

# Area 40 Triangle

A Newsletter for AA in the State of Montana

**ISSUE 3-2018**

Post Area Assembly Issue

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## Snippets from the Spring Assembly:

There were a lot of nerves and shaky voices, but our trusted servants spoke in spite of their fear.

Dan from District 71 made it through his first DCM report at the mic and did a great job.

The Bridging the Gap presentation by Jessica E. was very well done.

Kacie gave a Super Awesome report about her Super Awesome District 91.

Gerry R, Area 40 delegate, was able to see a letter in the Archives in New York from Jimmy C of Montana dated in 1942. AA service work in Montana began with that letter from Jimmy to the Alcoholic Foundation (now the GS0).

**The Fall 2018 Area Assembly will be  
held in Great Falls  
September 21-23, 2018.**

**FALL AREA ASSEMBLY**

**Holiday Inn - Great Falls**

**For reservations, use group code : A4A**

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Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscriptions. Check it out on the Area 40 website @ AA-MONTANA.ORG

## **Area Chair Report Spring Assembly 2018**

Area 40's Spring Assembly has come and gone, and so to has the wintery grip upon our Area. The drive to the Assembly was one of the most harrowing and treacherous trips to Lewistown that I have ever undertaken. The threat of snowstorms and bad roads loomed all around the state. It turns out they weren't threats but the actual conditions. Our intrepid group left the Flathead through the Swan Valley and headed over Rogers Pass to the "East Side". We hit snow going through the Swan, encountered decent conditions down Rogers Pass into Great Falls and then hit the blowing snow and ice along highway 200/87 for most of the journey in to Lewistown.

This Assembly was exciting for a number of reasons. We discussed and voted on how we wanted to address the Bridging the Gap program that was jointly shared by the Treatment and Corrections Committees. The Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, Jessica E. was well prepared with a power point presentation and answers to all of the questions that members of the Assembly had for her and her committee. The proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee was unanimously passed by the Archives Area 40 Policy and Structure Committee and was passed by the Assembly on a vote of 71 -1. This is a very exciting time for Area 40 as this will help us to communicate with each other and unify our response to those looking for help from Alcoholics Anonymous when they are discharged from Treatment and Corrections facilities. A chair for this Committee will be elected at the Fall Assembly.

The other big news from the Spring Assembly was the creation of an Ad Hoc committee about future locations for the Area Assembly. The Assembly voted to move the Area Assemblies for 2019 and 2020 to Great Falls. (The 2018 Fall Area Assembly was already scheduled to be held in Great Falls and will be held at the Holiday Inn on September 21,22 & 23). Since 2014, there have been two Ad Hoc Committees about moving the Area Assembly and what the reasons for this were. This has been discussed during seven of the last eight assemblies. Either through Agenda Items or Committee reports. One of the most profound aspect of these reports was the difficulty members had with accessibility issues. The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Area Assembly by the Fall of 2019. The Appointed members for the Ad Hoc Committee are:

Sherry M. District 81 Missoula Committee Chair  
Mike P. District 91 Eureka  
Steve S. District 23 Beach N.D.  
Lori F. District 72 Ennis  
Dan H. District 71 Butte  
Terry T. District 11 Billings

Finally, The last bit of exciting news from the Spring Area Assembly is that District 11 (Billings) will be hosting the 2020 West Central Regional AA Service Conference the first weekend of March in 2020. Three Districts (11, 61 and 81) put together bids to host the Service Conference and presented them to the Corrections/ International and Regional Forums Committee. The Committee selected two of the Districts (11 & 61) that they thought would best represent Area 40 for the Service Conference. Presentations were then made to the Assembly and all members present at the Assembly voted. The vote was 51 to 30 for District 11 to host the Service Conference in 2020. Substantial unanimity was not achieved with this vote (53 votes for would have been substantial unanimity) so the decision was made to go directly to the hat. Jeremy from District 41 kindly donated his hat for this vote and he drew District 11. (I just love the way A.A. works).

I look forward to seeing everyone at the various summer functions throughout Area 40. Be sure to send a flyer or information for these events to the Area Webmaster so that they can be posted on the Area 40 website.

Happy Trails , Paul L. Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate

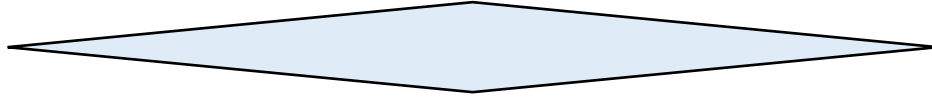
## April Financials

	<u>Apr 18</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan - Apr 18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>					
Individual contribution	10.00		40.00		
Group Contributions	3,038.38		10,702.14		
District Contribution	75.00		225.00		
7th Tradition	281.10		281.10		
Triangle Subscriptions	<u>10.00</u>		<u>159.98</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,414.48</b>		<b>11,408.22</b>		
<b>Expense</b>					
Computer software	69.99	0.00	69.99	50.00	50.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	(0.80)		(0.80)		
<b>Travel Expenses</b>					
Gas	406.71	780.00	830.15	1,310.00	2,365.00
Mileage	218.85	465.00	409.50	680.00	1,170.00
Meals	499.19	1,100.00	783.64	1,565.00	2,735.00
Lodging	1,394.53	3,170.00	2,495.58	4,660.00	8,400.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	0.00	150.00	1,241.58	1,150.00	1,650.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>
<b>Total Travel Expenses</b>	<b>2,519.28</b>	<b>5,665.00</b>	<b>7,560.45</b>	<b>11,165.00</b>	<b>18,120.00</b>
<b>Rent</b>					
Archives storage	24.00	25.00	96.00	100.00	3,900.00
Meeting space	<u>933.25</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>1,868.25</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>3,300.00</u>
<b>Total Rent</b>	<b>957.25</b>	<b>1,625.00</b>	<b>1,964.25</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>7,200.00</b>
<b>Literature Expenses</b>					
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
<b>Total Literature Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Photocopies / printing</b>					
Background information	0.00	100.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
Photocopies / printing - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>280.00</u>	<u>391.79</u>	<u>710.00</u>	<u>2,060.00</u>
<b>Total Photocopies / printing</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>380.00</b>	<b>391.79</b>	<b>960.00</b>	<b>2,310.00</b>
Dues, registration, fees	0.00	0.00	175.88	340.00	400.00
Postage	0.00	150.00	313.88	470.00	1,240.00
Supplies	63.92	140.00	113.92	230.00	410.00
<b>Telephone</b>					
Directory Listings	126.00	183.33	440.40	833.36	2,300.00
800 Number	<u>232.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>944.44</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
<b>Total Telephone</b>	<b>358.00</b>	<b>433.33</b>	<b>1,384.84</b>	<b>1,833.36</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>
Miscellaneous expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>3,967.64</b>	<b>8,493.33</b>	<b>11,974.20</b>	<b>16,848.36</b>	<b>35,280.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(553.16)</b>	<b>(8,493.33)</b>	<b>(565.98)</b>	<b>(16,848.36)</b>	<b>(35,280.00)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(553.16)</b>	<b>(8,493.33)</b>	<b>(565.98)</b>	<b>(16,848.36)</b>	<b>(35,280.00)</b>

Checkbook balance	<b>\$ 16,628.76</b>
Prudent Reserve	<b>\$ 11,760.00</b>
Operating Balance	<b>\$ 4,868.76</b>

## Hotline Report

Here is the monthly answering service/hotline report for Area 40. The bill was a total of \$242.50, \$7.50 under the Area budget. Most of the calls were answered in under 5 calls to volunteers, but we did have a few that went to more. On one call, it took 16 volunteers to reach someone, and the other 26. Again, in my opinion, when that happens, we as a group are dropping the ball. PLEASE, if you want to volunteer for receiving calls - a service job - put accurate information on your District's call list and ONLY times you will be available to answer. Please program 406-248-2337 into your phone contact list as AA Hotline, so when a call comes in you will know to answer, if you miss it, call back immediately, or find another volunteer to take the call. We owe this to the suffering alcoholic on the other line...it may save a life! - Tim K.



### Bridging the Gap Chair Position Created

The Ad Hoc committee discussed and developed a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap chair and committee. These are our recommendations:

1. The Ad Hoc committee recommends a creation of a Bridging the Gap chair and Alternate Chair that will serve as part of the Treatment Committee. We recommend adapting the Area 40 Policy and Procedures with the proposed structure changes provided by the Ad Hoc committee. 2. The Ad Hoc committee recommends that the BTG Chair be elected at the 2018 Fall election assembly. This committee is grateful because we all feel passionately about Bridging the Gap work. Thank you for allowing us all to serve in this capacity. In Love and Service, Your Co-chairs, Jessica Ennist (91) and Lee Gault(72), and all committee members Patricia H(61), Tara McNabb(12), Gennifer Young ( 12), Teresa (91), and Buffy (23).

These are the Archives Committee recommendations:  
Motion: The Archives Committee recommends the creation of non-voting, non-rotating Bridging the Gap chair and alternate chair positions that will serve as part of the Treatment Committee, and that the Area 40 Policy and Procedures will be adjusted to reflect these proposed structural changes. The Bridging the Gap chair will be elected at the Fall 2018 Assembly. Unanimously passed in the Archives Committee.

### SAVE THE DATE - 2018 FALL ROUNDUP

October 12-14, 2018  
Radisson Hotel - Helena MT

### SAVE THE DATE - 2019 SPRING ROUNDUP

May 17 – 19, 2019  
Red Lion Hotel - Kalispell, MT

Write an article for the Triangle!

Share your experience, strength and hope with others!

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After getting sober in 1990, my sobriety took me to South Africa where I was able to attend the 50th anniversary of AA in South Africa in 1995. Although I missed the International in San Diego, this conference made up for it. My sobriety depended on the Loners International during that time. In sobriety, I have been able to complete many "bucket list" items and continue to do them. "I live the life I love and I love the life I live!" -(Gregg Allman) - by Rebecca S.

# Traditions 3) 4 and 5 Checklist

## **3. *The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.***

- In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
- Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
- Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
- Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
- Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, and ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
- When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

## **4. *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.***

- Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
- Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
- Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
- Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
- Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths-his lengths, not mine-to stay sober?
- Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

## **5. *Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.***

- Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
- Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
- Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
- Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
- Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
- Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

From the General Service Office:

Dear Friends:

The Accessibilities Assignment Coordinator at G.S.O. is providing an ASL video version of an ["Update on ASL Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Video Project."](#)

Please forward this email to all members in your local area who are Deaf and use American Sign Language as their primary means of communication.

Click the link above to view the video: [http://gso.aa.org:3500/treatmentaccess/AAWS\\_final\\_cut.mp4](http://gso.aa.org:3500/treatmentaccess/AAWS_final_cut.mp4)

Thank-you!

## Events Calendar

### **June 2018**

6/1-6/3 - BIGFORK AA BY THE BAY  
Swan Lake Campground - Bigfork

6/2 - WOMEN HELPING WOMEN  
1002 10th St W - Billings MT

6/9 - DISTRICT 81 FOUNDERS DAY  
First Christian Church - Missoula MT

6/8-6/10 - FOUNDER'S DAY CAMPOUT  
Tally Lake Campground - Flathead Valley

### **July 2018**

(no events listed on AA-Montana at the time of this newsletter.)

### **August 2018**

8/10-8/12  
FIREMAN'S POINT CAMPOUT  
Fireman's Point - Columbus MT

Flyers available on  
[AA-Montana.org](http://AA-Montana.org)

### **Delegate's Report Schedule**

May 6-8 - Spring Roundup - Great Falls

June 9 - District 81 Founder's Day

June 10 Lake Como - District 93

June 24 - District 61 Grapefest

September 21-23 - Area 40 Fall Assembly

October 12-14 - Fall Roundup Helena

## Gem from the Grapevine

**Serenity is not the absence of conflict or trouble  
but the ability to deal with it.**

### Triangle Subscription Form

If you would like a subscription for yourself, a friend or your group, please return this form or subscribe online at [aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org). Cost is \$10 per year.

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Groups will receive the Triangle regardless of subscription status  
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