

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## Area 40 Triangle



PO BOX 364 Huntley, MT 59037  
[www.aa-montana.org](http://www.aa-montana.org)

**GROWTH IN AA-** As one member of the Great Whole, how can I apply our spiritual principles in a way that will help me become a more effective part of this body?

**What am I doing today to promote unity in my life, in my home group, in our fellowship?**

*Tradition 2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

*Our second Tradition is the first of the eleven specific ways to protect and preserve our unity, our second legacy, upon which the personal recovery of each and every one of use depends. Bill W. was, by his own description, the first of the power-drivers, always sure he was right, happily ready to assume the burdens of leadership and grimly unwilling to share those burdens, let alone to give them up. In our second tradition, Bill, very familiar with the problems that power-drivers cause, offered us a way to have trusted servants, at the group level and on down the AA inverted pyramid, serving for the good of all, without authority over any.*

*When two or more of us gather together, to stay sober and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety, then in that gathering the collective conscience of the members of our group, gathered together for our spiritual purpose, will be our ultimate authority, our loving Higher Power, even when I don't agree with it*

*And I need to trust and support my group's officers, and cooperate in the discussion and decision-making that leads to an informed group conscience, with all points of view voiced and heard, and with any minority voice encouraged and carefully listened to.*

*And I also need to be absolutely trustworthy, even when nobody else is looking, in every service responsibility I undertake. It's not about getting credit for my AA work or praise for my AA ideas. It is about striving to yield to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it. No matter how long I've been sober, I must be willing to serve my turn at AA chores, and I must be willing to listen to others who may have more experience and knowledge than I've got about some of our business matters, and I must be willing to listen to others with less experience and knowledge than I've got, because today I might hear my Higher Power speaking in the voice of a newcomer.*

-Terry S

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# SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN SERVICE WORK

My first attempt to consciously work a step of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous was a selfish one. I was seeking relief from the terrible guilt I felt about harm I had caused someone, so I decided to try my hand at one of those ninth step amends I had heard about. I had no sponsor, had only successfully completed step one prior to this, and had yet to crack open the Big Book. My logic was that if I could just make this person understand how bad I felt, then I would feel better. Needless to say, neither one of us was smiling at the end of my efforts.

I had prayed for help as I drove the one hundred-plus miles to the meeting, and again as I drove home afterward, feeling disheartened and confused. However, during both trips, I was unsure about who or what-if-anything, I was praying to, and was nearly convinced that it was pointless to even try. My prayer went something like this; "I don't know if you're even there, but, I need help. I'm trying my best, but I need to know if I'm heading down the right road with this."

I had about given up and was scanning the road ahead, for a gap between the guardrail and the ditch, when I saw a man walking toward me on the opposite side of the road. I noticed right away that he was dragging a cross made out of two small pine trees with the bark still on. We drew closer to each other, and I saw that he had long hair, a beard, and wore a white tunic with a rope tied around his waist. Closer yet, and it dawned on me that he was real. I shook off my disbelief, pulled over, and trotted back to the man. His eyes opened wide with caution as I approached and he kept the cross between us. I don't blame him, I'm sure I looked pretty desperate. I can't recall if I asked, or if he just felt a need to explain, but he said, "I'm just a local guy, and God places it on my heart from time to time to pick up this cross and walk this road."

My throat tightened when I replied, "Well, I know why he did that today."

Through my tears, I shared my story with him, and he did his best to give me comfort. There's no doubt that what he was wearing, and dragging, had caught my attention, but it was his kind words and actions that truly left an impression on me. He accepted me where I was, as harmful as my actions had been, and he gave me hope that things would get better if I continued following the path I had recently started down.

I remember feeling hopeful when we parted ways, but, as powerful a feeling as that was for me, it seemed to pale in comparison to what my anonymous friend was feeling. He continued on his way, walking down the road, singing now, at the top of his lungs and with great gratitude to the God of his understanding.

It's taken me many years to even begin to understand the true impact of that experience. At first I thought it was all about how it affected me. It wasn't until much later that I began to realize the effect that it had on that kind-hearted man. You see, I had certainly been helped, and I felt great relief as a result of that, but he had helped another person in need, and what he felt was clearly beyond words. I found later that a good song does help to express it, but you do have to sing it loud.

I realized after that meeting that I was not at Step Nine, but was, in fact, at Step Two, and I had much work in front of me. Now, I would love to say that I raced through the rest of the steps, but I can't. I've continued to move forward however, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly, and at some of them I did indeed balk. Often, I trudged.

I take heart in the fact that even Bill W. found himself, some six months after his white light experience at Towns Hospital, still torn between the enticing sounds that floated from a friendly bar, and the three-hundred pound phone on the other side of the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel. What he did in that situation, is what we are each taught to do when it seems like every defect of character in us taunts, jeers, and demands that we go back to our old ways, he took a small step toward the phone. That step symbolizes every action I've learned to take in sobriety. It acknowledges my inability to manage my own life, as well as my willingness to follow an idea that is not my own, and it confirms my commitment to serve a cause greater than myself.

The most remarkable thing about that first step that Bill took, and those first steps that each of us have taken, is that it was taken on nothing but faith. Not the high-soaring, confident and assured kind of faith that we see from the pulpit, but an abject, hopeless, and downtrodden faith, one that hears all those taunts, jeers, and demands that remind us what a failure we are for having to perform this humbling act. The negative narrative, as I've come to call it. Fear is another word that fits.

I know Bill felt it, and I'm sure the guy I met on the road felt it as well. I could see it in his eyes as I approached him that day. Still, they both stepped forward, despite a reasonable fear that told them this might not end well. Clinging to a shaky faith, they reached toward someone who seemed to be at a place in life that was lower than their own, in an effort to serve a cause that seemed higher than their own.

I don't believe any of us begin with such a noble purpose in our hearts. We seem to grow into it. For instance, the first time I made coffee for my Home Group, I was terrified that people would hate it. Being a greeter was nothing less than an excruciating ordeal. I felt completely unprepared when I went on my first twelve step call, and when I was first asked to be someone's sponsor. I visibly shook the first time I chaired a meeting, and shook even worse when I raised my hand to stand for GSR. In fact, I've felt terribly under qualified for any service position I've started. There was a time when, given the option, I would rather have chewed glass than have to stand up and give a talk in front of a group of actual, breathing people.

I have learned though, from the examples of those two men, and so many other men and women in this program who I've witnessed reaching out to others in need, that this is how I am able to enlarge my spiritual life. In the moment, each of these efforts I've made has become my one small step toward the phone, or past the cross, my opportunity to grow in faith as I grow in service.

Now, I've been told that Bill had to walk about three-and-a-half miles across town to his meeting with Dr. Bob in Akron. I doubt that he walked back to the hotel afterward, but I still like to picture him doing so, head back and singing at the top of his lungs.

Gerry R, Area 40 Delegate

# FROM THE CORNER OF THE ARCHIVES:

## The Process of the Spiritual Experience

Ebby T., an old drinking buddy, now sober, had visited Bill in his kitchen in November 1934, had explained the **Oxford Group** teachings to Bill, who was drinking at the time, and planted the seed that would grow into Alcoholics Anonymous. What Ebby conveyed to Bill is the basis of what we know today as the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"I learned that I had to admit I was licked; I learned that I ought to take stock of myself and confess my defects to another person in confidence; I learned that I needed to make restitution for the harm I had done others. I was told I ought to practice the kind of giving that has no price tag on it, the giving of myself to somebody. Now, I know you are going to gag on this, but they taught me to pray to whatever God I thought there was for the power to carry out these simple precepts. And if I did not believe there was any God, then I had better try the experiment of praying to whatever God there *might* be. And you know, Bill, it's a queer thing, but even before I had done all this, just as soon as I decided that I would try with an open mind, it seemed to me that my drinking problem was lifted right out of me." - *AA Comes of Age*, 58-59.

And now, a few weeks later, Bill found himself once again in the hospital for alcoholism, totally inebriated and helpless, suffering through the barbiturate and belladonna "purge and puke" treatment of that day for drying out a drunk.

He had been in bed a short while he heard the doctor talking to Lois by the door, saying that if her husband came out of this episode and did drink again, he did not honestly believe he would live six months. When he heard these words he was immediately carried back to his talk with his friend Ebby and could not dismiss the idea that although Ebby might be batty with religion, he was sober and he was happy. He kept turning this over in his mind, in a mild delirium, and came to a vague conclusion that maybe Ebby did have something in a man's helping others in order to get away from his own obsessions and problems.

On his second day at Towns, Ebby, still sober, visited Bill, once again laying out what he had previously told Bill, then left. Struggling with his helplessness and his ego, sinking into a deep depression of incomprehensible demoralization, Bill finally surrendered the evening of the 14th, and the **Spiritual Experience** occurred, freeing not only Bill from the grips of Alcoholism, but countless millions of us down through the years to the present day.

The following day, Ebby brought Bill a copy of William James' *Varieties of Religious Experience* and Bill devoured it, discovering the answer to, and significance of, his Spiritual Experience. *Complete hopelessness, deflation at depth, and total surrender to a Power that none of us understand*, and then it happens! The result of "One Alcoholic talking to Another!" The carrying of the 12th Step Message! That without each other, without continued surrender to our Higher Power, without continued practice of the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, **we are doomed to insanity, incarceration and death! There is no reprieve through our own will power!**



The rotation started off with a email from GSO informing me of a National Indian Health board conference. It will be held September 25-29 in Billings. We will have booths there to display and distribute AA literature to professionals, who may have questions about what AA is and what it isn't. I have contacted Terri from the FIGHTING 11 th , who is rocking the CPC world, and she is very excited for it.

I was able to attend 2 of the 3 preassemblies. I heard very lovely discussion and learned something new at both of the preassemblies. I was told that I was participating in corrections and treatment workshop in Helena on May, 20 th and I could not be more excited about it! My car and motorcycle are road ready to come participate in your next CPC event.

I'm very lucky to be serving with so many of my AA heroes. My sobriety date is 2/3/07 and why I say this because I have made every possible mistake you can make in AA. Not one time did AA give up on me. It is only because of AA that I am able to stay sober.

The service work we do is so important. When I've dropped the ball people have taken the time to say you are doing a good job and encouraged me to stick to it. I can never give back enough to aa. So when asked if I m willing to stand for a aa position, I say I m to busy, just kidding . I say yes I m willing to stand. Only by giving, I will ever truly receive.

-Luke S  
CPC Chair

*In chaos theory, the butterfly effect is the sensitive dependence on initial conditions in which a small change in one state of a deterministic nonlinear system can result in large differences in a later state. -Wikipedia*

Can you think of any time when one event had a drastic impact on your entire life? Maybe even just one small conversation after a meeting, or one phrase somebody shared at a meeting.. Maybe one small suggestion from a sponsor that seemed completely insignificant at the time in the face of those present life circumstances.. When we are honest, especially with ourselves, about needing help from an outside power to influence our lives.. When we are open to really hear the experience that power has to share with us through others.. When we are willing to look within as we try to apply the solution..

*One small event can change the course of our entire lives!*



## THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

I was three years sober when I said goodbye to my home group. I had been accepted to law school in Missoula and they were kicking me out of the nest, so to speak. It's not like I was moving to another country, but I may as well have been. My entire support system was in Billings and I honestly didn't know what I was going to do without them. I was terrified. It took me the good part of a year to start connecting with Alcoholics Anonymous in Missoula. I attended several different meetings around town and was disappointed. They weren't doing it right! And they were never going to measure up to the people I got sober with. I was doomed. I kept making trips back to Billings even though I couldn't afford to. I was experiencing homesickness for the first time in my life. They had become family to me. I didn't like it one bit! Everything was terrible!

Thankfully, I have some very strong and supportive women in my life who insisted that I start giving away what had been freely given to me. I was reminded over and over that the gift of this program is in giving it away. I finally heard what they were saying and found a home group in Missoula where I could be of service. There were very few women attending. And the few who were did not have sponsors. I started doing service work like my life depends on it. Because it does. It wasn't long before women were asking me to walk them through the steps. I proposed some changes be made to the structure of the group and that a new service position be created to better reach newcomers. Soon after I became GSR.

My first Area Assembly was an eye-opening experience. I thought back to the night my new home group nominated me to be GSR. I was annoyed and resistant. I have a knee-jerk reaction that says, "NO. NO. NO!" to anything that could be good for me. It's interesting to think about all the things I was willing to do to get drunk or high. But when someone suggests I participate in my own recovery, I can think of a million reasons why that does not sound like a good idea. I didn't have any appreciation for the position until I was sitting in a conference room in Lewistown, Montana with a room full of people just like me. Drunks who were giving it away. Alcoholics Anonymous grew for me during the Assembly in ways I didn't think possible. Suddenly I realized what a powerful and awesome thing I am privileged to be a part of. These people were gathering together as protectors of our Traditions. We were having very difficult conversations about safety in Alcoholics Anonymous, the importance of anonymity, the potential advantages or dangers of social media, what we can do to remain humble, how to get literature into the hands of people who need it, how to be more welcoming and inclusive for newcomers, how to educate the professional community, create allies, reach alcoholics in prison. It was humbling and exciting.

I had a spiritual experience on the last day of the Assembly when the area archives chair referred to page 20 of the Big Book and declared that her heart lives there. It says, "Our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers, depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may help meet their needs." I thought of the last two years of my recovery. How I struggled to find a foothold. How I was full of fear and self-obsessed. All the times I told my sponsor how miserable I felt and how I wasn't getting what I wanted. It wasn't until I shifted my focus from myself to others that I got any relief. Without knowing it, I was saving my own life by jumping into service work. "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics." I understand that today in ways I haven't been able to until now. I am so grateful I stuck around long enough to experience the true magic of this program. I have found deep and meaningful spiritual growth by giving it all away. It works. It really does!

--Sabrina C.

# THE POINT IS THAT WE ARE WILLING TO GROW ALONG SPIRITUAL LINES. THE PRINCIPLES WE HAVE SET ARE GUIDES TO PROGRESS.

## Stay... Feel.. GROW!

Growing up, school came easy to me; I was quick to grasp tasks and concepts that took others time to master. While this trait has behooved me well throughout my educational career, it has created long-term struggles with perfectionism, and impatience with myself and others. For instance, if I was not immediately successful at a given task, I, or it, was deemed a failure that needed to be abandoned altogether.

Over twelve years ago I ended up back in Montana, the place of my birth, on a geographic cure. Two months into my time here, I again found myself drunk, jobless, and completely demoralized. However, this time I had a new awareness; I was an alcoholic. I made it into meetings shortly thereafter and unflinchingly moved forward amongst the support of the Missoula AA community.

After several years of sobriety, as it is, I was given a life beyond my wildest dreams, including a marriage and a career. The career took me to the desolate flats of rural North Central, MT. At almost nine years, I felt solid, but soon came to understand how dependent my spiritual condition had been on stores, the terrain, my home group, and even the people I was accustomed to seeing in the rooms over all of those years. I threw myself into my work and began to attend small, womanless meetings. It soon became apparent, however, that I did not have a strong enough connection with my higher power to survive in such a barren environment.

Despite my commitment to service, I slowly began to stray from meetings. I probably came much closer to drinking than I will ever know. After two years of swapping addictions such as overworking and eating, it became abundantly clear that my lack of spiritual reserves were no longer sustainable. In search of a better life, I got a job on the west side of the mountains and we moved again.

Returning to meetings in the new town I felt like a newcomer, I didn't want to be there and had immense amounts of judgment for myself, and everyone around me. The first year here was a fresh bottom in sobriety; I had finally slowed down enough to crash, and I crashed hard. Convinced that my situation would be better anywhere else, I began to look for another place to land.

Last year I acquired a service position that led me to run into old friend at Area Assembly. "So, do you plan to serve out your entire term in this position?" he asked coyly. I scoffed, thinking of my desperate plans to move yet again, "We'll see," I said through clenched teeth, knowing that I would drop the position if given the chance to leave.

When I didn't get the work I so desperately wanted elsewhere last spring it floored me. More than anything I didn't want to commit to the time and work it would take to stay—connecting on a deeper level with God, facing my depression and fears, making friends, and letting go of character defects to find peace within myself and my life no matter the external circumstances. Instead of continuing to run, I needed to learn how to stay.

My husband has just entered a two-year certificate program at our local community college, which requires us to stay in this area for a minimum of two years. What "staying" means for me today is: committing to the long term, working through the pain, using my voice, staying positive, finding daily spiritual practices, trusting others, giving people the benefit of the doubt, and finding joy, even happiness in the moment, amongst many others. It isn't perfect, but for now, I am patient.

Brynn C

*"Our AA experience has taught us that...."*  
-Alcoholics Anonymous pg563

The Long Form (or complete version) of our 12 Traditions are a set of guiding principles that were learned through the process of our fellowship's growth as a collective entity. These principles in essence provide us with a basis to become a unified body, and then to foster growth in that relationship.

From the very beginning of my new life in AA, I realized that there is such a vast wealth of experience at my disposal if I choose to receive it. The collective experience of the old timers at my homegroup was like capital funds in a bank account that I had access to—access which was only limited by my own ignorance. As long as I was willing to try and learn from them, I was sure to grow, and make progress.

Since then I have also learned that I can use the 12 Traditions in my own life as spiritual tools to improve my effectiveness in all of my relationships. The first thing I learned to do is to ask myself "how am I promoting unity here?" What am I doing to choose participating in this relationship?

AA taught me how to think about others, and I realized everything wasn't always about what I think, or what I want. Working the house cleaning steps helped me see how my actions affect others, and how to replace those actions with better one's.

Now that I have rejoined the human race, I get to participate. I get to belong. I get to keep learning from my mistakes, and I get to keep growing.

-Mike D

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS OF AREA 40:

First, thanks for allowing me to serve you as the Area 40 P.I. chair. I have been quite busy, between the Answer Net hotline calls and reports, emails from other members regarding questions about the AA hotline or P.I. in Area 40 and reading and discussing the background material for the rather lengthy agenda for P.I. at the 2017 General Service Conference.

As of April 5, 2017, the hotline has received 56 calls. In January 9 of 15 hotline calls were patched through to a hotline volunteer. In February 14 out of 19 were patched through. In March only 10 out of 19 calls were patched through. I have since began having Answer Net notify me when none of our hotline volunteers were reached. I have made sure each caller is called back by an AA member.

So as you can see, there have been several calls where no one has been connected. The first 2 months I was not sure what to do about this exactly. In March I just started calling around and finding someone to talk to or give the callers name and number to. In my opinion, this is unacceptable. I think we have several issues going on here:

1-AA members information no longer valid whether they are no longer in the fellowship, new phone number, or just not answering or able or willing to answer or return calls.

2-Answer Net information or volunteer lists may not be accurate or updated.

3-Answer Net operators not fully understanding what we expect when someone calls AA Hotline.

4-No volunteers on phone list for Answer Net in rural areas/Dark Districts.

#### How can we solve this?

What I plan to do after Spring Assembly hopefully with Brandon's Help is make sure we have updated volunteer lists/times available/numbers for Area 40 and be sure Answer Net has this information. I will also ask all District DCM's and PI/Hotline reps to update the lists from their districts and get this information to Brandon or I so we can get this updated. I will also be connecting with Answer Net and even traveling to Billings to meet with them if necessary to get this system working better. I would also ask everyone here to program into their cell phones 406-248-2337 as the AA Hotline so when this number pops up you realize it is the Hotline and can either answer or listen to your message and pass this call on or call them back. Also, announce this in your groups and districts so we all get this service working more accurately. Last when sending around sign up sheets for the hotline, make it very clear to put accurate information when you are available not just anytime if you are not available anytime, etc. Hopefully we as a collected group can do all we can together to insure anytime anyone anywhere calls the AA Hotline in Area 40 they are connected to an Alcoholic, it is our responsibility!

-Tim K. PI Chair

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

**At our Spring Assembly we passed a motion to send our Treatment Chair James to the 26<sup>th</sup> National Bridging the Gap Workshop in order to help us learn ways to strengthen our effectiveness in BTG.**

My name is Hugh and I am an Alcoholic, I am serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair. I have been busy since taking over in January. Jay and I got together in January and I received all of the inventory of books for the Pink Can Fund and would like to thank Jay T. for being there to help me with my transition. I have been working with Lee G. our MSP (Montana State Prison) liaison on Bridging the Gap inmates leaving the state. We have had more inmates signing up that are leaving Montana in the last three months than all of last year, which really makes me happy. The word is getting out that we can help inmates to transition to the outside AA world, so thank you to all who take the message into our prisons and jails. I also attended the per-assemblies in Boulder on March 18, and in Kalispell on March 19. Thank you to all who put the work into making both assemblies such a great success. I look forward to participating in Helena for the Treatment and Corrections Workshop on May 20th. I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your corrections chair.

#### **Pink Can Fund Report**

I would like to thank all members and groups of Area 40 for all of their contributions to the Pink Can Fund. I have a balance of \$5275.53 now. I will be placing a large order this month, so if you have any special requests please email me in the next two weeks ( aa.montana-org/corrections ). Attached is a spreadsheet of contributions since the Fall Assembly of 2016. Again thank you for allowing me to serve you.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

1. We had 14 people attending the meeting
2. We reviewed assembly report
3. Discussed corrections correspondence. We are in need of male volunteers. Average wait time for males is 4-6 weeks.
4. Discussed at length carrying the AA message to Native Americans, We are all in agreement that we can only carry the message as an AA meeting, not changing who and what we do. Ex...no sweat lodges, no smudges or any other things that sway is from our traditions. I will be calling all reservations in Montana to see how many jails have AA meetings being brought into them, Will report back to all.
5. Discussed ways to encourage new first time attendees to regional forums. Ex. Sponsor into service work.
6. Reviewed 2030 international convention site/selection procedures. Very well put together, no chance of it ever coming to Montana. LOL

Thank you again for allowing to to serve as Area 40 Corrections Chair  
Yours in Service  
Hugh M



# THIS IS AN EXPERIENCE YOU MUST NOT MISS!! WE KNOW YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS IT!!

## May 19-21

Area 40 Spring Roundup  
Billings, MT @Bighorn Resort  
Speakers/Workshops/Meetings  
BBQ/Ice Cream/Brunch/Poker  
Run/Street Dance/Scavenger Hunt  
\$40 Registration

[www.billingsroundup.com](http://www.billingsroundup.com)

## May 20

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Corrections & Treatment  
Workshop  
Helena, MT @First Presb. Church  
11am-3pm cost \$10  
Panel speakers & discussion

## May 20

Montana State Prison Orientation  
Deer Lodge, MT  
Applications must be approved to attend

## June 2-4

42<sup>nd</sup> Bitterroot Picnic & Campout  
Lake Como, MT  
3 Sisters Group Campsite  
Speakers/ Campfire Mtgs/ Food/ Fun!  
Sheri W 406-363-6979

## June 9-11

Founders Day Campout  
Talley Lake, MT  
Potlucks/Speakers/Campfire Mtgs  
Cristy M 406-261-6531

## June 10

District 81 Founders Day  
Missoula, MT @First Christian Church  
10am-3pm  
Workshop/ Delegate's Report/ BBQ  
Lawrence C 406-396-7477

## June 16-18

HOW Group Campout  
Bozeman, MT  
@Moose Creek Flat Campground  
Potlucks/ Campfire mtgs/ Sober Fun

## June 16-18

Bigfork AA By The Bay Campout  
Swan Lake Campground  
Potlucks/ Speakers/ Campfire Mtgs  
Kathryn L 406-270-7183

## June 23-25

25<sup>th</sup> Beartooth Mountain Conference  
Mcleod, MT @Camp on the Boulder  
Speakers/ Cabins/ Food/ Activities  
Cost \$155 all inclusive  
Rick T 406-672-9860

## June 24

District 61 Grapefest  
Helena, MT @Wilson House  
2pm Potluck/ Delegate Report/  
Local panel speakers  
Kristen K 503-764-7846

## Area 40 Financial Highlights

It was an expensive month with the Area Assembly running close to \$400 over budget for the month. The Yogo Inn was under budget but the travel costs (gas, mileage, meals and lodging) were more. Though the year-to-date total shows we are currently under budget, I have not received all of the expense reports yet for April.

On the income side, Area 40 has received over \$10k in contributions in the first four months of the year. If that rate continues it should put us close to our total budget of \$34,930 by the end of the year. Thanks to all districts, groups and individuals for your financial participation!!

The current checkbook balance is \$17,281.61 which means \$11,643.33 is our prudent reserve, and \$5,638.28 is our operating balance.

For a detailed report of income vs expenses please visit [www.aa.montana.org/committee](http://www.aa.montana.org/committee) and you will find all past as well as current financial reports for Area 40.

Wishing you all a wonderful sober summer!

Julie R.  
Area 40 Treasurer

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P.O. Box 3878

Bozeman, MT 59772

*If sending to Area please address check  
to Area 40 Inc*

**GSO**

PO Box 459

Grand Central Station

NEW YORK, NY 10163