

Area 40 Triangle

Volume 25 Issue 3

“Shaping Our Future”



Area Assembly to be held in Great Falls this September.

History in the Making?

This will be the first time in 42 years that Area 40 will hold it's Assembly outside of Lewistown, MT !!!

What the Future may Hold...

Members have requested that the Area consider a rotation of Assembly location sites, much like the Area Roundups.

Area 40 encourages your interest in our democratic process of conducting business. We would love to see you at the Fall Assembly in Great Falls!

PRE-ASSEMBLY

- A letter from the Area Chair regarding information for the upcoming Assembly
- Agenda outline for Fall Assembly
- Financial highlights for the first half of this year's Treasury

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Highlight's from our Panel 67 Delegate to the General Service Conference. A view into the GSC process, and the services GSO is providing us with, as well as some in the works!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A Calendar of Events in AA all around Area 40 to wrap up your summer, and get you through the Fall season before the Winter Chill. Opportunities for fun, fellowship, service, and the like. We know you will not want to miss!

PRE-ASSEMBLY FALL 2017

Letter From The Chair:

As I sit here writing this article I am struck by the fact that the Area 40 Fall Assembly is only 40 days away (although when I originally wrote this it was 63 days before Assembly, I don't know what happened to those last 23 days, probably chalk it up to that old persistent character defect of procrastination). Where does the time go?

This upcoming Fall Assembly for Area 40 will be held in Great Falls at the Holiday Inn on September 15, 16 and 17. (Be sure to get your reservations in by **September 1st** to get the discounted rates. The discount code is A4A).

The Area 40 Archivist, Earl F. did some digging through the information stored at the Area Archives and discovered that we have been holding Area Assemblies in Lewistown, Montana since 1975. The first Assemblies were held at the Episcopal Church four blocks north of Main Street. In 1977 we moved to the Yogo Inn. Over the past 40 years at the Yogo Inn we have discussed moving to different venues numerous times for different reasons. We have appointed three different ad-hoc committees to address this issue and to look at the different candidates and variables.

It wasn't until the Spring Assembly of 2016 that an ad-hoc committee was created and charged with finding a different venue for the 2017 Fall Assembly. The motion passed unanimously. After much hard work by the committee they came up with a list of suitable sites. The Fall Assembly in 2016 approved moving the 2017 Fall Assembly to Great Falls by a vote of 71 to 10. After much work and negotiating, an AreaCommittee Conference Call, and some gnashing of teeth we signed a contract for the upcoming Assembly last March. We are all looking forward to a positive change by holding the Area Assembly at a different venue.

This Fall Assembly has five new Agenda Items submitted from all over the Area. There is also a tabled motion from the Spring Assembly. Most of the Agenda Items will be discussed in the Archives Committee that has the secondary assignment of Area 40 Structure and Policy. The other Agenda Item will be discussed at the Treatment / AgendaCommittee.

The Agenda Items for the Archives Committee are:

1. Update items in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures to reflect current practice.
2. Review to decide 2-3 agenda items from the GSC to discuss by their committees so that the rest of the committee time can be spent on items pertaining to Area 40.
3. Rotation of Area Assembly meeting site throughout the Area.
4. Consider the distribution method of GSC and Area background material.

The Agenda Item for the Treatment Committee:

1. Form an Ad Hoc Committee to decide if adding an Area Chair for Bridging the Gap is necessary.

Thank You for giving me the chance to serve AA in Area 40.

Paul L.

Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda **DRAFT**
Holiday Inn --- Great Falls, MT
September 15 - 17, 2017

FRIDAY SESSION

8:00-10:00 **Mansfield Room** Welcome Session – led by the Delegate.
8:00- 9:00 **Boardroom** Area Standing Committee Chair Mtg.

SATURDAY SESSION

7:30-8:00 Sign in

8:00-9:00 Welcome

Orientation to the Assembly
Roll Call – Past Actions
Financial Highlights
Triangle Report
Chair Report
DCM Reports

9:00-9:15 Coffee Break

9:15-12:00 Standing Committee Meetings

9:15-12:00 Workshops: Getting the A.A. Message Out/ A.A. & Technology:
Topic1 – *Where Innovation Meets the Traditions* Led by Past Delegate: Sharon S.
Topic2 – *A.A. and Social Media* Led by Past Trustee: Bill N.

12:00-1:00 Recess for Lunch

1:00-1:30 Area Chair Topic

1:30-2:00 Remaining DCM Reports

2:00-2:45 Delegates Report (with Questions and Answers)

2:45-3:00 Coffee Break

3:00-5:00 Floor Assembly—Committee Reports, Motions and Discussion

5:00-7:00 Recess for Dinner

7:00-7:45 Past Trustee sharing – Bill N.

7:45-8:45 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (cont.)

8:45-9:00 Coffee Break

9:00-10:00 GSR Breakout Ask-It-Basket & Sharing Led by Past Delegate

DCM Breakout Ask-It-Basket & Sharing Led by Past Trustee: Billy N. Mansfield Rm

SUNDAY SESSION

8:00-8:30 Roundup Reports
Intergroup Reports
WCR Forum Report from Sioux Falls, S.D.

8:30–9:00 Past Delegate Sharing – TBA

9:00-9:45 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (cont.)

9:45-10:00 Coffee Break

10:15-12:00 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion
(followed by general sharing as time allows)

**The Holiday Inn will be providing a Breakfast Buffet Sat & Sun morning as well as a Lunch Buffet on Sat!! (prices TBA)*

Area 40, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual by Line Item
July 2017

	<u>Jul 17</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Jul 17</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Individual contribution	15.00		385.00		
Group Contributions	2,514.34		16,736.88		
District Contribution					
Hotline	0.00		150.00		
District Contribution - Other	0.00		850.00		
Total District Contribution	0.00		1,000.00		
7th Tradition	0.00		431.00		
Triangle Subscriptions	0.00		120.00		
Total Income	2,529.34		18,672.88		
Expense					
Computer software	0.00		206.97		
Travel Expenses					
Gas	70.00	125.00	1,623.98	1,430.00	2,250.00
Mileage	21.00	40.00	729.50	705.00	1,215.00
Meals	0.00	75.00	1,439.03	1,275.00	2,460.00
Lodging	532.60	75.00	5,106.32	3,575.00	6,725.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	484.40	0.00	1,153.33	1,150.00	2,650.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Travel Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	1,650.00
Total Travel Expenses	1,108.00	315.00	11,652.16	9,835.00	18,550.00
Rent					
Archives storage	24.00	21.00	114.00	146.00	3,850.00
Meeting space	0.00	0.00	1,504.04	1,600.00	3,200.00
Total Rent	24.00	21.00	1,618.04	1,746.00	7,050.00
Literature Expenses					
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	200.00
Total Literature Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	200.00
Photocopies / printing					
Background information	0.00	0.00	108.39	125.00	225.00
Photocopies / printing - Other	0.00	250.00	686.75	1,525.00	2,450.00
Total Photocopies / printing	0.00	250.00	795.14	1,650.00	2,675.00
Dues, registration, fees	0.00	0.00	244.00	25.00	50.00
Postage	0.00	60.00	113.65	335.00	525.00
Supplies	0.00	50.00	287.59	175.00	300.00
Telephone					
Directory Listings	264.50	100.00	1,098.20	1,000.00	2,200.00
800 Number	242.86	250.00	1,677.82	1,750.00	3,000.00
Total Telephone	507.36	350.00	2,776.02	2,750.00	5,200.00
Miscellaneous expense	0.00	0.00	167.10	380.00	380.00
Total Expense	1,639.36	1,046.00	17,860.67	17,046.00	34,930.00
Net Ordinary Income	889.98	(1,046.00)	812.21	(17,046.00)	(34,930.00)
Other Income/Expense					
Other Expense					
Archivist Expenses	0.00		79.50		
Total Other Expense	0.00		79.50		
Net Other Income	0.00		(79.50)		
Net Income	889.98	(1,046.00)	732.71	(17,046.00)	(34,930.00)
Checkbook balance	\$ 20,903.08				
Prudent Reserve	\$ 11,643.33				
Operating balance	\$ 9,259.75				

Where money & Spirituality *MIX*

GSO's Projections for 2016...

It was estimated that Contributions would decrease by 1% and literature sales would increase 8%. Expenses were also expected to rise 7%. This meant that we were expecting our income to be \$26,691 short of meeting expenses, causing the Prudent Reserve to be further depleted.

What actually happened in 2016...

Literature sales increased 6%, and group contributions increased 11.8%. Expenses rose only 2%. This all resulted in a profit of \$1.5 million. For the first time in ten years member contributions increased, answering the long echoed call. Group contributions for the year totalled \$7,934,869 which is a new record! This was achieved with only 41.5% of groups making contributions.

7th Tradition Contributions on the rise

In 2016 group contributions covered 80% of the cost for services provided by GSO. In 2015 it was 74%, and 71% in 2014. If we can continue on this trend, that means we can one day meet our long term goal of becoming fully self supporting by our own contributions! Let's all keep up the good work, and help spread awareness by talking about it!

How is the Reserve Fund affected?

The Reserve Fund is the amount of money that GSO has set aside to cover operating costs for a period of time should they ever struggle to receive income. It is recommended that we have funds to cover between 9-12 months worth of expenses at any given time. The budget fluctuates from year to year, in turn causing the reserve fund to be a flexible figure. When the projected budget is set, GSO calculates roughly how much money will be left "in reserve" after accounting for income vs expenses. GSO can then determine how long that "reserve fund" can be expected to last if income ceases. The number of months this fund will cover all services provided by GSO is referred to as the Reserve Fund Ratio. In 2013 the ratio was 10.9 months. In 2014 it dropped to 9.8 months. A slow and steady recovery is in effect from 10.2 in 2015, 10.3 in 2016, and now 10.7 for 2017.

How does this affect the Fellowship?

Some of you may be wondering why this is all so important for the future of AA. Surely my home group will be here for the newcomer, right? Certainly the most important thing we can do is connect the still suffering alcoholic with the recovering membership somehow. Our General Service Office provides countless vital services to the members of AA, the suffering alcoholic, and those afflicted by such. For 67 years GSO has taken direction from the General Service Conference, and the Trustees of the General Service Board to meet the needs of AA in accordance with our democratic process. Over the years society progresses, and people change the way they communicate, and relate to one another. Though the disease remains the same, as does our Message of Hope, we must continue to figure out the most effective way to reach those afflicted.

Members can now enjoy the convenience of making contributions to GSO online @ AA.ORG just click on "make a contribution" at the bottom of the page!

GSO Services Provided in 2016

Just a glance...

Over 90,000 emails were answered from AA members, and inquiries for help
The Corrections desk answers over 6,400 letters/year (17+ daily)
The Archives processed 1,450 requests for information and research
Shipping distributed 7.6 million books, pamphlets, and audio materials
1,020 new groups were registered in the US and Canada
Over 73,000 contributions from groups and members were processed
AA.org receives over 1,000 requests/day for help w/drinking problems
PI receives over 3,000 requests/month from the press/media
AA.org had over 13 million visits last year

Keeping up with the times!

Life in our society has changed drastically over the past 2-3 decades. We do things differently, so why should AA be any different?

-In 1990 over 500 million phone books were printed (roughly 2 for every American)

-Today you have to make a special request to get a phone book in most areas
(Or Just visit whitepages.com)

-In 1990 there were over 2.6 million payphones in the US

-Today less than 10% of those payphones exist
(most people carry cellphones w/internet)

-In 1990 over 120,000 sets of encyclopedias were sold

-Today Encyclopedia Britannica no longer publishes printed media
(google is a verb according to dictionary.com)

-In 1990 there was an average of 33 TV channels available per household

-Today 50% of US households use streaming services to watch over 200 channels

How is AA growing to serve a changing society?

WWW.AA.ORG

Our current page, even though it's been newly revised, is actually a placeholder for a more improved version that is still in the works and will soon be used to play a bigger role in helping to carry the AA message through video and audio.

AA's latest PSA campaign "DOORS" has won several awards, and is ranked in the top 5% of all PSA's by Nielsen (a global info/data/measurement company)

The 2017 General Service Conference passed recommendations for both AA World Services and AA Grapevine to create YouTube pages in order to reach a very large viewing audience and the younger generation of alcoholic. This is on one conditions: that they guarantee no comments will be shown from users on the YouTube Channels.

Advances in Information technology have changed the way people connect, and communicate with one another. The information is the same, but the way we access it has changed.


WORK IN PROGRESS....

- The CPC Committee discussed development of a **LinkedIn** page for CPC efforts and asked for continued exploration and a report back to the 2018 Conference Committee.

- The Grapevine committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an **Instagram** account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.

- The Grapevine committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a **Facebook** page and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.

- The PI committee discussed implementation of a **Twitter** account, but took no action. The committee requested further exploration of how social media could be used to carry AA's message to the public.

Exploration of these items does not guarantee that they will result in any actions. This is just part of the process which is used to determine how to best serve the suffering alcoholic and AA as a whole

I am Responsible.. When **ANYONE ANYWHERE** reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there..

GSC Agenda Origins

The Conference process begins with a request from ANY members' of AA who forward their request proposal to the Trustees of the General Service Board, who in turn select items to be included on the General Service Conference Agenda. Proposals must be received by Oct 15th so that the Agenda can be set by Jan 15th, and all background materials are then distributed by Feb 15th.

What Happens Next?

Each selected request is then designated to the appropriate GSC Committee to be carefully reviewed, and considered, leaving the Committee to decide how to handle the request. Sometimes they decide to take specific actions, sometimes they decide to take no action, and often they decide that more work is needed before any actions can be taken.

The Full Circle Process

In the end, we receive very meticulously developed materials and services which we have requested in order to help us more effectively carry the Message of Hope to the suffering alcoholic, wherever they may be found. Such pamphlets, workbooks, literature, and services may be obtained by simply contacting your DCM, Area Registrar, or GSO and requesting them.

SAFETY IN AA, A VITAL NECESSITY

This has been an important topic for AA members everywhere to consider. We all need to do our part to insure that we are providing a safe place for the newcomer to "Keep coming back" to. In Area 40 we have had many discussions, and even a workshop at our Spring Assembly regarding safety in our meetings. Several actions were passed at the Conference geared towards addressing this issue. *The AA Group* pamphlet will include some revisions regarding safety. A recommendation was also passed on to the Trustees Literature Committee to develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and future literature. A progress report has been requested for the 2018 GSC, so any drafts will be reviewed by GSC Committees at that time.

Alcoholism in the Armed Forces?

It should come to no real surprise to any that alcoholism plagues a vast number of active servicemen and veterans around the globe. The question is, what are we doing to carry the message to them? And more importantly, what can we do to reach them better with the Message of Hope? The Conference CPC Committee has made several advisory actions to address this overwhelming need. 3 pamphlets have been marked for possible revisions to add info for professionals who deal with alcoholic vets and military members, including ways to contact AA. A progress report has been requested for the 2018 GSC. The committee discussed ways of improving communication about A.A. with professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services and suggested that: The Trustee's CPC/Treatment Committee update the CPC Workbook to include more material specific to dealing with veterans and active military personnel. Some specific suggestion entailed adding experience from military professionals to the section "*shared one on one CPC contact*"; as well as developing sample guide letters to address military command personnel, chaplains, VA, medical, and counselors. The GSC Treatment Committee suggested that the Trustee's should forward the "*AA and the Armed Services*" pamphlet to be translated in French and Spanish. They also requested that GSO explore more effective ways to carry the AA Message to military alcoholics and report back to the 2018 GSC with such strategies.

Young People

What are we doing to reach the young alcoholic who wishes to recover, so that they don't have to suffer needlessly longer than they have to? If a young person can identify with AA, they can recover! Would you want your children to be able to find a solution, should they have a problem with alcoholism? A floor action was passed to begin drafting revisions for the pamphlet "*Too Young?*" In order to reflect more current experiences of young members welcome to AA. The pamphlet "*Young People and AA*" will be revised to include information about YPAA conferences in the section titled "*Where do I find AA?*" The Trustee's Literature Committee will continue to draft further revisions for this pamphlet and report back to the 2018 GSC. The GSC Policy/Admissions Committee considered a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the General Service Structure, but took no action. They in turn encourage young members to continue their participation at all levels of service.

AA EVENTS

IN AREA 40

Sept 1-3

34TH RAY OF HOPE CAMPOREE

Flathead Methodist Camp
Polson, MT
AA & AI Anon speakers
Lots of fun sober activities
Cost: \$75/weekend or \$30/Sat

Sept 8-9

FELLOWSHIP AT THE FALLS

The Bridge Church
Great Falls, MT
AA Speakers
(Babysitting Available)
Fun Fellowship Food & Ice Cream
Cost: \$25 (+\$15 for dinner)

Sept 8-10

WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM

Holiday Inn
Sioux Falls, SD
Sharing + Q&A w/GSB GSO & GV staff
members
Register @ AA.org

Sept 15-17

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY

Holiday Inn
Great Falls, MT
Floor Assembly, Workshops, Reports
Make reservations by 9/1 to get discounted rates (code A4A)

Sept 22-24

BROTHERS IN ACTION

Camp Paxton
Seeley Lake, MT
Men's Retreat, Fellowship, Bonfire
Mtgs, (Meals & Lodging included)
Cost: \$100

Sept 28-Oct 1

21ST NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOP

Clarion Hotel & Suites
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
GSO Archivist Presentation
Panels, Speakers, Workshops
Registration \$40

Oct 7

H.O.W. GROUP SPEAKER EVENT

Fellowship Hall
Bozeman, MT
Snacks, Potluck, Fellowship
Workshop: *How it Works*
Speaker: Karl M. (Covina, CA)
Babysitting Available

Oct 7-8

23RD FALL REFRESHER

Restart Church
Kalispell, MT
AA & AI Anon Speakers
Workshop, Potluck, Entertainment
Sun Breakfast
Cost: \$15 all inclusive

Oct 13-15

AREA 40 FALL ROUNDUP

Fairmont Hot Springs
Anaconda, MT
AA & AI Anon Speakers
Golf Tourny, Ice Cream, Open Mic, DJ
Dance, Marathon Mtgs, & More!
Registration: \$30 (meals not covered)

Oct 20-21

IT'S IN THE BOOK GROUP'S 32ND BIRTHDAY

Helena Indian Alliance
Helena, MT
Speakers, Potluck, Ice Cream
Workshop: *The Family Afterward*
Cost: 7th Tradition

Nov 19

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Colonial Lion
Helena, MT

For complete details
and
Event Flyers
please visit
www.aa-montana.org
and click on "Calendar"
in the Task Bar

If you have an
AA Event
that you would like to
add to the Calendar,
both in
The Triangle,
&
Our Area Web Page,
just email details to
Calendar@aa-montana.org

AREA 40 INC
PO BOX 364
HUNTLEY, MT 59037

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Billings, MT
Permit No. 183

CONFIDENTIAL
PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR GROUP!

**IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE HELP US CORRECT OUR MISTAKE!
IF YOU CAN GET THIS TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT ME,
OTHERWISE RETURN TO SENDER.**

Triangle Subscription Form

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A SUBSCRIPTION FOR YOURSELF, A FRIEND OR YOUR GROUP, PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE @ WWW.AA-MONTANA.ORG THE COST OF THE TRIANGLE IS \$10 PER YEAR.
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AREA 40.

SEND TO:

AREA 40 TRIANGLE
PO BOX 364
HUNTLEY MT 59037

GROUP NAME _____

GSR/CONTACT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscription fee. "Expired" above the mailing address indicates that the subscription has expired. Groups will receive the Triangle regardless of subscription status because of Past Actions of the Area Assembly.

Individuals: If your subscription has expired, please renew to continue receiving the Triangle.

**WHERE TO MAIL
GROUP**

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Area 40, Inc.

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