

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY 2007
APRIL 12 & 13, 2008
AT THE YOGO IN
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Welcome to the Assembly

Carole B.-Alternate Delegate/Area Chair—opened the Assembly promptly at 8:00 am with the Serenity Prayer. Brook read our 12 Traditions and Virginia read the short form of our 12 Concepts. Connie R., Area 40 Secretary, took the roll with 14 of 14 districts represent. There were 1100 voting members present and 32 visitors for a total of 132 participants at this Fall 2008 Assembly. We had special visitors from Washington State East Area 92. Dave McC. Past Delegate Panel 56, Rad M. Delegate Panel 58, Mauro P. Alt Delegate Panel 58 and Mark E. DCM District 10. They graciously volunteered to help with our elections this assembly. Welcome to Montana and especially to Area 40 Assembly. A special thanks to those returning to this election assembly and a great big hello and welcome to those new to Area Assembly. An election assembly is quite an experience, so enjoy.

Orientation to the Assembly –Andrew W. Area 40 Delegate

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. It has been my pleasure and Privilege to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. Welcome everyone. I especially want to welcome all the newly elected General Service Representatives ((GSRs) and everyone attending his or her first Area Assembly. Would everyone who is attending his or her first Area Assembly please stand up. I hope you all get as much out of being involved in general service as I have.

I want to give a special welcome to our past delegates present at this assembly. I also want to welcome some visitors from Area 92, Eastern Washington. Our neighbors to the west.

Right now, my task is to give you a brief orientation to this assembly. The first thing that happens following this orientation is that members of the Area Committee will give their reports. This includes the Area officers, Area committee chairs, all of the district committee members, and the standing. Nonvoting service positions, Area Archivist, Area Web Master, and Area Advisor, If you have any questions for the Committee chairs or Area officers, feel free to ask them during breaks. You may even want to invite them to visit your district.

This is an election assembly and much of our time this weekend will be devoted to electing the next rotation of Area officers and committee chairs. This will begin with an orientation to the election process and a posting of nominees for delegate led by our Area Advisor, Scott W.

In Area 40 we are organized on a committee system based on the committee system used at the General Service Conference. After the election orientation and nominee posting, we will have all of the standing committee meetings concurrently. Feel free to attend any of the committee meetings or to attend the Workshop that will be did in this room while the standing committees are meeting. The committee meetings are lead by the Area Committee chairs except for the Finance Committee, which is led by the Area Treasurer. Each committee discusses the items on the agenda for that committee. Almost all of the items of we will discuss in committee at this assembly are Area 40 specific items. The committee will discuss these items and choose to make a recommendation or choose to take no action. When taking a vote in committee, only the members of the committee vote. The excellent Workshop in this room will be on the new database, "Fellowship New Vision", and will be run by our Area Secretary, Connie R.

After lunch we will commence with the election process. Since Scott is going to give us a separate orientation to the election process, I will not say any more on this other than I am looking forward to the process.

Once the Area elections are over (either before or after dinner, we will begin our floor assembly where we meet as whole to hear the committee reports. The committee chair will present the committees report on each agenda item and then we will have chance to discuss the item. If the committee makes a

recommendation on the item we will take a vote following the discussion. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum (two-thirds of the voting members present). By past action, a vote must receive two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be considered to have passed. There will also be time for minority opinion after a committee recommendation is voted on, the purpose of minority opinion is to help ensure we have an open discussion on each issue and that no voice is squelched in the process.

One piece of advice I have for those of you who are new to Area Assemblies is to be active participants. Take part in the discussions. Please ask questions if anything is unclear. You might find that many others share your confusion. In the interest of saving time, if someone else has already expressed your opinion, it is not necessary to repeat it.

If, however, someone else has not expressed your opinion, please go 110 the mike and share it.

We will close today's activities with breakout sessions for DCMs and GSRs that will be led by past delegates. Please feel free to place any questions you have for these sessions into the appropriate ask-it baskets located at the back of the room.

Tomorrow we will hear reports from the Roundups, Intergroups, and the Set Workshops. This will be followed by past delegate sharing from Ed M. and Maryann W. Next I will give my delegate's report and then we will conclude by finishing out floor assembly.

Finally, a reminder to get things started: we ask all of the GSRs to sign in with your District Committee Member (DCM). Your DCM will turn the sign in sheet to the Area Secretary, Connie R. This will enable us to determine how many voting members are present and to determine the number of votes required for a quorum, which is two-thirds of all voting members.

Thank you all for being here. I hope you enjoy your weekend at the assembly.

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W.
Area 40 Delegate
Panel 57

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate—Carole B.

My name is Carole and I'm an alcoholic. Because of God. Alcoholics Anonymous, and sponsorship, I've been sober since June 24, 1989. I presently have the honor of serving as your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate.

It's hard to believe that two years have passed since I was elected Area Chair. I have loved this service commitment and would highly recommend it.

Since the Spring Assembly, my Area Chair activities have been quiet. Of the 14 districts, I had visited 13 prior to the Spring Assembly. I am planning to complete my visits in October by visiting District 21.

I received a few agenda items and with the help of Andrew and Scott, I put together the agenda before you.

This afternoon we will be conducting elections. I have placed copies of the Area's Policies and Procedures on the Districts' tables. If you are considering standing for a position and haven't already done so, please review the expectations of the position you are considering. I would also suggest that you visit with the person who currently holds the position at the break. Being well informed of the responsibilities and expectations prior to standing for a position has served me well. To whom much is given, much is expected.

I would like to take a moment to thank this body. The people serving in this rotation, you have been remarkable. The respect shown to each other especially when disagreeing proves that the 36 spiritual principles of AA work. Thank you for your service to AA.

Welcome to those attending their first Assembly. Past Delegates Maryann and Ed are with us today. Maryann was Chair and Ed was Delegate at my first Assembly nearly 20 years ago. Thank you for being here with us.

The West Central Regional Service Conference will be held in Casper , Wyoming February 27 – March 1, 2009. This is the closest it will get to our Area until 2011 when we host this annual event. So mark your calendars.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve.

Area 40 Secretary – Connie R.

Hello everyone, my name is Connie R. and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to all of you new to Area. It is so very good to see new faces as well as familiar faces. I look forward to being able to connect and reconnect with all of you during our breaks.

If you are new here there are a few procedures that we have in place to help allow everyone to participate. I will be timing all the committee reports. Each report has 5 minutes. When the timer goes off, please stop, so that the next report can be given. I also will be timing the discussion during the committee reports and the general sharing. Each of us has 3 minutes to express our thoughts, ideas or opinions. I hope that each of you will go to the microphone at least once.

DCM's please turn in your attendance sheet during the break. We count each voting member and that is what our quorum is based on. It is important as a voting member that you remain for all of the assembly, so we can maintain the quorum. If you are unsure if you are a voting member, ask your DCM or other Area Committee members, we will be happy to answer your questions.

There were two item presented to the Spring Assembly from the groups of Area 40. One item was a review of an Ad Hoc Committee Report and one was a consideration for addition to the Website. The only recommendation to come to the floor was from the PI Committee and it was as follows.

The PI Committee recommends to create a district level web links to a district level webpage on aa-montana.org to be created by the Area Webmaster. All materials must be anonymity protected and in compliance with Area 40 Web Guidelines and the Area 40 Policy & Procedures.

This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed.

It is had to believe that this is the final assembly of my rotation. I have had some difficulty getting the minutes out in the time required by our procedures, but as my sponsor reminded me, I have one more try to get it right. I want to thank all of those chairs who have sent me your reports already.

I am so very grateful to have been able to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as a district chair and then as an Area chair. From someone who felt so very lonely, different and afraid, serving Alcoholic Anonymous took those feelings away. I became a part of. For the past several months I have prayed and spoke with my sponsor several times about standing for another position with Area. I believe that my higher power has a place for me to continue to serve him and my fellows. This past week, I had the privilege of attending the National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Workshop in Niagara Falls, NY. My intention

was just to go with my husband and enjoy my vacation by the pool reading a book. As usual, my higher power had other plans. I did attend the complete workshop, visited Akron's Archives and at one time visited with several long timers with over 50 years of sobriety. God gave me my next purpose. I know I only thought of archives as old stuff, but from this past week I have found the excitement and joy of delving into our past and finding out what worked and what didn't and probably most important how coincidences in our lives is God working anonymously. I know I have said it many times but I will say it again, I am so very grateful to have the life I have and it is all because I have had an opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in my sobriety.

Connie R.
Area 40 Secretary

Area 40 Treasurer—Curt K.

Treasurer's Report Fall Assembly – September 2008

Hi everyone, my name is Curt K. and I am an alcoholic. Thanks to God, the actions of AA and sponsorship, I have been sober since July 22, 1993 and I am very grateful for that.

Welcome to the Assembly for those of you here for the first time. Welcome to General Service in AA, which is just one more of the many ways to give back to the program of recovery that is saving all of our lives. I have had the great privilege of serving as your Area 40 Treasurer these past two years and highly recommend this kind of service to anyone who has the time and talents to contribute to AA's well-being.

I have placed the Area financial statements at the table by the doors. At the end of August our income is slightly ahead of budget and our expenses are slightly below. But we have about \$5,000 of expenses due to pay for this Assembly, so the picture will change by the end of September. The good news is that group contributions are up compared to last year, but still not at a pace to fully fund the 2008 budget. I can't predict if the trend will continue through the end of the year. I encourage groups to keep giving to Area. Even with the increase in contributions, we are still not matching our budgeted expenses. We may come close to matching income and expenses this year, but only if we spend a good bit less than originally budgeted.

The Finance Committee will be meeting during the Assembly to consider the 2009 budget. Your input is invited and encouraged at the committee meeting. We will have only limited time for floor discussion, so the committee will have a lot to cover.

We will also be discussing the accounting side of the Area 1-800 answering service. Progress has been made with Answernet, the answering service provider. I am confident we can iron out the glitches with the billing problems by the end of the year.

I am very enthused to say that we have a number of willing and well-suited AA members who will be standing for Area Treasurer during elections this Assembly. The members I know who are interested would all be great assets for AA – and there may be others who will join them in standing who are equally qualified. It is a great privilege and responsibility that I hope many more of you will consider.

And finally, I would like to thank God, AA, and Area 40 for the opportunity to share the gifts I've been given by fulfilling this service commitment. And as suggested, I have given thoughtful consideration to standing for another service position in the next Area rotation. After consulting with my sponsor and my wife, I will not be standing in this next rotation, though there's no telling what future circumstances might mean for me and general service. But again, thank you for the chance to give back these past two years.

Yours in service,
Curt K.
Area 40 Treasurer

Area 40 Triangle Editor—Raymona C.

Area 40 Fall Assembly Report - September 2008

Good Morning, my name is Raymona K. and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety birthday is Nov. 7, 1986.

This has been a difficult summer for me as I have recently gone through a divorce, hence the name change to K instead of C That is spelled K for those interested. In addition to that change in my life, I am also in the process of moving.

What does this have to do with being the Triangle Editor? Well, I'll tell you. For those of you who might be interested in standing for this position, please consider taking this responsibility on after this assembly instead of waiting until Jan. The reason being, it would cost the Area too much money to temporarily move the bulk permit for mailing this publication. I am in the process of trying to find someone to continue to process it out of Columbia Falls after my move, but am not finding many willing volunteers. I would love to continue my rotation and finish the year out but if a replacement for taking on the mailing process cannot be found, the early assumption of this responsibility is an option to take under consideration. I have three more issues to produce by years end.

Other than my personal life getting in the way of my service position, the Triangle has been coming along. I am still undertaking to update the mailing list. Paula Hoffman has made this much easier in her district by emailing me a full list of meetings being held with addresses included. I would appreciate it if the rest of the district would consider doing the same for either me or my replacement.

Knowing where my life would take me during my rotation, I am not sure I would have been so eager to take on this monumental responsibility. It has been much more than I originally anticipated. On the other hand, it has also been a wonderful experience and I don't think I would have traded taking a turn on the Area 40 panel. My fellow panel members have been very supportive and encouraging. It has definitely been an opportunity for personal growth as well as growth in my sobriety. Rest assured, I am fully aware that I am not ready to sit on this panel again at this moment in time. I had considered weather or not to stand for another position, but I think it best if I take a year or two to get my life back in order.

I am grateful for this opportunity to be of service and I thank everyone for their patience, tolerance and love in my obvious bumble through this job. It was very humbling. I look forward to serving at the Area level again in the future and am relieved to have almost completed this rotation.

Please consider what I mentioned previously, if not taking the Triangle on at an earlier date, perhaps through word of mouth, I might be granted the grace to complete my term with help from my fellow alcoholics seated here at this assembly from District 91.

There are some extra copies of past issues of the Triangle on the very back table for those who would like to take some home.

Yours in Service

Area 40 Archives—Conrad M.

Good morning my name is Conrad M. I am an alcoholic. However that's to AA and a loving God that works overtime I have not had to take a drink or abuse drugs since December 5, 1996. This being Fall Assembly and an election year means my term as Archives/Structure Chairperson is quickly nearing an end. If you think you want to be my replacement, contact me anytime with questions you have. Maybe I will be able to answer them. One thing I have enjoyed while being Archives Chair is reading the Archives News Letter "Markings" and learning things like history of the responsibility statement, the origins of the Serenity Prayer, that Bill W did write Chapter 8, "To the Wives" and no he never did want to change the word "rarely" to "never" in Chapter 5.

This weekend the Archive/Structure committee has 4 agenda Items that we will review, consider, evaluate and discuss, if you want to be a part of that, Please join us in the Kendal Room

In Service

Conrad

Area 40 Corrections—Bill E.

My name is Bill and I am an alcoholic. I would like to welcome all the new people to the assembly and thank the old for being here as well. I am very grateful to be among those who love what Alcoholics Anonymous has done for them as much as I do.

It has been a whirlwind summer that has been very good for sick alky like me. I got to participate in the Area workshops which were held in Lincoln and Joliet and would like to thank those districts for inviting me. I even got to take in some fishing, which I would not have otherwise, so thank you. The input and exchange of ideas was excellent. I hope I was able to communicate some of the hurdles, and tools at our disposal to help "Bridge the Gap" between the still suffering Alcoholic, and Alcoholics Anonymous - You and I.

I would like to thank all of you who have been involved in the corrections work at the many facilities around the state and I would like to encourage you to please utilize the pink can funds that are set up for the purpose of carrying the message through literature into these facilities. I would also like to apologize for any delays in literature orders. I have brought with me a couple copies of the account summary from the beginning of 07 to date. Please pick one up, if you are interested. If you would like to know more about the pink can, please come see me or come to our committee meeting.

I would also like to thank the corrections committee for all the good work you have done in the past and look forward to some good discussion this weekend. I would encourage everyone to come participate in the discussion.

I am hopeful that there will be some great potential servants to the Area in the corrections chair position as we hold our elections this weekend and would invite those who are thinking of standing to read the policies and procedures on corrections.

There will be an orientation at MSP (Montana State Prison) on the 26th of January. I would also encourage you or anyone you may sponsor to be nudged to go through the orientation and get involved in carrying the message service that has changed my life forever. I would also sadly like to report that the mini conference at MSP has been postponed due to the untimely death of inside sponsor for the event, the last I heard. There has been some talk of having alternative meetings through the treatment program in the prison instead and I will let you know if that evolves into more. There have been requests for more AA involvement on nights other than the currently committed Saturday meetings. The problem would amount to our ability to present volunteers willing to commit. Please talk to your groups about carrying meetings into the prison.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, that which I can never repay.
Bill E.

Area 40 Cooperation with the Professional Community—Terry S.

AREA 40 CPC COMM. REPORT, September 20, 2008

My name is Terry S.. I am an alcoholic. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Area 40 CPC standing committee chair during this rotation. Since we met here in April of this year, I have participated in

1. District 91's CPC Workshop, at the Kalispell Alano Club on May 18, participating in presenting a CPC Workshop;
2. District 41's Founder's Day, outside of Great Falls at the Great Falls, June 21, providing a CPC Workshop and sharing my story; and
3. District 71's display table and presentation at the first annual Montana Drug Court Conference in Butte on August 20-22.

These were all wonderful opportunities, where I met enthusiastic sober alcoholics who participated, contributed and shared. It's been great! I have learned and grown from every one of these events, and I hope that I was able to provide information consistent with our Traditions that was of service to the participants in each event.

Because there was some concern in the Area about AA having a display and giving a presentation at a "drug court" conference I want to say a word more about that event. It was a very useful place for us to be, because the drug courts, of which there are currently 10 exclusive of tribal courts, in Montana deal with adult, youth and family alcohol and drug legal issues, family law cases, civil violations, spouse, partner and family member abuse, child abuse and neglect and possession matters, and any criminal violations the commission of which occurred while under the influence or otherwise in relation to use of alcohol or drugs. Drug courts not only can require alcohol and drug treatment, they supervise folks in the community as well as in institutions and they regularly require or encourage people to come to AA. Informing the people who work in the drug courts and work with the drug courts what AA has to offer folks they send to us is absolutely appropriate CPC service work, and that is what we did. The response we got from the professionals involved was gratifying, and we were able to provide them with good information and lots of literature, which we had courtesy of the General Service Office, for that specific purpose. District 71 made the decision, at the local level, to participate, after GSO had forwarded the

invitation to participate to Area 40 and I had confirmed that a substantial majority of the Area folks who responded to my e-mails thought it was a good idea. District folks were there throughout our participation, and I did not hear a single complaint or criticism of anything we said or did, whether based upon the Traditions or anything else. I'm glad we provided the info we did, 'cuz those drug courts, and the others that will be started around Montana in the future, WILL be sending folks to us, and it is vital that we let them know what we have to offer alcoholics that they do send to us.

For each of the events to which I was invited, I provided the district folks copies of the expense reports I turned in to Kurt, advising each that if they felt it was appropriate, and could afford it, a contribution to Area for part or all of the cost of my coming to participate in the event would be welcome.

My personal life, professional life and spiritual life are enriched on a daily basis because I have the opportunity to participate in Alcoholics Anonymous. No matter how much I get to contribute, I will never give back more than I get, because you have shown me the way to sobriety, where I can live a transformed and useful life.

Thank you for letting me serve, and thank you for helping me to serve.

Terry S., Area 40 Standing CPC Committee Chair

Area 40 Grapevine—BilliJo D.

With a feeling of sadness, it is time to say “good-bye” to this rotation of service. It has been a wonderful two years. I have grown in ways I had no idea that I would or needed to grow, change, and develop. My best wishes and any assistance wanted to the next AREA 40 Grapevine Chair. I will continue to see you here at Assembly as I will start the next rotation as District 51 DCM.

Grapevine happenings since the spring Assembly have been few. I attended the Helena Spring Round-up in May. I met people who had never heard of the Grapevine nor knew anything about it. One gentleman was from Helena. I gave away several subscription forms, collected for subscriptions, gave away a few old copies of the Grapevine, sold a couple of books, and visited with numerous people.

I was unable to attend the AREA 40 Workshop in Joliet due to health reasons.

September, I am here.

On October 5-7, I plan to attend the Havre Mini-Conference and will have the Grapevine display there.

That is all on the calendar so far until passing of the baton in January.

Our sponsors teach us to say 'yes' to any AA request as our part in passing on what has been given so freely to us. We still have three months left in this rotation. To the best of my ability, I will participate when asked to come to speak or to share a display; I will be there with the message of our meeting in print. And I would ask of you to continue to “be there” also, both physically and financially, in support of all of your District and AREA functions.

Thank you.
Hugs,
BilliJo

Area 40 Literature – Linda B.

LITERATURE REPORT-FALL 2008

Hello, my name is Linda B. and I am the Literature Chair for this rotation. As I was preparing for this assembly, I am amazed at how fast this rotation has gone. That is because being involved with literature is one of my favorite things to do. One of the agenda items is a questions about updating our A.A. literature. I thought I knew how this process worked, but decided to call Eva S. at the General Service Office. We had a lengthy conversation and as always more was revealed. I could hardly get a word in edgewise because of the passion I heard in her discussing “how it works”. Our committee will have the opportunity to discuss and review some interesting items this assembly. We will look at literature available in the electric format on the aa.org website and discuss and review the outcome of our last assemble agenda items.

As always in last rotation assemblies, we will look back at what we have accomplished and help prepare for the next rotation. It is important that we leave our policy and procedure document updated and revised, if needed, to better help our area officers and committee chairs perform their elected tasks. We will be having our elections and they are always exciting. I look forward to seeing the next humble servants take their positions. I believe my job is to pass the baton (in this case, a truck full of literature) to our next elected chairperson.

I want to take this moment and welcome all newly elected GSR’s and DCM’s for the next rotation. Please ask questions? I have the new service manuals for sale at the literature display for \$2.50. Everyone should have one of these, the information they contain is on how our structure works effectively.

I would like to thank this assembly and all those who have contributed to the health and welfare of Area 40. I have been one of those people in A.A. that has been somewhat of a service junkie. In being of service to others, I have been given the gifts of friendship, fellowship, and love. In gratitude and love, thank you for allowing me to be your Literature chair for the last two years.

Yours in service,
Linda B.

Area 40 Public Information –Sean B.

Greetings Montana,

The last 6 months have proven fruitful, but like most of Montana, a couple hailstorms have taken their toll and the harvest of ideas and solutions have been battered around like a new guy who can’t pay his bar tab. Change does not seem to come easily and I stand here convinced that God does indeed have a sense of humor. Nearly a decade ago I came to these assemblies expecting great change to the way we do business. Today I more clearly see the merit of moving slowly and deliberately in AA so that the voices of all groups that choose to be a part of this process can be heard.

In the realm of Area 40 Public Information the lively of the subject of the area wide 800# dominated the PI workload. Account billing, answering service reports and even calls have been jumbled. Phone books dropped the 800 number from their volumes and patches dropped or connected to the wrong people. In short, the answering service has been running perfectly imperfect.

Hopefully this weekend we can inventory this program and come up with a working solution that accommodates the needs of all our districts. Briefly, at this juncture, it appears that the accounting is getting cleaned up and the service improved with the new assignment of senior manager to handle our account. The answering service now will be utilizing all of the aa-montana.org email addresses to send out bills and reports and our webmaster will be discussing the creation of new addresses for your district’s

answering service chairs. There remain a few unanswered questions but not all good things come easily. There will likely be more bumps in the road but less bottomless potholes.

This weekend our committee will be discussing the General Service Conference Final Report, the 800#, the Area 40 website, and the PI portion of our Policies and Procedures. Please join us in the Judith Room to participate in the discussion.

Yours in service
Sean B.

Area 40 Treatment – Geoff D.

First I would like to thank you for opportunity to serve as your area 40 Treatment Chair this rotation. I would also like to welcome all who are new to the assembly. Since the last assembly I was invited to attend the two area workshops one in Lincoln and one in Joliet there was a lot of discussion on Bridging the Gap and our singleness of purpose at both workshops.

In District 72 we continue to take meeting to MCDC on Saturdays at 6:00pm and Watch West on Fridays at 7:00pm Thank you Districts 71 & 61 for your continued support in District 72.

Watch East in District 23 continues to help get support from District 11 and some volunteers from Dickinson ND Bob H has been doing the Bridging the Gap meeting
Thanks Bob.

District 91 takes meetings into Flathead Valley Chemical Dep. Center, Wilderness, and Pathways.
District 41 has been taking meetings into the Rocky Mountain Treatment Center
And we continue to an informational meeting into Rim Rock Treatment Center in District 11.

I would like to thank my committee and all District Treatment Chairs for all the service they do for AA.

“While I lay in the hospital the thought came that there were thousands of hopeless alcoholics who might be glad to have what had been so freely given me. Perhaps I could help some of them. They in turn might work with others.” (Bills story page 14)

I would like to thank you for my sobriety
Geoff D.

DCM Report

District 11--Rich K.

Good morning, my name is Rich K.; I'm the DCM for District 11. District 11 consists of groups in Roundup, Pryor, Hardin, Huntley, Lockwood, and Billings. District 11 has regular district meetings on the second Saturday of each month, with a few exceptions. District 11 elected new officers for the next rotation with most positions being filled. We expect the remaining positions to be filled in relatively

short order. District 11 hosted a corrections workshop in June with six professionals and 30 AA members present. A corrections workshop was held in June and was considered a success. A general attitude that we help create better informed professionals and AA members along with forging some new relationships with the corrections professionals in our community. This is a vital mission as the corrections industry is definitely growing within the Greater Yellowstone Valley.

The PI/CPC committee has delivered books to four local high schools and is keeping numerous literature stacks stocked. The committee has also contacted the Physicians Residency Program and the school for social work to see about informational AA presentations.

Our treatment committee is holding monthly meetings at a local treatment facility, and twice weekly we take meetings into the psych center.

Along with districts 12 and 31 we hosted an area workshop in Joliet. AA members from several communities were present as Area 40 corrections, treatment, literature and grapevine service work was discussed. Several positive comments were heard by this about the quality of the presentations.

An annual campout was held at Cooney Reservoir and a Summer Solstice barbeque were held with each having over 100 participants.

I'd like to thank all for the opportunity to be of service. Service work has always been much more valuable than I expect it to be.

District 12—Steve G.

District 12 currently has a total of 11 Groups. Some of these groups enjoy a solid active participation in Group and District functions and some struggle to keep the door open and the coffee pot on. All of these groups and individuals are dedicated to extend a hand to the newcomer, traveler and fellow members.

Our District sponsored two events this past year;

- 1)Midwinter social held in Joliet in February that included a potluck, speaker and 'jam' session of talented local musicians.
- 2)Fireman's Point Campout was held July 18-20th just outside of Columbus on the Stillwater River. The campout included a potluck, speaker, resentment burning and breakfast.

Both of these functions were successful with good, recovering family participation.

District 12 was fortunate also to be selected as the site for an Area 40 workshop that was held on July 26 in Joliet. I believe this was also a success. Turnout was fair to moderate. Presentations were made by Bill E. Corrections Area Chair; Linda B. Literature Area Chair; Linda also presented information for BilliJo - Grapevine Area Chair who was unable to attend; and Geoff D. Treatment Area Chair. Area Advisor Scott W. was the facilitator of the workshop. Turnout for the workshop was fair to moderate. I'm sure the people who attended enthusiastically carried the information from the workshop back to their groups.

Elections were held for our District on Aug. 17th: Several of the chair positions were combined due to the lack of participation by members at the district level. Newly elected DCM is Nick G, Joliet; Alternate DCM Sandy A, Absarokee; Secretary/Treasure Pam, Laurel; Treatment/Corrections Kim, Laurel; Literature Ben, Absarokee; Grapevine, Sandy A, Absarokee; CPC/PI Steve G, Columbus.

District meetings are held the 3:00 Sunday of every month in the Old Stone Church in Columbus at 4 pm.

In Service

Steve G.

District 21—Rob P.

No report turned in.

District 23-- Joe P.

Regards from the Sunrise District:

Joe P. regrettably will not be in attendance at this Assembly as job matters have kept him busy. Mike M. has stepped up to the plate to fill in as Alternate DCM. The past five months has seen the District add an additional meeting. Actually, the Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group reactivated after a brief hiatus and is now meeting once a week, Wednesday at 7:30pm, in the Lutheran Church in Savage, MT. We welcome them back, filling the need for a Big Book Study Group. With the re-activation of the Savage group, it brings the District to having four: Life Again in Glendive; Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Group in Sidney; and the Big Book Discovery Group in Savage.

The Lower Yellowstone SoberFest was held again in August. Although attendance was down, those that attended had fun and plenty of fellowship. Glendive meetings are trudging along.

Sidney meetings, which meet four (4) days of the week between the two groups, continue to be stable with slight growth in the numbers in attendance. As the Adult Treatment Court is in operation, they have been getting a few referrals from them. Time and the God of Our Understanding will tell if those members will continue once their obligation to the Treatment Court is fulfilled.

We will be holding a Gratitude Day at the Savage Community Center Hall, November 22nd. There will be a potluck, District Meeting, Call-up meeting, karaoke and perhaps even dancing. We hope to have the doors opened by 3:00pm and as Joe P. reported previously “go till we’ve had ‘tooo’ much fun.” Please check the Area 40 Website for additional details as they become available.

I would like to thank Joe P. and District 23 for allowing me to serve. I truly enjoy seeing old friends, making new ones, and the passion of AA I see at these assemblies. It helps my recovery immensely. Thank You so much.

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fellowship,
Michael M.

District 31-- Neil T.

At the last Wednesday meeting in Baker, attendance was at 9 members and has promise to go even more. Jordan remains at two (and long for visitors). Broadus is small and best to call ahead. New blood holds promise. Colstrip remains strong. Foresyth has regular meetings and has made plans for sober events. Our new coming DCM is Jim G. of Mile City.

Yours in Service,
Neil T.

District 41-- Mary S.

Hi, my name is Mary and I am an alcoholic and the DCM from district 41, Since we met last, district 41 has been busy. Many groups and committees have been carrying the message of AA, through various events and through new meetings. Andrew W. came to our district meeting and gave a report of the General Service Conference in New York and sat through our business meeting. Our Support your Services Committee held its annual Founders Day Picnic and Service Workshop at Ryan Dam and Terry S. from Helena gave a talk. There was a good showing along with great food and fellowship. Several district members attended the Area 40 Workshop in Lincoln and that fired up those in attendance. It was well worth going to and thanks to Area Chairs who showed up with well prepared information. After those events, it seems summer flew by. District 41 is gearing up for our next CPC luncheon which will be held in October. We have invited Curt K. from Helena to be a main speaker and we hope to get about 30 professional folk from Cascade County to attend. This will be the 2nd luncheon organized by the same CPC chair and will be even more fantastic than before. We are electing our trusted servants at the October district meeting and we are out announcing and encouraging fresh participation. There have been several new meeting times on Sunday and an additional early morning meeting. I am proud to say that Steps to Recovery has an American Sign Language interpreter each Thursday 5:30 meeting. There have been up to 5 deaf or hard of hearing persons at one time so far! Attraction not promotion is working! Several meetings and groups have closed due to poor attendance but as one door is closing there are always new opportunities for each and every one. Thanks for letting me serve.

Mary S.
District 41, DCM
Great Falls

District 42—Gerald L.

I am Gerry L. and I'm an alcoholic. DCM from District 42, Shelby, MT. My sobriety date is April 27, 1999. By the grace of God and the fellowship of AA, I'm still drug and alcohol free.

We are still holding meetings in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby and Valier. We had our Lake Francis roundup, the last weekend of July. It was again well attended. We invite everyone to come and join us next year. We still have volunteers taking meetings into the OCA Prison and could still use more help (volunteers). I also attended the workshop in Lincoln in July. I also got to see the 850 lb grizzly at the Ranger Station. Awesome.

We also had members attend the workshop in Helena last spring.

I like to invite anyone traveling the Hi-line to stop in and see us. Our schedules are on the internet.

In Service
Gerry L.

District 51-- Doug M.

Here it is fall assembly time again. My term as DCM is rapidly coming to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges brought forth during the past two + years. A lot of growth has happened to District 51 AA. We still have the “old ones” but many new faces have rose up to meet the challenges of being sober. We have 22 meetings on any given week at different times to meet the needs of the alcoholic. Many of our members have opened up their homes and hearts to those less fortunate during the holidays and alone days. During this past summer we had three campouts on Beaver Creek. They were well attended. Fun and fellowship was abundant. As always the 3rd Sunday speakers meeting will continue to be a main drawing card for the sober community. If you have a story to tell us please contact Robert F at 406 265-1301.

The fall mini conference set for October 3-5 at Havre’s HRDC building is putting the final touches to make this one of the best we’ve put on. Speakers will be Joe G, Glasgow- Lori F Ennis- Earl F. Ennis- Jaimie L- Great Falls. They are set to share their Experience, Strength, and Hope

During the Aug. Dist. meting Billi Jo D. was elected DCM for Dist 51. All of our committee chairs were filled or spoken for with members willing to continue or jump into service work. A big thanks to those who accepted and bigger thanks to their families for urging them on in sobriety.

As many of you know I have retired from education and moved to Billings. A big- big- big thanks to those who kept me on track, pulled me back to reality when my Ego got in way and to those who have shared their sobriety with me these past 2 years thus making my term as DCM a wonderful experience One Day At A Time.

In sobriety
Doug M
Area 51 DCM

District 61-- Tim M.

District 61 includes the towns of Lincoln, White Sulphur Springs, Townsend, Boulder and Helena.

We have been steady with twenty-nine active groups in District 61 with some falling by the wayside and new ones arriving to take their place.

At our September District meeting we filled all district positions for the 2009-2010 rotation except for Alternate DCM, CPC and Workshops. There were 35 people at our September meeting.

Since the Spring Assembly we have held the following events in District 61:

- The Spring Roundup was held in District 61 on May 16, 17 and 18. We had approximately 300 in attendance. As always at these events the speakers were great, the fellowship wonderful, and the feast was a delight to enjoy. As for the financials there was \$3332.89 left over after all of this was paid for. Some say it was due to charging for coffee by the cup, and in the works of Mel who is no longer with us in a physical sense, “if they smell good I believe e’m”, and I guess they do, smell good that is. In any case this “revenue over expenses” was split up as follows;
 - District 61 got 30% or \$999.87,

- Area Archives got 30% or \$999.86,
 - Area 40 got 20% or \$666.58,
 - GSO got 10% or \$333.29,
 - And the rest \$332.29 was sent up to Kalispell along with the \$1200.00 seed money for the Fall Roundup.
- We held our 20th annual Grapefest on June 7th. Our attendance was somewhat small, about a dozen. The enthusiasm was large however as we feasted on fried chicken, salads, great cookies and soda pop. Andrew our Area delegate gave an outstanding delegates report of what went on at the General Service Conference in New York. Norm L. from Helena was our speaker and had a very interesting and enlightening story to tell of his recovery.
 - We had several groups sponsoring great picnics and Campouts during the summer months.
 - The second annual, district 61 motorcycle trek traveled from Helena in July up through the Yaak valley, to Sandpoint ID, back down to the Cedar forest by Troy and back to Helena with 15 bikes this year with no accidents - what a trip this sobriety is.

Ongoing:

- We continue to participate in the Area AA hotline and have seen our cost cut in half as a result.
- Our committees continue to;
 - Hold and participate in various workshops around the district on alcoholism,
 - Bring meetings into the jails in our district,
 - Support AA at the prerelease, MCDC, WATCH and bridging the gap,
 - Attend to the archives of the district, and
 - Staff a district literature store.

Up coming events in District 61:

- Attitude of Gratitude will be held at the Colonial Inn on Saturday November 22nd. As always it will be a full day of meetings, fellowship, great speakers, and the foods out of this world.
- Please also keep checking the Area 40 website for other upcoming events in our District.

The District Treasury is overloaded. We have approximately \$5000.00 in checking, (even after paying all our chairs and me to be here), and \$900.00 in our prudent reserve. We know we need to put this money to use helping to get the message out to the still suffering alcoholic, and I have great faith that we can do this!

It is amazing to me that this rotation is drawing to a close. I was asked recently what I feel I have gained over this period. After some quiet reflection I think what this rotation has done to me is that I more and more come into situation, any situation not just an AA situation, looking not for what is wrong and being eager to point it out, but looking more for what I can bring to the table to make it better. Thank you for that, and may God Bless.

Sincerely,
 Tim M.
 District 61 DCM

District 71-- Richard P.

Greetings from District 71 and welcome to the 2008 Fall Assembly. My name is Rick and I am an alcoholic.

District 71 is located in the Southwestern corner of Montana with 30-35 active groups holding 70-75 meetings per week in Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Drummond, Opportunity, Whitehall, Dillon, Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Jackson, Lima and Phillipsburg. Our District meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:10 pm in the old St. Ann's School in Butte. We average 12-14 people per meeting with 6-8 committee chairs and 5-7 GSR's attending regularly.

District elections were held this month and all committee chairs were filled. Kevin M. from Anaconda will be our new DCM this rotation. Congratulations Kevin, I'm sure you will do a great job representing District 71.

The Summer went by very fast, as usual. It started out with our annual Delegate's Day Picnic, Campout, and Steak Fry. Area 40's distinguished Delegate, Andrew W., gave us a very informative and interesting report on this year's General Service Conference. Thank-you Andrew, we are all grateful and blessed to have you represent us in New York.

In June, MCDC held another orientation. Anyone wanting to attend meetings at this treatment facility must attend prior to participating. We would like to especially thank Districts 61 and 72 for your support at MCDC. Other institutes in need of support/participation within our District are WATCH, Warm Springs, MSP in Deer Lodge, and START, to name a few.

Butte hosted the first Montana Drug Court Conference at the War Bonnet Hotel, Aug. 20-22. The event was Co-sponsored by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Jeff Kusher, Statewide Drug Court Coordinator, sent an invitation to GSO, who in turn contacted our Area 40 CPC chair, Terry S., who in turn contacted me, the Butte area DCM. After some heated and interesting discussion and debate among the Area Chairs and DCM's (mostly via e-mail) it was decided to participate with a Public Information display table. Thanks to Terry, Peggy H., District 71 PI/CPC Chair, and a handful of AA members, we able to inform the attendees as to what AA is and is not. GSO provided all of the AA literature for our display table. We also gave a short informational workshop and held 2 closed AA meeting during the 3 day event.

Upcoming activities in District 71 include a Professionals Luncheon and a Service workshop to be held sometime after the new year in Butte.

I would like to thank Area 40, District 71, this Assembly and of course my Higher Power, for the opportunity to serve as DCM this rotation. I look forward to continuing in AA's recovery, unity and service, one day at a time.

Yours in Service,
Rick P., DCM District 71

District 72-- Lori F.

Greetings from District 72! My name is Lori and I am an alcoholic. It's been a good summer in District 72 on the downhill side of this rotation. On June 14th, we welcomed our Delegate, Andrew W., to Bozeman to report on the General Service Conference. He didn't seem at all intimidated by the three past delegates in attendance. Andrew's report was followed by a sharing session featuring some local old-timers and a potluck barbeque.

We started our rotating out of town District meetings on May 31st in Ennis, followed by Manhattan in June, Gardiner in July and Livingston in August. We held elections in July, and, much to my surprise and delight, we filled all of our officer and committee chair positions in one meeting! Unfortunately, the newly elected DCM, who was also our Round Up Committee Chair, recently had to resign. We elected a new Round Up Committee Chair in August, and we hope to elect a new DCM or Alternate DCM at our September meeting next weekend.

There is some interest in the District in preparing a submission for the AA Young People's Video Project. Our Special Events Committee Chair is hoping to get a video day organized soon as the General Service Office indicated that they are still accepting videos.

Upcoming events include a CPC Luncheon on October 28th and a GSR School in October or November. Arch W., the new Round Up Chair, and his committee are hard at work planning the Fall 2009 Round Up. It will be October 2-4, 2009 at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman.

The groups in the District have purchased thousands of dollars of literature this rotation. Our Literature Committee is currently looking at the feasibility of increasing our inventory, and perhaps having a store of some kind.

Group contributions are a bit down this year, although approximately 50% of the groups have been able to send 7th Tradition support to the district. We have also had good attendance at District Meetings – even this summer!

Our Finance Committee will present a preliminary budget, or “spending plan” as our Treasurer re-named it, for our October District Meeting, with the goal of having a final budget passed for 2009 by our last meeting on December 13th, 2008. During this process, I like to remember the Responsibility Declaration: “I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

When my name came out of the hat and I was elected DCM two years ago, I was blessed to inherit a district that had a strong foundation and framework built by many past trusted servants. I also had the help of a great group of folks serving as district officers, committee chairs and GSRs. I am grateful to all the people, past and present, who had a hand in making my job much easier.

It's hard to believe that the end of this two year rotation is in sight. I have found that at my age, time seems to fly whether I'm having fun or not! All kidding aside, I have enjoyed serving District 72 as DCM, and I hope that I have contributed even a fraction of the amount of spiritual benefits I have received. Abraham Lincoln once said “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.” I suspect that there have been several times in the past two years when I have removed all doubt – but those instances have reminded me to be humble, and have caused me to re-explore the traditions and concepts. I have learned a great deal more from my mistakes than from my successes, and I have learned to trust the informed group conscience.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve District 72 and Area 40, and I look forward to what my higher power has in mind for me next.

Lori Fink, District 72 DCM

District 81 Paula H.

Good morning, District 81 is represented today by more than half of its registered groups. It is a joy to see the excitement for service grow in the District. This is due, I believe, to the GSRs going back to their groups after Area Assemblies with an energy they had not had before they came. Dedication to the program is exhibited by people willing to serve as GSRs and Committee chairs despite their house burning down and severe illness in the family. GSRs come regularly to District meetings from Polson, T Falls, Plains, Frenchtown, and Ronan. In addition, I think I can safely say that all of our District Committee chairs have been filled for the next rotation! (One chair is yet to be elected, but we have a candidate.) I read in the Grapevine this month that "Service is the core of sobriety; the key to feeling we belong." I truly believe it.

We have 36 groups in Missoula and 90 meetings per week. Our newest groups are a Beginner's group and a group at Valor House, a home for homeless Vets in Missoula, and additional meetings in Thompson Falls and St Regis.

District 81 had a great Founders' Day. We started the day with a panel of past DCMs. Our recent past DCM, Julie R, came all the way from Boise, ID to be with us. The panel went back to 1989. Then we adjourned to a local park for a potluck and our annual softball game. Also in June, the T Falls group hosted their second annual potluck. In August we held a movie night with popcorn and soft drinks. Our Delegate, Andrew, spoke about the General Service Conference. Thank you, Andrew. Afterwards, we saw the movie, My Name Is Bill W.

The Phone Committee has been hard at work, updating the phone list and discussing alternatives to the 888 service. The Archives Committee has continued to go through a massive amount of material, and has continued transferring speaker tapes to CDs. PI is expanding its sphere of influence to truck stops and the court house. People are stepping up to fill the commitments of the CPC, Treatment, and Corrections committees.

Our summer out-of-town meeting was held in Thompson Falls this year. We were treated with a yummy potluck and got to meet in the air-conditioned Senior Citizen Center! Thanks to the wonderful folks in Thompson Falls.

Upcoming events:

Halloween Party in October Thanksgiving potluck on Thanksgiving Day
Christmas potluck Christmas Day New Years marathon
Various Round-Up fundraisers

As a friend of mine has said: "I never willingly take on a service position, but I always benefit greatly from them."

I am so glad to be of service,

Paula H., DCM
District 81

District 91-- April A.

Hello everyone, my name is April, I am an alcoholic and I am the DCM for District 91 tucked away in the northwest corner of the state.

This summer we had Andrew W. over to give his delegate's report, we also had Terry S. over to have a CPC workshop. Both were interesting and well attended. Thank you to both of you for your time.

There is much going on this fall, first is the Fall Round Up in Kalispell at the Red Lion Hotel in the Kalispell Center Mall on September 26-28, the second is the annual Fall Refresher event at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Country Kitchen on October 18 & 19, next is the annual Women's Recovery Weekend on Flathead Lake October 24-26. I have flyers for all events for those who are interested.

District 91 has started the election process to replace the current trusted servants with new members who are willing to serve. We have elected Libbie L. as our new DCM, she is here this weekend getting her "assembly legs", and our new alternate DCM is Sam B. We welcome our new servants and thank them for the willingness to serve. We are continuing elections throughout the fall until we get 'er done.

We are already planning our Into Action Weekend which usually takes place in February; more will be coming out about that before the event. District 91 will more than likely hold a Christmas Alcathon on December 24th and 25th, meetings every hour on the hour. Then the Flathead Valley Intergroup will host their usual New Year's Alcathon on December 31st and January 1st.

This will be my last Assembly as District 91's DCM. I am somewhat relieved and also a little sad. This position has been quite the learning experience and has humbled me more than once in the two years I have served. I wanted to do right by the fellowship and in particular those alcoholics who put their confidence in me. I am sure I fell short at times but not from lack of caring. As we all have heard in these rooms, just when a person finally catches on to what it is they're supposed to be doing, it is time to rotate out. Maybe this service structure is built this way to keep us all humble, who knows? But it sure is a wonder we can function.

It has been a pleasure and a great inspiration to me to see the numbers of interested and enthusiastic AA members active in general service in this district. I want to offer my thanks to all the AA's who are active in service in district 91; they have made my job so much easier. There has always someone willing to be of service and to take care of any task that might need to be taken care of. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Area 40 committee and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

District 93-- John V.

Greetings from the Bitterroot valley. Glad to be here with all of you.

Most of our District positions are filled for the new rotation. Also have a new group in Stevensville giving us a total of 14 in our District.

Our campout this past June at Painted Rocks was a great success. The water was cold but we still had fun and great fellowship.

A.A. continues to grow with sobriety and it keeps getting better for all our members, new ones as well as the ones greeting them with our "singleness of purpose" of recovery from alcohol.

Like to thank my district for giving me this opportunity to serve as DCM and I look forward to more service for A.A.

Thank you.

John V.

Area 40 Advisor—Scott W.

No report sent

Area 40 Archivist—Gerry R.

Good Morning Everyone!

My name is Gerry R. and I'm an alcoholic. I also have the honor of serving you as your Area 40 Archivist. I would like to extend a warm welcome to old friends, new friends, and soon-to-be friends.

For those of you who are old enough to remember Tina Turner doing "Proud Mary," this report is going to start out easy, but its going to finish "rough!"

I was invited to present an Archives display at the Helena Roundup this spring, and it was very well received. The District 61 Roundup Committee has since made an extremely generous contribution of nearly one thousand dollars to the Area 40 Archives. Okay, so I lied a little about starting out easy. Thank you District 61 for your generosity.

I have not yet received an invitation to the Kalispell Roundup, but talks are underway.

I was also asked to take a display, and participate in an Area 40 Workshop held in Lincoln this July. It is always a treat to take the Archives to places that don't often get the opportunity to see them.

Two significant material contributions were made to the Area 40 Archive this past summer. Linda B. the Area 40 Literature Chair graciously turned over a lot of her records and allowed me to pick through and take whatever I needed for the Archive, and return the rest to her. I returned those boxes to her last night with little more than a few blank expense reports, some rubber bands, and a highlighter in them. Thank you, Linda.

You will all be happy to know that the Scott W. wing of the Area 40 Archive was officially launched this summer when Scott traveled to Helena and dropped off a trunk-load of material that he had gathered from his time in service to Area 40 as our Delegate. And, as he does everything in service, he did this with a smile. Thank you, Scott, for your contribution to the Archive, and for your loving service to Area 40 and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Speaking of service, many of you here are either rotating in to a new position, or rotating out of an old one. There are those of you too, who qualify as "sicker than most" who are doing both at the same time. What ever the case, please see me so I can give you a letter concerning the care and eventual submission of your service records.

Election Assemblies are always very moving events for me. Thank you to everyone rotating in, or rotating on, for your willingness to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

Now, the rough stuff.

The Archives display for this Assembly centers around my recent trip to the National AA Archives Workshop held in Niagara Falls, NY. In lieu of presenting a lot of artifacts, I felt it would be best to utilize the display to present some of the story of the amazing journey that you allowed me to participate in.

In addition to the photos and information from that trip, I have included some photos and information from a side trip to Akron OH that my wife Connie and I were able to take after the workshop ended. Just to assure you, this second trip was taken at our own expense.

There is simply too much information there to cover in this five-minute report so please, catch me during the breaks and pummel me with your questions. Better yet, invite me out to do a presentation at your next event. I must warn you, the entire trip ended just last Tuesday so I'm still a ball of fire looking for a place to land – be prepared.

Finally, some exciting news! One thing I was charged with when I was given this opportunity, was to bring back as much information on AA archival work as possible. So, I got to thinking, and I asked myself, “Why not just bring back the entire workshop?” While there, I took the initiative to place a verbal, non-committal, intent to bid for Area 40 to host the 2011, 15th annual, National AA Archives Workshop. Everyone I spoke with at the event afterward was very excited at the prospect of bringing the workshop to Montana, and I believe we would stand a very good chance of earning the bid if we chose to pursue it. The workshop is held much like a regional forum and is self supporting with seed money provided by the previous years' workshop. I will be preparing an agenda item for the spring 2009 Area Assembly so we can discuss the possibility of Area 40 placing a bid for the workshop. I have the bid guidelines with me this weekend for anyone interested in looking them over.

Thank you all, most sincerely, for allowing me to be of service.

Area 40 Webmaster—Alex M. <http://www.aamontana.org>

At this past Spring Assembly I was asked to develop an area on the website so that each District could have a mini-site that would include a calendar of events and a section to make documents available to the District.

I was also asked to continue the development of the Admin section for the Area's 800 number volunteer listings.

I am happy to report that these two items have been developed, tested and are now live on the website.

The District mini-sites can be found by using the 'area 40 business' link on the left hand menu. Right now I have some bogus information so folks can get an idea of what they look like.

The 800 number Admin area is available to volunteers that procure a username and password from me. Folks who have volunteered for these positions have usually been referred to me by the DCM's or PI chairs for each District.

Other than that it has been business as usual for the webmaster. Visits to meeting listings continue to be the number one box office hit of the website. As I do every Assembly, I would like to thank all those who volunteer to update the meeting listings online. Your efforts keep state and out of state travelers as well as folks new to AA with a means to find a meeting.

Yours in service,
Alex M.
Area 40 Webmaster

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Those willing to stand for **Area Delegate** were as follow:

Carole B., Current Area Chair
Lori F. Current District 72 DCM
Lloyd B. Past Area CPC Chair
Joe H., Past Area Chair
Sid G., Past Area Treasurer

After following the Third Legacy, on the third vote **Carole B. was voted as the new Area 40 Delegate**

Those willing to stand for **Area Chair/Alt Delegate** were as follows:

Terry S, Current Area CPC Chair
Lori F., Current District 72 DCM
Lloyd B., Past Area CPC Chair
Sid G., Past Area Treasurer

After following the Third Legacy, on the fourth vote, a motion was made to cease elections. The names of Terry S. and Sid G. went into the hat and **Terry S. became the new Area 40 Area Chair/Alt Delegate.**

Those willing to stand for **Area Treasurer** were as follows:

Linda B., Current Area Literature Chair
Lori F., Current District 72 DCM
Gary, from Dist 81
Doug M, Current District 51 DCM

After following the Third Legacy, on the fourth vote, **Linda B. was elected as the new Area 40 Treasurer.**

Those willing to stand for **Area Secretary** were as follows:

Lori F., Current District 72 DCM
April A., Current District 91 DCM
Larry H., from Dist 91

After following the Third Legacy, on the fourth vote, a motion was made to cease elections. The names of Lori F and April A. went into the hat and **April A became the new Area 40 Secretary.**

The remaining committee Chairs were voted by nomination and willing to serve. Elections were conducted by a show of hands. The following were those who were willing to stand and the new Area Chair.

Archives Chair:

Lori F
Rich K.
Connie R.—New **Area Archives Chair**

CPC Chair:

Virginia R—New **Area CPC Chair**
Rich K.

Corrections Chair:

Mary S—New **Area Corrections Chair**
Mike B.

Grapevine Chair

Rich K—New **Area Grapevine Chair**
Sam B

Literature Chair

Lori F—New **Area Literature Chair**
Tim H.

PI Chair

Tim M—New **Area PI Chair**
Tim H
Paula H

Treatment Chair

Doug M
Mike B
Paula H—New **Area Treatment Chair**

Triangle

Larry H
Cleve—New **Area Triangle Editor**

Elections for Trustee At Large Nominee

Those willing to stand fir **Trustee at Large** were as follows:

Earl F., Past Delegate Panel 53
Bob H., Past Delegate Panel 42

After following the Third Legacy, on the fourth vote, a motion was made to cease elections. The two names were put in a hat and Bob H. became **Area 40's Trustee At Large Nominee.**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following is the district assignments for each district. Each district has two representatives, the DCM and a District Representative (DR). You will see that two districts will have more District Representatives than others. This is a random pick to provide 4 voting members per committee.

Finance Committee		Grapevine Committee	
Delegate	Alt Delegate	DCM District 91	DR District 71
DCM District 72	DR District 11	DCM District 81	DR District 61
Archives Committee		Literature Committee	
DCM District 71	DR District 23	DCM District 31	DR District 93
DCM District 11	DR District 91	DCM District 12	DR District 91
CPC Committee		PI Committee	
DCM District 21	DR District 81	DCM District 93	DR District 51
DCM District 51	DR District 42	DCM District 23	DR District 12
Corrections Committee		Treatment Committee	
DCM District 41	DR District 72	DCM District 61	DR District 21
DCM District 42	DR District 31	Dr District 41	DR District 71

Standing Committee Meetings

Archives/structure—Conrad M.

Conrad called meeting to order.

Archives:

Policy & Procedures have been change in the web site per Gerry.

Structure:

Lori emailed copies of correspondence and draft of Adhoc Committee meeting of Spring Assembly to committee members. Reviewed last spring. Draft recommendation discussion last spring. Lori—preassembly finance line items, sent to committee members. Change in wording of Item #1. Item #2 changes re: local presenters. District as hosts to determine content. See correspondence. Item # 2 changes- include coordination with DCM’s. Possibly delete #3—Scott comments. Joe comments. Bob comments. Gerry comments.

Motion made by Dan and 2nd by Lori. “Area 40 participate in and fund expenses for presenters to Pre-Assembly, allowing for one each, etc. (Discussion ended. Reading of recommendation. Voting, 3 for 1 against.) Minority opinion. Vote stands.

Item #2 Gerry comments, Bob comments, Mary, Bud, much discussion. Bud made motion to rescind previous motion. Seconded by Dan. Unanimous! Lori made motion, Dan seconded.

Archives/Structure recommends that Pre-Assemblies continue to be held in Area 40 prior to each Spring Assembly.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Terry: Will this be a line item?

Conrad—I don't know who does that.

Carole—Assembly does now.

Vote—For 64 Against 8, no minority opinion expressed

Item #C—Evaluate the Area 40 workshops for usefulness and effectiveness.

For usefulness—discussion—

Gerry—not many people attending 87-22= 65 attendees = \$37.00

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Rich—Don't always have opportunity to invite Area Chairs. Now we have to let them know—Area is willing to spend.

Paula—Lincoln had no one from Lincoln attended. 99% of attendees from more populated areas.

Lori—Workshops overwhelming well received. We are just preaching to the choir.\=

Brandon—What numbers are we looking at to make it cost effective?

Scott-- 2006 Assembly decided on workshops. Lincoln only has 11/2 sober members in Lincoln.

Return on investment—there is no way of figuring. The point was to take Area Committee Chairs out to the Area where GSR's and group members do not have the opportunity to go to Area.

Gerry—Is one time around enough to see if the workshops are working?

Lynn—was taken to a workshop in Kalispell. Without workshop she would not have taken the steps to follow thru to be here.

Andrew—Is this a no recommendation coming from the committee? If there is no recommendation, the workshops are done.

Tim—Concept on return on investment is to move ahead—start small and grow.

Doug—Went to Glasgow with another individual. Felt good about workshop. Excited.

Bill—Participated in all 4 workshops. The return was when I picked up an article the Archivist brought with him about the prison. I shared with the inmates later and shred that a spearhead can start from that.

Literature—Linda B.

There were five people present for our committee this assembly. Thank you again, Kyra, for the wonderful note taking. The literature display has been cleaned up and updated for the next rotation. Outdated materials have been sent to the Archives for their preservation and safe keeping.

Our committee has thoroughly reviewed and discussed the four agenda items provided to our committee. They are as follows:

1. Discuss the process for updating AA literature. There are two different updating models. The first one is that of editorial updates. These are standard publishing practices that are done on literature by the professional editors and publishers. These are done based on distribution numbers and available resources and time schedule.

The substantial revisions that require the conference process and approval are revisions that come from the fellowship. These are calls of concern or a need for revision. The concern for an update can come from an individual, group, district, or an area. Revisions or updates are discussed, reviewed, and recommended by our conference procedure. A current example that we might follow is our Native North American updated pamphlet or one we will soon see on our agenda, Thoroughly revise the, “Q & A's on

Sponsorship” pamphlet.

2. Discuss AA literature available in electronic format at www.aa.org. There is a wealth of material available for download on our recently updated website. The site was redesigned in August this year. I asked Eva Sanchez at the literature desk, “Is everything available in electric format?” The answer was I’m not sure as there is lots to be done. The site is only one week old at the time of our conversation. It is a matter of resources, time, and scheduling needs. Our AA work is not a finished product.

3. Review literature committee items discussed at the GSC. There were no recommendations from the Literature committee at the GSC. The revised pamphlet “AA for the Native North American” will continue to be an agenda item. It will probably be ready for final conference approval in 2009. The progress report for “Medications and Other Drugs” is being forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee. You will see this item on the next agenda also. The request to change the pamphlet “44 Questions” was brought back as a floor action and was recommitted to the committee. There was no action taken to reinstate the pamphlet “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic”. The subsequent floor action on this item was that the Conference voted not to consider.

4. Review Area 40’s Policy and Procedure for Literature and discuss the activities of the Literature Committee during the 2007-2008 rotation. The guidelines for the Literature committee are fine as they are. Discussion on the activities of the committee are that they would like to continue to ask the publication department to have the Daily Reflections in a hardbound format. This was passed on by Andrew Ware, our delegate, and it was also endorsed by the North Dakota area. With continued interest, this may be one of those editorial updates. The literature committee had consistent input for all agenda items presented for the continuation of updated and revised materials. There is a current list of district literature contacts for the incoming chair to follow up with. The plan to have new service manuals in the fall seems to be effective. They come out color coded along with the Final Conference report. (you know that I like color co-ordination) The literature display is stocked and updated. New materials are added and the old and tired information is going to the Archives rest home. I look forward to Lori taking over the Literature responsibilities and we are already planning the transfer of the display. Remember, groups or individuals can utilize the lending library and that much can be downloaded in electronic format from our area website and the aa.org site. I want to thank my committee for the work on the committee and as always, it is a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Linda informed the assembly that there were 97 service manuals picked up but we are at a \$75.00 deficit because not all were paid for. This is a chance for those who picked up without paying to make amends by the end of assembly.

Grapevine/policy and Admissions—BilliJo D.

WITH A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF GREAT SADNESS, WE HELD OUR LAST COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THIS ROTATION.

In attendance were our assigned voting committees of five: myself, John, Sam, Mary, and Sandy. We had faithful non-voting attendee who has been at every meeting, Johnny — Dist 11 Grapevine Rep. Also in attendance were Alan, whose DCM sent him to us; John, an alternate GSR from Msls, Brad, who we locked out but who still walked around the hallway and joined us, Gary the new Dist GVR from Helena. We were also honored to enjoy Dave former AREA 92 delegate as well.

Concerning the Grapevine agenda:

A. Thanks to the faithfulness of AA'ers, subscriptions are up and the Grapevine is fully self-supporting.

B. New things this committee has not talked about over the last two years are: Grapevine being a line item in a District's budget. And having a display at the Group level; there are at least three of such in the State! Dave, from WA, brought up the fact that it would only cost an additional \$28,000 year to print all Grapevine issues without staples, instead of the current way of only the July issue. His AREA 92 submitted a request at the last GSC proposing for ALL issues be w/o staples and he asked our committee to support this. Our committee in turn asks all of AREA 40 to support a staple less Grapevine.

C. I read the six items; we agreed we had followed policies and procedure. I requested we submit a G6.7 item, that being that AREA GVR Chairs wear purple to all events during their rotation. The idea failed to garner support.

D. We talked about the few things that were in the report. We felt there was a loud silence in the report in regards to the committee-disliked grey pages.

Not on the agenda, John V. outgoing DCM for District 93 is the newly elected GVR for his district. We felt he enjoyed his two year appointment as DCM on this committee is why his next service position continues with the Grapevine in a different capacity. For that reason, he will receive a gift of a poster to begin his District Display. Sam B., GSR assigned to the committee has probably done more than anyone in support and distribution of the Grapevine and Grapevine published books. Sam suggested we in AREA 40 consider giving Grapevine BOOKS, not just the magazine, to our treatment and correctional facilities because the books do not have staples. For that reason, he will receive a gift of a poster for his District display.

Policy Admissions ~

A. We talked about AREA 40 communications through emails, the website, pre-assemblies, snail mail, and the Triangle. It was the general feeling of the committee that communications in AREA 40 have improved significantly over the past ten years. We are proud of AA in AREA 40.

B. I missed this one, on a second page, therefore, I did not have printed out the Policy and Procedures regarding the newsletter, the Triangle. We discussed it anyway. We think that with the website disseminating so much AREA 40 information, that perhaps we should visit the idea of reducing the number of issues per year to six, every other month, rather than the 8. **OUR COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THEN IS TO HAVE 6 ISSUES ANNUALLY RATHER THAN 8.** We also discussed the record keeping of updated names, groups, address. Perhaps there is a more efficient way? Raymona has worked on updating, it is a never-ending job.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Paula—expressed concern about those who don't have computers or don't spend time on computers.

Gerry—Point of Order—PI changes to policy and Grapevines change in policy should go through the Archives committee. This was agreed to in past action by the PI committee's Report & Charters.

Bob—Quite sometime back the Triangle was to produce 10 issues. Bob would rather see the Triangle go back to 10 rather than cut back. Get others fired up about service.

Kelly—Triangles lay around in club. Has had people ask questions about what is in it.

Raymona—We need to try to get every group to pay the subscription. Only 35% pay right now.

Bill—Feels that we need to think this through.

Motion: For 4 Against 64—Motion failed, no minority opinion

Thank you for the privilege and the honor to have served you for these past two years

Finance – Curt K.

See Exhibit I (not on internet copy)

Curt presented the 2009 Area 40 Budget. Changes on the budget are noted as follow:

- 1) Contribution to GSO will stay the same at \$3,239.
- 2) Delegate Expenses will be \$700.00
- 3) Fund Alternate Delegate & Delegate to Regional Forums at \$1,800
- 4) Pre-Assemblies, Area Workshops and Triangle will be adjusted as the Assembly decides them.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Sid—We are setting aside a past action to increase the delegates contribution.

Kelly—What would be the increase for Delegate Contribution. \$3,890

Tim—If we are taking out the \$600 Delegate Contribution because Area is about to tip over, then Area is already tipped over.

Doug—If I understand, we are running at \$5,000 deficit?

Curt—Yes, this is true based on what contributions have been.

Angela—How was the 20% determined?

Curt—3 years ago, Area Assembly approved to increase GSO Contributions to 20% each year until Area was completely self supporting.

Joe—As of yesterday, The workshop is not part of Budget, wouldn't that make up the difference of Delegate Contribution?

Lori—disagrees, that we are not fully supporting our delegate, we contribute at our meetings and then send to GSO.

Sherry—GSO is not fully funded by contributions.

Vote: 58 for 15 Against -- Passed

Finance committee recommends that Area 40 pay the 800 # bill in full as soon as possible.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Sid—Couldn't we just do it?

Sherry—Is there anything in place to make sure we don't have this problem again?

Curt—They are trying to work it out and so much so they are not asking for the big bill to be paid in full.

Vote: 72 For 3 Against Passed

Minority Opinion: Bobbi-If we pay in full we are not considering a reduction or a settlement.

Public Information/Report & Charter—Sean B.

1) Review progress of Area's toll free answering service

Confusion as to structure, patches, billing structure, forwarded to area 1st before districts, some working and some not working, disconnected Missoula, Alanon/AA & gender transfer issues. Some issues with tracking minutes etc.

Racqelle is no longer there, another lady—manager from begin. Couple of floor actions. Kurt of finance committee & Sean billing & tracking no is in place.

Libby—Dist 91 Treasurer—need to know what to do to get on service—4 calls in June/July –7 minutes.

Way to get info to Answernet?

Alex—Webmaster—Area 40—logon to Area 40 & update listings on line for folks to answer calls—
Answernet will go to the website, when have call
User name & password to each district to logon for person to update
F/U? Billing going to where—DCM via website
Bills enmasse to DCM's & area chairs.
Email address via website
Decided no floor action needed t decide how to email billing—each district to elect someone to handle
that bill/issues.
All identifying information not available to public.
Tom—Concerns w/phone service in Missoula—1 meeting @ 1 time—experience is that person on end
of line not have sense of urgency & understanding of need.
Represent AA, but like pulling teeth to get information. Local answering understand more & user
friendly.
Letter 2-3 months ago—letter written regarding service
Paula—Alanon info—line—calling thru in desperation to information
Libby—services w/any hotline not perfect.
Sean—majority of calls—meeting infor but also need to patch calls where crisis occurring, if need to
talk to an AA member those calls take precedence. Recording—macy need to be changed- if talk with
AA member may adjust later—trying to get larger program in place right now.
Hotline page on website—add a drop down on menu?
Ruth—heard good & bad—on last call—people rude
How best to get to people who need it.
Recording direct to website meetings/feedback?
Sean—would like all feedback and be able to address—try to avoid chaos & confusion to situation.
Phil-District 61-calls routed to Helena from Billings/Missoula (issue)
By floor action if no one reached in local area—will go ut further.
Eric-District 93—GSR Lolo Grp—circulate list of available members of groups for contact.
Districts will be getting bills on hold until accounting system in place
Log on password—who gets?—whoever will keep it current
Tim—Any new system initially has problems—encourage prudence—carry this back to districts—not
throw away something that can benefit
Sean—2 months ago sought competing bids and provided this info to Answernet & than services
began to change—bids reflected getting a good deal
Tom glad to hear solutions happening

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Terry—the way I understand these are suggestions
Geoff—How many districts participating with Hotlines?
Sean—Small activity across state.
What are happening to alcoholics put on hold?
Sean—It just sucks, bad deal all around—don't know until contact Answernet.
Carleen—Teresa K. can fix this-Have to be able to press 0 to get a person.
Lori—Dist 72 has not received bill need for budget
Sean—the bills we are getting were all over the map—sent back to Answernet to straighten out.

2) Review the progress of the implementation of the links to District websites from area 40's website
Progress on links to create additional emails at area level for those volunteering for toll free answering
service.

Area serving as primary when forward to local areas/districts for those serving in that capacity—if no
district in that position—will forward to DCM

- 3) Review Area 40 website
Anonymity concerns—original guidelines already approved
District level may need to let folks know that info on flyers will be posted as submitted disparity Policy/Procedures & website guidelines.

Recommend anonymity statement apply with exception of flyers where names of individuals, phone numbers , addresses, and email address be published.

Committee discussion: Use word discretion to avoid putting up roadblocks telling group member what to do vs what prefer

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

No floor discussion

Vote: 73 For, 7 Against --Passed

Other Issue: **Recommendation to strike last sent of content section of Website guidelines to reflect current practices**

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

No floor discussion

Vote: 84 For, 1 Against –Passed

- 4) Review Area 40's Policy and Procedure
G8.8.6 Recommend to change policy to reflect adding an 800# information/contact lists as well the meeting schedules.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

No floor discussion

Vote: 88 For, none Against – Passed

G8.8.8 Recommend amending Policy/Procedures to add “and additional email addresses for purposes of conducting Area 40 business”.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

No Floor discussion

Vote: 81 For, 3 Against – Passed

- 5) Discuss activities
In finance committee to discuss:
\$1200 annually to pay for calls that are not geographically specified (would be new action)
District to take current usage and trace (recreate) last year/average & pay those costs (parity for last year
November to May—District 81 may have been double billed

Last Item:

Consider asking Assembly to consider a phone chair position.

Report & Charter—Sean B.

No report submitted

Treatment/Agenda—Geoff D.

No Report Submitted

Corrections/international conventions/regional forums—Bill E.

No Report Submitted

B. Discuss the effectiveness of the Pink Can Program and ways to improve it.
Gerry—Area decided a few years back that a report of the pink can be presented to Area. Has that happened. **See Exhibit II (no Exhibits Attached to internet copy).**

Area 40 Delegate's Report – Andrew W

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your Delegate for a little while longer. Wow. It is amazing to me that two years have passed since our last election assembly. I have enjoyed this election assembly tremendously.

After our Spring Assembly, I went back to New York for the 58th General Service Conference. This was my second GSC and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I felt right at home and, once again, very well prepared for the conference. The process we have in Area 40 of going over the GSC agenda items at our pre-assemblies and Spring Assembly makes for a well-informed delegate. Thank all of you who participated in this process this past spring.

The theme of the 58th GSC was “Communication and Participation: The Key to Unity and Self-Support.” The conference was held April 27 – May 3, 2008 in New York City at the Crowne Plaza, Times Square. Being at my second conference felt like going home again. It was great to see all of the Panel 57 delegates, the trustees, and the staff members I met at last year's conference. It was also a pleasure to welcome the Panel 58 delegates as well.

Voting members at the conference included 93 delegates from across the U.S. & Canada, 23 trustees and directors, and 16 GSO & Grapevine Office staff members. The average age of the delegates was 54 with the oldest being 74 and the youngest 40.

Once again my committee assignments were a primary assignment on the Finance Committee and a secondary assignment on the Archives Committee. You'll probably here a little more about items from these two committees compared to the other committees because of that.

I hope you all have a copy of the Final Conference Report (the one with the brown cover). I could spend days pointing out interesting, funny, and useful items in this report but in the interest of time, I will point out a few selected items that stand out to me.

1. One page 9 you will see a listing of all the Conference Advisory Actions. These are the recommendations that came out of committee and were passed by the full conference. I will point out several of these items.
 - a. The one FLOOR ACTION that we passed (though we had 15 floor actions altogether) was to undo one of our earlier actions. We did this not because we were against the previous action but because it did not warrant being an Advisory Action. We did not want to trivialize that process.

- b. Under Agenda, #2, the theme for the 2009 General Service Conference be: “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action.” I like this theme and hope we all continue to carry A.A.’s message with enthusiasm and gratitude.
 - c. Under Finance, #6, you’ll see the item that was also on our agenda today. The Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee met in August and appointed a subcommittee to come up with appropriate wording and background material to send out to the fellowship in its request for sharing. Hopefully something will be sent out after the next GSB meeting in October. I will then send it out to all of the DCMs in Area 40 to share with you. You can then send any sharing on the subject back to me.
 - d. Under Policy/Admissions, #13, the Conference delegated authority of site selection of the GSC to GSO, including the possibility of holding the conference outside of New York City. Simply put, we may be priced out of New York.
 - e. Under Public Information, numbers 14, 15 and 17, concerning the public service announcements. We approved a new P.S.A., “I thought”, and its tracking, but also decided to annually assess the need for a new P.S.A. A motion to start a new P.S.A. failed. We are going to take a break for a year and then see.
2. The report from the treasurer of the General Service Board, Vincent Keefe, starts on page 13 and gives a good summary of the financial status of the GSB. On page 14, in the second paragraph in the second column, Vincent summarizes the growth in contributions and thanks the fellowship. Staring in the last paragraph on that page, Vincent raises a concern about the Grapevine.
 3. On page 16, in the second paragraph, an equation actually makes into our Final Report. The physicist in me was so happy.
 4. On page 20, in a presentation on “Leadership in A.A.: Building Communication”, the delegate from Southeastern Michigan, Bob C., points out potential pitfalls and abuses with email communications among delegates. I was glad to see someone address this head on. It is particularly dangerous to believe an email discussion involves all of the delegates and it an appropriately place to debate matters affecting A.A. as a whole.
 5. On page 26, Trustee-at-Large Dorothy W. related some information on the first General Service Conference in Mongolia. The discussion on groups “having” to contribute money to their GSO and then rethinking that decision is gratifying to see. We can always examine our decisions in light of the traditions.
 6. On page 33, in the fourth paragraph, the Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board reports that distributed 1,127,310 Big Book units (in all formats). That’s great. It was a big deal when the one-millionth Big Book was published and now over a million are published each year.
 7. On page 40, in a list of Grapevine Subscriptions by state and province, you can see that the number of subscriptions in Montana went up by 64 from 595 in 2007 to 659 in 2008.
 8. On page 48, third paragraph, in the Finance and Budget report, Vincent Keefe talks about the contributions of groups and A.A. members for the last several years relative to the amount spent on services to the fellowship. This type of information might be useful for your discussions on self-support. For another take, you can also read the presentation on Self-Support on page 23.
 9. The Additional Committee Considerations are listed on page 65. I’d like to point out a few of these.
 - a. The third bullet under Archives starts a list of ways to creatively make A.A.’s archives more readily available to the fellowship.
 - b. On page 67, the fourth bullet under P.I., I’d like to echo my continued enthusiasm for this project. Anytime we can get more of us thinking about how we can carry A.A.’s message, I think it’s a good idea.
 - c. On page 67, the last bullet under International Conventions and Regional Forums, it is suggested that areas consider extending one-day service events into two-day events with the inclusion of a Local Forum. The idea behind Local Forums is discussed on page 54, the second paragraph in the second column, by G.S.O. staff member Rick W. writes.

10. The full list of Floor Actions is on page 69. You can see that for many of these we used a new tool, the motion to recommit. That means these items will be sent back to committee.

These are just some of the many items of interest in the report.

Since the conference, it has been a busy summer. Since going to New York, I have had a chance to see many of you around Area 40. I gave my first delegate's report on the conference at the Spring Roundup in Helena. The next day I went up to Victor to give my report at a District 93 meeting. On a Wednesday evening, June 4, I gave my delegate's report in Great Falls for District 41. The next two reports I gave were on June 7 at the Grapefest in Helena for District 61 and at a campout in Dillon for District 71. It was so cold in Dillon that we moved indoors for my report that night. I gave my report at a Founder's Day celebration in Bozeman for District 72 on June 14. I gave my report in Kalispell for District 91 on June 29. In August, I once again gave my report in the A-frame at the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest in Glendive for District 23 and swung by Miles City to give my report at a District 31 meeting. My most recent report was at a District 11 meeting in Billings on September 13. I'll be giving my report again next week at the Roundup in Kalispell; there will be video. I want to thank all of you who hosted me at these events. A.A.s in Montana do hospitality very well.

At the end of last month a few of us from Area 40 were able to attend the Pacific Regional Forum in Spokane, Washington. It was a pleasuring seeing some of the Trustees and non-trustee directors, the G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members, the Pacific Region delegates, as well as AA members from our neighboring area, Area 92 Eastern Washington, the hosts of the event.

Last year I felt like I was given a gift in that I felt like I had plenty of time for my responsibilities as delegate. It was a wonderful gift. This year, due to changes at my work and illness of friends and colleagues, it has been a busy year for me at work in addition to my responsibilities as delegate. And it's still okay. Well, you might want to ask my wife about that. The privilege of being delegate has been a responsibility and a gift. I have once again learned a new perspective in AA and a new appreciation for carrying the message, one alcoholic to another, in our groups and service work at the local level. I hope that what we do in general service continues to make that possible. Thank you all for this tremendous opportunity.

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W.
Area 40 Delegate
Panel 57

Roundup Reports

2008 Spring Round-up Helena

Final Report from the 2008 Fall Roundup Chairperson

I was elected to the Chairperson job in March of 2007; we had our first Roundup Committee meeting in April of 2007. We chose to meet on the Thursday that District 61 has its meeting and we met in the Wed Night Step Study Room in the same building as the District meeting. We met at 5:30 PM; we had the next meeting in September 2007 and began monthly meetings in January of 2008.

Outside of the Full committee meetings each committee chair had their own meetings and we just dealt with reports at the full committee meeting, this worked well for us.

We only had two real glitches in planning, 1. Our original choice for Saturday night speaker had to be changed due to health reasons and 2. The flyer design could have been clearer. I received more calls from confused members about who to make check payable to, what's the total cost. Etc.... You may want to consider a better design. I just loved the artwork and didn't look much beyond.

Now, for a somewhat controversial idea, instead of having a 7th Tradition can in the Hospitality room to cover coffee cost, I suggested we charge per-cup to avoid an excessive and unknown coffee bill at the end of the round up. Here's the reason in 2001 Coffee Cost \$40.00 for ONE 5-Gallon Urn, in 2004 it cost \$65.00; in 2008 our cost was \$107.00 for 5 Gallons. The 7th Tradition can in 2004 collected \$150.00 in donations, at current prices that level of donation would buy one urn and a bit more. It was too irresponsible to risk having a multi thousand-dollar coffee bill.

In 2004 the Total Speaker cost was \$2035.00 and coffee cost was \$2127.00. It cost less to fly in, house and feed three speakers than it did to cover coffee cost In 2008 our speaker cost was \$ 1978.32 and our coffee cost was \$580.20. We drank 2/3 less coffee when we had to pay for it by the cup. Our collection from the buy the cup plan was \$611.95, we made \$31.72, it was not the plan to make money on coffee just to break even, not sure what happened here. In short, coffee had ceased being a luxury and has become an expense that need to be dealt with beyond the 7th Tradition can.

I felt so fortunate to be the chair of such a fine group of dedicated AA's it was a humbling and fun experience. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve AA.

Bryan S.

Intergroup Reports

Report from Park County Intergroup

Fall 2008 Report from Park County Intergroup

Park County Intergroup continues to carry the message and provide fellowship events for the unity of groups in the Park County area.

Park County Intergroup maintains a phone information number, 223-6660 where we can give callers information on where the next or closest meeting is to the caller. We also maintain a list of people to go out on twelve step calls, if that is what is needed.

We publish a Park County meeting list that also has a phone number for each meeting. There are nineteen meetings listed a week in Park County, which not only includes Livingston, but also Emigrant, Gardiner, Pine Creek and Wilsall. We also publish a pamphlet called "Who Me?"

We do several workshops a year. We also sponsor fun events such as Valentine's Day event, Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in March, Camp-out in July, Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, An alcothon on Christmas and a New Year's Eve Event.

We sponsor a Medallion meeting every first Saturday of the month to give everyone in Park County a chip for their sobriety length. Then we have a speaker or call up meeting and after, cake which is donated by a member. Then we have the business meeting. We want a representative from each group; so that we can plan for what the groups in Park County want.

We now have a library of one copy of the conference approved literature and order from district any other literature that the groups want.

We keep a prudent reserve of \$100.00 for the phone and other services, like everyone with the gas prices being so high we could use a little more group financial contributions, but as always our Higher Power takes care of us and we have enough.

Mary Helen P., Chair of Park County Intergroup

South Central Montana Intergroup

The South Central Montana Inter Group is comprised Districts 11 and 12 and held its most recent meeting on Saturday, September 13th. IGR's from two groups were at the meeting, Recovery Group and the 644 Group, along with the Alanon Representatives. All chairpersons were present also

South Central Intergroup has recently undergone changes in chairpersons; Michael B was elected chair, while Charlie K. replaced him as co-chair. Phil G was elected secretary, while Bill M and Mike R retained their positions as bookstore chair and treasurer, respectively. Abi S. was elected chairperson for special events, replacing Flight C.

Bill M reported that bookstore sales in August were \$386.80, along with an order to the Rimrock foundation in the amount of \$932.00. The ending balance in August was \$575.48. Intergroup has considered changing the bookstore hours due to a lack of volunteers originally; the bookstore was open from 10am to 2pm on Saturday afternoons. Bill M., the bookstore chair, suggested that the hours are shortened from 12 to 2pm as a convenience to volunteers and groups. Intergroup plans to vote on the change at its next meeting, which is scheduled on October 11, 2008.

Treasurer, Mike R. reported a balance of \$3,320.90 as of September 12, 2008. Mike B. reported that he failed to save the changes to the most recent meeting list after printing and asked that anyone with a meeting list change report them to co-chair Charlie K. Intergroup prints about 4000 meeting lists each year, which are distributed to groups and treatment facilities in the area. There are approximately 29 groups within the two districts, with around 166 meetings being held each week, Intergroup has asked it's IGR's to get the word out to their respective groups that more IGR's show up to represent their groups at Intergroup and that the positions of treasurer and bookstore chair are open for re-election. There is a suggested 5-year sobriety minimum for treasurer and a 2-year suggested sobriety minimum for bookstore chair. There are no special events in the near future, as Abi S. has only just been elected, but we are looking forward to the Intergroup Christmas Party.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael B.

Flathead Valley Intergroup Report

Greetings from Flathead Valley Intergroup;

The Flathead Valley Intergroup represents the AA groups throughout District 91. Our monthly newsletter and business meeting minutes are mailed to groups from Elmo to Eureka and any others who request it. Each group in the valley is entitled to one representative to Intergroup.

We continue to provide the answering service and meetings lists to help carry the message and let folks know where AA meetings are and why we're here. The answering service continues to field 50-100 calls per month, either providing meeting information or connecting the caller with a recovering alcoholic. Fortunately, we're still able to effectively make direct contact between the alcoholic in need and one in recovery. We update our meeting schedules about every 4 months and the website is updated weekly or whenever changes and additions become known.

This year our website has generated over 150 hits per month and continues to provide as much information as we have concerning upcoming events and the most up to date meetings changes.

We have moved our meeting place from the Alano Club in Kalispell back to Columbia Falls at the Steelworkers' Union Hall. The experiment to entice more of the Kalispell groups into increased participation and representation hadn't worked all that well for a year so we moved back north. Participation always increases during the winter and dwindles off during the summer months.

Our annual campout was really well attended this year at Emery Bay Group Sites over the weekend of the 8th of August. Speakers meetings were excellent, as were meals and discussion meetings. We provide the meats for the meals and subsidize rental of the spaces for that event.

The annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held the 29th of November, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, at the Stillwater Grange Hall. Intergroup will provide the turkeys, potatoes and gravy and the rest of the meal is potluck. As with all of our potlucks, we never lack food. All AA's and their families are invited to participate. We combine the festivities with our monthly valley-wide Intergroup Birthday Meeting and most likely a dance following that. Y'all come, if you're in the valley.

We again plan to host the 2009 New Year Eve Alkathon at the Alano Club in Kalispell. Our entertainment committee has plans for one speaker meeting and potluck or other special event per month during the winter. The two or three that we had last year were well attended. Food seems to help generate attendance.

We continue to have liaison representation at district meetings and area assembly and many of our folks are involved in helping with the 2008 Roundup next week-end in Kalispell. Y'all come!!

Yours, in service
Alida W., Chairman, Flathead Valley Intergroup

SPRING ASSEMBLY APRIL 18-19, 2009