure & Policy committee was to consider a Friday evening session from 8-10pm as part of the assembly. The motion passed. Pages 22-23 of the minutes from the fall assembly detail this change. This has never been done before, so there is no precedent or past experience to refer to. Everyone that can and will attend the Friday evening session at the Spring 2013 Assembly will determine the course of this new venture.

Again I want to thank all of you for allowing me to participate in my recovery. Yours in love and service, Joe Hepfner, past Archives Chair

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If sending to Area please address check to Area 40 Inc

## **GSO**

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