AREA 40 TRIANGLE

A Newsletter for A.A. in the State of Montana

A.A. TRADITION OF SELF-SUPPORT

Bill W., October 1967

AA's far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our AA adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally whither and die.

Now where do AA's services—worldwide, area, local—fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single AA service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe.

Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion—to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that AA must everywhere function in full strength—and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill.

We have long known that Alcoholics Anonymous has no need for charitable contributions from any source. Our Fellowship is self-supporting. Neither do AA groups try to meet the rehabilitation expenses of thousands of newcomers. Long ago we learned that this was impractical.

Instead, AA offers to the new person a spiritual way of life that can eliminate the alcoholic problem. With this accomplished, the new person, in the company of his fellow sufferers, can then begin the solution of his personal problems—including the financial one.

So AA groups themselves accept no charitable funds—and give none away. At first glance, this attitude may seem to be hard-nosed, even callous. An immense experience tells us otherwise. Money gifts—as a prerequisite of getting sober—are usually worthless when made a function of an AA group.

Of course, we see AA's primary charity in the Twelfth Step activities of tens of thousands of us as we daily carry the AA message to newcomers. We travel millions of miles; we absent ourselves from business and home. In the aggregate, we lay out large sums. As individuals, we do not hesitate to give temporary financial aid to the newcomer, if and when he seems to want sobriety first. Here, then, is money charity aplenty, always given on a very personal, face-to-face basis. And perhaps even this cannot be called wholly charitable, once every Twelfth Step effort means more certain sobriety and added spiritual growth for the sponsor.

Both these principles we understand: that AA wants no charity; that we support our own services. We understand—but we sometimes forget.

- Reprinted from Language of the Heart, p. 349 - 350 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Alcoholics Anonymous Celebrates 85 Years with the 2020 A.A. Online International Convention: A Unique Virtual Experience, Coming Soon on aa.org.

June 25, 2020

Contact: <u>pressinfo@aa.org</u>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In a year of firsts for Alcoholics Anonymous, another first is on its way: a virtual International Convention experience, arriving online July 1 at www.aa.org.

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Excerpts from A.A. Literature, materials, and Grapevine are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services and Grapevine, Inc.



<u>The Triangle is anonymity protected. All</u>
<u>A.A. members are identified by first</u>
<u>name and last initial only.</u>

"If I were asked which of our blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our continuity, I would say, the 'Concept of Anonymity." Bill's last message read by Lois, 1970 Annual New York Intergroup Dinner

Tradition Seven Snip-it

Every A.A. group ought to be fully selfsupporting, declining outside contributions.

"In another meeting the whole subject of money in A.A. got a most healthy kicking around. A.A.'s principle of 'no compulsory fees or dues' can be construed and rationalized into 'no voluntary group or individual responsibility at all,' and this fallacy was exploded with a bang. There was complete unanimity that through voluntary contributions the legitimate bills of groups, areas, and A.A. as a whole must be paid or we could not properly carry our message. It was agreed that no A.A. treasury ought to get overstuffed or rich. Nevertheless, it was emphasized that the notion of keeping A.A. 'simple' and 'spiritual' by eliminating vital services that happened to cost a little time, trouble, and money was risky and absurd. It was the opinion of the meeting that oversimplification, which might lead us to muff our Twelfth Step work, area-wide and world-wide, could not be called either really simple or really spiritual."

- Reprinted from A.A. Comes of Age, p. 30 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

"When the global pandemic forced us to cancel our International Convention, the first of which was held in 1950, it became clear that we needed to find a way to celebrate A.A.'s birthday and to honor and acknowledge members in Detroit who labored so hard to prepare for the Convention," says Julio E., staff member on the International Convention assignment at A.A.'s General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York City.

The result is the 2020 A.A. Online International Convention, which A.A. members around the world will be able to visit for the entire month of July at <u>aa.org</u>. Clicking on the link will take them to a virtual platform that includes a video welcome from the chair of A.A.'s General Service Board of Trustees; moving stories of individual A.A. members sharing their experience, strength and hope; a "Carry the Message Pavilion" focused on how A.A. members extend the hand of A.A. around the world; a presentation of the 40 millionth copy of A.A.'s basic text, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, to Dr. George Koob, director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA); a nod to the classic convention Flag Ceremony from countries where A.A. has taken root; a look forward to the Vancouver International Convention in 2025; and much more.

"Though the 'in-person' experience cannot take place for this Convention," says Racy J., staff member on G.S.O.'s Public Information desk, "this virtual platform will allow us to celebrate A.A.'s message of hope and recovery with potentially millions of alcoholics from whom we are physically distanced, but can at least be digitally connected."

A.A.'s cofounder, Bill W., might never have imagined this particular mode of connection when he made that first nickel phone call in Akron, Ohio, in 1935 that ultimately put him in touch with Dr. Bob S., A.A.'s other cofounder, and set off a chain reaction of events leading to the formation of a worldwide Fellowship that has saved countless lives. With Bill's determination to spread the word of A.A. wherever alcoholics could be found, we can only imagine the admiration he may have had in our ability today to present the virtual reality of an online Convention.

- https://www.aa.org/press-releases/en_US/no_page/alcoholics-anonymous-celebrates-85-years-with-the-2020-aa-online-international-convention-

West Central Region AA Forum September 10 - 12, 2021 Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT

District 81 will host the WCRAA Forum in Missoula, September 10 - 12, 2021. A WCRAA Forum committee has recently been created and is currently meeting monthly to coordinate the event. If you are interested in jumping in to help, please reach out to your District Committee Member (DCM) or your group's General Service Representative (GSR) to get more information. Volunteers to greet and man the registration table will be needed, as well as other service.

Registration is free to the forum. Attending a WCRAA Forum is a great way to learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole and to connect with A.A. members throughout our region. Our region includes Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Don't miss out on participating in this great event!

Go here to learn more: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums

7th Tradition During the Pandemic

This new day and age of virtual meetings outnumbering in-person meetings is unprecedented in Alcoholics Anonymous. There are many challenges that arise: How do we reach the newcomer? How do we join in Fellowship? What about passing the basket for the 7th Tradition?

Each group is having to discuss thoroughly what their group wishes to do and how to address each issue. Gratefully, most meetings that I've attended online are still getting newcomers, which reminds me of what I was told early on, "If they are willing, we can't do anything wrong. And if they are not willing, we can't do anything right." Of course, this saying doesn't mitigate my responsibility in keeping the hand of AA always reached out or to consider the best way to do that, but it does remind me that I'm not in charge. I just need to show up with my effort and willingness and the rest will work itself out.

But what about our 7th Tradition? There are various ways to pass the virtual hat for 7th Tradition contributions. There are a multitude of money apps that create ease in sending money from one financial institution to another. The primary one I've seen in most meetings I've attended is Venmo, but I've also seen PayPal and Cash options as well. Some groups only accept contributions through the mail and then there are groups that offer both virtual and mail-in options.

Some may ask, "How much do virtual meetings cost?" And in addition they may mention, "We're not paying rent now or buying coffee. What other costs are there?" A monthly subscription through Zoom is minimal for sure, but there are a multitude of other costs that still need to be considered, like if your group is still paying monthly rent in addition to online services.

"The reality is that even though meetings, Twelfth Step services and operations have shifted to a virtual environment, expenses continue to accumulate during this crisis,

which underscores the importance of practicing the Seventh Tradition. Through this crisis, however, we have witnessed the many ways in which the entire A.A. Fellowship has come together to provide ongoing support. Among them:

- Many home groups are still paying rent even though their meetings cannot convene.
 They are also providing online meetings on platforms that may have associated costs.
- Intergroup/Central Offices are still stocking needed literature and fielding Twelfth Step calls, redirecting A.A. members and those looking for recovery to online meetings.
- Area-level committees are working to keep channels open between the Fellowship
 and the delegates and board members that make up our General Service Conference,
 as well as to do public information, corrections and other service.
- G.S.O. in New York is continuing to support all levels of service. Literature still needs to be published and distributed, calls need to be answered, online platforms still need to be updated, and support operations sustained."

G.S.O. created a video about 7th Tradition that you can check out here: https://vimeo.com/430834698

One of the most important things I've learned in A.A. over the years is maintain open communication. This time is no less important than any other time to make sure the group conscience is happening and is informed. When we come together as a group and stay focused on our primary purpose of staying sober and helping others achieve sobriety, we will find the answers we need to keep A.A. rolling along, reaching the hand of A.A. to anyone who has a drinking problem.

- Quoted material: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/



We need your experience, strength, and hope! Please send us short articles—400 words or less—on A.A. service. Please submit no later than August 28th via email to triangle@aa-montana.org. What service have you done for your group? How does your group do their business/group conscience meetings? Had a district service position? Do you take meetings into the jail? Take meetings into treatment centers? Are you a volunteer for Bridging the Gap? Inquiring minds want to know!!

A.A. Headquarters Is Coming to Montana and Your Help Is Needed.

Next September, in 2021 the General Service Office will bring to Montana staff members from the General Service Office and Grapevine, members of the General Service Board as well a selections of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine literature. This event is called the West Central Regional Forum.

What Area 40 needs is for Groups and Districts to step up and help host the hospitality part of the event. There is no charge for the Forum as the General Service Board pays for the meeting rooms. What the host committee needs is help with the social part of this event. Specifically we are talking about coffee to drink between the sharing sessions moderated by the General Service Office Manager, the Chair of the General Service Board, the Chief Financial Officer, the Editor of the Grapevine and others. In addition to coffee there will be a hospitality room hosted by Area 40 and by the Districts and Groups that make up that Area. This room will be open for fellowship, to meet with old friends and to be introduced to new friends. The West Central Region also has a custom of hosting an Ice Cream Social on Saturday evening for people to get together and mingle.

If you as a Group member, District member or a part of the Area committee would like to participate with the Host Committee of this event please contact the Triangle Editor triangle@aa-montana.org

Regional Forums were begun in the mid 1970's as a way for the General Service Board to share what is going on "at Headquarters" as Bill W. used to call the General

Concept Seven Bite

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

"Now we come to another interesting question often raised by new General Service Board Trustees. They say, 'We Trustees have certain rights and duties which are legally established by our Charter. Are we not violating this Charter when we accept a conference opinion or directive? We should have a perfect legal right to say 'no' to anything and everything that the Conference wants.

Our Trustees certainly do have this absolute legal authority, but there is nothing in their Charter the compels them to use all of their authority all of the time. They are quite at liberty to accept advice or even direction from anyone at all. They can simply refrain from using their absolute legal right to say 'no' when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say 'yes.' Just as the Conference should avoid the overuse of its traditional authority, so should the Trustees avoid overuse of their legal rights. The President of the U.S., for example, has an absolute legal right to veto congressional legislation. yet ninetynine percent of the time he does not do it, because (a) he likes a piece of legislation or (b) he does not like the legislation but believes a veto would nevertheless be unwise or impossible of success. Whether or not he will exercise his veto is determined by circumstances. It is just like that with A.A.'s Board of Trustees."

- Reprinted from The A.A. Service Manual, p. 29, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.



Service Office. They come to share what they are doing to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous through literature and in the digital world. They share what they are doing to inform the professional community and the general public about A.A. and how people can contact us. Then they listen to what our concerns, ideas and opinions are about how the General Service Office and Grapevine are doing their job. After all, we as members of A.A. are at the top of the A.A. Service Triangle. These workers are the trusted servants working to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous through literature, to the Professional Community and to the public in general. This is our opportunity to let them know how we think they are doing.

Again, if you as a group member or district member would like to help participate with the host committee of this event please contact the Triangle Editor, Catherine B. You can reach her at triangle@aa-montana.org.

- Paul L. Area 40 Delegate

NATIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY CONFERENCE (CPC)

May 2021 in Billings, MT

The National CPC conference will be held in Billings in May 2021. We are working on the details and also forming an area committee. There are six of us on the national committee that are doing the bulk of the planning, but we will need some Montana assistance. Anyone who is interested in serving on the committee should contact me. Our hope is to feature some Class A Trustees in workshops to figure out how to better reach those serving the still suffering alcoholic. We also have a virtual option available should it not be possible to meet in May.

- Terri T., Area 40 CPC Chair

The Far Reaches - October 1961

Stirring in its implications and exciting in its drama, this is the Grapevine's international issue. In and between its lines, we are given a wonderful glimpse of AA today, out on the farthest reaches of our Fellowship. Unfailingly, everyone who reads this issue will get a magnificent preview of what AA worldwide will be like tomorrow.

One of our South Africa contributors, himself an old-timer down there, ends his article with these strange words: "Hamba gahle, hall gahle." These are Zulu greetings and mean "travel in peace" and "abide in peace." These poignant expressions, of course, deeply reveal the aspirations and the longings of the whole Zulu community.

Surely we of AA can identify with these words quite as well as the Zulus themselves. For is this not exactly what we ourselves have been seeking—first as active alcoholics, and then as AA members? We have always wanted to go out from the place where we were, to a place where there would be peace. The story of AA is the story of our own travels together, in the quest for better things.

As our contributor recounts, it is small wonder that his Zulu, Bantu, and Hindu alcoholic friends are now finding their cherished hopes realized as they flock to AA in the Transvaal, and from the regions about. They are traveling with us, and they are finding quiet.

The spread of AA abroad is most certainly the story of AAs who have thus traveled, both in the flesh and in the spirit. In these GV pages we find the moving experience of the wife of a diplomat. For descriptive purposes, we call her "a Loner." Yet she tells us how she was not in the least alone as

she flitted first to Norway and then to Indonesia. At this moment she is living even more joyfully in Haiti.

Then there is the English lady—also one of our alcoholic sisters—who tells how she fell apart in Singapore, as a necessary prelude to finding herself now well and happy at Malta, where she and another woman form an AA group of two!

And by all means read about our British friend, an army officer and founding father of AA over there, as he describes how, as a so-called Loner, he was able to stay perfectly sober in Malaya during a trying season of guerrilla warfare; and then share with him what he found in AA on his return to England.

Don't miss, either, that picture of AA in Australia as drawn by an old-timer from Down Under. I choked up as I read this one, because I could remember when AA had started on that continent with a single letter and a Big Book sent from New York twenty years ago.

Neither should you fail to take in that strange and incredible Twelfth Step job recently done in South Africa. Our GV contributor worked day and night to sponsor a young Hungarian who, along with his mother, had been living in absolute isolation and misery. The language barrier at first seemed impossible to cross. But the sponsor and his client could each read a little from a Latin Bible, and that helped. But the barrier was more than language. The erring prospect turned out to be a deaf mute. Yet he did sober up, and the story of how that was brought off is amazing.

In fact, you ought to read every scrap of this GV international issue. You will surely discovery some fresh ideas on how to get from where you are now, to where there is still more quiet. I know that I did.

- "Hamba gahle, hall gahle."
- Reprinted from Language of the Heart, p. 322, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.



Area 40, Inc.
Budget vs. Actual by Committee / Project
June 2020

	Jun 20	Budget	Jan - Jun 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Unrestricted					
Program Services					
Spring Assembly	0.00	0.00	-206.30	-7,500.00	-7,500.00
Fall Assembly	0.00	0.00	-533.61	0.00	-7,500.00
Regional Service Conference	-431.72	0.00	-1,590.36	-1,500.00	-1,500.00
Delegate Expenses					
Area 40 share to GSC	0.00	0.00	-1,800.00	-1,800.00	-1,800.00
Other Expenses	0.00	-33.00	-112.41	-202.00	-400.00
Other Expenses NYC	0.00	-400.00	0.00	-400.00	-400.00
Roundups	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-325.00
Travel expenses	0.00	-208.00	-87.46	-1,252.00	-2,500.00
Delegate Expenses - Other	0.00		-255.64		
Total Delegate Expenses	0.00	-641.00	-2,255.51	-3,654.00	-5,425.00
Area Chair Expenses	0.00	-15.00	-102.98	-435.00	-600.00
Archivist Account					
Archivist Display & Travel	0.00	0.00	-144.17	-150.00	-150.00
Archives Storage	-16.74	-325.00	-4,304.51	-1,950.00	-3,900.00
Total Archivist Account	-16.74	-325.00	-4,448.68	-2,100.00	-4,050.00
Literature Chair					
General literature purchases	0.00	-12.50	-400.16	-75.00	-150.00
Total Literature Chair	0.00	-12.50	-400.16	-75.00	-150.00
Public Information Chair					
Area Hotline Expenses	-488.81	-350.00	-1,026.38	-2,100.00	-4,200.00
Directory Listings	0.00	-200.00	-1,083.75	-1,200.00	-2,400.00
Total Public Information Chair	-488.81	-550.00	-2,110.13	-3,300.00	-6,600.00
Website	0.00	-16.60	0.00	-100.40	-200.00
Triangle	-703.72	-282.00	-1,405.73	-1,808.00	-3,500.00
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	0.00	-24.00	-230.33	-156.00	-300.00
Committee Chair Travel					
National Chair Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,500.00	-1,500.00
Committee Chair Travel - Other	0.00	-160.00	-64.55	-1,040.00	-2,000.00
Total Committee Chair Travel	0.00	-160.00	-64.55	-2,540.00	-3,500.00
Computer Hardware/Software	0.00	0.00	-60.00	-150.00	-150.00
Ad Hoc Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	-325.00	-325.00
Total Program Services	-1,640.99	-2,026.10	-13,408.34	-23,643.40	-41,300.00
Management and General	0.00	0.00	-92.00	-20.00	-20.00
INCOME	1,645.49		17,310.83		
Net Income	4.50	-2,026.10	3,810.49	-23,663.40	-41,320.00
[AL	4.50	-2,026.10	3,810.49	-23,663.40	-41,320.00
					<u> </u>
Checkbook balance	\$15,898.08				
Prudent Reserve	\$13,733.00				

\$ 2,165.08

Operating balance

Area 40, Inc. Budget vs. Actual by Line Item June 2020

-	Jun 20	Budget	Jan - Jun 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Individual contribution	50.00		100.00		
Group Contributions	1,555.49		13,950.83		
District Contribution	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
Triangle Subscriptions	40.00	0.00	260.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	1,645.49	0.00	17,310.83	0.00	0.00
Expense					
Computer software	0.00	16.60	60.00	250.40	350.00
Travel Expenses					
Gas	0.00	138.00	550.83	1,942.00	3,295.00
Mileage	0.00	25.00	245.90	600.00	910.00
Meals	0.00	85.00	358.73	1,930.00	2,610.00
Lodging	431.72	475.00	1,559.46	5,390.00	8,760.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	0.00	45.00	0.00	870.00	1,140.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Total Travel Expenses	431.72	768.00	4,514.92	12,532.00	18,515.00
Rent					
Archives storage	16.74	325.00	4,065.71	1,950.00	3,900.00
Meeting space	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,900.00	6,800.00
Total Rent	16.74	325.00	4,065.71	4,850.00	10,700.00
Literature Expenses					
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	0.00		400.16		
Service manuals (for resale)	0.00	12.50	0.00	75.00	150.00
Total Literature Expenses	0.00	12.50	400.16	75.00	150.00
Photocopies / printing	600.00	248.00	1,325.98	1,792.00	3,430.00
Dues, registration, fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	225.00
Postage	103.72	76.00	301.43	460.00	916.00
Supplies	0.00	30.00	483.21	234.00	414.00
Telephone					
Directory Listings	0.00	200.00	1,322.55	1,200.00	2,400.00
800 Number	488.81	350.00	1,026.38	2,100.00	4,200.00
Total Telephone	488.81	550.00	2,348.93	3,300.00	6,600.00
Miscellaneous expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00
Total Expense	1,640.99	2,026.10	13,500.34	23,663.40	41,320.00
Net Ordinary Income	4.50	(2,026.10)	3,810.49	(23,663.40)	(41,320.00)
Income	4.50	(2,026.10)	3,810.49	(23,663.40)	(41,320.00)

 Checkbook balance
 \$15,898.08

 Prudent reserve
 \$13,733.00

 Operating balance
 \$ 2,165.08

UPCOMING EVENTS



Need a flier for your group?

Check out aa-montana.org

July 2020

July 1st **►** Deadline for Fall Agenda Items

July 1st F Deadline for Special Needs Form for Fall Assembly

July 17th - 19th **►** Cooney Campout, Cooney Dam, MT

September 2020

September 11th - 13th ▼ Area 40 Fall Assembly, Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT (Venue may change due to COVID-19)

September 18th - 19th ► Fellowship at the Falls, Great Falls, MT September 25th - 27th ► Havre AA Mini Conference, Havre, MT

October 2020

October 2nd - 4th Fall 2020 Roundup, Big Horn Resort, Billings, MT

Pay for Your Newsletter Online!

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscriptions. Just \$10. You can pay online at <u>aa-montana.org</u> or you can mail in your subscription to Area 40 Triangle, P.O. Box 852, Milltown, MT 59851.



WACYPAA is coming to Area 40 January, 2021!

ZOOYPAA (Missoula Young People in A.A. service committee) is hosting the Western Area Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. This will be the largest event Area 40 has ever hosted, so you won't want to miss out on this momentous event. http://wacypaa.org/wacypaas-aim/region/

Age is not a determining factor for being young at heart. Any A.A. member, regardless of age, is welcome and encouraged to attend WACYPAA.

Need to contact your Area 40 Chairs?

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"Doc...Remember when you suggested a nip of brandy to help me sleep?"

Triangle Subscription Form

Want a subscription for yourself, a friend, or a group? Return this form to the address below or subscribe online at <u>aa-montana.org</u>. An annual cost of \$10.

Group Name:	
GSR/Contact:	
Address:	
City, St., Zip:	
Phone No.:	
Email:	

SEND TO:

AREA 40 TRIANGLE
P.O. Box 852
Milltown, MT 59851
Make checks payable to Area 40, Inc.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

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

Mail Group Contributions

Area 40, Inc. P.O. Box 3826 Missoula, MT 59806 Make checks payable to Area 40, Inc.

GSO
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Make checks payable to GSO