

**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 a reading of Declaration of Unity. After the reading Carole asked for all of us to stand in memory of Robbie Sullivan's love for AA after a moment of silence the assembly prayed the Serenity Prayer. Joe read our 12 Traditions and Katie read the short form of our 12 Concepts. Connie R., Area 40 Secretary, took the roll with 14 of 14 districts represent. There were 114 voting members present and 39 visitors for a total of 153 participants at this Spring 2008 Assembly. Thanks to everyone for coming.

**Orientation to the Assembly –Andrew W. Area 40 Delegate**

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to the Spring 2008 Assembly of Area 40. I am privileged to serve Area 40 as the delegate for this rotation. We are in the middle of this rotation and it seems like the time is just flying by.

I want to welcome all the new General Service Representatives (GSR) and everyone attending his or her first Area Assembly. Would all the new GSRs please stand up? Would everyone who is attending his or her first Area Assembly please stand up. Just as the newcomer is the lifeblood of an A.A. meeting, so too is the new GSR the lifeblood of the Area Assembly and the A.A. general service structure. Thank you all for your willingness to be of service.

I also want to thank the rest of you for coming back to Lewistown for another assembly. I want to thank all of the past delegates in attendance for continuing to show up and participate in general service.

The first thing that happens following this orientation is that members of the Area Committee will give their reports. This includes the Area officers and committee chairs sitting at the front table as well as all of the district committee members (DCM). In Area 40 we are organized on a committee system based on the committee system used at the General Service Conference. Each DCM serves as a member of one of the Area 40 committees.

After all the reports this morning, 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 held in this room while the standing committees are meeting. The committee meetings are led 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. Many of the items on our agenda are General Service Conference agenda items. We will not vote on these items but the Committee Chair will often take a sense of the committee on many of these items. Some of the items of we will discuss in committee 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.

This afternoon, I will give my report as your delegate. One of my responsibilities as delegate is to attend the General Service Conference (GSC) in New York. I will be attending my second GSC later this month. The GSC is how A.A. as a whole in the U.S. and Canada get together to make decisions on matters affecting A.A. as a whole. As Concept II states, the GSC, "for all practical purposes, has become the actual voice and effective conscience of our Society." As an Area we are one link in the chain of communication from the groups to the GSC.

Following my report, 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 a chance to discuss the item. Again, we will not vote on the items from the GSC agenda but I will ask the Area Chair for a sense of the Area on many of these items. The purpose of discussing these items and taking a sense of the Area is to help me be well informed when I go to the General Service Conference later this month. For the Area 40 specific agenda items,

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).

One piece of advice I have for everyone attending Area Assemblies is to be active participants. Take part in the discussions. I know that it can get somewhat confusing at your first assembly, as we tend to use a lot of jargon. Sometimes it may be unclear as to what we are talking about. Please ask questions if you are unsure. 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 to the mike and share it. Don't be afraid of the mike. It won't bite you.

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.**

Good morning, my name is Carole and I am an alcoholic. I currently have the honor of serving as your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. It has been revealed to me that I don't always show how grateful I am to serve Alcoholics Anonymous when discussing my activities. It is a huge honor to serve you and be a sober member. I am very grateful for this opportunity.

Since we last met at the Fall Assembly, I had a quiet remainder of the fall and winter. In January, I began thinking about this Spring Assembly and putting together the agenda. I asked myself why none of the intergroups within the Area have sent representatives to the two Assemblies I have chaired. I decided to reach out to them and see if we might be able to have them join us. The response I got was very positive and it was fun visiting with representatives of the intergroups. Having a healthy, alcoholic ego, I found myself bragging about my accomplishment to Scott W., our Area Advisor.

He advised me that a Past Action states that an invitation letter will be sent to each intergroup within the Area. Of course I had to go home and look it up. There it was, plain as day from the Fall 1991 Assembly.

I am very happy to have intergroups represented today and I was wrong not to extend invitations to the previous Assemblies I have chaired. Please let me know what I can do to set the record straight, besides invite you to all subsequent Assemblies while I'm chair and train the incoming chair to do the same.

Next thing I knew, it was February 1 and the agenda items for the Area were due. Soon after, I got the General Service Conference agenda from Andrew and I then put together the agenda you have before you today.

February 29 – March 2, I was in Fargo for the West Central Region AA Service Conference. It was a lot of fun to be there and it was very informative. On March 8, I had the privilege of attending the District 23's Not Quite Spring Yet Event, which included a district meeting. Then on March 15, I attended the Pre-Assembly in Missoula. I was scheduled to attend the District 21 meeting on April 6, but they preferred I not spread pink eye to the District. Good call! I hope to reschedule soon.

If there is anything I can do to help you in your Districts or Committees, please let me know.

John S., AAWS Trustee spoke at the WCRAASC. Two things he said have stuck with me. When looking at the Conference agenda items, consider how this affects AA as a whole rather than just my group or proving my point to

another group. He also suggested we treat each other with the same love and tolerance we show a newcomer. We are often very hard on each other. These suggestions have made me think about how I act. I can do better.

Lastly, I have made mailing labels and placed them on the flyer table for you to take. Please get a card or write a note and send it to Andrew while he is at the General Service Conference. He will be working very hard and putting in long hours as your Delegate to the Conference and I'm sure he'd love to hear from the folks at home.

Thank you for letting me 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.

Last fall was a busy assembly. There were many items presented to the assembly from the groups of Area 40. Some of them made it to the floor, some of them became motions and some of them did not make it out of the committee. There was a lot of good discussion. We had 6 made & seconded motions that came to the floor for discussion and were voted on. They were:

**Literature Committee recommends considering forwarding to the General Service Conference Secretary a proposal to publish a hardbound edition of the Daily Reflections.** This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed.

**The Archives/Structure Committee recommends that Area 40 fund the Area Archivist to attend the 2008 National Archives Workshop at Niagara Falls, NY. Funding is not to exceed \$1,500.00.** This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed. A motion to reconsider was made. The motion to reconsider failed.

**The Archives/Structure Committee recommends that the Area Chair appoint an Ad Hoc committee charged with studying the Pre-Assembly concept currently utilized in Area 40, and that the committee review the purpose of these events, the funding of these events, and the contribution they make to the informed group conscience of Area 40.**

**A report from the Ad Hoc committee outlining the findings of the committee and suggestions for an Area policy should be given to the Archives/Structure committee no later than the Spring 2008 assembly so that the Archives/Structure Committee can bring forward any policy recommendations needed to guide future Area 40 Pre-Assemblies.** This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed

**Finance committee recommends that the 2008 Area Budget Proposal be accepted.** This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed

**Finance Committee recommends that Area 40 reduce prudent reserve to 33 1/3 % (4 months of services).** This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed

**The PI Committee makes the following recommendation: The PI Committee will determine what is reasonable & prudent to add to the Area 40 website to allow better communication to our fellowship and make a recommendation to the Spring Assembly for consideration and implementation. This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed**

It is hard to believe that we are just one assembly away from electing the next rotation of trusted servants. It is important that each of us take an active role in finding members of Alcoholics Anonymous who are willing and able to serve AA as a whole. This weekend gives each of us a chance to talk to people and find out if they are willing to stand for another position. One of my favorite sayings that I have heard in the past is: The Higher Power doesn't chose the prepared; The Higher Power prepares the chosen. I pray each of us is willing to be prepared by our Higher Power.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Connie R.  
Area 40 Secretary

### **Area 40 Treasurer—Curt K.**

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. And I also have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Treasurer this rotation.

A special welcome to all of you who are attending your first Assembly – thank you for being willing to share your time and talents with AA.

And now about money... The Finance Committee Agenda for the General Service Conference this year has one item that presents a great challenge to our Fellowship. This item, submitted by our very own past Delegate and past Area Treasurer, Loren B., puts in front of us the issue of how our AA 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is being used at the General Service Office; how big a role, if any, literature sales should play in supporting the work of the General Service Office, and what it means to be truly self-supporting. These are big questions and I look forward to hearing your perspectives and experiences later this weekend. But at the moment, I would like to bring question of self-support closer to home.

There are financial reports on the table outside the door of this room that show our income and expenses for the first three months of 2008 and a full view of 2007. To put our current numbers in context, from 1999 to 2003 we spent about \$15,000 per year on average. Last year our expenses were over \$28,000 and our income was \$23,000, with group contributions making up only \$19,000 of that total. Of course, we can't keep up this pace of spending over the long run unless group contributions rise to meet our budget. We are self-supporting at the moment – groups in our Area contributed all the money we are spending over and above our current year income, but they did so in past years. So the money we are spending is our own 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, but it's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition from the past. We won't be able to keep up this pace of spending in the future unless groups give more.

We always have a decision to make as AA members and groups – give more or spend less. The good news is that groups in Area 40 have increased their contributions to the Area significantly in the first quarter of 2008. Of course, we don't know if this pace of giving will continue throughout the year or if it is short-lived.

I will be approaching the Finance Committee about a slightly different budgeting process for the Fall Assembly. I will suggest that I work with the Area Committee Chairs and DCMs to draft budget alternatives that will be sent to groups along with all of the other agenda items for the Fall Assembly. This will give groups a chance to discuss and consider the Area 40 budget as a whole before coming to the Fall Assembly. One of the limitations of our current budget is that it was created piecemeal. Each item we spend our money on was discussed and approved separately and simply added to an already full budget. And as we know, when it is so important to us all that the message of AA get out to more and more alcoholics in need, every idea to help do that looks good. So we approve almost every

new project or budget item that comes forward. So my hope is that we can look at our budget as a whole at the Fall Assembly and make sure it reflects our priorities.

Finally, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to consider standing for an Area position this Fall. I have spoken to a number of well qualified AAs who could all do well for the Area in the Treasurer position. But we should have a slate of candidates five or six deep at each position. Then we have a true group conscience and the best possible servants for our AA work. Concept Nine reads: "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety." So that is my hope for Area 40 and my hope for each of you as you consider how to share what has been so freely given to you in sobriety.

Thanks for letting me serve,  
Curt K  
Area 40 Treasurer

### **Area 40 Triangle Editor—Raymona C.**

Hi, my name is Raymona C. and I am an alcoholic. Welcome everyone to the 2008 Spring Assembly. I am grateful to be here in the company of so many wonderful people. I thank you all for your cooperation and participation with me as your Triangle Editor.

I would like to share with you what my goals for the remainder of my term as Triangle Editor are. First, I hope that everyone is enjoying their publications. I am working harder this year to be prompt and put the Triangle out in a timely fashion. It is also my goal to pass on to the next editor an updated mailing list and some written suggestions for publishing our Area 40 newsletter. As a goal to make sure the mailing list is updated, I encourage those of you who are here to see me and either verify or update any information for your group. I also am in need of information regarding specific groups in the area and will do my best to make contact with people this weekend to seek this information out. I was able to get some updates of info during the pre assemblies in Missoula and at Boulder Hot Springs.

While I was at the pre assemblies, I tried very hard to pay attention to the issues at hand and one of which that caught my interest was the topic of "self supporting through our own contributions" at any level. An area that this seems to be lacking is the Triangle. There are over 230 groups in Montana, all of which receive the Triangle paid or not, due to a past action at a previous assembly. While I agree that each group should indeed receive the Triangle, I would like to see it become more self-supporting. Out of the 230 plus groups, only about 75 – 80 are current in their payments for subscriptions. This is roughly 35%.

Each issue your group receives is marked on the mailing label as to the date the subscription expires or if it is already expired it says "Expired". I included an article to this effect in the last issue of the Triangle. If it is being read, this article reached some people. However, I encourage all of you to check the mailing label on your groups issue and see if you need to update your subscription status. In addition, I understand that there are groups who may be unable to pay for a subscription due to low 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition intake. If you are aware of any such group, and would like to pay for a subscription for them, please feel free to do so. However, if you choose to pay for another group's subscription, please indicate this when sending a payment so that their mailing label will reflect the status of the subscription.

Subscription money for the Triangle may be mailed to the post office box as listed on the subscription form on the back of each issue of the Triangle or to Curt, our Area Treasurer. If you need either address, please see one of us some time this weekend. If every group that is able actually kept their subscription current, money received would go directly to supporting the Triangle as apposed to expenses coming out of the general funds being sent to Area 40. The cost is a mere \$10 per year.

As the result of all this talk about self support, I personally, have made a conscious effort to increase my 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contribution to \$2.00 each time instead of only \$1.00. The cost of everything is rising and in order to keep up, I am willing to increase what I put in the basket. I challenge all of you to do the same.

I have extra issues of the Triangle available on the table in front of me, if you need one or would like an extra.

Thank you for letting me serve.

**Area 40 Archives—Conrad M.**

Hello, my name is Conrad M., I am an alcoholic and I am Area 40 Archives/Structure Chairperson.

Welcome to everyone to the Spring 2008 Assembly. This past winter was uneventful as Archives Chair, but I did get lots of time to review the newly revised Archives Workbook. I attended 1 pre-assembly in Boulder. Today we have a pretty light agenda; review contents of workbook and to discuss ways to make AA's archives more available to the fellowship. For Area 40 Structure, we are to review the AdHoc committee report concerning pre-assembly structure.

Personally, my life is going thru major change as I learn to live thru divorce without alcohol.

Thank you, Conrad

**Area 40 Corrections—Bill E.**

Hello Area 40,

I am glad to be at the assembly once again. It was a good trip from Bozeman, always fun to talk about issues within Alcoholics Anonymous with my friend Sean B. and my wife Courtney.

I have had a lot of opportunity to get out of myself since the last assembly. The pink can has been consistently receiving funds and dispersing literature to facilities. There was a month long spell where there was no activity and I was wondering what was going on out, there but it started to pick back up. I was able to come across 100 "Inmate to Inmate" books which I forgot to bring with me, but if you have interest in any for a facility in your district please let me know.

If you have any interest in starting a pink can in your group or need nay other information about the pink can please let me know how I can help. I have also brought a few copies of the pink can activity summary since the last Area.

I had the opportunity to go to the pre assembly in Missoula and after getting lost with my traveling buddy arrived to participate in a good discussion on the agenda items. I was not able to get to the Boulder pre assembly but want to thank Paul S. for standing in for Area corrections there. I was also invited to participate in a luncheon that district 61 put on for professionals in Helena. It was very good. Thank you District 61.

I look forward to discussing the agenda items at this assembly and talking with all my fellow alkys. If there is anything that I may be able to do to help in your district or group feel free to contact me anytime.

Hugs and kisses,

Bill E.

**Area 40 Cooperation with the Professional Community—Terry S.**

My name is Terry S. I am an alcoholic. I have the honor of serving as your Area 40 CPC standing committee chair during this rotation. Since we met here last September, I have participated in a District 41 CPC luncheon in Great Falls last October 17, and in two preassemblies, in District 61 at Boulder Hot Springs on March 8, 2008, and in District 81 in Missoula on March 15, 2008. As always, at all 3 events I found enthusiastic sober alcoholics who participated, contributed and shared. It's been great! I know that I've learned and grown from every one of these events, and I hope that I was able to provide some information that was of service to the participants in each event.

I am sorry to report to you that I did not use my entire committee budget for last year. I'm sorry because that means I did not go to as many places and participate in as many events as you budgeted for me. I hope to go to more places and participate in more events this year.

I want to tell each and every one of you my understanding, which is that our Area committee chair budget is specifically meant to be used to cover the costs of doing my job.

My job description appears at Page 9 of the Area 40 Policy & Procedures Manual, and two of the stated purposes of the Area Standing CPC Committee are

- (1) To be an Area information clearinghouse about CPC and
- (2) To coordinate the exchange of ideas and resources between districts

In both these activities, my job is to concentrate on providing information about A.A. to those who have professional contacts with alcoholics.

In doing my job, I will continue to give you folks, after I visit you, copies of the expense reports I turn in to Kurt. If any of you feel it is appropriate, and can afford it, you are welcome to contribute to Area for part or all of the cost of my coming to participate in your event. I will not demand or even ask that you do so when you invite me to visit. That is NOT my understanding of how I am to use my budget.

So, it's part of my job to participate in any function, gathering, meeting, workshop or business meeting you might be having to which I can be of service as the Area CPC Committee Chair. I have a trip to Great Falls for their June 7 Founder's Day already planned. I am hoping to get another invite to Valier for their annual weekend soiree on July 26-27. I'm hoping this year to make the District 12 Campout that I missed last August.

There are already other functions on the calendar—the Fall Roundup in Kalispell and 3 campouts in Havre in June, July and August. I'm asking you folks if I can be of service in any fashion for any of those functions or for whatever else you have going on. I really want to encourage you all—DCMs, GSRs, District Committee chairs, group members, other members of the fellowship—to let me know. If there is any way I can serve you, call me, write me, e-mail me—talk to me this weekend—but let me know, and I will do my best to respond as quickly and completely as possible.

Life is short, but it can be sweet. When we share our experience, strength and hope, there is still a world of satisfaction in the doing. Probably everybody here already knows the deep truth that when we give this away it is returned to us tenfold.

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

Terry S., Area 40 Standing CPC Committee Chair

### **Area 40 Grapevine—BilliJo D.**

Scott W. asked me last week if I was going to wear purple here today. Silly man, what was he thinking? OF course I am. Thank you to all who are wearing purple today in support of the Grapevine. My thanks!

Not a lot of attended activity has happened since fall Assembly. I am told this is normal with holidays and Montana winters.

I did attend and had the display up at the Havre Mini-Conference during the first weekend in October. I sold some books and gave some past Grapevine issues away. For the first time since I've been Chair, no one approached me to ask, "What is the Grapevine?"

Also in October, I participated in a 7th Tradition Workshop in Bozeman on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Of all the workshops I have attended over the many years, this was second in impact on my sobriety. The first workshop that profoundly affected my sobriety was in my first six days of sobriety. For those who missed the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Workshop. . . you really missed something fantastic.

And that was all the events I attended until the pre-assemblies last month.

Now a report on the Grapevine subscription drive. As you may remember, each AREA was asked to increase subscriptions by 100 issues to insure Grapevine budget in the black. In the fall quarter report, AREA 40 was up 30 subscriptions. This is very good considering our sparse population. After

that report, I know Districts 71 and 51 had subscription drives, maybe other Districts did too of which I am not aware. As of the last report, however, drum roll please, since the subscription drive began, AREA 40 is up 71 subscriptions! Whoo Hooo Whoo Wheee! YAH

But you know it is not about the number of subscriptions, it really isn't. It is about ways of carrying the message of hope to all alcoholics. The Grapevine is one of the best tools we have to do just that.

Thank you AREA 40 for supporting our meeting in print as a way to fulfill our 5th Tradition.

### **Area 40 Literature – Linda B.**

Hello, my name is Linda B. and I am an alcoholic. I would like to welcome everyone to our assembly and especially to any newcomers or visitors. I enjoyed the first year of this rotation. (Boy, time goes so fast.) I updated and refurbished our literature stock, made some new displays, dusted off the traveling library, and compiled a current list of district literature chairs. Of course, just in time for preparing for the next rotation. I will be looking for people to stand for the literature chair election coming up at the fall assembly. Please come see me if you are interested and I will give you an idea of the responsibilities. It is an awesome service opportunity.

I have Service manuals left over from the 2006-2007 year. They are the red cover booklets on the back table. I chose not to order service manuals because they will be outdated again so soon. I have prepared a sheet with the changes from the last General Service Conference. Included with the changes, I have copied the link so you can access the pdf. service manual document. I will be ordering new service manuals after this year's service conference and they will be available at the fall assembly.

There are new 2008 literature catalogs available from our world services office. The new jacket covers are replacing the old style as the old pamphlets run out. There are some great discount packages available for treatment and corrections facilities. These have been available for many years, but haven't been utilized. They have a great value. For instance, the treatment package has 167 items for \$7.90. (What a deal!)

We have four agenda items this assembly. Our committee would welcome anyone to sit in on our meetings. As always, literature is a great source of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic. We will be discussing revisions, possibly suggesting changes, and revisiting some familiar items from previous considerations.

I will be sending a display to our Spring Roundup in Helena in May. I am also available for any workshops that you might like to hold. Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B.

### **Area 40 Public Information –Sean B.**

First of all, thank you Scott W. for covering for me last Assembly, the PI Committee Paula H.(Dist 81), Tim M. (Dist 61), Jan M. (Dist 11) and the District 21 rep. Thank you Alex M. (Area 40 webmaster) for your continued work and patience, Lance S (Dist 61 PI Chair) for coving for me at the Boulder Pre-Assembly and **most importantly** thank all of you here today, for actively participating in your recovery.

It's great to be back in Lewistown. It's sure to be another exciting Assembly. If this is your first visit to Lewistown for an Area 40 event – Welcome! We're glad you're here. Please, ask lot's of questions. It's essential to the survival of the program that's saved all our lives that we continue to work towards making sure that when someone reaches out for the hand of AA that we can be there.

The PI committee looks forward to reviewing all of the GSO PI and Report/Charter agenda items and reporting back to the Assembly tomorrow. In addition, we will be discussing the 800# (888-607-2000) and the web site (www.aa-montana.org). If you're interested in discussing any of these items, please join us in the new location, the Judith meeting room.

Over the past 6-months I have submitted dozens of requests to phone book companies across Montana to get our 800# published in your local directory. If you do not see the number in your phone book this spring, it would be helpful if your district's PI or answering service chair could call the company directly and ask them to provide a



basic listing. If your district has an answering service chair, please let me know who this contact is. This person will need to have your District's groups complete an AA contact list and directly enter it onto the aa-montana website. We hope to have this up soon, but will be using paper forms if we run into any more technical glitches. For now you can send a contact list with phone numbers, gender and available times directly to AnswerNet.

On this note, we have been having billing issues with AnswerNet since the hotline went active. Many of you have still not received a bill. Here is what was sent to me this week from AnswerNet:

*"The billing for each of the districts has not been totally resolved. We still have some reporting issues to deal with. First of all, we need to track the calls coming in on the toll free and subtract them from each district based on the time and date the call came in. It involves some sorting of data and we are still working on how to best capture that information and then translate that to each district based on previous reporting formats."*

It sounds like most of the toll-free calls originate from the Districts that used AnswerNet in the past. These Districts's have been receiving bills. To this end, Helena reported a 50% reduction in cost. It was suggested to me that the Districts who have not received bills have not had much call volume to date. Hopefully the phone book listings will change this. Please provide the 888-607-2000 number as best you can throughout your districts. Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Sean B.  
Area 40 PI Chair

#### **Area 40 Treatment – Geoff D.**

Hello everyone,

My name is Geoff and I am an Alcoholic.

Since the last Assembly, Beth S, Treatment Chair from District 71, reports that they continue to take meetings into MCDC (Montana Chemical Dependency Center) & Watch West. Meeting times are 6:00pm on Saturday for MCDC and 7:00pm Friday at Watch West. Districts 72 and 61 continue to help support district 71 with both meetings. Good communication between districts has proven to be helpful. BTG (Bridging the Gap) is going well and Beth is in the process of updating the contact list for District 71. Bob H and some volunteers from Dickinson, ND continue to help support District 23 at Watch East in Glendive

Although there have been some changes due to new restrictions placed on the facility and the Parole System, everything is going smoothly. Since the "Family Members" at Watch East cannot be forced to attend AA, the attendance at the Bridging the Gap (BTG) meetings has dropped to about 20 or half of the 40 men and women locked up there. The remainder goes to other programs of their choice. The men and women that do voluntarily attend our meetings seem to be more open to information and ask more questions about AA. We now make sure that all those who fill out cards, for temporary AA contacts upon discharge from the facility, are giving us permission to send their names on to these contacts. It is very helpful, when AA members respond to these requests, to inform them that they got their name from BTG. We have had a few that were quite worried how someone got hold of their name.

We are able to have them start filling out their BTG cards up to 3 months before they leave. This would seem like ample time to get the contacts made but there remains a problem on our end of the system. This has improved over the last couple of years but it is still there. Please, please, please hand out the BTG cards to AA members who will follow through with making contact. It makes it so much easier for the people being released to get to that first AA meeting upon release, if they have had some communication with an AA member who will be there for them.

We have had a change in the meeting format because the facility has agreed to have the "Family Members" view the video "Hope" prior to our coming there on the second Friday of the month. This allows us to get through the BTG part of the meeting early and make an "Introduction to AA" presentation. This helps to prepare them for what they will find when they attend AA on the outside. This has been met with good interest and participation.

I would like to thank the volunteers from Dickinson, ND, who fill in when I can't make it. Due to their willingness we have had a presence there every month for the last two years.

Bob Halvorson

Jim O., Treatment Chair District 72, reports that they have been taking meetings to MCDC on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, to Watch West on Fridays and have been taking some people to meetings from different facilities in Bozeman.

Mary R., District 61 Treatment Chair, reports that the Treatment/Corrections Workshop was a huge success and that they continue to take meetings to MCDC the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

I was invited in February, by District 41, to do a short talk on BTG at their District meeting. Unfortunately, I only made it to Broadview (about 50 miles out of Billings), when the car I was in overheated and we had to call for help. Thank you District 41 for the invite! Maybe we will try again? Alan, the Treatment Chair for District 41 reports Rocky Mountain Treatment Center has meetings on Sunday at 7:00 pm, Thursday at 7:30 pm and a Speaker meeting on Friday at 7:30 pm which I host and find speakers for.

Lots of newcomers and we sent out a few Bridging the Gap (BTG) contact cards from there for clients who want them.

Benefits west has a meeting on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30pm

I've contacted both of the other treatment centers and given them packets on BTG. We called them several times and haven't heard anything back, nor have I gotten any contact cards from them.

I've gotten lots of contact cards from MCDC and had a few replies from them and some from Watch

Most of my involvement has been with Rocky Mountain Treatment Center. The clients are always expressing their gratitude for Great Falls AA.

In Billings, we continue to do an "Introduction to AA" presentation at the Rim Rock Foundation on the first Tuesday of the month. This helps the patients in treatment to better understand what AA does and does not do.

Thanks to all District Treatment Chairs for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40! If you have anything new or old to report pertaining to treatment in your district, please feel free to let me know. Good communication between Districts and each other helps us to "Carry the Message" and "Bridge the Gap." DCM'S; If you have any changes for your Treatment Chairs please let me know as soon as possible so I can add them to the Treatment Chair Contact List. Best to

If I can be of service in your District in anyway, please feel free to let me know and I will do my best to help - provided I don't overheat or boil over!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,  
Area 40 Treatment Chair  
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 has all committee positions filled, some incredible active, and others with good indications that activity will pick up. We have recently added new archive and PI/CPC chairs. Our Corrections committee is spearheading a Corrections workshop which will be held in Billings on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Masonic Rights building near the Shrine auditorium. Early interest appears to be high and fliers for the workshop are available and will be sent for distribution on the area website. District 11 will also be participating in the area workshop that is scheduled to be held July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Community center in Joliet. District 11 will be hosting the Spring 2010 Roundup in Billings. We have selected a chairman and the first regular meeting of the roundup committee will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> after our regularly scheduled District meeting. District 11 was well represented at the 2008 West Central Regional Service Conference and many of those attendees are here today. District 11 will

be working with the local intergroup to try and have a smooth transition of the answering service to district oversight.

### **District 12—Steve G.**

District 12 of Montana - Alcoholics Anonymous                      11 April 2008  
District Report to the Area 40 Spring assembly at Lewistown, Montana

#### Summary

District 12 currently has a total of 11 groups. Three of these groups are Non-participating. I have not heard from Broadview (a potential group at last assembly). There is approximately 130+ people attending these groups.

This District currently maintains a hot-line to put a caller in touch with meetings, and or a person. The District is financially sound and operating with a prudent reserve.

I believe an Area 40 workshop is being planned for July 26th at Joliet in our District. I am sure more information will be coming.

#### Active and Non-participating Groups (Group; average attendees)

1. Absarokee Group (8-12)
2. Now Group-Big Timber (5-10)
3. Clarks Fork Group-Fromberg (3-7)
4. Harlo Group-Harlowton (2-7)
5. Joliet Group-Joliet (8-12)
6. Laurel Home Group-Laurel (8-25)
7. Rock Creek Group #1 - Red Lodge (10-40)
8. RockCreekGroup#2-RedLodge(5-12)
9. Progress Not Perfection Group-Red Lodge.
10. Stillwater Group-Columbus (3-10)
11. No Name Group-Columbus (2-4)

District 12 will continue to sponsor two social events:

1. The Midwinter social (held in Joliet) or Winter Festival, as named this year.
2. Firemans Point Camp-Out (held south of Columbus on the Stillwater

River)

District 12 currently has 4 committees;

1. Grapevine Committee, Sandy A.
2. Corrections Committee, Nick D.
3. Treatment Committee, Steve (3.
4. Literature Committee, Ben O. New

This District also has a brand new OCM, Steve G

In Service,  
Steve G.  
OCM District 12

### **District 21—Rob P.**

I started AA just over 1 year ago and for the 1st 6 months or so, I did not have a clue what anything was. Then I asked a few questions like what a DCM or GSR was and slowly got to know a very little bit.

Myself and a colleague decided to try to start a monthly meeting with our neighbors in Glasgow, we set it up and last November, this turned into a "See where our District is, and get us back up and going" meeting. We left (9 of us)

with an agenda item and had a District meeting in January. My agenda item was to get the schedule of our 7 cities updated and distributed to the cities and via the Internet.

January's meeting celebrated a 40 year anniversary. We discussed the current situations and moving on. I was elected acting DCM until September elections. Bank account was changed and address/and e-mails distributed. All GSR's were made known. Set next meeting in Wolf Point.

Last week we went over this week's agenda with some good discussion to bring here this weekend. We got a name in our standing committees and kept to move on for people to run for positions in September.

Our local meetings move right along. We have brought in new members and celebrated many anniversaries.

We in Malta go to Havre fairly often and participate in there camp outs, monthly speaker meetings and Holiday events. Not even mentioned as visitors sometimes.

Thanks  
Glad to be here  
Rob P.

**District 23-- Joe P.**

Greetings from Eastern Montana.

I wish I could be there seeing old friends and making new ones. District 23 has three groups, Life Again in Glendive, Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Group in Sidney. All three groups are active and participate in District service and activities. I have not been able to attend meeting in Glendive as often as I would like but I hear reports that there are drunks recovering there.

We have been scheduling events bi-monthly in Savage and have had surprisingly good attendance. Our District meetings are held at these and it has helped to bring some new people into service, but most importantly it has taught some that you can have a blast sober. I would like to thank Tim A., for his karaoke and DJ service. I would also like to thank all those who help organize and make it look like we know what we are doing.

Sidney meetings have stabilized and are starting to show some slow growth. We have meetings Sunday at 8 pm, Monday noon, Tuesday at 8pm and Saturday at 9am. All meetings are held at the Trinity Lutheran Education Building.

Thanks to the gifts of this program my life has gotten real busy. I would like to thank Scott, Rich, and Mike for stepping up and filling in for me. And I would like to thank Area 40 for all the growth an active Service structure and the relationships that go with that have provided. I am sure we will continue to cross paths on this happy road of destiny.

IN LOVE AND SERVICE  
Joe P. District 23 DCM

**District 31-- Neil T.**

**No Report**

**District 41-- Mary S.**

Hi, I'm Mary and an Alcoholic,

We have been busy in district 41, meeting monthly and our chairs are doing good work with their committees. Lately we've had about 20 people in attendance at our district meetings. There have been several events that have happened in our district worth noting.

Our CPC committee held a CPC luncheon and it was a successful gathering. AA made some new contacts and informed new professionals about what we do and what we do not do. In addition, the CPC committee sat at a booth during a local health fair and provided general information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Earlier in the year we had a New Year's GSR school and workshop. Later on many enjoyed a potluck and dance that rang in the New Year. We thank our "Support Your Services" committee for getting that event together for us. We had a sad loss with the passing of Jim B. our Grapevine Chair. He left us suddenly and we are missing him. With only a year into the Grapevine rotation he had really gotten a lot of things done. We are grateful and appreciative of Jim's passion and dedication to the Grapevine. I feel like he worked extra hard to prepare for his passing. His good stewardship allowed for Rick F. to step in with ease and continue on with more Grapevine work. We are pleased to have Rick back at our district meetings.

I got to go Fargo, North Dakota for the West Central Regional Conference and again I am grateful that district 41 sees the importance of sending the DCM. What can I say? It is a valuable experience for anyone and I gain so much each time I go. I encourage every one to attend if they get the chance.

The following weekend we jumped into our cars and attended the Pre- Assembly in Boulder. We enjoyed getting together and thank those who planned that event providing us with information, good food and many helpful Area Chairs to answer our questions about the agenda.

One of our groups in Great Falls, "Steps to Recovery" has an interpreter for the deaf each Thursday. Our district has just implemented an ASL fund to help with the cost of this needed service. We are in our second month and have had a positive reception from the individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Other groups are supporting our "Green Can Fund" and our hope is to reach more alcoholics.

Our pink can fund has been resurrected as well and we have had the groups supporting it with enthusiasm. Area Corrections has helped with Big Books and literature for two of our facilities within our district. We are grateful for that service to us and have brought a contribution for the Area Pink Can to give to Bill E., our Area Chair.

Andrew W., our delegate will be visiting our district meeting in June and we look forward to having a Founders Day Picnic this summer and will hear some speakers share about service work experience, strength and hope. Thanks for the opportunity to share.

Mary S.

DCM, District 41

### **District 42—Gerald L.**

We continue to have meetings in Browning, Cut Bank, Shelby, Chester, Valier, Conrad and Crossroads Correction Prison in Shelby. We have the Browning Treatment Center visiting the Cut Bank meetings. The Choteau Youth Group visits the Conrad meetings. We have an active area.

The Valier Group has a Lake Francis roundup/campout July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Lots of great food, fellowship and meetings.

We have an annual Christmas party in Shelby. More great food & fellowship.

Also the Choteau groups hold a New Years Eve party at the Stage Stop In. Another time of food and fellowship.

We invite everyone to come up and visit us anytime. We could still use more volunteers at the prison.

We usually have our District meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 3:00 pm at the Shelby Hospital.

Thanks  
Gerry L.

## **District 51-- Doug M.**

Spring Area 40 Assembly report from Dist 51

The grass is turning green so I know that spring is right around the corner. District 51 has experienced growth his past year. We've added another meeting at Hays that deals with the Native American cultural 12 step way. They also have the traditional AA going on the other night. We've experienced some loss of members from Wed. Night meeting in Havre. It's been rescued by some of the members who are service minded. A big thanks to those AA'ers.

Our third Sunday potluck and speakers meetings usually had 30 to 40 or more people attending. Thanks to the Third step group and the Sunrise Alano club for all the hard work. They will be putting on the summer camp-outs up Beaver Creek on June 18-20, July 18-20, and August 15-18 (check the Area 40 AA 800 number to make sure). It's a fun time for all AA families. If you need a quick weekend escape--- try us. The fishing is always good to better. Fellowship is out of sight and tight.

The planning stages are being run through the minds of our Fall Mini Roundup committee. If you have any ideas for them, please see one of us or contact through email, slow mail, phone, horseback, or in real person.

We have had several old timers step up to the plate with service work-- taking positions at district level. Our PI (Mike B) has really done an excellent job with letting people know where the meeting are located with the updated meeting list. He also updates the internet. Not to be out done the others have also done a wonderful job of getting the message out also.

I am planning to retire from my career at school and do some fishing with the grandkids. Thanks for letting me serve as DCM for District 51. It's been enjoyable. I appreciate the rest of our AA'ers involvement in making my job easier. I am looking forward to spending more time in service work where ever I land.

In sobriety

Doug M.  
District 51 DCM

## **District 61-- Tim M.**

### **Area 40 – DCM report for district 61**

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

We have added a handful of new groups in District 61 since the Fall assembly putting our total active group count over 30 holding over one hundred meetings a week starting as early at 6:30am in the day.

I have been continuing to visit groups during the second half of my rotation as DCM and I am glad to report that we have a healthy, diverse and active AA community in our district.

All of our district committee chairs positions are currently filled and we routinely have around 30+ people between committee chairs, GSR's and visitors at our monthly district meeting which is held the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the Baptist Church on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Warren in Helena.

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

- The Attitude of Gratitude was held at the Colonial Inn on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>. As always it was filled with meetings, fellowship, great speakers, and good food. There were approximately 200 in attendance
- We held a District 61 Christmas Party. Our committee's enthusiasm was great, but our attendance was low and we will be reevaluating if we hold this event this year.

- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Corrections/Treatment workshop for professionals was held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We had around 100 in attendance with a third of them being from the professional community. After last year's great success it seems hard to believe but the success year even outpaced last year's event, (it is true that things do keep getting better and better)! One reason for this was that the entire event was put on this year by the committee itself, (organizing, decorating, and event the luncheon itself), and in all these areas' it was top notch. There were great speakers from both the AA and professional panels along with a question and answer session at the end. Much of which was centered on the decision by the ninth circuit court that the corrections community could no longer force people to go to AA. The end result of this "outside issue" is that the correction and treatment communities are now more than ever in need and wanting our support.

Ongoing:

- We continue to host the AA hotline at the district level along with the 1-888 number until we can gracefully shut down the local number.
- 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 which is open every Saturday from 11:30 until 1:30.

Up coming events in District 61:

- The Spring RoundUp will be held in Helena May 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> of 2008 at the Colonial. The Friday night AA speaker is Kyra S. from Helena and for Al-Anon Sandy G. On Saturday the Al-Anon speaker is Pauline W. from Kentucky, Fred B. from Butte is the AA Native American speaker and, Bobby C. from Philadelphia will round out the evening. Francine W. from Mill Valley, CA is the Sunday morning speaker. It will be a great time and I hope to see all of you, and allot more, in Helena this May for the 2008 Spring Round-Up.
- Our annual Grapefest is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> with Andrew our Area delegate giving his delegates report there. Stay tuned to the website for further details on this event.
- The Last Chance Campout will be June 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> at Vigilante Campground. We have several other groups sponsoring picnics events for later this year so keep checking the Area website for details.
- The second annual district 61 motorcycle trek is scheduled to leave Helena the morning of July 11<sup>th</sup> and return to on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be headed back to the Yaak valley and on to Sandpoint ID. Contact me if you want further details on this event.

Last but by no means least - After all of this we continue to be financially sound in District 61.

In conclusion Thank You – to all the groups in District 61 and especially to our committee chairs, Rick W.- Archives, Answering Service-Rolf S., Attitude of Gratitude-Terry S., Corrections-Paul S., Grapevine-Huck S., Literature-Kyra S., PI-Lance S., CPC-Mark C., Treatment-Mary S., Workshops-Tom F., Alternate DCM-Tom D., Secretary-Shawna H., Treasurer-Betty P., and our Roundup chair Bryan S. for helping make all of this possible.

Sincerely,  
Tim M.  
District 61 DCM

**District 71-- Richard P.**

Hi, my name is Richard P., I am an alcoholic and you're District 71 DCM. Our district is located in Southwestern Montana with Butte being the pivotal point. We have approximately 35 registered groups holding 75-80 meetings

per week in Butte, Anaconda, Dillon, Whitehall, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Jackson, Lima, Philipsburg, Deer Lodge, Opportunity and Drummond. All of our committee chair positions are currently filled with exception of Secretary, who resigned last month. We are currently looking for our 3rd secretary this rotation.

This winter has been fairly busy in District 71. We held 2 MCDC mandatory orientations, added 2 new institutions meetings at START and ACADIA, and started new jail meetings in Butte and Anaconda. We also put together an institutions meeting schedule on the Area 40 web site. A huge thank you to Districts 72 and 61 for all your support at MCDC, WATCH and the State Prison. If you're interested in helping carry the message into any of these institutions, please check out the schedule on the Area web site or contact our committee chairs. We would also like to thank Tim M. and District 61 for hosting an awesome Pre-assembly at Boulder Hot Springs.

Upcoming events include a medical professionals luncheon in May co-chaired by our PI/CPC and Corrections Chairs, Peggy H. and Walt C. Walt has recently attended a Corrections Workshop in Parker, AZ. He hopes to apply some of his recently acquired knowledge to our luncheon. We plan to again hold our annual district campout/delegates day June 7-8 at Barretts Campground, south of Dillon. We hope to have a campout flyer on the Area site sometime in May. Also, the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge will be holding an Orientation May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8am-12 noon. Anyone interested in taking meetings into the prison must attend. Registrations forms must be in by April 16. Please see your OCM, me or our Area Corrections chair. Bill E. for registration forms.

On a final note, our heart felt condolences go out to Robbie S.' family and friends. Her love, courage, enthusiasm and service in AA will be missed by all.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

**District 72-- Lori F.**

**Area 40 2008 Spring Assembly  
District 72 DCM Report**

Greetings from District 72! My name is Lori and I am an alcoholic. We have been very busy in our District since the Fall Assembly and I would like to start by expressing my gratitude for the great group of people I serve with.

Alternate DCM June K. has been a tremendous help visiting groups in the District and signing up new GSRs. We have seen an upswing in attendance at district meetings largely through her efforts. Grace H. has done an awesome job as our treasurer – keeping the bills paid and the checkbook balanced. We have renamed our budget the “District 72 Spending Plan” at her suggestion. Les G. keeps us informed and up to date by sending out the minutes and agenda every month in addition to other info and flyers her pesky DCM asks her to distribute – all with seeming good cheer.

Our committee chairs are also an enthusiastic bunch. Answering Service Committee Chair Courtney E. has signed up many volunteers to take calls, as well as keeping us up to date on the progress of the Area 800 number. Our CPC Chair, Frank B., and his committee put on a successful luncheon for professionals on November 8, 2007 and are already planning another for this fall. Mark J., Corrections Chair, makes sure that there are volunteers to take meetings to the Gallatin County Detention Center and once a month to the Montana State Prison, as well as encouraging participation in the meetings at the pre-release center and the WATCH program. Treatment Chair Jim O. is dedicated to taking meetings once a month to MCDC and the WATCH program, and tries to make sure that the individuals in treatment have access to AA literature. Doug S., our Literature Chair, keeps the groups in the district well stocked with books, with orders averaging \$400-\$600/month. PI Guy Ted T. and his committee get our meeting lists out once a month, update the meetings on the Area Website, keep the literature racks stocked around town and furnish speakers to the ACT Program. Connie L., our Grapevine Chair has not only encouraged new subscriptions, she has purchased items and made a traveling display to show what's available from Grapevine. Last, but not least, Leslie D. has done a great job putting on Special Events for the District including a Seventh Tradition Workshop in October, a Grapevine and Literature Drive in December, and a very successful mid-rotation new GSR Orientation in February. We have formed a Round Up Committee for the Fall 2009 event in Bozeman. Clay R. is the Committee Chair and the committee has had several meetings already. I am grateful for all of these people who make my job easier!



Of course, none of what we have been able to accomplish would have happened without the support of the groups in District 72. The first weekend in March, I was able to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference thanks to group contributions. As always, I learned a lot about the GSC Agenda Items and became, I hope, better prepared for this weekend.

May through September District 72 takes advantage of the nice weather and holds its meetings in locations other than Bozeman. So far we have scheduled Gardiner for the July meeting and Livingston for the August meeting.

We are looking forward to June 14<sup>th</sup>, when Andrew W. will deliver his report on the General Service Conference. We hope the weather won't be quite as hot as last year.

Thanks to District 72 and Area 40 for this opportunity to be of service!

Lori F., District 72 DCM

### **District 81 Paula H.**

#### **District 81 Report to Area 40, Spring 2007**

Greetings from District 81, Missoula to Polson, Seeley Lake to the border with Idaho. We've added a couple of new meetings since September. We now have 90 meetings each week and 33 registered groups. The Polson area has started an Intergroup.

District 81 has been pretty stable these last few months. We have only one opening, that of Scheduler. District archives are being organized as never before. Larry M of Plains is putting tapes onto CDs as well as reducing the amount of duplication. We are very grateful to Larry for all his and his committee's work.

I am amazed at the number of activities that have taken place in our District since we last met. We had a Halloween Bash in October; a delicious Gratitude turkey dinner hosted by the Silvertip Group in November; the Missoula Group held the Thanksgiving Day potluck. The Christmas potluck with AA and Al-Anon speakers was hosted by the Sunday Morning Speaker Group. There was a Women's Holiday brunch in December. The Thompson Falls Group hosted a potluck Christmas party too. Marathon meetings were led by the High Noon Group New Year's Eve and day. The Missoula Women's Group hosted a women's conference, Strengthening Our Sobriety, in February which was well attended. Also in February, a Valentines potluck fundraiser for the Spring 2009 Round Up was held. The potluck featured a couple of soups 4B's style and an AA and Al-Anon speaker.

Jeanenne F gave a workshop on how to form and use committees the hour before District meeting in February. It was a well-attended meeting, and many of the committee chairs have put the info into practice.

I am beginning to hear rumblings from different groups on the cost of phone service to District 81. It is running an average of \$30 more per month than last year, and, like Area, District is needing to cut expenses. Also we are hearing from the Al-Anon information line that they have been getting calls from people wanting information about AA. It seems people cannot get through to the AA hotline. Our Phone Committee Chair, Ruth, investigated and reported that if two calls come in at the same time, one will not be answered unless we give Qwest more money.

In March, we held a Pre-Assembly. Two people from District 91 and three from District 93 came. Eleven Area Officers and Chairs and nineteen GSRs, Committee Chairs and others were in attendance. While I appreciate the interest of Area, it has become obvious that the amount of time, effort and money Area is expending at Pre-Assemblies is not prudent. However, District 81 does think Pre-Assemblies should continue. The GSRs appreciate the opportunity to be informed prior to the Assembly, and the Committee Chairs were overwhelmingly enthusiastic at the chance to meet their counterparts at Area as they, for the most part, do not get to attend Area Assembly.

The Spring Round Up 2009 Committee has selected a date, April 24-26, 2009; a place, the Doubletree; and a theme, "Standing in the Sunlight of the Spirit." The committee is looking into a number of different activities for the conference. Flyers are available at the back of the room.

Upcoming happenings:

- Round Up fundraiser rummage sale after the Sunday Speaker Meeting, date to be announced
- Round Up fundraiser movie and popcorn night, date to be announced
- Founders' Day – past DCM workshop, picnic and softball tournament, June 14
- In cooperation without affiliation, Al-Anon Round Up fundraiser, “Sweet Tooth Sensation,” Saturday, July 12. Potluck, speakers, and sweet auction.

Yours in love and service, Paula H., DCM

### **District 91-- April A.**

Hello everybody I am April and I am an alcoholic. I am District 91's DCM. District 91 is situated in the northwest corner of the state of Montana, otherwise known as the Flathead Valley. Collectively, there are over approx 103 meetings a week in our district.

After we left here last fall, our heads full of AA issues and our hearts on fire for service, we returned to our homes to share the information and the enthusiasm with others.

Since the Fall Assembly District 91 has hosted the Christmas Alcathon at the Alano club located at 185 Railroad St. in Kalispell. This is a yearly event that never loses its purpose or its need. In January District 91, all of us really, lost a loving, caring, and active member of Alcoholics Anonymous, Robbie Sullivan. She is a huge part of AA in district 91 and her physical presence will be missed. In February we held our annual “Into Action” week- end which was well attended and quite successful in the fact that there were several newcomers attending and participating in service. Our speakers were Carleen L. from Helena and Bob D. from Las Vegas which made for a very entertaining and very powerful event.

Also in February was the WCRAASC held in Fargo ND. Due to work requirements I was not able to attend. Our Alt DCM, Dennis O. went in my stead, he gained a lot of useful information at this conference and presented a very comprehensive report to the district.

In March, Missoula hosted a pre-assembly event for districts 81, 91, &93. I'm sorry to say that turn out from our district was not strong. I was not able to attend as I was needed in Hawaii to support their local economy.

In April the Flathead county jail had an orientation for all who wanted to get carded to be able to take meetings into the jail and juvi detention.

Our Round Up committee is busy, busy, busy. They have been meeting every month and going over all the preparations to make sure all is well

That pretty much sums it up for the past six months in District 91, the next time we meet we will be gearing up for elections in our respective districts and encouraging participation at the Area level for those elections- always an exciting time.

In Love and Service,

April A.

District 91 DCM

### **District 93-- John V.**

Greetings, my name is John, DCM from district 93.

Want to thank my district for sending me to West Central Service Conference again this year. What I learned there and at Pre-assembly hopefully will help me to be better informed for this weekend.

Most of our district positions are currently filled again and things have been running smoothly with great recovery.

District 93 is putting on the Painted Rocks campout again June 20-22, hope to see you there for a fun time.

In service John V.

### **Area 40 Advisor—Scott W.**

Area 40 Advisor Report – Spring Assembly 2008

Thank you Madame Chairperson for the opportunity to give this report.

Per past Action of Area 40, there will be two Area 40 hosted Workshops this year. The first one will be on July 12<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln, MT. Districts 41, 42, 81 & 91 have invited the following Area Committee to participate: Corrections, Treatment, Finance and the Archivist. Some of the topics that will be discussed are: Bridging the Gap, Watch Program, Pre release – corrections correspondence, meth center in Lewistown, what have you learned in your position, how to create interest, how to participate as an individual & on contact lists, taking meetings into institutions and how to qualify to do so.

The second Workshop is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> in Joliet, MT. Districts 11, 12 & 31 have invited the following Area Committee to participate: Corrections, Treatment, Literature & Grapevine. A couple of the topics to be presented are Bridging the Gap and an explanation of the General Service Structure.

Fliers for the events will be available on the Area website and mailed to each of the participating Districts.

One other item I wanted to mention, our upcoming Fall Assembly.

For many of us in the room today, service to Alcoholics Anonymous is almost second nature with the opportunity to serve our Fellows as much of a part of our personnel recovery as the Steps. I am honored to be associated with you.

For many of us it very well may seem as though our current service positions just got started. However, between now and our next Assembly, many of our Home Groups and Districts will hold elections. Similarly, at the Fall Assembly a new panel of servants will be elected. I do hope everyone has taken the time to review your availability to continue to serve not only Area 40, but Alcoholics Anonymous at every level.

Scott W.  
Area Advisor

### **Area 40 Archivist—Gerry R.**

My name is Gerry and I'm an alcoholic,

I also have the privilege of serving you as your Area 40 Archivist.

I'd like to start off with a warm welcome to old fiends, new friends, and soon-to-be friends.

To borrow a bad joke from a good friend, Dennis O, "There's nothing new in Archives."

While Dennis' remark is quite accurate, it never ceases to amaze me how working in Archives never seems to get old.

Since last we met, I have had the opportunity to take Archive displays to the 2007 fall Roundup held in Great Falls. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Native American Indians In Alcoholics Anonymous Convention in Billings, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Refresher in Kalispell, and the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Attitude of Gratitude in Helena.

I have been asked to take displays to the upcoming Spring Roundup in Helena next month, as well as the Area sponsored workshop in Lincoln this July. And, as you can see, I have a display here this weekend.

I have also been very busy with the revisions to the Area 40 Past Actions Document and the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual. I'd like to thank Lori and Earl F. for giving up a day of March Madness to deal with an afternoon of Archivist's Procrastination.

While I remain ever grateful for Area 40's decision to send me to the ~ Annual Archives Workshop in New York this fall, my excitement was lessened somewhat when I realized that the workshop was taking place on the same weekend as this fall's election Assembly here in Area 40. So let me now say to all of you here this weekend, thank you for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous, and, thank you to all who are rotating on to another service position instead of just rotating out.

Also, I would like to thank the Anaconda Traditions group for a very generous contribution to the Archivist account.

The theme for this weekends Archives display is *Communication and Participation the Keys to Unity and Self-Support*, which is also the theme for the upcoming General Service Conference. The display contains examples of how we have communicated and participated at various levels and places in AA. I would like to thank Rick W. the District 61 Archives Chair for his mad scramble to allow me to dig into their repository, at the last minute, for some of the material you see here. One item I would like to mention in particular in the display this weekend, is a handout you will find on the end of the table which is a copy of the Past Delegates Report given by Robbie S. at the April 4 1998 Area 40 Assembly. The title is most appropriate, *Group Participation at Every Level*

Thank you Area 40 for allowing me this incredible opportunity to be of service.

### **Area 40 Webmaster—Alex M.**

#### **Webmaster Report for the Spring Area Assembly 2008 <http://www.aamountana.org>**

The website got a new coat of paint mid January as well as some added functionality thanks to a request from a national traveling AA member who wanted at a glance to see which meetings are non-smoking as he is allergic to cigarette smoke as well. So now on the pages, listing meetings for a city or District, the type is also included.

On Saturday, March 8, three days after the site had been experiencing intermittent loss of connectivity to the database, I was on the phone with tech support when we were able to ascertain that the site had just been hacked the moment we were on the phone. At first the help desk thought the hackers had stolen the database but 2 days later after combing through the log files for those 3 days I was able to see that he was referring to the nightly backup of the database I was doing. Immediately after I hang up the phone with tech support I changed all the passwords and proceeded to notify everyone involved of what had transpired and of their new passwords. Talking to Andrew that Saturday, we concluded that from that day forward the database would not contain any personal data. Luckily we caught them at the same time I was on the phone with tech support and we were able to take counter measures immediately rolling back the whole site to a day prior to the brake. I was also glad to find out that the hackers did not break into our site but to another site on the same server we are hosted on therefore gaining access to all sites on the server. Lesson learned: if it is on the web, nothing is completely safe. The best security is to make sure there is nothing of importance is available. If they take the meeting list for Montana, that is a good thing. Maybe one of these days I will see one of them at a meeting and I can get them a cup of coffee.

Work continues on the admin section for the 800 number. Sean B. is sending out forms to the Districts to start gathering volunteers and I am getting some help finishing up the interface for the answering service.

Catch me during the breaks if you would like a tour of the website. I would be glad to show you the new look and functionality.

Yours in service,  
Alex M.  
Area 40 Webmaster

## **Standing Committee Meetings**

### **Literature—Linda B.**

#### Literature Committee Report

There were sixteen people present for our committee meeting. Thank you, Kyra for your note taking. We updated our district literature contact list, read a letter from the General Service office literature desk, discussed ways to improve and expose our literature on our home fronts. Some suggestions were to each of us take a personal responsibility to share literature, give newcomers pamphlet packets, have displays of literature with other translations, don't let your literature display get old and dusty, have a meeting based on a specific pamphlet, have a listing of all books and pamphlets available, and put literature close to the exit.

We have four agenda items that were thoroughly discussed and an informed consensus was reached. They are as follows:

A. Review manuscript of revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."

We basically have nothing to review as we don't have a copy of the draft manuscript. It was mailed to committee members only. The Trustee's Literature Committee reviewed the manuscript and recommended to the General Service Board that the manuscript be forwarded to the Conference Committee with one suggested change for their consideration. It is standard practice that draft manuscripts are for committee members only until they are approved.

B. Review progress report from Publications Department on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs."

Again, there is nothing for our committee to review. In the background information the Trustee's Literature Committee gave a progress report on the pamphlet. There will be seven stories added to the pamphlet, with all existing stories retained in the pamphlet. New stories will reflect shared experience with drugs and medications. A medical doctor, also an AA member, is reviewing the front matter for changes or updates. The manuscript will be available for review at the August 2008 trustees' literature committee. So, our committee will be seeing this pamphlet again in an upcoming agenda item.

C. Consider a request to change the title of the pamphlet "44 Questions" to "FAQ" subtitled "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A."

This agenda item came from Area 51, North Carolina. Their background information observed that alcoholics seeking help tended not to choose this pamphlet because they were confused by the title. The proposed title is intended to be more descriptive of the contents of the pamphlet, consistent with our literature. Discussion in committee was varied. One district was against it because people don't know what FAQ stands for. Some think the acronym was great. Members have been pretty equally divided on this issue. There was a lot of support for "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A." and leave of the FAQ. Our committee took a sense of the committee on this consideration. The vote was 4-1 to change the title to "FAQ" subtitled "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A." The minority vote was against the consideration, but was in favor of it, if the acronym "FAQ" was left off.

**Sense of Area –mainly in favor of.**

D. Consider a request to reinstate the pamphlet “Letter to a Woman Alcoholic”

A 2006 General Service Conference Advisory Action stated, “It was recommended that the pamphlet “Letter To a Woman Alcoholic” be discontinued. An Area 79, BC/Yukon letter brings forth a consideration to reinstate this pamphlet. They feel that discontinuing this pamphlet leaves a void in the literature. They feel that the pamphlet was discontinued partially because it was written by a non-alcoholic and is not consistent with policy on literature produced by AAWA. There has been varied opinion on this item for consideration. A lot of women like it, a lot of women don’t One woman in our meeting spoke very passionately about the huge impact this pamphlet had on her. One comment is “Do we need more pamphlets?” After thoughtful consideration, our committee was unanimously in favor of reinstating this pamphlet.

### **Sense of Area--Split**

### **Grapevine/policy and admissions—BilliJo D.**

The Grapevine Committee finished ALL of their business this morning. We had nine people in attendance; with seven districts represented.

Grapevine:

Items A & B: We reviewed the workbook and reviewed the staff report to explore less expensive formats for the production of the Workbook. We liked the idea of having the workbook available for download on-line; however, we also acknowledged that there are always electronic snafus that happen.

The sense of the committee was to support the staff suggestions of a condensed portable handbook, to update the Grapevine History booklet, and to create an updated version of the workbook available on line.

Item C: To consider publishing 2 CD’s of stories from the La Vina. The sense of the committee was to give a thumbs up for the publication.

### **Sense of Area--For**

Item D: To reconsider the “gray pages”. . . the sense of the committee was the same as it was last year. We are against the gray pages. We believe they are a breach of several AA Traditions and would like to send a strong statement against the gray pages. The committee discussed writing a letter to that effect but decided that our beliefs would be in the Secretary’s minutes of this assembly.

### **Floor Discussion:**

**Tim: We need to be friendly with our friends**

**Carleen: Alarm goes off when states that it is against traditions**

**Lori: We live in information age, not appropriate in our meeting in print**

**Larry: It is our meeting in print**

**Wade: The article about the pill so an alcoholic can drink**

**Kelly: Bill use to inform the community, in “A vision for You” it states, “we know but a little”**

**BilliJo: The traditions is 6, Committee felt it was an implied endorsement.**

**Allan: How are they selected?**

**BilliJo: It is editor’s prerogative**

**Rich: Given the people the benefit of doubt—good intentions, What we don’t include says more about us.**

**Bill: meeting in print is it open or closed meeting. The Gray pages are more for us to help inform than to help understand alcoholism.**

**Peg: Never intention for non-alcoholics to speak at AA meetings.**

**Sense of Area—More for the gray pages but very close.**

Item E: Discuss the AA Grapevine legacy of self-support. We did. We see by the background material that overall, the Grapevine is self-supporting as we think it should be.

Item F: Consider ways to increase awareness of the Grapevine and La Vina's roles . . . BilliJo did not write down any notes on this one. . . but we DID discuss it! I think it boiled down to promotion, attendance at AA happenings around the state, making sure there is a display and Grapevine reps at the displays to talk with people.

#### Policy & Admissions

Item A: Consider approving a substitute at the General Service Conference. . . the committee says, yes, go ahead.

Item B & E: Approve invitations for two observers and review the current policy. Current policy is to allow two countries to send two visitors to observe the US and Canada General Service Conference. We have requests from Great Britain and Mexico. The sense of the committee is to approve the two requests. In our review, we believe that that the current policy of two countries and two observers is good. We question if more than two countries request to send observers, how does GSO decide which two to pass on to AREAS? Who decides who attends from the requesting country? And is it necessary for someone from a certain country to come to observe every couple of years. One of the requested attendees was our guest for observation of the General Service Conference in 2003, does she really need to be our guest to observe again?

#### **Sense of Area on current policy on international guests observing GSO--for**

Item C. Review dates for the 2011 General Service Conference, In a divided vote, our committee felt the second choice of Sunday April 10 through Saturday April 16 posed the fewest conflicts of holidays.

Item D: Consider a proposal that the current secondary Conference Archives Committee be established as a standing committee. The sense of the committee was to let it stand as is but we thought we needed more information of what a stand-alone committee could entail in the future.

#### **Floor Discussion:**

**Gerry: No sense to rush into this. There is time to consider  
Sense of Area—Against**

Item F: Consider delegating to the GSO management the responsibility of Conference site selection. The sense of the committee was yes, GSO management should be delegated the responsibility of site selection.

#### **Floor Discussion:**

**Rich: GSO maybe moved out of NY  
Sense of Area—For**

In closing, I asked if anyone was interested in standing for this chair in the fall. Although no one said anything at that time, I have had three people express interest. And we have 3-5 months of subscription drive remaining. Our committee believes Area 40 can obtain the wanted 29 more subscriptions to reach the goal of 100.

#### **Archives/structure—Conrad M.**

## Archives/Structure Committee Meeting

4/12/08

Conrad M. called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Conrad M. (Area 40 Archives Chair)

Lori F. (District 72 DCM)

Darrell H.

Dan K. (District 81 Rep.)

Doug M. (District 51 DCM)

Guests Present: Mary Mc. (District 91)

Barb R. (District 61)

Tom D. (District 61)

Lee T. (District 41)

Neil D. (District 11)

Scott W. (Area 40 Advisor)

Sandra H. (District 41)

Gerry R. (Area 40 Archivist)

### Archives

A. Review contents of workbook.

- It was noted that all the suggested changes we reviewed last spring have been incorporated into the workbook, including insertion of research forms.
- Interest was expressed in having the workbook in 3-Ring Binder format. This would facilitate copying of specific pages and forms.

B. Discuss ideas for making A.A.'s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship in the future.

- Increase on-line access (audio and document downloads). It was noted that there are some recordings and documents already available.
- Offer CDs to individuals and groups
- Make the GSO Archives digital and searchable

Discussion shifted to making Area 40 Archives available.

- Archivist Gerry R. mentioned that he would make the archives accessible to the Area 40 fellowship – an appointment would be necessary.
- Other suggestions included inviting the Archivist to bring a display to local events, scan and post items on the Area 40 Website, and implementing the use of webcam technology.
- It was pointed out that the Area 40 Archivist may be in need of some updated equipment for scanning and digitizing.

### Area 40 Item for Structure

A. Review the report from the Ad Hoc committee concerning the Pre-Assembly structure currently utilized in Area 40.

Conrad passed out copies of the Ad Hoc Committee's report and read it aloud. The committee accepted the report with gratitude. The conclusion reached by the Ad Hoc Committee was that the Pre-Assemblies are a valuable contribution to the conscience of Area 40 and should continue. It was noted, however, that these events could be more cost-efficient, and funding suggestions were included.

The report was discussed in depth, including many things that were outside the scope of the report (video conferencing, conference phone calls, laptop webcams). The consensus in the room was that all thought the Pre-Assemblies were useful and important, but should be less costly. The Archives/Structure Committee decided to use the report to forge a recommendation for presentation to the 2008 Fall Assembly, and to include the report from the Ad Hoc Committee as background material for the agenda item. Items to keep in mind while writing the recommendation are:

- Pay attention to wording – will this recommendation be clear and understandable in 10 years?
- Do we need a separate line item in the Area 40 budget for Pre-Assemblies?
- Who would determine the agenda for Pre-Assemblies and how?
- Who would be participating in the committee presentations?

The guests decided at this point to leave the meeting to allow the committee to work on the recommendation. The committee was able to make a good start, and Lori F. agreed to type up a draft of the recommendation so far and



email and/or mail/fax to the other members for review and changes with the intent of having a final recommendation ready by July 1, 2008 for placement on the 2008 Fall Assembly agenda.

The Archives/Structure Committee spent the remainder of meeting time available to review the updates and changes to the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Document and Past Actions Document, which were presented by Area 40 Archivist, Gerry R. All the additions and changes were approved. All committee members were given a copy of the Past Actions Document for review and asked to bring any errors or omissions to the attention of the Archivist.

### **Finance – Curt K.**

Voting Members Present: Andrew W., Carole B., Curt K., Mike M. for Joe P., Martin D.

There were between 10 and 14 additional nonvoting participants in the committee meeting both before and after lunch. Thanks to all who shared of their time and opinions during the discussion. We had full participation of all who attended. And special thanks to Amanda S. for agreeing to take notes of the discussion.

### **Discussion of General Service Conference Agenda items**

*Item A* – Discuss request that a Finance Kit be developed to assist group, Intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition.

Area 54, Northeast Ohio, sent the item into the GSC Coordinator. Background material lists a number of items suggested for the proposed Kit. The purpose is to further the idea of self-support. Questions from our committee include what financial costs in terms of printing and production would be incurred. How much staff time would this take. If the kit furthers the message that AA members and groups are responsible for funding the budget that we approve through the General Service Conference, then it is a good idea.

One item that should be added to the list is a service piece that shows the value of a dollar today versus the value of a dollar in the early years of AA. A graphic representation of this concept would be helpful – as well as something in plain English, not economic jargon. Inflation has continued for over 70 years of AA's existence, but the convention of giving one dollar each meeting has not changed. Many of us have seen our earning capacity grow exponentially since being sober, yet we still give just one dollar per meeting.

Another piece of information that should be included in the kit is more detail on accounting and legal matters concerning how to form a group and how to apply for tax-exempt status once a group reaches the IRS threshold for registering as a nonprofit organization.

Rather than a special kit, would it be as effective to simply place all of the suggested items for the kit together on the literature order form. Discussion led most to conclude that a kit that is sent to all Area Treasurers and is available to anyone for purchase might more reliably highlight the message of self-support and the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

One useful piece that is included in the proposed kit is the letter from GSO (or is it a Trustee) that describes what our group contributions are used for. It would be useful to have an Area 40 version of this letter as well.

### **Sense of Area--For**

*Item B* – Consider the request to “Discuss the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical, of funding the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous solely by the voluntary contributions of AA members and AA groups, that profits from literature sales will no longer be used to fund our General Service Office. Further, consider a procedure for gathering input from the Fellowship as a whole and prepare a report on these discussions for the 2009 Conference.”

Our own past Delegate and past Area Treasurer, Loren B., submitted this item to the General Service Conference. The background material shows that Loren is asking the question in order to take the debate out of a philosophical realm and make it real. He pushes us all to decide how AA should go on this topic rather than have it as a subconscious thread through all of our conversations about money and self-support.

The discussion on this topic at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Fargo in March was wide ranging. Discussion there included information that AA has been self-supporting without literature sales at least a few years. Loren's article quotes Bill as saying that in only "five of the past fifteen" years has AA been able to support the work of the General Service Office on group contributions. So at least it is possible. Curt has emailed the General Service Office staff asking in how many years in all of AA's history have group contributions met GSO expenses. We are still waiting for a reply.

Participants in our Area 40 committee pointed out that Bill's own writings are inconsistent on the topic. In some places he is clear that absolutely no funding from outside sources should be used to support AA and then in other places he defines literature sales as contributions, even though a significant percentage of literature sales are to entities outside of AA.

Our committee discussed the content of the proposed agenda item enthusiastically, but realized with closer reading that as worded, the agenda item is really only asking if the Fellowship wants to discuss the item further. And by our eager discussion, we proved that "yes", at least the Fellowship in Area 40 would like to discuss the item further. The second part of the agenda item as worded asks for input regarding a procedure for gathering input from the Fellowship. Our committee questioned why we would not simply put the item on the General Service Conference agenda and proceed as with any other agenda item. Once on the GSC agenda, groups, districts, and areas would have an opportunity to discuss the item and come to an informed group conscience. Our committee discussed another option for gathering input, suggesting that groups, districts, and Areas could be surveyed directly rather than through the usual General Service structure.

No matter what the scope of our committee's task concerning this item, several other worthy points were made. Given that gross profits from literature sales make up nearly half of the operating budget of the GSO, the ramifications of any change to how we do business will impact AA in a major way. Many on the committee are intrigued, if not optimistic about the possibilities if the Fellowship would be challenged to support the GSO budget entirely on voluntary contributions. Many of us have seen the amazing personal transformations when individual AAs become self-supporting, especially when making 9<sup>th</sup> step amends. Do we not have confidence that the Fellowship as a whole will benefit from these same principles? The GSO budget is made up of items requested by AA groups through the General Service structure, through the GSC. We may need to step and fund what we have asked for.

A key question in some committee members' minds is whether literature sales should be considered contributions. If so, then we should not be taking contributions from outside sources. Is there a way to separate out profits from sales to outside sources and not apply these proceeds towards GSO expenses?

#### **Floor Discussion:**

**Angela: The definitive on the item is a good idea.**

**Mary: This has been discussed since Bill W wrote "AA Comes of Age". What would we do with the profits from Literature sales?**

**Rich: Dumbfounded that GSC doesn't discuss**

**Gerry: Thought there would be a line for discussion. 1<sup>st</sup> part like the idea to phase in—weaning of profits.**

**Lori: It has been discussed. What does other areas think?**

**Peg: Profits from literature sales—volunteer contributions from AA groups**

**Tim: 30% of AA profits are from outside sources**

**Angela: Would profits not go to GSO? Would profits go to the groups?**

**Curt: No literature prices would be lowered.**

**Sid: Literature profits are used to bring more people to AA. Peoples contributions would lag**

**Loren: I am the author of the Agenda Item. The intent was to start discussion. He has not heard discussion about supporting GSO with contributions. We need to consider procedure of self support.**

**Carleen: Going on since 1946. Big book is produced as a throw away. Literature sales could be used to make a better Big Book.**

**Mark: This is discussed and never goes away. 1987 was the year of the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition challenge. It was the only time we were self supporting.**

## **Sense of Area--For**

*Item C – Discuss self support.*

The committee members each took a turn sharing their thoughts on self support as a general concept, but we decided we had already had a lengthy discussion of this topic in the context of Item B.

## **Discussion of Area 40 Topics Not On The Agenda**

*Item 1 – Area 40 IRS Form 990-EZ*

Curt presented a draft of the IRS Form 990-EZ that Area 40 is required to submit. By past action of the Assembly, our Treasurer is to submit the form each year that it is required by the IRS. Currently, any tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization such as Area 40 must submit a Form 990 return when its gross revenues for the year exceed \$25,000. In 2007, the Area gross revenues were over \$30,000. Curt explained that the Area 40 Pink Can revenue must be included in that total. After presenting the draft Form 990-EZ, the voting members of the Finance Committee unanimously approved its submission to the IRS. There is no cost to submit the Form 990.

*Item 2 – Proposed Change in Area 40 Budget Process*

Curt suggested that he work with all the members of the Area Committee – Officers, Committee Chairs, and DCMs – to develop a draft budget to submit as an agenda item by July 1<sup>st</sup>. In this way, groups across the Area can see the budget before the Fall Assembly and have time to discuss it before voting on it. One of the limitations of our current budgeting process is that each new item added to the budget is considered piecemeal, only as it is brought to the Assembly as an action item. And given our Fellowship's enthusiasm to carry the message, new ideas often sound good. But we don't take the time to weigh each new item against the other items we currently fund in our budget. We don't have a chance to consider all the items together and prioritize.

Two suggestions were made regarding the proposed budget process. One was to present two or three alternative budgets for discussion so that the groups could consider how certain scenarios would play out – including the possibility that group contributions might increase enough to fund the whole budget as is. The second suggestion was that the Treasurer should add narrative to each line item to help explain the budget to non-accountants. The explanation could include how each of the scenarios presented would affect the Area's services.

Many thanks again to Amanda S. for her thorough note taking during the Finance Committee sessions. And thanks to all who participated in the discussion.

## **Public Information/Report & Charter—Sean B.**

A. Consider 2007 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

*In going through materials—It Works.*

*Jan: Details amazng better titles for information maintaining each website (GSO)*

*Webmaster: Our website has no links*

B. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. Consider approving the proposed 2008 television P.S.A. - "I Thought" - developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information. *Does it relate to still suffering –discussion on how it relates to all ethnic backgrounds*

*Jan: General*

2. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed 2008 television P.S.A. - "I Thought" - at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information

committees. *It works*

**Floor discussion:**

**Larry: The \$35,000 is a huge chunk of money**

**Sense of Area—For**

3. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2007 television P.S.A., “A Force of Nature.” *It works—1% come because of PSA*
4. Discuss the 2002 - 2006 General Service Conference Advisory Actions regarding replacement and production of television P.S.A.s. *Concerns about when are the PSAs going to be rotated and changed. Is it \$40,000.00 a year for lifetime? Just updating, not removing. Committee not sure*  
*Sean: Updating distribution centers for PSA answered questions of how the stations get the PSA*

**Floor discussion:**

**Continue practice of replacing PSA**

**Sense of Area---For**

5. Consider updating the script and recording of Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD, Item R-10. *It works*  
**Sense of Area---For**

C. Review and approve final draft of the “Alcoholics Anonymous 2007 Membership Survey” pamphlet.  
*Why have we not received material? It works.*

D. Consider proposed text for a new section on posthumous anonymity in the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.” *It’s up to the dead one. It works.*

**Sense of Area—For**

E. Review trustees’ Public Information Committee’s Progress Report on the A.A. Videos for Young People Project.  
*It works.*

F. Consider request that a wall poster with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be created for placement in school guidance counselor offices. *It works.*

**Sense of Area--For**

G. Review contents of Kit and Workbook. *It works.*

**Area 40 Agenda Items for PI**

A. Consider expanding the Area 40 website to include dissemination of other materials such as reports from the annual General Service Conference, information coming from the General Service Board throughout the year, and other materials that might continue to improve the communication between all levels of the service structure.

*Alex: nothing coming from GSO. Everything is up to date only. Wouldn’t take too much for each item. GSO says no. Web ready maybe available later. No technical problem with process. Suggestion, to put information on a link.*

*Sean: Will be helpful if this body having each district do their own.*

*Alex: Sub sites on District website must have guidelines, policing.*

*Tim: Page for each District event*

*Alex: Not a problem for him to do.*

*Sean: Motion—Move to create links AA Website. All must be anonymity protected. All policies and issues comply with Area 40.*

*Seconded*

*Motion passed—goes to floor.*

*Paula: Can Alanon be linked*

*Sean: Motion—Create a link from AA website to Alanon website amending policy and procedures*

*No Motion*

**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.**

**Floor discussion:**

**Andrew:** Not clear. Is Alex creating the District website?

**Sean:** District would create?

**Andrew:** Would the District control the content

**Tim:** Feed info into the web master

**Gerry:** Is this generating extra work for Alex? What about additional cost?

**Alex:** I think this is a good idea. A person has to go through all of the calendar to find the event they are looking for. The links would be to district calendars, so searchers can zero into a particular district. It won't take much time to do.

**Carleen:** Correction Committee could put what is going on in the Area.

**Lori:** Limit to amount of content?

**Alex:** We have a large amount of space for our website.

**Rick:** I think this is a wonderful idea, a central clearinghouse.

**Vote: 94 FOR      6 AGAINST      5 ABSTAINING**

**Report & Charter**

A. *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2007 - 2008 Edition:

1. Consider a paragraph titled "District Information" for inclusion in Chapter Three. *Items works*
2. Consider a suggestion to place a glossary of terms used in the *A.A. Service Manual* and the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* after the text of the *A.A. Service Manual* and directly preceding the index. *Items works*

**Sense of Area--For**

3. Review additional changes. *Nothing*

B. A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.):

1. Consider listing the Online Intergroup of A.A. (OIAA) in a new section titled "Online Intergroups" under the section "International Correspondence Meetings" in the A.A. Directories where "Online Meetings" appear, and include the online intergroup web site and email addresses. *Items works*

**Sense of Area--For**

2. Review additional changes. *Nothing*

C. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*. *Nothing*

**CPC/Trustees—Terry S.**

**Area 40 Standing Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community:  
Committee Report to the Floor of the Assembly re Agenda Items, Spring 2008**

Your Area 40 CPC Committee met and considered the Agenda items in both CPC and Trustees. I would like to thank the other 3 voting members of my committee who participated B Rich K., DCM, Dist. 11; Richard P., DCM, Dist. 71; and Mark C., Dist. 61 CPC Committee Chair. Thank you also to the other folks who participated in

our discussions and decision-making B Frank, Dist. 72 CPC Chair; Teresa S., GSR, We Care Group (Dist. 61); Rusti L., Trout Creek (Dist. 81); Robin T., Whitefish Group (Dist. 91) and Susie, Hamilton (Dist. 93). All of our Agenda items came from General Service Conference Agenda items.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Community**

#### **A. Consider the draft Video Segments Directed to Professionals.**

We wondered how long these 3 short@ streaming videos would be and whether a shorter and longer form might be offered for busier or better informed professionals to cut to the chase, while those with more questions might select the longer version. Andrew W. later addressed this concern, indicating that the streaming videos on the Web site would be under 3 minutes and the CD versions would be about 5 minutes. The other question we had was whether a viewer could pause the streaming video and the answer is yes. We decided to trust our trusted servants to check it out, as we, without the scripts, storyboards and/or videos to review, cannot.

#### **B. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.**

We know that the Kit and Workbook are essential tools to have for CPC service work. We don't know about any proposed changes, which we do not have.

#### **C. Discuss ways in which A.A. can continue to be a resource to the legal/criminal justice system.**

We did. We like workshops (with Continuing Education credits for the professionals, when that can be arranged), taking professionals to lunch, streaming videos, offering panels to professionals and staff folks in various kinds of facilities, coordinating with our own service folks in Corrections, Treatment and PI (instead of being a Lone Rangers@ and riding off in all directions), sponsoring our own professionals as we meet with them as well as professionals we may work with. We like temporary contact and bridging the gap programs and recognize how important it is to follow through and do what we tell the professionals we are going to do, we acknowledge how vital it is to stick with what AA does do and not to do what AA doesn't do, within the guidelines of the facilities into which we carry out message. Let's not forget telephone, e-mail and personal contacts with professionals, placing literature racks and providing videos and pamphlets, Box 459, About AA, Grapevine subscriptions and ALWAYS ourselves being clear about 2 things:

1. What we offer is AA, consistent with the Kit and Workbook materials, the pamphlets and guidelines on providing information and carrying the message to professionals and the drunks with whom they interact; and
2. We are not affiliated with the legal/criminal justice system, we are simply offering our AA experience, strength and hope to the suffering alcoholics within the legal/criminal justice system. Whatever that system requires of its professionals and its customers, according to the courts, the legislatures, the governors, wardens, POs and so forth, our message must be presented in the language of the heart, one drunk to another.

#### **Floor discussion:**

**Linda: Do we need to change the pamphlet that states we will sign court cards in view of the court decision?**

#### **Trustees**

##### **A. Review resumes of candidates for:**

1. West Central Regional Trustee
2. Western Canada Regional Trustee

##### **B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.**

##### **C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.**

##### **D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.**

We have no information on any of these items, except that Area 40's nominee for the West Central Regional Trustee is Scott W. Good luck, Scott! Otherwise, we trust Andrew's judgment.

##### **E. Review report from the trustees= Committee on Nominating regarding Nominating Procedure No. 9 ("Guidelines for Hiring General Manager, G.S.O.) and length of service of General Manager, G.S.O.**

We believe it best to conform our nominating procedure and guidelines for the general manager of the General Service Office to our current practice, unless there is something we don't know that supports the minority view that this position such be governed by strict rotation.

#### **Sense of Area—For**

**F. Discuss request to revisit the 2007 General Service Conference Advisory Action to consider all eligible Class A and Class B trustees when selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board.**

If there is something new to consider, that was not presented last year, or if there has been a groundswell of disapproval within the Fellowship since the 2007 GSC Advisory Action, then the Conference should consider looking at this Advisory Action anew. Otherwise, let it be.

**Sense of Area—Against**

**G. Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., amended in April 2007:**

**1. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board that the following language from paragraph three, page 4 of the Bylaws be amended so that it applies only to Class B regional trustees:**

**A. However, when the vacancy being filled is that of a Class B regional trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be limited to that number of one-year terms which will result in the term of service of the successor member trustee ending at the same time as the term of the replaced member trustee would have ended if no vacancy had occurred and the replaced member trustee had served four consecutive one-year terms.**

**2. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board that the following language from paragraph two, page 4 of the Bylaws be amended so that it applies only to Class B regional trustees:**

**A. In the event that any member trustee shall resign, die, retire, be removed, become disqualified, or shall be otherwise unable to serve, the trustees may, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees, elect a new member trustee to fill such vacancy, or, alternatively, permit such a vacancy to continue until the next annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board. A third alternative, with respect to Class B regional member trustee vacancies occasioned by resignation, death, retirement, removal or disqualification, is to permit the vacancy to remain unfilled for the remainder of the four year commitment, and to allow regional coverage to be provided by the trustee-at-large or the regional trustee from an adjacent region, unless a region decides that a new regional member trustee should be elected.**

Both these items simply clarify that the restriction that you may serve only as long as the Class B member trustee you replace could have served applies to Class B regional trustees only.

**(G) 3. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board that the Bylaws be amended to include options for interim changes to member trustee ratio and composition in response to the 2007 Advisory Action which instituted consideration of all eligible Class A and Class B trustees when selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board.**

This item would simply make clear that whenever a trustee remains on the Board beyond his or her normal end of service date because he or she is still serving a term as Chairperson, there will be a new trustee put in the Chairperson=s now vacated trustee position, so now there will be (counting the Chairperson) either a 15<sup>th</sup> alcoholic or an 8<sup>th</sup> non-alcoholic on the Board.

**Sense of Area—For**

**4. Discuss the suggestion that the General Service Board Bylaws extend the term of Class B regional trustees after filling the term of an unexpected General Service Board vacancy.**

This item allows a replacement for a Class B regional trustee to stand for and (if selected) serve a term in his or her own right, exactly as we do for positions in the General Service Structure at the group and district levels in our Area.

**Sense of Area--For**

Respectfully and gratefully submitted, *Terry S.*, Area 40 CPC Standing Committee Chair

**Treatment/Agenda—Geoff D.**

I would like to all who attended the committee meeting we had all four committee members. There. (22 in attendance.)

### Treatment

**A. Discuss progress report and sample footage of the revised video - Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.**

We had a lot of good discussion on revised video and the committee agreed with the changes. The committee thought that adding the DVD to the Kit and Workbook would be a good Idea.

**Sense of Area—For**

**B. Discuss the possible development of Conference-approved literature and/or service material to stimulate A.A. members' interest in Treatment Facilities Twelfth Step work.**

The committee had a lot of discussion on how to get others interested in Treatment work and thought developing new literature or service material would help in carrying the message in to Treatment Facilities.

**Sense of Area--For**

**C. Discuss a proposal that the pamphlet, Bridging the Gap (BTG), be rewritten to reflect that the BTG program is used in both Treatment Facilities and Corrections service work.**

We thought this was a good Idea.

**Sense of Area—For**

**Bill: Concerned about approving something no one has seen.**

**Geoff: Temporary contact and Bridging The Gap are no different. One is for Correction and one is for treatment.**

**D. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.**

Look good add the DVD hope to kit

### Agenda

**A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2009 General Service Conference.**

- 1 Our Commitment to Carry the Message
- 15 Attraction Rather Than Promotion
- 12 Sharing the Importance of the Newcomers
- 7A.A Takes its Inventory
- 19 Recovery Thought Unity of Members

**B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2009 General Service Conference.**

- 4 Principles over Personalities – Trust and Unity at All Levels of Service
- 14 An Informed Group Conscience – What Is It?
- 13 Responsibility – The Importance of the Home Group as an Example to the Newcomer
- 16 Are We Losing Sight of Our Primary Purpose?
  - 1 Following Thought on Commitments

**C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2009 General Service Conference**

- 4 Language of the Heart: Keeping it Simple
- 13 Sponsorship – Pass it On



- 3 How Has Your Group Stayed Focused on Our Primary Purpose, As Stated in Tradition Five
- 17 How to Guide a Newcomer in His/Her Beginnings
- 5 Group Inventory: To Fulfill Our Primary Purpose

**D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.**

Good.

**Corrections/international conventions/regional forums—Bill E.**

- A. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- B. Review service piece “Corrections A.A. Group Handbook”

**International Conventions-Regional Forums**

- A. Discuss selection of three cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2020
- B. Discuss inviting up to twenty-one non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2010 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

**Floor discussion:**

**Joe: Never intended speakers other than AA**

**Nick: No reason to spend money for non-AA speakers**

**Bud: What’s the purpose of having Non-AA Speakers**

**Rich: Class A Trustees wouldn’t be able to speak at International then.**

**Carleen: How many have been affected by non AA speakers. Area broke traditions by asking Linda Cheasum to speak here a few years back. She is not an Alcoholic.**

**Dee: Felt that 21 was too many to speak until Carleen shared.**

**Lori: Most powerful speaker was non AA. Contempt prior to investigation.**

**Paul: Workshops invite non AA, as a result, we find out things from them.**

**Gerry: pointed out in “AA Comes of Age” that in 1955 Non alcoholics speaking to the convention, working with**

**Tom: Their money for registration to pay for their attendance.**

**Bud: Apologize to the fellowship for speaking without thinking.**

**Nick: Need to take back what he said. Is this normal amount of non AA to be speaking?**

**In 2000 there were 17 non AA speakers and 2005 23 non AA speakers.**

**Amanda: We invite. We should be gracious hosts.**

**Sense of Area—For**

- C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums.

**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 this rotation. It has been a busy and exciting year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in general service as your delegate at the General Service Conference, at the General Service Board meeting in February, at regional conferences and a regional forum, and all over Montana last year. I strongly believe that participation in service is fun and I look forward to another exciting spring and summer of travel.

Shortly after last fall’s Area 40 Assembly, I had the opportunity to attend an Area Assembly of Area 92, Eastern Washington in Wenatchee, Washington. It was an enjoyable and educational experience. I was given a chance to sit on a panel with a lot of past delegates. I also collected ballots during their elections. In Area 92, elections results are tabulated by a bunch of past delegates (most of whom are not from Area 92) in a back room. Then they have a

motion to destroy the ballot after each round of voting. It was interesting to see the differences like these but also to see the similarity in the love for Alcoholics Anonymous.

At the end of January, I went to New York City to attend the meeting of the General Service Board. I was delighted to see all the familiar faces of the other committee chairs, the GSO staff and the trustees. This meeting is one of the quarterly meetings of the board and the board invites the chairs of all the General Service Conference Committees to attend. We were given an orientation to the weekend and then we each had an opportunity to meet with the secretary of our respective committee. I met with Don M., the Chief Financial Officer for GSO and the secretary for the Conference Committee on Finance. We had a formal dinner and open A.A. meeting on Saturday night as part of the weekend. I also was able to sit in on and participate in the meeting of the Trustees' Committee on Finance. All the delegate chairs were also able to observe the other committee meetings and the full meeting of the Board. Seeing this whole process in action, I am both happy to be able to participate in it and amazed at the amount of time and energy everyone puts into it, from assemblies like this one to the General Service Board meetings.

At the end of February, a number of folks from Area 40 were able to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Fargo, North Dakota. Thankfully, the weather was much better this year in Fargo compared to last year in Lincoln, Nebraska. This year we were actually able to hold our Delegates meeting on Thursday night before the WCRAASC started on Friday. It was fun to be one of the "experienced" delegates and to see the new delegate get their feet wet. The conference was once again a great opportunity to have our first discussion on the GSC agenda items, participate in breakout sessions, and to enjoy some good fellowship with A.A. members involved in service from around our region. We had pretty good participation from Area 40. If you have the opportunity, I would recommend attending a WCRAASC.

Between the trip to Fargo and now, we have had two pre-assemblies in Area 40. On March 8 we met in Boulder and on March 15 we were in Missoula. The pre-assemblies gave GSRs the chance to become a little bit better informed about some of the items on our agenda for this assembly so that they could take some of this information back to their groups. We will have more discussion on the pre-assemblies when we hear the report on the ad-hoc committee concerning pre-assemblies.

That brings us to this Spring Assembly. We have a number of issues in front of us that require our attention, both Area 40 specific items and items from the GSC. I encourage everyone to discuss these items so that we may come to a well-informed group conscience on these items. Some of the items may seem unimportant, some of them may seem familiar, but taking the time to discuss these issues is part of our commitment to make sure we don't "louse this thing up."

What's coming up for me? I have a weekend to catch my breath before heading to New York again on April 26th for the 58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. I have been told that each conference is different. I look forward to this one and seeing all the people I met last year. This weekend goes a long way in helping me prepare for the GSC. I appreciated all the time that we put in here when I was at last year's GSC. I also appreciate all the cards I received from you all. The address of the Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel is

Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan

My cell phone number is [REDACTED] and my email address is [delegate@aa-montana.org](mailto:delegate@aa-montana.org).

I already have several delegate's reports scheduled for this year. In May, I'll be at the Spring Roundup in Helena on the 17<sup>th</sup> and (possibly) in Victor for a District 93 meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. I'll be in Great Falls for a District 41 meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>. On June 7<sup>th</sup> I'll be in Helena for the Grapefest during the day and then in Dillon to meet with District 71 in the evening. I'll be in Bozeman to visit District 72 on June 14<sup>th</sup>. These are the ones I know for sure. I hope to have many more scheduled before we are done this weekend.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your delegate to the 58th General Service Conference and thank you for your attention! Any questions?

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

**DCM Breakout 2007 Spring Assembly  
Past Delegate Loren**

Discussion topics:

- 1) How to inspire or attract participation at district?
- 2) Evaluate Assembly
- 3) A district recently set our meeting quorum at 75% of voting members present so that substantial unanimity or 2/3 can never be less than 50%. How do other districts feel about implementing at Area 40?
- 4) Do other districts hold district inventory? Annually or semi annually
- 5) Registering groups for "number's" sake?
- 6) Starting new group—How do I do it?
- 7) Email vs snail mail of District meeting minutes.

#3

- Mathematically, Area can have a quorum with less than 2/3's total registered on Saturday morning or what would equal 50%.
- Explanation of quorum as it applies to corporate world & application to Area's business
- Explanation of quorum as it applies to Area 40
- Discussion of why use quorum, voting members who are not available at vote. Is it necessary to have quorum or just count the voters present?

#1

- Enthusiasm, be positive, go see groups.
- See groups who are not participating, Alt DCM "visits" groups and asks about GSR, aids with elections of GSR & explanation of general service
- Came to AA as elephant of leftovers, through process of service aids in recovery- give people something of value to do.
- involve others @ district mtg. Ex: everyone from district @ the assembly will share some of the assembly at the district mtg
- controversy/"substantive discussion" breeds "fired up" aka pissed off.
- Long meetings, controversy caused diminished attendance. Levity, humor, workshops, increased attendance
- Secretary calls day before as reminder—attendance up. Go to group, introduce yourself, offer to be of service, bring in Area chairs to district mtg.
- Reality content of working one on one versus less substantive business meeting.
- Food
- Consistent District committee meetings held just prior to district meeting

#2

- As group inventory—healthy process for Area Assembly
- Potential yield from negotiating with multiple facilities
- Evaluation form for Assembly
- Move Assembly—ad hoc committee to study different sites for assembly
- Assembly in a day competitive pricing
- \*as---Agenda item on Fall Assembly [[Evaluation Form](#)]
- Don't have to do it just because that is the way it has always been done. Assembly needs to take ownership & make decisions—not more committee work

#4

- Dist 61—none last 6 years
- Great Falls—Incremental blocks of time
- Dist 11—Audit books only annually, inventory has positive effect
- Dist 71—Inventory in last 8 yrs

---Dist 72—Not for long time—fear of doing it  
---Dist 91—2 years ago?—possibly again this year, takes 1 hour.

#5

--Group, once a month meeting, generated \$10.00/month, requested to GSO to be changed from group to meeting—  
GSO financial report  
---Help groups determine if they are better as a meeting.  
---Long form of 3<sup>rd</sup> traditions “any two or three...”  
---If not registered group—how does information flow?  
---too many groups in District stretches resources, lapover of members in groups, hard to find people to serve in  
positions.  
---1 person, anonymous, registered as group, DCM knows not where they meet.  
---Small town, 1 group, new resident in small town, wanted to start new group, only one other member, decision to  
hold off for a while before registering.

#7

---Paula H. All is emailed—no paper for anything—unless no email address  
---Lori: email # snail mail to those who request  
---Sam: some recent controversy because someone did not have internet or email access  
---John V: No email do to sect/treas not having email-reviewed at next meeting  
---Mary: very few in her district have email  
---Rick: emails to GSR’s District Cmte Chairs & all of Area 40 committee: paper copies to those in District without  
computers. Saved a lot of money  
---Tom D: Utilize Area website “connected” (not linked) to District page: agenda, calendar

## **Roundup Reports**

### **2007 Fall Round Up Report—Great Falls**

On September 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 District 41 and Great Falls hosted the fall round up. It was held at the Best Western  
Heritage Inn.

We had 420 paid participants. There was much sponsorship for registrations provided by local groups. (Thank you)  
After all expenses were met we had a surplus which was split and seed money was passed on to Helena.

The weekend of fellowship was filled with meetings, speakers, auctions, raffles, and time spent with recovering  
friends old and new.

Once again Great Falls Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon demonstrated through the spirit of cooperation, that we  
could work together to orchestrate an outstanding event for the benefit of all who participated.

We had attendance from local treatment centers as well as treatment centers in Browning and Rocky Boy.

The Speakers shared compelling stories of recovery and hope and everyone truly enjoyed them.

Our entertainment was a Johnny Cash tribute band (“Cold Hard Cash”). I can’t remember when more people have  
stayed for the entertainment. They were Awesome!

Thanks to all who served, and participated. By serving as Round-Up Chair for the committee, I have learned and  
grown in my service life and would recommend it to anyone.

Yours in Service,

Brian M.

2007 Round-Up Chair

## **2008 Spring Round-up Helena**

Welcome to the 2008 Spring Roundup

We in District 61 are pleased to be hosting the 2008 Spring Round Up. We invite you all to join us for a fun filled weekend.

Our speaker committee has done a wonderful job of selecting speakers for the weekend. Our speakers come from all points, Kentucky, California, Helena, and Butte.

We will be having three AA workshops - Spirituality , Watching for Relapse and the traditional Of old timers meeting, if you wish to speak at the Old Timers Meeting and you have 25 years of sobriety please register at the registration desk. There will also be two Alanon Workshops.

Marathon Meetings will be held throughout the weekend but not during the main speakers.

The registration fee for the weekend is \$20.00 and \$25.00 after May 1st• (This does not include meals.) We hope you will register early.

Travel Safely and we look forward to meeting you as “we trudge the road of happy destiny”

Round Up Questions Contact

AA- Bryan S. [REDACTED] Alanon- Amanda S. [REDACTED]

### **Intergroup Reports**

#### **Report from Park County Intergroup**

Park County Intergroup was formed about four years ago, as a ground swell movement of A. A.'s , because of Bozeman Pass it made it difficult to participate in a lot of the activities there, especially in the winter. It was started to carry the messages and to provide fellowship events for unity of groups in the Park County area. Are charter includes full cooperation with District 72 and Area 40.

Park County Intergroup follows the guidelines of the A.A. Service Manual. As such we maintain a phone information number where we can give callers information on where the next or closest meeting is to them and also maintain a list of people to go out on twelve step calls, if that is what is being called for.

We publish a Park County Meeting list, that also lists a phone number for each meeting. We also publish a pamphlet called Who Me, with blanks to add phone numbers to. This pamphlet was written by two of our members who have long term sobriety

We do several workshops. This year we have already had a workshop on Sponsorship and in April we will have a workshop on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information.

We were poised to take meetings into the jail, and had very good response from the jailer, but the sheriff won't let us in.

We also sponsor fun unity events such as a Valentines's Day event, [this year it was a speaker, with desserts, games, and dance after.] Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner in March, Camp out on a week end 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 anyone in Park County a chip for their sobriety length. It starts at 7 p.m. And then we have a speaker one month and a call up meeting the next month. Then we serve cake which is donated, followed by our business meeting..

At 8 p.m. Every first Saturday of the month we have an Intergroup business meeting. Since taking over as chair in January I have been going to each meeting and telling them what Intergroup does and asking each group to send an Intergroup representative to our business meetings, so that we can truly represent the groups in Park County.

We purchase literature through District 72. Our financial situation is good. The groups have been generous. We keep a prudent reserve of \$100.00 for the phone.

### **South Central Montana Intergroup**

South Central Montana Intergroup meets monthly with the IGR's of our groups to get a good feel for the AA Community that we serve & support, we are currently meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 1:30 pm. Following the monthly District 11 meeting. A representative of Intergroups Operating Committee attends both the District 11 & 12 meetings on an alternating basis to keep the lines of communication open and be of service when at all possible.

There are currently 29 groups between the 2 Districts, with 166 meetings per week total. Over the last year one group disbanded, but another group formed to keep the totals static. Intergroup maintains the meeting list and prints anywhere from 3000-4000 copies per year. They are distributed by the IGR's and additional copies are kept in the Bookstore.

We publish our monthly Newsletter and distribute copies to all the groups and Districts. The Newsletter is a convenient forum for any group or District to advise the AA Community of upcoming events by including flyers. The Newsletter routinely includes the minutes of our meetings as well as the Area events Calendar, Service opportunities within Intergroup, as openings become available and any changes to the meeting schedule prior to new meeting lists being printed

The Bookstore is fully stocked with Conference Approved literature, and is staffed every Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00 pm, with volunteers from the groups.

Special Events have allowed us to bring the AA Community together in the spirit of Fellowship and have a joyous time celebrating Recovery, participation in these events has been wonderful and a great time was had by all. Scheduled events that occur annually are Founders Day Celebration, Holiday Party, Cooney Campout (IG), Fireman's Point Campout (Dist12) and Mid-Winter Social (Dist 12).

We are still maintaining an active Hotline number, until such time as the Area Toll Free number takes over.

Yours in Service  
Philip M. G.  
South Central Montana Intergroup Chair

### **Flathead Valley Intergroup Report to Area Assembly – April 13, 2008**

Greetings from Flathead Valley Intergroup:

Flathead Valley Intergroup represents the AA groups throughout District 91. Our monthly newsletter and business meeting minutes are mailed to group reps from Elmo to Eureka and any others who request them.

We provide the answering service and district-wide meetings list to help carry the message and let folks know where our meetings are and why we're here. The answering service handles 50-100 calls per month, either providing meeting information or connecting the caller with a recovering alcoholic. We update our meeting schedules every 4 months, printing 1500-2000 each time. This year we've added a website to our informational repertoire, the address of which is [aa-nw-mt.org](http://aa-nw-mt.org). The website generates nearly 150 hits per month and is beautifully maintained by our web magician with a plethora of timely information concerning upcoming events and contact links.

The annual campout was well attended last year, as usual. The campout this year will again be at Emery Bay on the east shore of Hungry Horse Reservoir the weekend of August 8-10. We've scheduled speakers for Saturday night and Sunday morning and discussion meetings throughout the weekend.

The Intergroup Newsletter provides a roster of campouts and activities as we know about them throughout the summer. If you have an activity, picnic or campout throughout the year that you'd like us to know about, send the information to the address below.

Our annual Thanksgiving feast, valley wide sobriety birthday party and dance night was a big deal with lots of folks, lots of food and lots of fellowship. That celebration will be happening again this year, the Saturday night after Thanksgiving, November 29th, at the Stillwater Grange Hall and you're all invited if you're in the valley that weekend.

The 2008 New Year's Eve Alkathon that we host was also well attended at the Alano Club in Kalispell.

Our entertainment committee has become increasingly active this year, hosting a St. Pats potluck and speaker meeting and our upcoming '[Cinco de Mama](#)' Mexican food theme potluck and speaker meeting the Saturday night before Mothers' Day at the Alano Club, starting at 6:00 pm.

We've moved our meetings to the Alano Club in Kalispell, and continue to meet the last Saturday night of the month...business meeting at 6:30, birthday celebration at 8:00 pm. The move has been pretty seamless, and participation on the part of more groups seems to have increased.

We continue to have liaison representation at district meetings and at Area Assembly and are involved in helping with the 2008 Round-up in Kalispell.

Yours, In Service,  
Alida W., Chairman, Flathead Valley Intergroup

### **West Central Regional Forum Report**

Report on the West Central Regional Service Conference (WCRSC) - Tim M. District 61 DCM

How do I paint a picture for you of the WCRSC in five minutes or less and make you feel like you're in it? Well I thought a good place to start is by telling you what the West Central Regional Service Conference (WCRSC) is. It is a gathering of the eight Areas in the West Central region of the United States which, from a geographic standpoint, amounts to Iowa, Northern Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The purpose of the conference is to develop greater unity among members, groups, and the Areas of the West Central region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experience, and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The event is hosted by the different Areas on a rotating basis and this year the event was held in Fargo North Dakota at the Best Western Doublewood Inn. It began at 7:00pm on Friday February 29<sup>th</sup> and closed on Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. The Theme for this year was "Communication and Participation - The Key to Unity and Self Support". There were 273 registered members in attendance.

The Friday night and Saturday night sessions lasted past 10:00pm on both nights with ice cream and fellowship afterwards. On Saturday and Sunday the day started with a 7:45am and 7:00am meeting respectively. This is not a place where one gets caught up on their sleep.

The agenda consists of General Sessions which are held as a large group where the delegates from each Area get a chance to present the agenda items that were assimilated at GSO that came from individuals, groups, districts and Areas throughout the United States and Canada. This serve's multiple purposes. It not only better informs the members at the conference along with giving them the opportunity to share their opinions, but also gives the delegates a sense of our members feelings on the topics along with a dress rehearsal, if you will, prior to attending the General Service Conference later this Spring in New York city. There were four General Sessions in all each lasting approximately two hours.

Different Area's also have members from their Area's put on presentations to the entire body with this year's topics consisting of; "Self Support" - Northern Minnesota, "Unity" - Nebraska, "Communication & Participation" - Wyoming, "Love & Tolerance, Now More Than Ever" - South Dakota.

There are also smaller breakout sessions on; DCM's, Literature, PI/CPC, Delegate/Trustee, Newsletter, GSR's, Archives, Grapevine, Corrections/Treatment and Area Officers that allow members to ask questions and share experience among each other.

The West Central Regional Trustee, Chuck B. was also there to give his last report of his four year rotation along with acting as a facilitator during much of the general sharing and breakout sessions. Dorothy W., trustee at large, was also there to do much of the same along with Jack S. who is a trustee on the General Service board and sits on the Finance committee at GSO. He was also the Saturday night speaker telling his personal story. If you don't know what a Trustee is, think along the lines of - Super Delegate.

That in a nut shell is what the WCRSC is and what went on there from a 10,000 foot level.

To truly appreciate the picture, allow me if you will, to focus it down to what happened to one Alcoholic who attended, me.

I met our Area Finance chair Curt K. at the Helena airport on Friday morning to board our five hour flight. To begin it got out of Helena a hour late. We flew from Helena to Minneapolis where I read the background material along the way in the cramped seating on the plane. I don't know if the gentleman next to me knew much about the background material or AA for that matter but he would have had to have slept the whole flight to not have gotten a look at some of it. They don't feed you anymore on short flights so upon arriving at the Minneapolis airport I set out to find lunch. I settled on a restaurant called Friday's since it was Friday and they were serving fish, which is an outside issue so I won't go into that. I later boarded the hour flight from Minneapolis to Fargo and took my seat in the next to the last row of the plane. The cabin crew was just about to close the door to leave and I was sitting there all delighted that no one was sitting next to me and I could lay out the background material on the next seat and finish my reading when a gentleman in a dark blue pinstripe suit came down the aisle and preceded to take over the empty seat beside me. I greeted him as warmly as I could but was thinking one more minute and the door would have been closed and my seat/desk would have been mine to finish up my review of the agenda material. We shared a few general comments and he then looked at me and asked, "You're not by any chance headed to the West Central conference are you"? I smiled and said yes at which time he said he was also and that his name was Jack. As it turned out this Jack was the Jack I mentioned above in the section on Trustee's who is on the General Service board on the Finance committee and a former director of the Grapevine. He was flying in from Washington DC and almost missed his last connection. What a way to get reminded that my first inclination to perceive a situation as bad is often not the case at all. I now had a walking talking encyclopedia next to me of the agenda items I had remaining to cover. What a deal.

We arrived at Fargo and I retrieved my luggage and waited for my cab with the district 72 DCM Lori F. who just arrived as well. What's Fargo like in February, its cold, It's windy, and it is all so flat but I was very happy to be there! In the cab on the way to the hotel I met another member of our fellowship from Nebraska.

That night I had supper at the hotel with our Area delegate, our past delegate another delegate from somewhere, Curt our Finance chair, and Jack from the plane who needed no introduction. Throughout dinner I couldn't help but keep thinking how does a drunk from Anaconda Montana end up in Fargo North Dakota having dinner with the high caliber of people such as these in a fancy hotel?

I did not sleep much Friday night or Saturday night for that matter, not only because the hours available were short, but also because my excitement about being a part of this were so high.

Things that come to mind about what I heard and experienced there were; The level that people care about, and are willing to do for our fellowship tops the list, Bill W.'s litmus test on if we should do something in AA, Is it Spiritual, Is it Necessary, Contributions are up the last two years, 7.5% last year and approximately 13% in 2006.



I also learned that many people do not share the same thoughts on matters as I and when it comes to the grey pages in the Grapevine this was almost painfully true but I had fun sharing on the topic none the less and I can still respect and even like them if they don't have the same opinions as me.

The thing that concerned me the most was a story a young Mexican fellow told from the mike in the General sharing session during the discussion on funding other countries to come to the general service conference. He said that in Mexico there are two GSO's and that one of them is notorious. He said they will have newcomers stand on one foot for 24 hour in an attempt to break their will and people have died during this process. I don't know about you, but it left me with little doubt if we should fund this effort.

This fall we will be voting in new members to the 2009-2010 rotation. So if you are currently just mulling over the idea or perhaps the idea doesn't even exist about standing for a position I would like to close with this. A question in the Ask-It-Basket of a service workshop I was a participating in asked if service work in A.A. has benefited me in my career. I hope my report has better answered this question than the short time I had available then that it has not only benefited me from a career standpoint, but in every area of my life.

Sincerely,  
Tim M.  
District 61 DCM

#### **Update of Establishment of the Area 40 800 Number—Sean B.**

See Public Information Report

#### **Floor Discussion:**

**Gerry—Suggested that a list be available for how to answer Hotline calls.**

**Bill—Concern that alcoholics are not answering hot line and the person answering does not know what the caller wants. Need more training for Answering service.**

**Sean—Packet is given to AnswerNet.**

**Peg—I am a double winner, should I talk to an Alanon?**

**Kristy—Flathead does not have a connection with AnswerNet.**

**Phill—Inner Group currently maintaining Hot line. Do We just need to drop it?**

**Sean—State wide change will transfer your number to AnswerNet.**

**Carleen—Tech changes—it is going to be worse before it gets better.**

**Tim—District 61 has been working with Alanon and the plan is to transition from Alanon. Alanon will have their own #.**

**Mary—Appreciate getting this cleared up.**

**Rich—aren't the people answering calls suppose to be approved by the DCM?**

**Sean—It is however the District wants to do it.**

**Mark—Thank you Sean for your work on this. For taking on the responsibility and be willing to follow through.**

#### **Past Delegate Sharing** **Loren B.**

Loren spoke about missing Robbie at Area, but knows that she is with us in Spirit

Scott W is our Area candidate for West Central Regional Trustee. Andrew will be able to speak a few minutes about Scott when Andrew goes to the General Service Conference in April.

Loren talked about the comparison of Area and GSO. What an awesome experience to participate in GSO. He can't believe he is here. It started with him leaving his name up. He was speechless when his name came out of the hat

for delegate. His term had 3 years to change the rotation for our region. He knew how to contribute after serving 3 yrs.

He was appointed to the Literature committee during his last two years. He was able to participate in the approval of the 4<sup>th</sup> addition. Some controversy that come out of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition approval was the “for committee only”, meaning that only the committee members was able to read any of the stories that were added to the Big Book. The other delegates had to vote based on the committee’s recommendation. This showed him how the committee system worked and exemplified what a trusted servant’s job was.

His most memorable experience was with the forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> addition. There was some controversy about the wording. What impressed him was the way the committee spoke to each other with dignity and respect and really putting what is best for AA. With the sentence it was causing division so the decision was to take it out to maintain the harmony.

Loren is the author of the agenda item to discuss funding the General Service office solely by Voluntary contributions. He had worked with Robbie on the right wording to be presented to GSO for consideration to be added to the agenda. His idea was to get the fellowship to start talking about it and begin thinking of how to be self supporting.

Loren had the privilege of going to Stepping Stone his last year as Area Delegate. He was overcome with emotion standing in the kitchen with the table that Bill sat with his friend Ebby and Ebby was sober. Loren had the feeling of being part of.

Loren encouraged everyone to stand for something in the upcoming elections. Service is a life changing experience.

#### **Past Delegate Sharing** **Earl F.**

Earl expressed his gratitude of being asked to share as past delegate. This was his first time to share as past delegate.

Earl talked about having a responsibility to talk about what is going on in AA and sometimes that means controversial topics. He remembers the time that Hazelton was selling subscriptions of the Grapevine through their catalog. It caused a concern by many members of AA. Grapevine board came to the fellowship and asked how to make it right (10<sup>th</sup> step). The board met for several hours and worked on how to bring unity back to AA as a whole.

Earl talked about pre-assemblies helping our area to be better prepared for the Area. How there has been discussion about the value of pre-assemblies. He said we need to know what we are going to do with the information and take it back to our groups. He said usually only 10% do 90% of the work. He suggested that we look at how we carry what goes on at pre-assemblies, district and area back to our groups. Are we encouraging or discouraging participation.

Earl also expressed his missing Robbie. She was the 1<sup>st</sup> person to come to him after his name was drawn out of the hat. She told Earl that his live was about to change.

Earl asked us to remember that God expresses himself through this process.

**FALL ASSEMBLY—SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2008**