

The Triangle Newsletter

A Greater Freedom

During nine years in A.A. I have observed that those who follow the Alcoholics Anonymous program with the greatest earnestness and zeal, not only maintain sobriety, but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance. Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of ways: in kindness and consideration toward the man or woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path; in the understanding of those who perhaps have been less fortunate in educational advantages, and in sympathy toward those whose religious ideas may seem to be at great variance with our own. I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior--which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite painful or obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another--and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to preconceived ideas and stubbornly adhered-to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important--in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.

These, then, are a few of the reasons why an attempt to acquire tolerance should be made by each one of us.

Dr. Bob of Akron

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

I am very happy to say that our hotline is functioning beyond all expectations.

Katelyn, the general manager at AnswerNet, started in late November sending e-mails for every call that was made to our statewide hotline call. It gives the caller the option of leaving their name and the option of leaving their number. It lists what city they are calling in regards to and if they would like meetings or a volunteer. It also lists the time and date of the call, how many attempts it took to reach the volunteer, who the volunteer was they tried, who it was they successfully reached, and in some cases after fifteen minutes they stopped attempting waited 15 minutes and reattempted the process. I made the lovely journey from Kalispell to Billings while following all speed limits. I was able to sit with Katelyn as she explained the whole process and some talk of what kind of motorcycles we enjoyed riding. I expected a big corporate answering service and was very impressed with their professional but small office. I believe with all my heart that our answering service is in good hands.

As always, please program the number into your phones, 248-2337, so you don't screen a suffering alcoholic call, like I may or may not have done in the past. Our volunteer stats for February were 1 volunteer reached in 4 attempts and has caused overages for in this month and others. PLEASE, district Public Information chairs, update your volunteer lists! Since I sent out a report that we were dropping the ball on this our numbers have improved. Our monthly should be \$225, but we have went over every month. Our high bill was over \$350.

I was invited by James from District 41 to attend the founder's day event in Great Falls. I look forward to participating in some great recovery in Great Falls. I signed 4 contracts with Northwest Directory Publishing and a couple with Dex Media. I also attended 2 pre-assemblies and viewed the love for Alcoholics Anonymous in our beautiful state. In love and service Luke S.

Area 40 - Archives

Hello everybody, it's great to be back at our Area Assembly and I'm excited to see all of you here! So far this spring has been great, and very busy as always. There's always so much going on this time of year, and I can't wait to hear what you all have been up to. We've got a lot of interesting business at hand this weekend, and it's always a joy working it through shoulder to shoulder with you folks.

Since our last assembly I have had a lot going on in my personal life, as well as my service life. Over the holiday season I took the opportunity to work on our assembly evaluation review, knowing that spring would bring us plenty of new business. Also over the holidays I ran into an old timer whom I had been waiting for a visit from so I could get his story for our oral history collection. I spent the next couple months tracking down a handful of others from around my neck of the woods who had not yet been approached. I have always been absolutely fascinated about our history ever since the first time a sponsor began to share it with me out of the Big Book. The recounting of our pioneer's experiences in the beginning is what made this thing real for me, because I didn't know what to think about Alcoholics Anonymous prior to then. So I absolutely love getting the chance to sit down with anybody who has some history to share with me about our fellowship's growth here in Area 40. When they share their individual experience of recovery, the continuity of our message is clear to me. This is where archives comes to life, and has a great value for 12 step work.

In February I was invited by the South Central Montana Intergroup to give an archival presentation of our area's history at the founder's Day Celebration in Billings on March 19th. This turned out to be a great opportunity to do some further research and update the "Billings Story" utilizing a couple past versions of the story, along with some stories shared from old timers, a few old Grapevine articles, and a handful of local group histories. The process has also left a few questions in my mind to pursue.

Earl also came down and brought a display from the archives. I got a few more contacts for oral histories, and a few old-timers who would like to add to some of the group histories as well. I would like to take the opportunity right now to encourage those of you here to find out if your group has recorded a group history. Please don't let your group's story fade away with the old timer's, get a hold of me or Earl, we would love to help you with this! I had an enthusiastic new group archivist approach me for guidance on how to get started, and we have had a few chats since. Pretty soon we will be having more fun together digging through some forgotten treasures!

Most recently I got in touch with a member from the Hi-line who has been sober 45 years, and has a handful of friends who were there when he came in, and are still active. We are trying to coordinate a gathering so we can have a fun reason to get together, enjoy each other's company, and swap some good old stories! It's going to be an Archives Party! I bet you never thought you'd hear those two words together, but I have to tell you that there just isn't any other way to put it. Archives work is so much fun when you get down to it. So why not think about helping us preserve our legacy? I promise, you will not regret the past, nor will you wish to shut the door on it! In Love with Service, Mike D. Area 40 Archives Chair

Secretary's Report

Good morning! Welcome to the Spring Assembly! My name is Julie and I'm alcoholic. And I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

Motions passed at the 2015 Fall Assembly:

From the Archives Committee:

"Modify page 30 of the Area 40 Policy & Procedures Manual to allow for a 5 minute report by the Area Chair." MOTION PASSED: 67 FOR, 4 OPPOSED, 5 ABSTAINED

From the P.I. committee:

"That Area 40 adopt changes to the Webmaster position and create an Alternate Webmaster position as set forth in the attached description." Two friendly amendments were accepted to remove the 3rd bullet under Alternate Webmaster requirements and to change the wording in the last bullet to read: "Selected & mentored by Webmaster... selection subject to PI committee approval..." MOTION PASSED: 72 FOR, 0 OPPOSED, 3 ABSTAINED

From the Finance committee:

Recommended the 2016 Budget in the amount of \$30,210.00 MOTION PASSED: 74 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Julie R.

Area 40 Secretary/Registrar

Highlights from the 2016 General Service Conference (GSC)

Listed below are results from two of the items that were highlighted in last month's Triangle that were on the agenda for the 2016 General Service Conference in New York City:

- Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous

The committee considered a request to develop a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action. While sympathetic to the spirit of the request, the committee agreed that developing a plain-language Big Book was not appropriate at this time.

- It was recommended that the following text be removed from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of Twelve Concepts for World Service:

Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us — of both sexes — have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our "moms" and "pops," and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they are women.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Paul. I am the Area 40 chair for the CPC and Trustees committee for this rotation. I am honored to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity.

The Agenda items from the GSC regarding the 4 pieces of literature pertaining to the work of the CPC are very thought provoking and enlightening about where Alcoholics Anonymous has come from and where we are heading. I look forward to working with the other members of the committee on these agenda items.

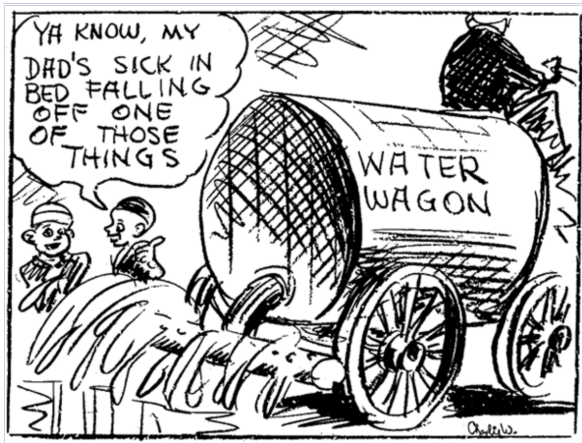
As far as being the chair of this committee I have not been very busy, but things are looking up.

- I recently participated in 2 of the Pre-Assemblies in Missoula and Boulder.
- District 72 hosted a workshop on "Sponsoring Your Professional". I spoke at on April 30 from 2:30 to 4:30.
- Dan F. from District 51 approached me about some difficulties with members of the local judicial system in regards to what A.A. *Does* and *Does Not* do. We think that a workshop may be the best way to share this information. We hope to hold the workshop later this summer.
- The coordinator of the Family Medical Residency program for Western Montana has contacted us about a presentation about what A.A. has to offer. This will be scheduled soon.

If there are any other districts or groups in Area 40 that would like some information about what Cooperation with the Professional Community means and what we can do please let me know. I am willing to participate in any type of event that would help inform professionals about the message that A.A. has. It is important that we continue to carry the message to non-alcoholic professionals about who we are and what we can offer to the alcoholic interested in recovery.

Yours in service,

Paul L. Area 40 CPC Chair



June 1946 Grapevine



July 1948 Grapevine



June 1946 Grapevine



"No, No, Harry—they have to have a desire!"

July 1958 Grapevine

GRAPEVINE

Hello Area 40, my name is Chris W. and I am an alcoholic.

It is a pleasure to be able to serve Area 40 as the Grapevine and La Viña chair.

I want to invite all of the area to renew your subscriptions or start a new subscription to the Grapevine Magazine, our meeting in print.

The winners of the grapevine challenge are Missouri for the Grapevine and Delaware for La Vina.

I have recently signed up for the Grapevine daily quote in my emails and use them to have inspiring and thoughtful conversations. The daily quotes is fun and a great way to start your day. Forward them on to your sponsees.

This winter I was invited to participate in the Flathead at their annual "Into Action" weekend. I held a work shop where we talked about what type of topics we would like to see in the Grapevine. Many members shared why they chose these topics. We had several submissions which included letters, drawings and a collage.

A fun fact from an archived Grapevine news, from the Did You Know section, in 1979, the GSC recommended that:

"When feasible, groups consider bulk orders as a means of making the Grapevine available." Grow your Grapevine is a new fun challenge. The Area with the greatest number of Arbor Cards submitted will be featured online and in the magazine. Get together with your friends, your home group, as a group of groups, district or area to complete as many activities as you wish. Go online at aagrapevine.org to learn more, get your arbor card, and activity ideas.

Upcoming events scheduled at this time are Founders' Day event in District 41 where I have been invited to conduct a workshop.

I want to thank my committee for a great break-out this weekend. We had some great conversations and input on how to help Grapevine Grow.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

In service, Chris W.

LITERATURE

Hello everyone,

My name is Jake L. and I am an alcoholic. It has been a pleasure to continue to serve as the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair. Our literature is an effective mechanism to spread the message of recovery to the still suffering Alcoholic. I want to thank everyone who attend these Assemblies and help keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive. I'd like to express my deep gratitude and thanks for the opportunity to serve for something that has added so much to my life. Thank you to the participants who attended the literature committee breakout for their lively discussion and input.

I continue to maintain a detailed inventory of the literature we have in stock and replenished this missing and low items, mostly pamphlets. Feel free to help yourself but please remember these are provided by Area 40 and feel free to contribute.

Please feel free to visit the Area 40 literature display in the back of the room, and I hope you will take some time to look at all the AA approved literature that is available to the fellowship. Our literature is an important mechanism for carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The feedback of this Area, and all the others like it, are vital. You can also find all kinds of information at AA.org and our own www.aa-montana.org. If you, your group or district have any questions please ask me, and I will do my best to get them answered. I am here to serve Area 40, so if your group or district have an event that you would like to showcase the Area 40 literature display, please let me know.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 40.

Jake L., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

CORRECTIONS

I'm Jay and I am an Alcoholic serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair,

On Oct. 6th, 2015 I made a book order totaling \$2449.60. On Nov. 15th, 2015 I went to District 72 Bozeman for a Workshop for Bridging the Gap, Corrections and Treatment. On March 12th I went to District 11 Billings, March 19th to District 81 Missoula and April 2nd to District 71 Boulder for the Pre-Assemblies. In Boulder I got cleaned out of Big Books all but one case, I have 12x12's and Daily Reflections. Made another order on April 4th totaling \$2525.10. There was an Orientation for Montana State Prison on May 21st. Also have a Mini Conference on Sept. 17th. Need to get a hold of Lee G. only 25 people from the outside can go both men and women. Time is 12:30 to 6:30 dinner will be served. You can find all of this on the Area 40 Web Site. I have attached Pink Can records to my report. I also have it on a thumb drive if anyone wants to download it to your laptop. Like to thank all the members of Area 40 for the contributions to the Pink Can. Balance is \$1211.39. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Area 40 Corrections Chair. Jay T.

TREATMENT

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

Our committee left last fall assembly deciding to combine our current service pieces to revise and update a Bridging The Gap (BTG) workbook that was created by a previous treatment committee. I've inquired with our archivist and past chairs to find out more history and I'd be happy to share with anyone at a break the progression of our committee's process. A subcommittee was hosted in District 41, where the DCM, Grant, Treatment Chair, Hugh, and BTG Chair, Lance, and I met, revised and compiled the draft document in December. I again want to acknowledge and thank them. With the help from the Area 40 Treatment Committee members Karen, DCM from District 51, and Teryl, Alt. DCM from District 71, we have presented a final draft to the committee. I want to thank everyone who has a hand in reviewing and contributing their ideas, thoughts, and support. These service pieces are available to your districts.

I was recently contacted by Montana Chemical Dependency Center, our state treatment facility, in which District 61, 71, 72, and 81 are currently bringing meetings and BTG presentations into the facility. The facility reached out to our fellowship to ask for big books for the facility. I inquired if they had a budget for our literature and was told they don't. I was also told that the members that are in the facility do not have the money to purchase them. In response to this, I reached out to the treatment chairs in those districts that are bringing meetings into MCDC and they have enthusiastically responded to the need bringing the petition to their districts. I sent out 10 books immediately to the facility and they have received them and sent us a thank you card.

I was invited to District 91 in January to participate in a Treatment Workshop. I was able to meet with their new treatment chair Friday evening. The Treatment workshop was hosted by the New Hope Group on Saturday which was well attended. Again I wanted to thank District 91 for inviting me. I would like to also remind Luke we all never went snowmobiling.

I want to thank all of the trusted servants across the state who have been carrying the message into our facilities and have been working hard to connect the men and women coming out of our facilities in to our local communities. I will use this platform to petition to all of you, the GSRs, to please grab BTG volunteer sign-up sheets and bring them to your groups. We have many cities across Montana but you may be the volunteer in a town that we still haven't filled on our Area Database.

I attended the fall Roundup and traveled to Bismark, ND, for the WRAASC. I was able to attend the preassemblies in Billings, Missoula and Boulder. I am anticipating to attend the spring RU in District 81 and the BTG workshop in Tucson this September, the weekend prior to the assembly. But besides these weekends I am available to come visit your districts. Treatment workshops are a great way to fire up our communities to get involved in some of our most important 12-step work.

This journey of serving in this capacity has been one of the most beautiful things I have had the opportunity to do in my life. I've been abundantly blessed in my life and cannot express my infinite gratitude for Area 40 for entrusting me to serve as your Treatment Chair. Jessica E

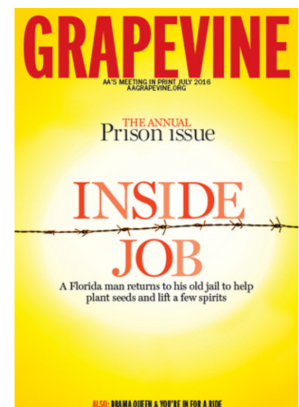
New from Grapevine

Forming True Partnerships

This collection of Grapevine stories shows the many ways members use the Twelve Steps, sponsorship, and the tools of the program to improve and repair relationships, old and new. When we were drinking, many of us had, as the Step Four chapter in the AA book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions puts it, "a total inability to form a true partnership with another human being."



Subscribe to the Grapevine!



Calendar of Events

July 1st
Fall Assembly
Agenda items Due

Assembly Dates 2016

September 16-18
Fall Assembly
Yogo Inn - Lewistown

Events

July

8th-10th - Cooney Campout - Cooney Campout - Red Lodge Arm Campsite

16th-17th - Norm's Picnic - Connor

28th-31st - Emery Bay Campout - Hungry Horse Reservoir

August

19th-21st - Lower Yellowstone SoberFest - Makoshika State Park - Glendale

12th-13th - Big Creek Campout - 19 miles North of Columbia Falls on North Fork Road

12th-14th - District 12's - Fireman's Point Campout

13th - Hot Springs One Day at a Time Group 7th Annual Picnic - Rainbow Lake/Dog Lake Campground

19th-21st - Boulder River Men's Retreat - Camp Mimanagish - McLeod

19th-21st - Fun, Feast, Fellowship - Group Area #26 - Pine Creek Campground

25th-28th - 2016 Northwest Fellowship of the Spirit - Fort Worden - Port Townsend, Washington

September

17th - 2016 Prison Mini Conference - Montana State Prison- Deer Lodge

23rd-25th - Havre Mini-Conference - 2229 5th Ave. - Havre

23rd-25th - Brothers In Action Men's Retreat - Camp Paxton - Seeley Lake

23rd-25th - Thoroughly Followed Our Path, Journey Through the 12 Steps - Red Lion - Wenatchee, WA

30th - October 2nd - Fall Roundup - Bozeman

October

8th-9th - 22nd Annual Flathead Valley Fall Refresher - Creston Grange Hall, 35 Creston Rd., Kalispell

November

20th - 62nd Annual Attitude of Gratitude, Radisson Colonial Hotel - Helena

May 2017

19th-21st - 2017 Spring Roundup - Big Horn Resort - Billings

Grapevine Quote

June 6

"When faith has entered the front door of our hearts, fear goes out the back."

*Nashville, Tenn., February 1949
"Thoughts for the Newcomer"
AA Grapevine*



July 1961 Grapevine

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

WHERE TO MAIL GROUP

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