

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY 2009

SEPTEMBER 19-20

AT THE YOGO INN

LEWISTOWN, MT

Welcome to the Assembly

Terry S., Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, opened the Assembly at 8 AM with the Serenity Prayer. Doug D. read the 12 Traditions; Jo G. read the short form of the 12 Concepts. April, the Area 40 Secretary, took the roll. There were 14 districts present with 102 voting members, and 28 visitors for a total of 130 attendees at the 2009 Fall Assembly.

Orientation to the Assembly- Carole B., Area 40 Delegate

Good morning everyone, my name is Carole B. and I'm an alcoholic. I have the huge honor and pleasure of serving as your Delegate. Recently, I changed home groups and started attending a few other groups in Billings. A GSR said that the reports at the Area Assembly can get a bit boring so I decided to spice up this orientation a bit. Robbie used to tell the GSRs to make service look like fun, because it is. If it isn't fun, I ain't doing it.

I have opted to make this a participation orientation. I have asked some people to help me. Here's what we're going to do. I will seek your participation and those who get the correct answer will be given a ticket by my assistants. Some questions have multiple answers. A ticket is available for each correct answer to those questions with multiple answers.

Put your name on the ticket. The tickets will be collected and placed in a hat. Those drawn from the hat will get a prize such as a Grapevine Calendar, a Grapevine, Young People's poster, or other memento.

This is the only time in this Assembly that you can shout from your seat. Terry needs to you go to the mike to speak during the remainder of the Assembly.

Let's get started. First I would like to welcome all the people here for their first Assembly. I would also like to welcome all the first time and returning GSRs. GSR stands for? (General Service Representative). That's right General Service Representative.

We need all those in attendance to register with your DCM. DCM stands for? (District Committee Member) Yes, District Committee Member. Even if you are here as a visitor, please register.

Ken B., West Central Regional Trustee is here with us this weekend. Area 40 – Montana belongs to the West Central Region with 7 other Areas. Name those Areas. (Iowa, Northern Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming) As a Trustee, Ken serves on the General Service Board.

We also have a number of Past Delegates here today as well. What are the names of the Past Delegates here today? () I'm glad you know who they are because they are a great resource and have helped me very much over the last few years.

As soon as we get done playing this orientation game, we will have reports from the Area Chairs, DCMs, Area Advisor, Archivist, and Webmaster.

This later this morning, I will give my report of my activities. In April I attended the? (General Service Conference). It was held in New York City but next year it is moving to Rye, New York. You have graciously invited me to come share my experience with you throughout the summer.

Then we will break into committee meetings and workshops. Who can name the committees? (Archives, Corrections, Cooperation with Professional Community, Grapevine, Public Information, Finance, Literature and Treatment) Anyone can attend committee meetings but only committee members can vote within the committee. Each district provides two or more committee members. Each DCM serves on a committee and each district provides a representative to serve on a committee.

Each committee has assigned to review the actions taken by the Conference on the agenda items at the 2009 General Service Conference. If the committee is so inclined, they may bring forth an item for the 2010 General Service Conference as a recommendation for the Assembly to discuss and possibly approve. If such a recommendation is approved, I will forward it to the Conference Coordinator for the Trustees to consider placing on the 2010 Conference.

For those not attending committee meetings, the workshops will be led by Past Delegates Earl and Loren. As I said earlier, the Past Delegates are great resources so enjoy the workshops.

Ken B will share with us and then we will begin the floor assembly. Each Area Chair reports on the committee meeting and may offer a recommendation which is a made and seconded motion. If a recommendation presented, we discuss it.

The voice of each and every member of AA matters. If you have a concern or question, please voice it. If you don't understand what we are trying to accomplish, please ask for clarification. If you are uncertain, it is likely that there is someone else needs clarification. So, by asking a question, you are really helping all of us. If someone has already expressed that opinion, there is not a reason to repeat it. This is why you are here.

This Assembly will loosely follow what procedures? (Robert's Rules of Order)

After receiving each District's registration forms, our Area Secretary, April, will establish the number of voting members present. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum. A quorum consists of 2/3 of the voting members being present. If the vote is valid such that a quorum has cast votes, the recommendation will only pass if we have substantial unanimity or a majority vote. In Area 40, we consider what fraction to be the majority vote? (2/3). Yes, 2/3 of the vote is needed to approve a recommendation.

There will also be time for minority opinion after a committee recommendation is voted on. The purpose of minority opinion is to help ensure we have an open discussion on each issue. However, it is best to express your concern or voice during the discussion such that we have all information prior to taking a vote.

The Committee Chairs will also report on items the committee discussed but did not take any action. You will be given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the item.

The GSR and DCM Breakouts are a great place to find out how other groups or districts handle situations. Or place to propose an idea you may have for carrying the message to the still suffering

alcoholic. These are also great places to discuss the 12 Traditions. Ask-it-baskets are in the back of the room for these breakouts so you can pose your question there if you would rather be anonymous.

Tomorrow morning, we will hear reports from the Spring and Fall Roundups, Intergroups represented, and the Regional Forum. We will also hear from Past Delegates Loren and Earl. Then we will continue with committee reports.

If we have time, we will have general sharing. This is the time that Floor Actions could be made if we have something that must be dealt with and is not on the agenda.

By past actions, the Assembly will close at Noon on Sunday. Two things can cause the Assembly to not close at noon – a motion to adjourn during general sharing or a motion to continue past noon if we did not get through our business.

Any questions on the Assembly's procedures?

We'll have the drawing at the break. Thanks for your enthusiasm.

Now back to our usual order.

Area Committee Member Reports

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate- Terry S.

Good morning, Area 40!

Welcome to the second assembly of the 2009-2010 Area 40 rotation. Now, in Spring 2009, virtually all of us were in new positions, and we learned together. This time, many of us are "old veterans," although most of us "old veterans" are in our second assembly in our current positions. All of us, new and old alike, get the privilege of working together to assure that the hand of AA will be there wherever and whenever a suffering alcoholic reaches out for our help.

First of all, let me give you the dates for upcoming Area Assemblies (our coming attractions). The Spring 2010 assembly dates are at the bottom of page 5 on our Agenda for this Assembly — April 10/11, 2010. Please remember the A.A. meeting on Friday night, like the one last night, will be on April 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in this room. The 2010 Fall Assembly will be September 11-12. For 2011, the Spring Assembly will be April 9-10 and the Fall Assembly will be September 17-18, moved later into September to avoid conflicts with the 2011 West Central Regional Forum, in Iowa on September 10-11. This report will be in the minutes of this Assembly, so let me mention some other dates you may want to remember. July 1-4, 2010, the International Convention occurs in San Antonio, Texas — registration opened for the International Convention on the 1st of this month, and I understand they have resolved the initial problems with on-line registration. Also in 2010, the West Central Regional AA Service Conference will be in Iowa on March 5-7, at the Holiday Inn in Dubuque. Later next year, there will be a special WCRF in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Nov. 12-14, addressing Native American experience in AA, and AA experience with Native American members and prospects. In 2011 the WCRAASC is in Northern Minnesota, and then, in 2012, it is scheduled to be here, in Montana. We have an agenda item about that service conference, to commence our preparation to select a site and begin the planning and preparation.

Part of my job is to educate trusted servants throughout the Area on placing items on the agenda for the Area Assembly as well as the General Service Conference. Under our Area Policy and Procedures, you've gotta get your agenda items, in writing, with the background material, to me by February 1, 2010. Do not expect to get an item on the agenda next spring if you miss that deadline. There just isn't any extra time to be late.

Our room rates for this Assembly are 69.99 for one person in a standard room, \$79.99 for two persons, 89.99 for three persons, and so forth, with a 3% tax added. Our group reservation number is #GA0032, but most of folks at the front desk know that is the rate for folks attending this Assembly. If you have any problems, talk to me if the front desk can't take care of it for you.

Since the Spring Assembly I have visited business meetings in districts 41 and 61, participated in 2 Area Committee telephone conferences and attended the West Central Regional Forum in St. Cloud, Minnesota. We'll have a report later about that conference, but let me just say it is another of those service experiences that you will not want to miss. Our Area Committee telephone conferences this fall have been an experiment, and Sharon, our Triangle Editor, has completed a survey about how the participants feel so far. We'll continue to explore the use of technology for between assembly communications, and perhaps someone will present an agenda item about the best practice to follow in another year or two. Communication—transparency—doing our best to assure that every member of the Fellowship in Area 40 can find out what is going on—is vital to our recovery and to our unity, as well as to our service.

District 21 apparently has a new DCM, Joe G., and appears to be losing a couple of groups that are asking to become part of District 51. There has been some consultation with other folks in Area 40, and I hope we will find out the status of that matter perhaps this weekend. Ultimately, since each group is autonomous, the groups have every right to change their district affiliations.

We have a great agenda for this assembly, consisting mainly of local items, and otherwise consisting of our committees telling us what they see as important from the General Service Conference this Spring. My role is not to participate in the discussion but to keep things functional and on time. You all have the jobs of sharing your comments, questions, and concerns. If somebody else has already shared what you were going to share, please don't repeat. If you have a question that has not been asked or a comment that is new, then please do go to the mike and share. BEFORE we get to the floor assembly, while our committees are meeting, if you are not a voting member of any committee, please feel free to attend the workshops in this big room, chaired by 2 of our past delegates. Or, if you are interested in any particular local items, or the status of items from this Spring's GSC, or if you have some thoughts about a particular aspect of service, please do attend the meeting of the committee in which those items will be addressed. This is our assembly, yours and mine. Our GSC is the collective conscience of our Fellowship, and the General Service Office is our GSO. Share your thoughts, your feelings and your ideas, so that we can continue to improve our ability to offer our recovery program to any and all alcoholics who might want it.

As Carole mentioned, our West Central Regional Trustee, Ken B., will be sharing with us this afternoon, before we commence our committee reports to the floor. Ken follows Chuck B., who did a wonderful job for us, and Ken is carrying on in the same fashion, in his own style, and also doing very fine work for the Fellowship. Thanks, Ken.

Thank you for the honor and the privilege to serve as your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate.

Terry S.

Area Secretary- April A

Hello everyone, my name is April, Area 40 secretary and an alcoholic. It is good to see everyone again.

I have a few procedural announcements

In order for all to share and to get through the myriad of business we have before us. Each Area Committee Chair and DCM has 5 minutes for their reports, discussion or comments from the floor are given three minutes to share.

DCM's I have put attendance sheets for each district on the tables by your nameplate, please have those filled out and hand them in to me by the first break which is at 9:30. I use the count from these sheets to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCM's or their alternate, GSR's or their alternate, and most Area Committee Chairs and Officers.

I have been busy updating Area 40's group information at GSO through a website called New Vision. I have registration forms for new groups; the same forms can also be used to update group information as well. A note of clarification, all the information with asterisks next to it is necessary to properly register or update any group. Omission of any of this information results in the system rejecting the entry. GSO did not publish meeting directories this year after all, I do still need to update all group and group contact information, regardless. If you have any questions, please come up and see me.

All those giving reports may e-mail your report to me. If you choose to submit your report in hard copy, I will need two copies. In addition, I will need the minutes from all the committee meetings and breakout sessions being held later today. E-mail is more efficient and my preference but hard copies will suit. Remember, two copies...

Recommendations from committees to come to the floor in the spring assembly were:

**Archives/ Structure Committee recommends that Area 40 fund the Archivist to attend the 2009 National AA Archives Workshop in Woodland Hills, CA (not to exceed \$1500) to make a bid that Area 40 host the 2011 National AA Archives Workshop,
Vote: 96 For; 6 Opposed. Recommendation Passed. Minority Opinion was heard.**

Corrections/International Conventions and Regional Forums : Area 40 Corrections Committee requests a Local Forum from the General Service Office to be held in the spring of 2011 in Great Falls, MT.

Vote: 65 For; 23 Against. Recommendation Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
April A.

Area Treasurer-Linda B.

Hello and welcome to everyone! Our purpose this weekend is to participate in the business of our area and support the service structure in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is the time where your voice is heard. Please come to the microphone and ask questions.

This weekend the finance committee is tasked with two agenda items:

1. Review the agenda items from this year's General Service Conference and report back to this assembly.
2. Prepare and propose a draft budget for 2010. This assembly will discuss and vote on this recommendation this weekend.

As treasurer, along with the finance committee, my job is that of overseer of Area 40 finances, keeping accurate records, collecting contributions, pay expenses, and most importantly, reporting to the groups the current financial picture of Area 40. Firstly, I want to thank the spring assembly participants for their 7th Tradition contributions of \$1,214.77. This was commendable and surprising in that this was the largest amount received from any assembly. Once again, the power of the purse has spoken.

Each DCM has a packet this morning on their table. Each group in each district that made contributions to Area 40 has a letter to share with their home groups. This letter is to thank the groups for their contributions and continued support of the structure and services we perform in Area 40. 94 groups, 2 districts, and one individual have contributed funds this year totaling \$20,754.74. Check to see that these contributions match up with what your groups have contributed this year. Any discrepancies can be reported to me. It would be invaluable to include all new group information and your group service number with your contribution to insure proper accounting of the monies. There are many contributions still being sent to different addresses. Please update your mailing information. The address for Area Treasurer is PO Box 21577, Billings MT 59104. There are address labels on the back table by the Coffee can.

There are financial reports for everyone to have a copy of. Along with these reports, there is a budget worksheet. All of these figures will be discussed and reviewed this weekend. Some of the financial highlights are a checkbook balance of \$28,531.99. Of that there is \$10,813 for prudent reserve and \$2,073 in the archivist account. That leaves an operating balance of \$15,646. Income to date through September 13th is \$22,910 with expenses of \$17,250 leaving us with a net gain of \$5,660. Your 7th Traditions contributions have been and are supporting our expenses this year. While we are supporting our current expenses, we are not on target for supporting the 2009 budget of \$30,939. Plus, we increased that budget by \$1,500 this spring with voting to fund the Archivist to attend the Archives Convention and bid to host the 2011 Archives Convention in Montana. The annual budget we passed for 2009 is now \$32,439. As you can see in the financial reports, actual expenses are significantly different than the projected budget. In the reports you can see we're not spending our budgeted monies in most of our committees. Our 2009 budget isn't based on actual expenses; it's what our collective vote was to provide and support Area 40 services in carrying on our 12th Step work. There will be estimated expenses of \$7000 for the remainder of this year, so realistically we will be having expenses of about \$25,000 this year compared to the \$32,349 budget that was projected.

If, we as a fellowship deem the services are essential and necessary in Area 40 and vote to support those services, collectively we need to increase our 7th Tradition contributions also. If the expenses this year

were close to the projected budget, we would be using our prudent reserve to pay for expenses. Our area has in the past proven that when a call for money is necessary, the groups respond. Are we as a fellowship setting a budget we are willing to support through our contributions? There may be agenda items passed this weekend that will further impact the budget for next year. Is it time to trim our budget, to estimate our expenses in equal proportion to our contributions and set a budget accordingly? These are the questions I pose to this voting assembly to discuss. I'm sure that there will be thoughtful discussion and that we will come to an informed decision in passing the 2010 budget.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Area 40. Respectfully, Linda Black, treasurer.

Triangle Editor- Sharon S.

Hi everybody. My name is Sharon S.; I am an alcoholic and your Triangle editor.

I've had a great time doing the 6 issues of the Triangle thus far this year. I slacked after the May-June issue and found myself doing catch up in a hurry for the July-August issue, which became the August issue! I appreciate all the support and articles I've received from the Area officers and committee chairs, DCM's, GSR's, and A.A. members. The participation has been great. So, thanks everyone. Those who haven't contributed yet, I'll be trying to put a little structure into the remaining issues, with focus on a particular area of service now that we have all had a little time to settle in to our positions.

Groups (and individuals) are encouraged to subscribe to the Triangle, for \$10 a year. By past motion, groups receive the Triangle whether they subscribe or not. Currently, 84 groups, or about 30%, have current subscriptions. There are 16 paid individual subscriptions. I mail approximately 300 copies. They go to all groups with a valid address, the DCM's, the Area Committee, and West Central Region Delegates, the West Central Region Trustee and individuals with a current subscription. There are currently 23 groups on the list with invalid addresses which I have not been able to resolve

I continue to work with the DCM's to keep the mailing list as up to date as possible. I have given each a current list of groups for Triangle mailing in hopes that any updates or changes can be made this weekend and the lists handed back before you leave. If you want to take them back to your next district meeting, that would be great. You can mail the updates to me. I'll email a copy of the list to you in case that works out to be easier for you.

I have subscription forms if you want to subscribe or your group wants to renew its subscription.

At the spring assembly, I voiced my desire to be sure that the Triangle meets your needs. I did put together a little inventory and included it in the August Triangle. Thank you for taking the time to help the Triangle "take its inventory". The Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy committee will be reviewing the results.

I've worked with Linda to put together a budget request for 2010 for the Triangle. First of all, if I publish 2 more issues of the Triangle, I will go over budget for 2009 by about \$400. I don't have the details of the 2009 budget, so cannot identify exactly why this happened. There were several things that may not have been anticipated: postage increases, quarterly National Change of Address (NCOA) checking on all bulk mail, and a new printer. My budget for 2010 includes the actual expenses from this year plus a slight increase for postage. The biggest part of the budget is to upgrade the outdated software and a provision to replace the computer if necessary.

I put "extra" Triangles out on the back table, help yourselves. There's also a binder of recent issues, if you'd like to peruse.

I'm pretty excited to be registered for the International next year and hope to include some stories in the Triangle to encourage others to join us. Do you have a good International experience that you'd like to share? I would love to have it, please talk to me sometime this weekend!

This is really is a great job that you have trusted me with. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Grapevine- Rich K.

Again I would like to express my gratitude towards Area 40 for allowing me to serve as the Area Grapevine Chair. So far it has been a great experience.

I was invited to the Grapefest in Helena on June 13th. Having never attended one I was not sure what to expect, except the genuine friendliness and hospitality of AA's in service. I was not disappointed. I absolutely enjoyed the event and came away with renewed enthusiasm towards the Grapevine mission and AA as a whole. Thanks again to the folks in Helena. I encourage all of you that have not been to the Grapefest to put on your AA calendar for next year. The trip to Helena was also a great opportunity for me to get to know a fellow AA better as we chatted and listened to AA speakers for the entire trip.

I would like to ask all of you to remember the Grapevine and the fine resources it has especially when working with newcomers or perhaps not so newcomers that would benefit from the Grapevine. Books such as "Voices of Long-Term Sobriety", "Beginners' Book: Getting and Staying Sober in AA", Audio tapes such as Spiritual Awakenings, Emotional Sobriety, Attitude Adjustment are some of the online resources that cover topics including sponsorship, working with wet drunks, service work, the twelve steps, and a litany of other very helpful items. Please don't shortchange the newcomer or yourself and explore what the Grapevine has to offer. Either ordering books and material directly or finding the resources online at www.aagrapevine.org

I am looking forward to reviewing the results from the last General Service Conference with my colleagues on the committee.

Literature- Lori F.

Hello. My name is Lori F. and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 40 Literature Committee Chair. Welcome to all, especially those here for their first assembly.

"Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die." This paragraph, written by Bill W. in 1951, is the first paragraph of our service manual. I thought these were words of wisdom worthy of sharing as we begin another Area Assembly.

The summer seemed to fly by, even though I did not have any invitations to lug my incredible literature stash hither and yon. Just a reminder that I would love to participate in any event in which you think I could be of service. Please invite me! I did participate in one of the Area 40 Conference calls, and intended to participate in the other, but forgot about it until it was over. If only good intentions paved the way to somewhere other than . . . well, you get the idea.

I did not place a literature order prior to this assembly for a few reasons. First, after contacting Julio E., the new Literature Coordinator at the GSO, I found out that it would be unlikely that the new service manuals would be printed in time for me to receive them before the Fall Assembly. We also have a pretty good stock of pamphlets at this time, and I wouldn't have had enough to order to avoid a shipping charge. I have a few of the 2008-2009 service manuals left for the low price of \$2.50. They are located on the table near the literature display. I plan to have the new service manuals for the spring assembly. You may, of course, also order them through your district or intergroup. In addition, because I did not place an order, I did not get any new Literature Catalogs. I have placed copies of the new Order Form, which reflects the new prices, near the service manuals in the back. The 2009-2010 Catalogs are available on the AA Website for viewing, downloading and saving, or printing.

I have set up Area 40's Literature Display at the back of the room. Please take a moment this weekend to browse the display which contains much of the material available to you through the General Service Office. The books and audio-visual materials are for display only and not for sale. However, you may help yourself to a pamphlet or two, and I strongly encourage you to pick up several regular and birthday contribution envelopes!

Finally, I would like to pass on the following information:

- 2010-2011 A.A. Directories will not be published this year, and the 2008-2009 Directories will continue to be distributed.
- A digital subscription of *Box 459* is now available at no charge by visiting GSO's AA Website (www.aa.org) to subscribe. *Box 459* is GSO's quarterly "news and notes" bulletin with Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer issues.
- GSO requests that all Literature Chairs who would like to receive information by email to provide the following contact information: email address, full name, service number and position. Please send the information to the Records Department at records@aa.org. I would love to have the contact information for the District Literature Chairs as well. Please send it to me via email.

Please don't hesitate to pull me aside this weekend if you have questions or concerns. Thanks for your attention and for allowing me to serve,

Lori F., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

PI- Tim M.

Area 40 – Public Information (PI) Report

The majority of what I have been doing since the Spring assembly has been working on the 1-888 number.

There was much discussion in late spring about why were not using the online contact system and still relying on outdated lists. This was due to two main reasons. The first was that our webmaster was still working on the online portion of the system and secondly we did not have a very high percentage of districts that had entered their contact information online.

Since that time however I am very excited to report to the Area Assembly that in early August the online contact system that connects one Alcoholic to another, and insures that we can reach the hand that is

reaching out to us in a more efficient and assured manner, went live. Thank you Alex our Webmaster for all you did to make this possible and to all the districts that entered their contact information and to AnswerNet that had to upgrade their computers to allow it to happen.

If you are a district that has entered your contact information online about how this will not only help people get in contact with AA in your district but will also go a long way in support of our three legacies - Unity.

There have also been many emails going back and forth; (about 100 received and 60 or so sent) on the service but three that I think bear repeating here at the assembly:

1. I know we are getting many calls for information in our district but the bill from AnswerNet is not reflecting it

. AnswerNet is not billing us separately for many of the calls for meeting information but relying on the base charge they bill us on a monthly basis.

2. I heard we are getting charged \$84 a month more than we were originally told by AnswerNet for the Service.

We are now getting charged \$84.05 a month to have the 1-888 number listed in the yellow pages. This is what Dex charges AnswerNet and they just pass this charge on to us and are not making anything off of it.

3. Why can't we insert Al-Anon contact numbers in the online entry system?

What was passed by this Assembly was to implement and maintain an AA statewide answering service. In order to include Al-Anon it would have to be submitted as an agenda item to the assembly, make it through committee and be passed by the Assembly. Of course someone could also try a floor action to liven things up a bit on Sunday morning.

Things that are coming up for me is that I will be headed to District 71 in October to do a PI/1-888 workshop and to District 11 in November to do the same.

Yours in Service,

Tim M.

Area 40 PI Chair

Treatment- Paula H.

Greetings everyone! I hope everyone has had as enjoyable a summer as I have.

I think the first thing that is on everyone's mind concerning Treatment is "When are we going to get to go back to MCDC in Butte?" I received an email from Dave Peshek, the Administrator of MCDC on August 19th. He wrote "Thank you for your inquiry. At this time, all outside providers of service to MCDC are still on hold. A new policy has been drafted to address how we utilize outside providers as well as guidelines for them to meet. At this time, the policy has yet to get final approval. Once

the policy has that final approval, all previous providers of service will be contacted by letter with a copy of the policy and offered the opportunity to come back to MCDC provided they are able and willing to comply with the policy. Thank you for inquiring and wanting to pursue providing AA to our patients. We will be in touch once things are finalized." I am hoping that we will resume meetings by the end of the year.

In June I received an email from Janine Barr, who is the coordinator for BTGWW whose primary purpose is to serve as a clearing house for all BTG contacts in the United States. To find a contact, just go to btgww.org and you can request a contact or central office. BTGWW also puts out a newsletter and conducts an annual workshop. There is also a resource library. Copies of the newsletter are available in the back of the room.

The Treatment Committee is compiling a list of Treatment Centers, both in- and out-patient in their respective districts. I have also asked for the names of Bridging The Gap Chairs. At this time I am hearing from Districts 11, 51, 81 and 93 on a regular basis. I very much appreciate the contacts and feedback. Mary C-M, the BTG coordinator, for eastern Montana has been working hard to get contacts for folks coming out of Watch East. We have had many discussions about who's district different cities fall in as it can be hard to figure out by comparing the Map of the Area and the map of Montana.

I was disappointed that I was invited to only one event this summer. Unfortunately it was in the very eastern part of Montana and I would have had to take 2 days off work to be there so I had to regretfully decline.

My husband and I are registered for the International Convention in San Antonio, TX. It is my fondest wish that everyone could go. The International Conventions are most inspiring and an opportunity for further service.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
YIL&S

Paula H.
Area 40 Treatment Chair

Area Archives- Tim H.

Hi! My name is Tim H. and I'm an alcoholic and the Area 40 Archives Chair.

It's been a busy summer, as it always is. The time since the Spring Assembly has flown by. I was able to talk with numerous DCM's in our Area and got input from quite a few members of our fellowship on upcoming agenda items that the Archive Committee will be discussing. I enjoyed all of these conversations and it lets me know that the rank and file of our fellowship, the people we work for, are very aware of

what we do and the decisions we face. It is with this knowledge that I look forward to an open-minded and informative discussion of the topics.

I also took part in the tele-conference call in August. Once again, this was an informative and worthwhile exercise—with a few minor glitches that just made it that much more interesting. This forum of exchanging information works well, but, in my opinion, does not replace the face to face meetings that require me to take the time and make the effort to show up and be a part of. The other thing I miss about doing this in person is taking breaks. During the breaks we continue to exchange information over a cup of coffee and that can be as informative, sometimes more informative, than the sessions themselves.

Over the summer I've stayed in contact with our Archivist, Gerry R, concerning our bid to host the 2011 National Archives Workshop in Helena. Hopefully, we'll get the bid.

The one thing I didn't have a chance to do was visit other Groups or Districts for the purpose of putting on an Archives Workshop. Since I've never put on an Archives Workshop, please invite me to your Group or District so I can. I'd like to see what I come with.

In Service, Tim H.

Corrections- Mary S.

Hello, I am Mary and your Area 40 Corrections Chair,

I have several things to report to the Assembly. The Pink Can fund is running smoothly. The Area Secretary and I have the monthly statements sent to both of us each month. The balance currently is \$4,189.84. Any correctional facility can order literature. Drop me an e-mail and tell me what to order and where it needs to be sent to.

Send Pink Can Contributions to: me in Great Falls, please email or call for the address.

The Montana State Prison's next orientation will be held in a couple of months if you would like to get one please see me. The last orientation was held in September. There have been some inquiries about a Mini Conference being held at Deer Lodge. While it is an in-house function, the inmates must plan and implement the day and at this time I am not aware of anything being planned.

A new meeting has been opened for the men in the work dorm. It requires at least one more volunteer per Saturday.

I need volunteers to sign up for the 5th Saturday of the month. This volunteer would come in as a speaker to tell their story and need to be a carded sponsor, which means they have been approved through the orientation process. Please see me here to get on the calendar.

I was privileged to give a Corrections Workshop at District 41's Founder's Day Gathering at Ryan Dam in Great Falls. I enjoyed it and would like to do more workshops. Please contact me.

It seems my time in corrections have been focused on the agenda items regarding the local forum and the upcoming West Central Regional Service Conference. My hope is that we may begin working on the planning and implementation of these by the end of this assembly.

Account of more specific activity of the Pink Can Fund: The groups that have contributed seem to be mostly the same. They are: Early Birds Group-Polson, Anaconda Group, Lolo Group- Missoula , District 91 Corrections-Kalispell, Pink Can –Billings, Tall Story Group, Darby Group, Matt H.-Kalispell, Missoula Women's Group-Missoula. There may be groups I have left out-I will not in my future reports. Some

groups have sent \$700.00 or more, some groups contribute \$5.00. I send money to AAWS to keep on an account there. I order literature and they send it out. By the Spring 2010 Assembly I will have an accurate and comprehensive report of all transactions for the fellowship

Facilities that have ordered are Watch East, Watch West, Montana State Prison-3 Groups, Helena County facility and Hamilton Jail.

Literature ordered- AA Comes of Age, Big Book, Daily Reflections, Living Sober, 12x12 and Correctional pamphlets.

Thanks, Mary S.

CPC- Virginia R.

My name is Virginia R. and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of chairing the CPC committee which is alcoholic-speak for Cooperation with the Professional Community. All of you are invited to sit in on our meetings today. We do have one of the funnest committees here this weekend and can always use the help.

I had the opportunity to participate in the Area Teleconference on August 13th and would encourage you all to do that if you have the chance in the future. I also attended a District 11 meeting and offered to bring a workshop there if desired. I am willing and able to visit any of your districts to help with CPC projects and I am sure that I can speak for any of the Area Committee chairs when I say we would be delighted to participate in helping with workshops.

I attended the West Central Regional Forum in St Cloud last weekend and enjoyed hearing about the work going on at the General Service Office to enable us to help the still-suffering alcoholic.

On September 26th, District 51 will host a CPC luncheon and District 72 has one in the planning stages. Then, in October, I have been invited to participate in the CPC luncheon in Great Falls.

In our committee meeting later, we will be reviewing actions taken at the General Service Conference in April as pertaining to CPC and Trustees. Once again, please feel free to join us.

Yours in love and service,

Virginia R.

District 11

My name is Colby D; I am an Alcoholic, DCM District 11;

Activity in District 11 has not been without challenges and opportunity. District 11 has experienced steady and consistent participation at the regular monthly district business meetings, with 7-9 GSR's in attendance. This participation equates to approximately 40% of the Groups registered in the Billings area. All committee chairs are filled and working hard to add volunteers. In the coming months the District has plans to hold a Hotline Workshop, on "How to take 12th step phone calls and requests", this will be a potluck event and all members are welcome especially those who are on the contact phone list.

Currently the PI/CPC committee has had the opportunity to present several informational sessions in the local community arenas specializing in addiction and alcohol abuse. Tumbleweed has requested volunteers to present topics and discussion on what "AA is and what AA isn't". These presentations were received well and we have been asked to do these again as requested. The PI/CPC committee took on the task this summer of providing meeting lists and schedules at local hotels and campground facilities. The Billings Crisis Center has inquired of local members to make a meeting available to them, no action has been taken by the District but consideration will be presented at the next district meeting.

The Corrections Committee is working to ensure literature is made available to the local prison and city jail institutions through the use of "Pink Can Funds" instead requesting the District to fund these requests. This has been met with mixed consideration; opponents of the "Pink Can Fund" contend this is a violation of the traditions and could potentially cause some confusion at local groups regarding 7th Tradition contributions. Local groups continue to take and make meetings available to both the men's and women's correctional facilities, attendance and participation are good.

The Treatment Facility Committee ensures meetings are conducted twice a week at the psych center from the local group pool. The groups are selected from the hat each month for the upcoming month, thus ensuring rotation and diversity within the AA community.

The Archives Committee is actively scheduling and conducting interviews with AA members with 20 years sobriety or more in order to capture their story of recovery on magnetic media as well as an opportunity to get other relevant historical information about AA in our district.

The Alanon Committee has established a local telephone number for the district and is also assembling a mailing to local church professionals for information regarding the AFG.

The Grapevine Committee is encouraging support throughout the district for participation in our meeting in print and access to the digital archives. Groups have been given registration and subscription information forms.

Billings will be hosting the 2010 Spring Roundup, May 14-16, 2010 at the Crown Plaza; Johnny B. will be providing a full report at the 2009 Fall Assembly.

Currently, the District is experiencing a cash short fall due to reimbursing South Central Montana Inter-Group for previously paid Area 40 Hotline expenses. As a result of this action the District commissioned an Ad Hoc committee to review the District's operating expenses and budget to better understand what it's immediate cash needs are and provide accountability to the Fellowship. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the DCM present its' findings to the local groups with emphasis on letting groups be aware that Hotline expenses are the responsibility of the District not Inter-Group and the need for groups to revisit their contributions to these two entities in proportion to the overall operating expenses of the district. Several groups have responded in kind. Recently contributions have increased, although the district continues to be under it prudent reserve requirements. We trust that through our collective efforts to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic the needed funds will be present.

Most groups report meetings are well attended or are growing.

Respectfully submitted,

Colby D, DCM District 11

District 12

My name is Nick D. and I'm a Alcoholic and the D.C.M. from District 12.

Currently we have 10 groups in District 12:

Absarokee Group, Absarokee

Clark Fork Group, Fromberg

Harlowton Group, Harlowton

Hays Group, Absarokee

Joliet Group, Joliet

Laurel Home Group, Laurel

No Name Group, Columbus

Now Group, Big Timber

Rock Creek Group, Red Lodge

Stillwater Group, Columbus

Of the 10 groups 7 are active in our district. There are 32 meetings a week held in District 12. We hold our district meeting on the third Sunday of odd months at 4 pm at the Little Stone Church located at 205 E. 4th St. in Columbus.

Since we last met District 12 has been a little quiet. We held our second event of the year. The Fireman's Point Camp Out on the Stillwater was held August 21 - 22- 23 and we had a good turnout. Carol B. presented a wonderful power point Delegate's report; she even had some video for us to watch. Then after an excellent AA pot luck Terry H. from Billings shared her story at the camp fire meeting. Thanks to all who participated and worked so hard to make this event a success.

We will be planning our next District 12 event , The Mid Winter Social soon so keep a look out for more info on the Area 40 web site, aa-montana.com .

In closing I would like to thank district 12 and Area 40 for allowing me to serve in this rotation. As A new DCM and just starting to really understand my duties, I attended the WCRSC in Casper WY and the WCRF in St. Cloud Minnesota and saw how important it is to be an informed AA member and be able to share that information with the GSR's, then hear the message at the home groups around our District is amazing. It works! It really works. I'm looking forward to seeing all of my friends and continue making new friends, as I owe everything to you, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, strong sponsorship and the grace of GOD.

In service, Nick D. D.C.M. District 12

District 21 No Report

District 23

Regards from the Sunrise District:

I'm Mike M and I am alcoholic. The past five months have seen the number of the District's groups continue to remain steady. The Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group; the Life Again Group in Glendive; the Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Groups in Sidney.

Glendive meetings are three days a week, with the Saturday evening meeting no longer a "candlelight" meeting.

Sidney's groups met four (4) days of the week between them, and continue to be stable with good growth in the numbers in attendance. Tuesday's and Sunday's continue to be the most well attended

meetings. Sidney is continuing to get a few newcomers and some others, who have been "out again," have fortunately made it back. It also continues to be encouraging to see more motivated young people show up. It is good to see that some of our newcomers have taken up a passion for Service work. It sure does help us all.

The Savage group is holding its own. Many people are traveling from Sidney to support that group and read from the Big Book every Wednesday.

Since the last assembly we have not had another District 23 Get-Together. However, our next Get-Together will again be at the Savage Community Center in Savage, MT. It will include Fun, Fellowship, a District meeting, an Open Meeting, Potluck, and Karaoke, which seems to be a draw for the younger folks. I would like to especially thank Tim A, for his DJ duties at these Get-Togethers. We hope to have a "Howling Good Time" on October 31, 2009. I brought a few posters. They are on the back table. Also, you may download one from the Area 40 website for this upcoming event. Please tell your other group members about this, should they be in a traveling mood. For the hunters out there, you may even be able to get in a little hunting before and then come for supper and the festivities. Thank you Alex for posting this and all of our events. Also, Sharon for getting this one in the October Triangle.

The Lower Yellowstone Sober Fest was held in August at the Lion's Youth Camp at Makoshika State Park. We had a lot of fun, fellowship and good food. Thank you Carol for your informative Delegate report. Also, thanks to the members of the Life Again Group and all the rest of you for helping this event take place this year.

My travels this year have taken me to picnics, bonfires, out-of-town meetings and even down to Casper, WY to experience what AA is about: one alcoholic helping another in recovery and having a good time doing it. I am also pleased to announce that thanks to Scott W., our District Secretary/Treasurer, and using his access, I am now connected to the Area by electronic and internet means and have finally entered "virtual reality". Time will tell if this was a good choice for me. Good Bye Pony Express.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Yours In Fellowship and Recovery,

Michael M,
DCM-Dist 23

District 31

Colstrip 2 to 4 meetings per week.

Broadus no standard meetings.

Terry no meetings.

Ekalaka no meetings.

Jordan 3 meetings

Baker one meeting

Forsyth one group with three meetings

Miles City We Care Group has 4 meetings; Unity Group has seven meetings, and Peacemaker Group.

We had a wonderful Delegate Report from Carole this summer. We have had three District (?) meetings.
Neil T.

District 41

Greetings from District 41 which includes Great Falls in the middle of the District; from Fort Benton down to Cascade and from Fort Shaw over to, and including, Lewistown, MT. The focus over the past six months has been on the home group and unity throughout our District. A few of those that were once meetings have either become new groups or are considering this spiritually strengthening alternative. It has been an inventory period—updating old group information, solidifying group participation, and securing the hope of future AA. The participation at the District level has been wonderful. While we have had one chair open, the responsibilities of that position are intermittent and have been supported throughout the chairs when the need has arisen. The members have been willing to accept and participate in the challenges of others to help carry the message. Through our summer barbeques, campouts, and various get-togethers, AA members have continued to carry the message. With examples of service work throughout the process, our unity is strengthened and recovery is further assured.

Being elected to represent our District's interests I have been exposed to a couple of Areas within our Region, and on my own have visited two other Areas in the Pacific Region. While my views of AA everywhere are expanding so do my relationships within the fellowship. I like to think of it as my ever growing home group—especially because I continue to go back. I certainly have felt that way about Area Assembly for some time—I “keep coming back”! It is always great to see new faces and rekindle with the ever strengthening ongoing friendships here. With the experience of a couple of Forums, now, I would say the staff and participants at the GSO level are becoming more familiar. Our District looks forward to the decision concerning hosting a Special Forum—more will be revealed, later.

As new events take place we have enjoyed the participation of the teleconferences. They have become events within themselves. While an opportunity to keep up on Area, Region and World AA events, they have increased unity within the District, as well. The teleconference is easy to organize and set up—just show up and dial in. While familiar voices come on the line I point to a map on the board giving an ever expanding picture of who's involved in our neighboring Districts. Our Area Chair, Terry S., came to share in our last monthly District meeting, and our Delegate, Carole B, came to our Clubhouse's last barbeque of the season. Her goal was to share a Delegate's Report, and especially focus on the member who had not heard an Area Delegate's Report before. She was successful; with 80 percent of the participants a new captive audience to her experiences in New York this past Spring.

Thanks to everyone here for including our District and allowing me to participate. Special thanks to my District, for their support and interest in the fellowship and for allowing me to serve.

Lee T, Area 40 District 41 DCM

District 42

Good morning, my name is Gerry L, and I'm an alcoholic. Greetings from all of us up in north-central Montana. We've had a busy summer, Lots of good meetings and fellowship. The Valier Group held their lake Francis roundup the last weekend of July, and it was well attended, lots of good food and fellowship was had by all.

We still have meetings in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby and Valier, as well as the CCA prison in Shelby.

The Wind farm is growing fast, we now have 140 turbines, and they will soon add another 200. It will be the largest wind farm in Montana; It's quite impressive with all the red blinking lights at night. Come up and see us, we always enjoy visitors.

Our meeting schedule is on the web site at AAMontana .Org

In service Gerry L.

District 51

Hello everyone, my name is Billjo D. and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor to serve as District 51 District Committee Member.

I love our District; we have a lot of fun. Since the April Assembly we have had four (4) sobriety campouts, in June, July, August, and September. It rained for the August Campout which put a damper on the festivities, but still, fun was had by all. We had attendees from as far away as Oregon.

We have had one "hibernating" meeting get going again on Rocky Boy in Box Elder. They have three or four (3 or 4) regular members plus "road tripping" visitors every week. So we are now up to nine (9) groups in our District and three (3) meetings that are not affiliated with a group. There are 25 AA meetings held each week.

The former Director of Hi-Line Recovery in Havre approached the District to hold an AA meeting in their facility. The Wednesday Noon Open Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous started the first of July. Hi-Line Recovery averages between 30 - 40 clients. We hope to reach some of them. After we pay rent, we buy Big Books for the Center to give to their clients.

After attending our functions for the last three years, the two meetings in Phillips County have had a group conscious and have expressed a desire to change back to being a part of District 51. Over 20 years ago they were convinced, by a retiring judge who moved to Malta from Wolf Point, to change Districts from 51 to 21. After years of many miles driving east, they have decided to drive not-so-far west. We did not know the protocol for changing Districts so it did not get on this Assembly's agenda in time. If they continue to feel the way they do now, you will see that change request on the spring agenda. District 51 has voted, yes, to their request.

Upcoming events in District 51 include the annual Havre AA mini-conference which will be held September 25-27 at the HRDC building. That is next weekend. It is the most economical conference held in the Area. Pre-registration is \$20.00 and there are flyers here at the Assembly. Pre-registration ends this Sunday, the 20th. Please turn your registration slips and checks to me. We have a slate of speakers from around our Area. Violet M. from Helena is the Friday night kick-off speaker, Marty M from Missoula is the Saturday night Al-anon speaker, Mike A also from Missoula is the AA Banquet speaker, and Rosie A, his wife, is the Sunday morning speaker. The AA speakers will also conduct workshops on Saturday as will two of the groups from our District. All the coffee, and usually cookies, you can drink or eat are included with the price of the registration. Registration at the door is \$25.00 and the CPC luncheon on Saturday is \$6.00.

This is the first time ever that our District has been able to financially support a CPC luncheon. Changing over to AnswerNet has helped our District tremendously. We now have the funds to do more 5th Tradition work. I do not know much about what the CPC committee has planned. I do know it will be

a soup and sandwich luncheon that is free to professionals but AA and Alanon members are charged. They plan to show videos from GSO that are available on-line, and that they will have a couple ten (10) minutes speakers from AA members who got sober through the intervention and help from their employers.

And for the first time in years, our Delegate is coming to give the report. The past DCM tried to arrange for the Delegate's report but people in the District explicitly expressed "no." Maybe because Carole lived in Havre early in her sobriety they have finally been okay with hearing the report. She is coming to our October District Meeting on the 18th.

And there is talk of holding a Corrections Workshop this winter to try and get more people signed up to take the meeting into the Detention Center. I believe we are down to one (1) consistent member and only four (4) AA members total have been approved.

All in all, District 51 is a great place to live with active AA in all of the three legacies: recovery, unity, and service. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 61

My name is Tom D, I'm glad I'm an alcoholic and I don't care who knows it. It's great to be at another Area Assembly, and to see a lot of familiar faces, to recognize that I actually know the names of a respectable fraction of those faces, and to see some new faces from around Area 40 and especially from District 61. Just like in our meetings, the newcomers and first-timers at this Assembly are the future and hope of AA, so welcome. If it looks a little confusing, grab hold of somebody who's been here a few times and ask for help – it will be useful, friendly and freely given.

It's been a great year for District 61, and it isn't my fault. We came into the beginning of the year with a great amount of momentum for which I am grateful to our immediate past DCM, Tim M. We've kept up a good deal of that momentum primarily thanks to the hard work of Anne B., our Alternate DCM, Rolf S., our Secretary, and Bob R., our treasurer. We started out the year with preparations for our third annual Corrections and Treatment Workshop, which is turning out to be one of the most useful things we do. The workshop was held in April with, I believe, over 100 participants, distributed about 70% to alcoholics who paid for lunch and most of whom worked during the workshop at one job or another, and about 30% professionals who, I genuinely believe, walked out of the workshop convinced of one significant fact: AA works. When those professionals include a District Judge, the County Sheriff and several ranking Helena police Department officials, as well as a great number of working corrections and treatment professionals, all of whom have seen some of us at our very worst, that is an accomplishment.

Perhaps the biggest moment at this year's Workshop was when all of the alcoholics in the room who were WATCH alumni were asked to stand. The District Judge who had committed nearly all of them to the program was visibly shaken and moved. This workshop – and we're getting started on planning for next spring's now – has done two things to carry AA's message in the Helena Area which I think are significant: first, it is allowing an increasingly large number of people newer in AA and therefore a lot closer in time to the corrections treatment that got them there to go into the institutions and convincingly carry the message that there is hope for long term recovery after the enforced treatment is over. A number of the secured institutions into which we send volunteers have become much more relaxed and trusting, and have relaxed the sobriety and recency of adjudication requirements substantially. Second, it has provided a number of professionals to hear our sobriety stories and to understand how important, if often unthanked, their contributions have been and continue to be. Another major benefit of this project has been that probably forty or more members of the District 61 recovery community participated in making this workshop activity work, and brought the enthusiasm and energy back to their home groups, to other service work, and to participation in the

greater AA. I'd like all the GSR's and other folks from District 61 who have worked and are continuing to work on this project to stand up for a minute, so the rest of Area 40 can see how big this thing really is. More mundane stuff: We have over 30 registered groups in District 61, with an average of 24 GSR's attending district meeting. There are over 100 groups or meetings up and running: if you live in Helena and have the time, you can attend 21 or more AA meetings a week. Our AA groups present a real smorgasbord of choices to the new comers – we have men's meetings, women's meetings, discussion meetings, call-up meetings, step study meetings, traditions meetings: we even now have a small group which meets once a month just before the District meeting to read and discuss the Concepts. We had a small but successful GSR School this summer, and plans are actively underway for the 55th Annual Attitude of Gratitude. We're starting to gear up to host the National Archives Conference during the next rotation, depending upon whether they decide to hold it in Montana, and we are considering hosting the Fall Roundup that same fall. We started out the year with too much money, but that resolved itself, as it usually does.

All of our service committees chairs are occupied and we're working hard to grow that new leadership in the understanding that none of us ever takes on an organized service job with full knowledge of what it entails. I think one of the great things about AA is that about the time we get to understanding a service job, it's time to turn it over to someone else, ideally with some organization and some information about what your successor is getting into.

It is an honor and a privilege to play whatever role it is that a DCM plays – I hope I'll have it figured out by the end of the rotation – with the level and depth of support I've received from our committee chairs, GSR's and District Officers. It's a good time to be sober, and to be carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholics: there are still plenty of them out there.

Thanks for letting me be of service.

Tom D.

District 71

My name is Kevin M. and I am a grateful alcoholic. I and five other people are here representing District 71, which is located in Southwestern Montana. Our district consists of towns ranging from Butte/Anaconda to Dillon and back up to Deer Lodge. We have a very active district and there are many meetings held throughout our district. At most district meetings we range from 20-25 people attending. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at St Anne's school in Butte at 7 p.m. Most A.A. meetings in our locale are traditionally at 7 p.m., noon, and in the morning hours.

As far as service work goes we are blessed to be able to represent A.A. in schools, prisons, (adult & minor), treatment facilities, the S.T.A.R.T. & W.A.T.C.H. programs, Warm Springs meetings (civil/forensic_ and, C.C.S. in Butte. The times and places of these meetings our located on the Area 40 website: inside the District 71 mini-website. If there are any questions please feel free to ask us.

Events: We held Delegate's Day this month with a campout at beautiful Willow springs Campground/R.V. in Anaconda. There were around 40 or so people there and we had a blast and stuffed our tummies. We had a wonderful barbeque-picnic, campfire breakfast and marshmallow/weenie roasts. I place third in our cribbage tournament (Ha-ha!). And we stayed up way into the night chatting by the campfire. The fishing was superb but I got skunked!!! There were campfire meetings and a lot of fabulous fellowship. Carol showed up and gave an informative and splendid delegate's report. We would like to thank Carol for coming down and everyone who helped make Delegate's Day a success. Some upcoming events include the 2010 Fall Round-up in addition to a round-up fundraiser at Clark Park in Butte. We usually meet every other month before the district meeting to plan the round-up. So far, we have committees formed and a well thought-out arrangement of who, what, where, and how things are going to take place. We don't have our flyer yet, but it will be

available at the Spring Assembly. The fundraiser in Clark Park is on the 27th of this month and it will basically be an A.A. fun-day. Hope to see you there.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to represent District 71. I really appreciate all of the amazing help that people have liberally given me. Thank you and I'll see you next time in Lewistown!!!

In service and love,

Kevin M. – District 71 DCM

District 72 No report

District 81

Hello everyone, I'm Dan K. and I'm an alcoholic. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as the District 81 DCM and I live in Missoula. District 81 covers a large area and has meetings in sixteen communities. To the west we have meetings in Alberton, Superior, St. Regis, Haugen, Plains, Hot Springs, Thompson Falls and Noxon. To the north we have meetings in Frenchtown, St. Ignatius, Ronan, Pablo and Polson. To the east we have meetings in Clinton and Seeley Lake. There are thirty-eight meetings per week in these communities. In Missoula we have nineteen different groups and fifty-two meetings per week, that's a total of ninety meetings per week in District 81.

Since the Spring Assembly in April, a lot has happened in our district. We had the 2009 Spring Roundup in Missoula and it was a huge success. Attendance was well over six hundred and our free registration for members with fewer than six months sobriety went over very well. We hoped that we would show newcomers that you can have fun in sobriety. The speakers were great, the workshops were great, and people seemed to be really enjoying the roundup. Many thank to all of you who attended, you are largely responsible for the success of this event!

We had Carole B. give her General Service Conference presentation before our district business meeting in May, thank you Carole. The screen presentation was very nice and we all appreciated you taking the time to visit us.

We had a great two part Founder's Day event on June thirteenth and it was a huge success. We had a speaker panel discussion meeting at the Chapter Nine Group on Saturday morning that was well attended. The theme was relationships in recovery with two AA/Al-Anon couples sharing with us. After that we had an ask- it- basket forum that was really nice and informative. Many thanks to Stacy, Dave, Emily, Eric and Trish for doing a great job. After that we moved to Franklin Park for an awesome picnic that hundreds of people attended. We went through lots of burgers and dogs, thanks to Grant and Ben for your enthusiastic efforts. Then we had a young people-old timer softball game and the youngsters just couldn't quite get it done. You'll have to wait till next year to get your revenge.

Every summer we have a road trip district meeting to one of our rural communities. This August we had our meeting in Superior at the Morning Star Group. We had twenty-seven in attendance at that meeting, which was really cool. I'd like to thank Laurie F. and her group for hosting us, and all of you who attended, for making that trip.

I have to express my gratitude for the fellowship in District 81, you make our AA rock! We currently have a great bunch of people involved in district service positions and your enthusiasm is amazing! All our chair positions are full and you are all doing an awesome job. I'm very proud to serve with you and you make my job easy. Thank you all so much!

I'm very excited about going to the 2010 AA International Convention in San Antonio next July. I get to celebrate my AA birthday there. I hope to see lots of you fellow Montanans down there and I hope you can make that happen. It's a blessing to get to walk this walk with all of you.

Yours in love and service, Dan K.

District 91

Greetings to all from District 91 in beautiful northwest Montana. Our district covers the Tobacco and Flathead Valleys from Eureka to Elmo. All of our committee chairs are filled and AA continues to thrive in our neck of the woods. I feel privileged and honored to be a part of that.

There are approximately 21 registered groups in our area with 10 of these groups regularly attending our District meetings. These meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of every month at 3 PM. There will often be committee meetings or workshops the hour prior. The location of the meeting varies throughout the valley with different groups hosting each month.

Some of our upcoming projects include updating job descriptions (an ad-hoc committee has been formed) and considering a District inventory.

Once again our District voted to assist groups with financial need to send GSR's to Assembly this fall, we also included district chairs if interested. Several people were helped in this way to attend this weekend. I encourage everyone to be good stewards of the district's generosity, and to work diligently as their trusted servant. I plan to continue working on my personal goal as DCM to spread the joy of general service involvement and to increase participation at District and Area from our district's members.

Our Delegate, Carole B., gave her conference report to our district July 26. Her report was preceded with a pot luck of course. Several groups were in attendance and learned first-hand some of the results of the conference actions. This was followed by our regular district meeting.

I participated in the two Area teleconferences that took place this summer. It was a convenient way to share information. I felt well prepared by these conversations to effectively relay background information to District 91.

I represented our district at the West Central Regional Forum in St. Cloud MN last weekend. It was a great opportunity to meet GSO representatives, trustees, and many of our regions members. The discussions were lively and informative. I came away with the feeling that AA is being well taken care of at all levels of service.

As I was driving back to Minneapolis on my way home Sunday, I was feeling unsettled. I thought it was the fear of driving in the city, finding the airport and getting the car back to the right spot. I certainly wasn't enjoying the beautiful misty landscape as I drove. Then I was nudged back to reality by the Sunday morning program that was playing on the car radio. It was about listening, and how powerful that skill can be. I realized that I felt unsettled because I was still full of my opinions and my superiority. I had to admit that I was not a good listener and that I needed to improve. I also had to work on staying in the moment. I was reminded that one of my personal assignments this month was to read Step 6 and look at my character defects. I think I found one or two.

To close, "to believe in God so much that it changes your life," is a definition of a spiritual experience I recently heard that I can relate to. I fully believe that the Steps of AA led me to the belief in a higher power that has changed my life. I am now responsible to share that message when anyone anywhere reaches out for the hand of AA.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.
Libbie L., DCM District 91

District 93

Greetings everyone, my name is Eric and I am an alcoholic. I am grateful to be serving as the DCM of District 93 during this rotation. District 93 currently has 14 Groups and 3 meetings plus our monthly business meeting. Of the 14 Groups, 2 are new! The "Attitude Of Gratitude" meeting changed to a

Group in May thanks to the help of their GSR Dave W. and other regular attendees. You old timers might remember this as the "Its In the Book" Group. Same good sobriety, different name. The other new Group is called the "Working With Others Group" and it is brand spankin' new. Gene S. is their GSR and they have just turned in their paper work to GSO and anxiously await a response and Group #. If you plan on visiting the Bitterroot Valley please stop by and show them your support. "Attitude And Gratitude" meets on Monday nights at 8 in Corvallis and "Working with Others" meets on Tuesday nights at 7 in Stevensville. Please check the web for our constantly updated schedule or pick one up here Assembly. We are currently trying to fill the Literature and Secretary Chair and elected a new Alternate DCM. Congratulations to Jay Thomas on your new and additional service position. Two of our Groups are looking for GSR's and they are "The Way Out Group" and "The Victor Group". After we fill the District Chair positions we will update our contact list and send it out. Thank you to our former Alternate DCM, Literature, and Secretary for your service. As for events, Sheri W. put together the "Spring Fling" in May which also included a talent show. It was well attended and after attending yours truly was very grateful he did NOT sign up for what I might think was a talent. And we had our annual District 93 campout at Painted Rocks as well as Carole's Delegate Report on the General Service Conference. Even though it rained off and on it did not dampen our spirits. We are not a glum lot! Many attendees pitched in to cook, clean, hang tarps, set up, free a treed cat, and chair meetings as well as raise money with a donation of quality "stuff" for our auction. That last one beats the hell out of any old garage sale! We will try to exert our power or powerlessness on the weather next year by moving the dates to later in the summer. What I have learned in my first 9 months as DCM is how truly blessed I am to have such a supporting group of friends and service people around me. I could not do this alone. You are all a part of my higher power. Yours in Service, Eric D.

Area Archives- Gerry R.

Good Morning. My name is Gerry and I'm an alcoholic. I also have the privilege of serving you as your Area Archivist.

As always, a warm welcome to old friends, new friends, and soon-to-be friends. General service work in Area 40 is obviously alive and well, judging by all the bright, shiny, and noticeably unswollen faces here this morning.

As Archivist, I have the distinct privilege of tending to the collective experience, strength, and hope of the Area 40 Fellowship. I must say right of the top in this report, that I have not been as active as I would have like to have been during these last six months. The demands of starting and operating a small business have kept me out of the repository and away from many of my duties as your trusted servant. Things should settle down during the second year of operation for my business, which should allow me more time to resume a regular routine of meeting my responsibilities as Archivist, and I intend to recommit myself to those responsibilities.

That said, I should let you know that I have not exactly been sitting on my hands these last six months.

Of the 14 Area 40 related items on the agenda this weekend, 11 of them have either requested, or utilized, background material from the Area 40 Archival Repository in some fashion. Thank you to everyone who requested material, for your service to Area 40 and, for easing my neurotic guilt about being inactive.

I set up a display at the Missoula Roundup this last spring, and would like to thank Dave L. and the committee for their efforts and hospitality. During the event, I had the fortunate experience of meeting Rusti L. from Thompson Falls, who handed me a notebook full of minutes from the very first AA group in Vermillion SD. The first entry in this notebook was dated September 30, 1945. Along with the minutes,

the notebook also contained news clippings, an event program and much more valuable information. For those of you, who know Rusti; please let her know that the notebook is now in the safe hands of the Area 63 Archives. I no longer call things like this coincidences, they are now God-incidences. I had just met the Area 63 Archives Chair at the National Archives Workshop in New York last fall.

Speaking of the National Archives Workshop, I am registered, and prepared to travel to California this Wednesday to present a bid for Area 40 to host the 15th annual version of the event. Thanks to help from Bill C. of District 61 and Tim H. Area 40 Archives Chair, I feel we can present a very strong bid and stand a good chance of being awarded the event. Please catch me this weekend if you have any questions regarding the event, or the bid. At the present time the plan is to host it in Helena, at the Wingate Inn and Gateway Convention Center. It promises to be an event unlike any other held in Area 40.

I would like to take a quick moment to make a very important request of the DCM's and secretaries of every district in Area 40. I have been receiving minutes and flyers from Districts 11, 81 and 91 on a regular basis, for safe keeping in the Area 40 Archives. Thank you Districts 11, 81 and 91. If you are not from Districts 11, 81 or 91, please get with me this weekend to make arrangements to start getting this information to me. At this point, there is a serious gap in records of this type for your district in the Repository.

We need each other, that's what this whole thing is about. What a joy to be sober today, what a privilege to be of service, thank you for both.

Gerry R.
Area 40 Archivist

Webmaster –Alex M.

Area 40 Webmaster Report
Fall Area Assembly 2009

We had a big milestone since we last met. AnswerNet is now using the web based interface to the 888 database online. Presently we have 443 volunteers across 38 cities and 8 Districts. A huge thanks goes out to all the folks that have made this possible.

I am also currently working on a project to update the website to conform to current user interface and usability standards. I am hoping to have this project completed before the year is out.

Just a reminder that this is your website and anything you would like to add or change is in your hands.

Yours in service,

Alex Marino
Area 40 Webmaster

Area Advisor- Andrew W.

Greetings everyone. I am very glad to actually be at this assembly. During the Spring Assembly I was in Texas for the wedding of my favorite middle niece. I want to thank Scott, the previous Area Advisor, for filling in for me at the Spring Assembly.

My task as Area Advisor is to make sure we don't run out of coffee at the Area Assemblies and to help out as the Area Delegate and Area Chair see fit. So far the requests on my time have not been very heavy. Since the Spring Assembly, I have participated in two conference calls of the Area Committee

(one for the whole time one and one for part of the time). These seemed like useful exchanges of information though I think we still need to get used to the conference call format.

I look forward to watching the coffee pots and being of service as Carol and Terry see fit.

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W.
Area 40 Advisor

Delegate's Report

Good Afternoon,

My name is Carole B. and I'm an alcoholic. I have the honor of serving as your Panel 59 Delegate. I am very glad to be with you again.

From this morning's reports, you know that typically the reports of the Area Officers, Chairs, and DCMs provide information regarding the activities on behalf of AA since we last met in April. This morning I want to theme my report around a word and I would like you to consider a question throughout this weekend.

The West Central Regional Forum was held in St. Cloud Minnesota September 11-13, 2009. I have a friend that lives in Minneapolis so I got to see her before and after the Forum. She mentioned to me that her word for the year is abundance. My sponsor taught me to look up words and abundance is an extremely plentiful or over-sufficient quantity or supply. Thus my word for this report is abundance.

Sunday night my friend had a cook out and I met a member of the Central Pacific Group. He asked me why I thought our membership had leveled out. I gave him my opinion but it has left me thinking. My question – what more can we do for the still suffering alcoholic? I would also like you to consider what are we doing to assure AA's future?

The week following the Spring Assembly, I headed to New York for the General Service Conference. I must say, it was a rather tough week made much more easy by the support of Area 40. The cards and letters you sent me helped me more than you could possibly imagine. Abundance.

Throughout that week we looked at ways we could help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. By attending the West Central Service Conference, the Pre-Assemblies, and the Spring Assembly, I arrived in New York very well prepared. Abundance.

The theme of the Conference was "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action." We were eased into it on Sunday and then hit the ground running on Monday. I am assigned to the Public Information Conference Committee. We had much work to do and we were asked by the PI Staff Member to come prepared. Everyone on my committee came very well prepared. Abundance.

Monday and Tuesday consisted of committee meetings, area highlights, presentations, a general sharing session, and a trip to GSO. Staff members escorted conference members to GSO. My escort, Valerie O,

made the train ride and walk to the office very enjoyable and informative. Valerie has worked for GSO for over 17 years and recently was named the Publications Director. Abundance.

GSO is located at 475 Riverside Drive very near the Hudson River and Columbia University. I had been to GSO twice before and knew the building was called the Interchurch Center. I did not know that the building is owned by the Rockefeller Foundation and leases the space to AA and others non-profit entities at a significantly reduced rate.

On Wednesday, we held the workshops, selected Bob H. as the Region's nominee for Trustee-at-large U.S., and then elected the Southeast Regional Trustee, the East Central Regional Trustee, and Trustee-at-large U.S. Page 75 of the Final Conference Report lists the newly elected Trustees and a short biography. Our Trustees are fine trusted servants. Abundance.

Then the Committee reports began. Since our assemblies are based on the committee system of the General Service Conference, I felt very much at home with the process. However, it seemed like there was lobbying and a bit of unrest among some of the Delegates and Trustees. We had agreed to a process on Sunday and then it was asked for blind ballots to be available. This began a much too long discussion of why they were needed and unfortunately, set the tone for the remainder of the Conference. Bill said and I quote "we shall always be threatened by menacing forces within and certainly in the world of great peril in which we live today, by menacing forces with out. So the prime problem of AA is how to survive then grow and prosper." Unquote. What more can we do for the still suffering alcoholic?

For the remainder of the week, we stayed late and got there early, but it didn't seem like a big deal to put in long hours. We approved many recommendations, which I think will help us carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

If you turn to page 6 of the Conference report, you will find the Advisory Actions or approved recommendations made by the standing committees. After the Conference, I put together a document available at www.aamontana.org. This lists all the agenda items, the action taken by the committee, and the action taken by the Conference.

- The workshops for the 2010 Conference will be taking the Conference's inventory.
- The CPC video directed to professionals was approved.
- The pamphlet "Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" will be revised.
- The Trustees will gather information from the Fellowship regarding literature profits vs. contributions. (More about this later)
- Those not attending the 2010 International Convention can view the opening ceremony in an Internet broadcast.
- "AA for the Native North American" was approved.
- The Young People's Poster and Young People's Video were approved.
- The membership survey will be conducted in 2010.
- The revised video Hope was approved.

The Finance Committee asked the Trustee's committee on Finance to:

"Gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance: 1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? 2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?"

I think this is along the lines with my trip to Glendive in my new car. My question was how much over the speed limit can I go without being stopped? The answer is 10 miles per hour and I was breaking the law. By the way, your money is in good hands. Linda would not pay the ticket.

John T., Area 63 Delegate said it best at the Regional Forum. I paraphrase; if we don't like literature prices going up and we don't like using literature profits for AA services, send GSO money. The prudent reserve has a cap and when we reach that cap, the AAWS Board is forced to lower literature prices. In my reports to your districts, I proposed contributing so much that they can give newcomer the Big Book for free. Abundance.

I'm anxious to hear from the Fellowship of Area 40 what they think of these questions posed. At the July General Service Board meeting, the Trustees Finance Committee has asked the 2010 Conference to discuss additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship. I am anxious to hear the ideas of Area 40.

The Conference ended with the farewell talks of the rotating Trustees. Then after a stop at FedEx and Toys-R-Us, I headed to the airport for home. I returned from the Conference tired and grateful that my home district was my first report. I got a chance to recharge my batteries a bit.

Over the summer, I have given 12 reports and have one scheduled in October. It was great to be with you. I pulled into the camp where I was to give my report to District 93 and 25-30 people were having an AA meeting. It was pouring rain and they had the meeting with umbrellas in hand. At the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest, I gave my report for District 23 and got to hear the best Alanon talk I have ever heard. I ate a rib-eye steak bigger than my head at my report in District 71. You have given me a great summer. Abundance

It is such a pleasure to be out visiting you and seeing what I can do to help you help the still suffering alcoholic.

As I mentioned earlier, last weekend I was at the West Central Regional Forum. It was the best Forum that I have ever been too. It has got me thinking about the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, taking action, and I have a suggestion for you.

Ward E., our Chairman of the Board, was asked what he believes are AA's current challenges. He answered: 1. Carrying the message on new media; 2. AA & religion; and 3. Maintaining our singleness of purpose. He said we have to find a way to reach young people using new media. He also said that with his background, it is very clear to him that AA is not a religion but the courts will continue to challenge this.

Then Phyllis H., our General Manager, was asked the same question. Her reply was Unity, Anonymity, and Sponsorship.

Ward being Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee was asked how he learned about our Traditions and Concepts. He said Class A's are assigned a 1728 sponsor. This person takes the Class A Trustee through the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Ward stated that the 12 Steps are the most spiritual action he has ever taken. (Ward is the President of General Theological Seminary in New York.). The 12 steps multiplied by the 12 Traditions and then multiplied by the 12 Concepts equals 1728. Want your life to

get 12 times better? Take the Steps. Want your life to get 144 times better? Practice the Traditions. Want your life to get 1728 times better? Follow the Concepts. Abundance!

Why not have playshops (not work) on 1728? Districts could gather speakers to share their experience, strength, and hope on the steps, traditions, and concepts. Colby D., DCM for District 11, has information a 1728 Playshop format. We have a wealth of resources – Terry, Andrew, and the Past Delegates I'm sure are more than willing to help you put on such an event. I'd be honored to help.

I have an abundant life because of the Fellowship of people like you, God, and sponsorship. I'd like to close with a couple quotes from AA Comes of Age.

"A.A.'s Twelfth Step, carrying the message, is the basic service that our fellowship gives; it is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence." – Page 139

"For in AA the whole is truly greater than the sum of all its parts. The infusing power of the group, of our Fellowship, draws something more out of each of us than any of us by himself can supply. Each of us in turn draws out of the spiritual reservoir of our Fellowship the added courage and will which makes each one the stronger and our Fellowship the greater." – Page 277

Thanks for letting me serve.
Any questions?

Workshop: Practicing These Principles In All Our Service Affairs-Loren B.

Loren, past Delegate Panel 51, gave an informative workshop at which 38 were in attendance. The workshop began with an interactive orientation to service for those who are new to AA, new to Service or new to the Assembly. The discussion covered such topics as what service really means; what principles guide our actions, what a panel is. After the orienting /discussion and question period participants broke up into groups to consider and discuss the questions from the Traditions checklist and the Concepts checklist.

Workshop: This We Owe to AA's Future-Earl F.

Earl, past Delegate Panel 53, gave an interesting workshop, starting out with providing information on current AA membership numbers (1.2 million), comparing that figure to the number of estimated alcoholics in the world. Stating that approximately 4% of the world's population is alcoholic and .07% people in the world are in AA. Why aren't more of those still suffering from alcoholism in these rooms? Participants then broke up into groups to discuss questions. Here are the questions Earl asked us to discuss:

1. What are ways we can increase or improve communications between us (me, the group, and the fellowship) and the still suffering alcoholic?
2. How to make our fellowship more attractive to the still-suffering alcoholic?
3. With new technology available, how do we keep it simple?

A good series of discussions flowed from these questions, with some good concrete suggestions (e.g., make sure people know where to find meetings, including local law enforcement) and use technology as a support, but not a substitute for face-to-face talk and a cup of coffee.

Sharing from West Central Regional Trustee- Ken B.

DCM Breakout Session

Nineteen people participated in the DCM Breakout, sharing experience, strength and hope on the following questions:

Question: What are ways to generate ideas for more people to attend and participate in district meetings and the area assembly?

Responses: Invite people; reminder calls; email agenda; follow up with absentees; sponsorship; get to group business meetings; attend individual district committee meetings for encouragement and express gratitude; go to all meetings in the district; encourage and invite people to serve; share rooms at assembly; remind people to reserve rooms in Lewistown (at 1st district meeting after assembly)

Question: What activities does your district do to foster and grow participation and service?

Responses: Luncheon with panels, professionals, and AA; "meet your district" workshop; general service versus social activities, different jobs for different people

Question: How effective have Traditions Workshops been in your district?

Responses: Location and food affect participation; invite Area Committee Chair; call them something else (Living with the Traditions; Traditions in Personal Relationships, Sex and the 9th Tradition)

Question: How or what can be done to involve or encourage non-participating groups to participate in district meetings and area assembly?

Responses: Directly invite these groups; invite nonparticipating groups (especially ones with other experience and opinions) seeking their different or unique perspective; put something controversial (money is a good topic) on the agenda; no coercion; communicate caring; have fun; car pool; take district meetings to remote areas of district

Question: What are persons doing as DCM to visit other groups in their district?

Responses: Road trips; share information; ad hoc committee about what district does, money; letter to groups asking what they need from the district committee; treasurer sends thank you notes for contributions (contributions have doubled); move district meetings to other venues; call groups, ask them to host district meeting; including Intergroup in district activities; liaison between intergroup and district; invites and calls and trying to be of service to the groups; road trips to meetings (introduce self at meeting as DCM with offer to answer questions after meeting)

Question: How much does a DCM need to defend or protect district chairs; how much management is needed? Are DCM's AA police?

Responses: Reach out, ask how to be of service (rather than show up or resign); when you stick your head above the crowd, get ready to have a shot taken; communication is important; came to AA to take, remained to give; when critical, walk a mile in their shoes, that way if they become angry you're a mile away and they have no shoes!

GSR Breakout Session

The GSR's had a lively Ask-it-basket session, sharing experience, strength and hope on the following questions:

Question:

What are we doing as a group to get people from treatment facilities to visit our meetings and to encourage members to use restraint of pen and tongue when negative opinions and attitudes about treatment exist?

Responses:

Take meetings to pre-release and treatment facilities

Sponsorship, shake the new person's hand

Specific people chair meetings with specific topics, call on treatment center people

Question:

Who takes charge and says something if a group or district officer or committee person isn't showing up?

Responses:

Group conscience to have 2 members talk to the person; ask "what can we do to help?"

Policy: miss 3 in a row and you are done, DCM makes the call

Policy: miss 3 meetings (not showing up or giving a report), will call; if no legitimate reason the person is dismissed

Question:

Meeting uses non-conference approved literature in spite of group conscience

Responses:

Have a group inventory

Start a new group

Question:

Fund raising includes a garage sale to the public. Are the Traditions being broken?

Responses:

AA events should be self-supporting

This would constitute outside contributions

Question:

Male member is sponsoring new women

Responses:

Old timer men should talk to him

Area Committee Reports

Grapevine/Policy and Admissions

Rich K. Committee Chair

Brad G. District 71

Libbie L. District 91

Gary E. District 61

Dan K. Dist 81

Attendance (Non-voting)

Sam B. District 91

Nicole S. GSR

Chris V. Grapevine Chair, District 11

Ken B. WCR Trustee, GV Director

Grapevine

All of our committee members were in attendance along with the District 11 Grapevine chair and a regional trustee.

No recommendations came out of the Grapevine committee. In a nutshell this means that the "Gray" pages will stay as is and the sales policy is unchanged. Also the spirit of communication has been reaffirmed as the Trustees had a bit of a hand slapping.

No discussion.

Policy and Admissions

Regular routine business was approved. i.e.: Replacing delegates, foreign guests and conference dates were approved.

In regards to the Minority Reports to the conference, the trustees want more guidance on who what where and when. This was discussed in by the committee. Also the committee discussed the request for an inventory for the general service conference.

No discussion.

Additional Discussion:

The committee discussed ways to build excitement for the Grapevine. These ideas included building poster boards, making flyers for groups, group subscriptions, jail subscriptions, literature tables, and website exposure.

Minutes taken by Chris V.

Literature – Lori F.

My thanks to my committee, represented by Nick D., DCM-12, Neil T., Alt. DCM-31, Mary M., DR-91 and Deb C., DR-93. Thanks also to Lee from Dist.41, Bill from Dist. 61 and Dan from Dist.51 for their participation. Our first session consisted of our only agenda item:

A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Literature and the action or inaction upon each item.

Five of the ten GCS Agenda items resulted in Advisory Actions:

- The pamphlet revision "A.A. for the Native North American" was approved.
- The Trustee's Literature Committee will review the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" and eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.
- A Special Needs recovery pamphlet will be developed with stories solicited from members who are blind, deaf, wheelchair bound, etc.
- A sentence will be added to the pamphlet "A Newcomer Asks," encouraging newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- The title of the pamphlet "44 Questions" will be changed to "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."

Two of the ten items became additional considerations, meaning that they were discussed in committee but no action was taken or recommendations made:

- A request to publish a booklet consisting of stories from members living in remote communities, and;
- A request to publish a second volume of *Daily Reflections*

Three of the ten items resulted in recommendations from the Literature Committee, but did not result in Conference Advisory Actions:

- The recommended pamphlet revision "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs" was not approved by the Conference.
- The committee recommended an update of the existing video/DVD "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine, and the General Service Structure," including an episode for both GSR and DCM. This was not approved by the Conference.
- The committee recommended that the Trustee's Literature Committee develop a questionnaire to gather input from the fellowship on whether a need exists to develop literature addressing spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A., and present a summary of the responses to the 2010 GSC. This was not approved by the Conference.

Some of our committees' thoughts and questions during this review are as follows:

- Concern expressed about Special Needs pamphlet – “What is a Special Need?”
- Is A.A. publishing too many “differences” pamphlets? Maybe some pamphlets are needed to address specific issues.
- Are we asking the literature to do our job for us?
- Do we need to be “politically correct?”
- Many suffer from “terminal uniqueness” and the loss of our singleness of purpose could kill us.
- Are we being prudent with our funds, considering that AA does not appear to be growing? Is it time to look at doing something different?
- One person would like to see more of our literature address the meditation aspects of the program.

Looking back at the sense of our Literature Committee from the Spring Assembly, we noted that we were in agreement with the Conference six times.

No discussion.

In the afternoon session, our committee discussed Area 40's policy on the Lending Library. Lori shared the following background:

As you may know, we have a lending library which consists of most of the audio and video cassettes available from GSO. This policy was established at the Fall 2002 Assembly as follows:

"Fall 2002 it was agreed that the literature committee create a lending library consisting of the video and audio tapes that are currently in the Area 40 Literature display. A simple checkout form and list of the Titles Available will be created by the 2003-2004 Literature Chair. Shipping cost, when applicable, will be paid for by the group or district checking items out."

The Area 40 Guidelines state:

"G7.5 The Literature Committee will have a lending library consisting of the video and audio tapes that are currently in the Area 40 Literature display. A simple checkout form and list of titles available will be made available to the Area. Shipping cost, when applicable, will be paid by the group or district checking them out."

and also

"G7.4 The Literature Committee will have available one (1) copy of all A.A. literature from the G.S.O. for viewing."

Our Area 40 Literature display is pretty representative of the literature available, but is not complete. There are many items in the catalog that we do not have, but, focusing on audio and video, the items we have in audio and video cassette form are listed on the attached (revised) check out form. We also have some CDs and DVDs (recently purchased) for our display. The literature chair from two rotations ago reports that she got no requests to borrow from the library. Last rotation there was at least one request. **I have had no requests to date.**

No discussion.

The committee discussed possible reason for the lack of borrowing, including lack of publicity (groups/districts aren't aware of), lack of interest (groups/districts own items themselves or have no use for), and contents of library are obsolete (VHS and Cassette Tapes instead of DVDs and CDs). The committee then discussed whether Area 40 should continue to maintain the library. The consensus was no, but that if it was kept, it should be updated to DVDs and CDs. Other thoughts were that this service would be better handled locally by groups or districts, and that much of what's available would be something a member may want to keep, not borrow.

Based on our discussion, the Area 40 Literature Committee respectfully requests the Area Chair to place the following on the agenda for the 2010 Area 40 Spring Assembly:

"Consider eliminating the Lending Library of audio and video cassettes currently maintained by the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair and depositing the existing tapes into the Area 40 Archives."

In addition, background material will be submitted to the Area Chair prior to February 1, 2010.

No discussion.

Public Information/Report and Charter- Tim M.

Public Information

- I. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in PI and the action or inaction upon each item.

No discussion.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Consider 2008 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information

regarding GSO's A.A. Website.

- *By unanimous vote the committee accepted the report submitted by the Trustees' Committee on Public Information.*
- The committee reviewed the 2008 Annual Report from the trustees' Committee

on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site.

- B. Consider a request to add the text "Provide initial motivation" to the section "What

A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A.A. at a Glance."

- *Comments from the committee were:*
 - *Do we provide initial motivation when we sign cards?*
 - *Attraction vs. Promotion*
 - *This makes this pamphlet consistent with other AA literature so we should do it.*

By unanimous vote the committee felt this should be done.

- The Committee requested that the Trustees' Public Information Committee consider placing the full text of the section "What A.A. Does Not Do" from the service piece "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous," into the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer.

C. Review a rough draft of the updated text and graphics of the pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers..." which utilizes selected text and graphics from the current "Too Young?" pamphlet.

- *We reviewed it and felt the more we can relate to teenagers the better.*
- The Conference approved the updated pamphlet, "A Message to Teenagers,"

containing selected text and graphics from the current "Too Young?" pamphlet, be approved with minor changes.

D. Consider draft wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

- *Comments from the committee were:*
 - *Felt the poster was "Cheesy".*
 - *Concern that young people would not relate to it.*

The committee unanimously agreed that the poster needed to go back to the drawing board and that young people should be brought in to work on it.

- The Conference approved the wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be approved with minor changes.

E. Consider a request "to develop a generic A.A. poster or posters for places such as hospitals, places of employment, doctors' offices, etc."

- *Comments from the committee were:*
 - *This is promotion.*
 - *One member commented that Drinking and Driving posters did not stop him from doing it, (He has six DUI's)...*

The committees vote was split;

3 - No, 1 - Yes, 1 - Abstained.

- The committee took no action noting that there was not a widely expressed need.

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

1. Review current television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness.

- *The committee unanimously agreed with the recommendations*
- The committee reviewed the current television P.S.A.s and suggested that none be retired.

2. Assess the need for a new television public service announcement.

- *The committee unanimously agreed with the recommendations*
- The Conference approved the recommendation that new A.A. television public service announcement (P.S.A.) be developed for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, and that full faces of actors portraying A.A. members not be shown in this P.S.A. (This was voted down and then reconsidered.)

Note: The committee suggested that older alcoholics and alcoholics with special needs be portrayed in this P.S.A.

3. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2008 television P.S.A., "I Thought."

- *Reviewed the report on "I Thought" and also unanimously felt it was fine.*
- The committee reviewed information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2008 A.A. television public service announcement "I Thought."

4. Review revised draft script of "Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD," and consider recording revised script at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

- *By unanimous vote they also agreed with item*
- The Conference approved the recommendation the revised script for "Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD," omitting P.S.A. #15, be approved with minor changes, and recorded at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

- The committee requested that the script be included in the packaging of the “Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD.”

G. Consider draft of the “A.A. Videos for Young People Project.”

- *Although we did not get to see this video we did hear that Carole our Delegate did and heard her comments that they were all good but one was outstanding. The committee unanimously voiced their approval of this project.*
- The Conference approved the four selected A.A. Videos for Young People be approved with minor changes.
- The Conference approved the recommendation that the videos, “A.A. – Rap With Us” and “Young People and A.A.,” be discontinued.
- The Committee requested that the A.A. Videos for Young People Project continue, and that video submissions be encouraged from young people in the Fellowship, especially from Spanish-speaking members.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee consider distribution options in addition to DVD for the A.A. Videos for Young People, e.g., placement on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.

The Assembly was shown the young person’s video “25 and Under- In the House”. Our Regional Trustee, Ken B, commented to the Assembly on this video. Ken thought this was a great video and voted for it at the Conference, he now wishes that maybe he hadn’t mainly because of the music. The music used in the background of the video is readily identifiable and he thinks that perhaps there could be an implication of affiliation to the music, its origins, and its message.

Someone asked if it was legal to use that music on the video for AA? We were reassured that permission to use the music was obtained.

H. Consider draft 2010 Alcoholic Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.

- *The committee unanimously agreed that the survey questionnaire was fine the way it is.*
- The Conference approved draft 2010 Membership Survey Questionnaire.
- The Committee requested that the Trustees’ Public Information Committee consider the purpose, usefulness, frequency and methodology of the A.A. Membership Survey.

No discussion.

I. Consider the need to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living

A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies.

- *The committee unanimously agreed that this is out of the scope of A.A.*
- The Committee requested that the Trustees' Public Information Committee develop test on the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies. This test, intended for inclusion in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," is requested to be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information.

J. Discuss suggestion that Public Information committees "explore the use of A.A.

Grapevine and LaVina in their endeavors."

- Suggestions from the committee were:

District PI committees should be encouraged to buy subscriptions to the GV and La Viña and distribute them in Doctors' offices, auto dealerships, banks, hair salons, ...anywhere people have to wait and might pick one up.

- The Committee briefly discussed.

K. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

- *The committee unanimously agreed that the content of the workbook is fine the way it is.*
- The committee reviewed the contents of the Public Information Kit and Workbook and requested that the pamphlets "Too Young?" and "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late" be included.

No discussion.

Treatment/Agenda- Paula H.

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer. The Treatment Committee welcomed it's new voting member, Kevin S from District 71. Thanks to April for her work in District 71. The meeting was very well attended! I really appreciate the interest and input of the 18 people who came. Thank you to Jo G from Helena for taking the minutes!

The committee has two responsibilities, Treatment and Agenda.

Treatment

There were no Area 40 items to discuss.

A) Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Treatment and the action or inaction upon each item.

The committee reviewed each item. No action was required. See p 8 of the 2009 Final Report for more in-depth information of those items approved.

The revised video, "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous was approved.

The treatment committee's scope was expanded to include service to Special Needs/Accessibilities and the name of the committee was changed to Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/ Accessibilities. There was discussion in our committee about what Special Needs are and how Round Ups, Districts and groups can provide assistance.

See p 59 for more in-depth information on the recommendations by the Conference Treatment Committee.

Additional information on carrying AA's message to treatment facilities with out-patient programs be developed using shared experience. This information will be included in the Treatment Facilities Workbook and Guidelines. The committee also suggested staff continue to gather shared area experience and that the trustees' Committee continue to explore ways to carry the AA message to treatment professionals and patients in out-patient treatment settings. Districts in Montana are already working with out-patient treatment centers.

Additional uses of the AA Grapevine and La Vina in Treatment Facilities endeavors or that groups be encouraged to adopt a treatment facility or center for the purpose of providing subscriptions and/or back issues of the AA Grapevine.

It was suggested that the video "Hope" and the AA Grapevine as well as uses/examples of "Local Experiences" be included in the Treatment Kit.

We discussed Bridging The Gap. It is a contact program in both Corrections and Treatment. Sometimes both committees serve the same facility so cooperation is needed to avoid duplication and confusion. Tel-a-Med is available to bring meetings to remote locations. Ask Tom D of Helena for more information.

The Helena Treatment Committee is in the process of producing a policy and procedure manual. Paula has a BTG made up in 1996 by the Area Treatment Committee she will pass on. Much of the information was taken from the Treatment Workbook.

No discussion.

Agenda

A) Area 40 Item

The committee unanimously recommended the implementation of a standardized format for submission of Agenda Items to Area 40, including the following header items, to facilitate intent, benefits, funding, background, and reasoning for proposed change: "(1) Describe Your Proposal; (2) List the primary Benefits to the Area; (3) Estimate of funding required; (4) Additional Background; (5) How did the Proposed Change come to be; (6) Why should the change be made; (7) Final Comment." District 12 did a great job using their proposed format to submit this agenda item. The committee was very impressed.

Discussion:

Brenda: Is there a place on the format for the names of submitters? Is there a place on the format to enter the resolution of the agenda item?

Answer: No

Andrew W.: This sounds as if your committee would like for this to be adopted by the Assembly. Is this correct? Please clarify if this is meant to be mandatory or merely suggested.

Paula: Our committee feels it is more of a suggestion.

Billie Jo: I think the streamlining of our agenda item proposals would be wonderful.

Jewel Lea: As a new person, I see this as a great tool for explaining the proposal.

Coming out of committee I thought this was to be a motion to adopt this new way to submit agenda items.

Rich K.: Items coming out of committees would they have to do this too?

Andrew W.: As currently worded, nothing is required for anyone.

Carole B. Items from committees are not agenda items but made and seconded motions.

Lori F.: I love this idea and I am going to use this format to submit a Literature agenda item for the Spring Assembly.

Nick D: Our thought when submitting this was for this to become a definite Policy and Procedures item for use when proposing agenda items. Not kinda-sorta but concretely. There are so many proposals where it is hard to figure out what it is and why is it being proposed.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Paula H.: The Agenda committee would like to make the recommendation that Area 40 implement the standard format (described above) as the procedure for submitting agenda items to the Area Assembly.

Voted. Motion passed, unanimously.

B) Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Treatment and the action or inaction upon each item.

As always, it was interesting to note how our area voted on items compared to the General Service Conference.

The committee reviewed each item. No action was required. See p 6 of the 2009 Final Report for more in-depth information of those items approved.

The Conference approved the theme for the 2010 General Service Conference "Practicing AA's Principles--the Pathway to Unity." and the presentation/discussion topics. The workshop topic will be "Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process."

The committee reviewed the General Service Conference Evaluation Form and made no changes.

For more information on how the process works see p 35, "Conference", and p 36, "Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities."

No discussion.

We ended the meeting with a great discussion about getting committee members to meetings. Food, Area Treatment Workshop, reminders a few days before the meeting, giving committee members a job at the meeting, getting new members if the current ones are not fulfilling their duties, and job descriptions were some of the suggestions.

The meeting was closed with the Declaration.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

YIL&S

Paula H.
Area 40 Treatment Chair

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policies Area 40 Archive Committee Minutes

Chair Tim H.

Dist 11 Colby D
Dist 23 Mike M
Dist 71 Kevin M
Dist 91 Leo M

Archives

Item A. Consider budgeting the \$1000.00 per year to the Archives Committee for defraying reasonable and proper expenses of the Archivist for travel and display of Area Archives at AA functions (including group/district/regional events) within Area 40, limited to three (3) activities per year on a first come first serve basis by requesting group/district on a rotating basis.

The committee felt the \$1000.00 was too much and after input from the Archivist, the figure of \$500 was more realistic. Also to prevent multiple trips to the same District in the same year, the word 'group' would be dropped from the agenda item. For the purpose of clarification, the phrase "excluding Round Ups" would be added to the agenda item, because by past action, they are intended to be self supporting. It was also decided the item was vague in how requests for the Archivist and the rotation of visits was to be handled. So, the Archives Committee recommends:

The Archives Committee recommends budgeting \$500 per year to the Archivist for defraying the reasonable and proper expenses of the archivist for travel and display of Area Archives at AA functions (including district/regional events) within Area 40, excluding Area Round Ups, which by past action are intended to be self-supporting. Fulfillment of requests is limited to availability of funds and the archivist.

Discussion:

Linda B: What about the Archivist's budget of \$ 2700.00? Other chairs travel and they only get \$250.00, why should Archivist get more?

Gerry R: The \$2700.00 is money earmarked for Archives maintenance.

Tim H: \$500. is the amount our committee felt would cover the Archivist's travel.

Linda B: Are there any other items that will impact our budget? Let's keep this in mind, .the budget is about to be presented.

Tim H: this is the only thing affecting the budget that our committee is considering.

Lori F: How many requests does the Archivist get to travel?

Gerry R: None this year, in the past years it has been approximately four or so.

Scott W: I support the idea for the Archives to go out to the Districts. Why is this coming from the Archives committee is this a mistake?

Tim H.: Yes, it should read to the Archivist.

Leo Mc: It was supposed to help those districts or groups that cannot afford to fully fund a visit by the Archivist.

Vote: 89 For; 12 Against. Motion Passed.

Minority Opinion:

Billie Jo: Last fall we set a budget, this spring we expanded it for the Archivist; now again we adjust it? I am against it.

Richard L: I love AA history, I believe the reason I voted against it is that we have always had the Archives at functions before and never needed this extra travel budget, why do we need it now all of a sudden?

Rich K: I voted against it. We will have a new budget next year, I don't see why it can't be included in the 2010 budget.

Tim H: What we are discussing is going into the 2010 budget.

Item B. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Archive and the action or inaction upon each item.

The committee took no action.

Area 40 Structures and Policy

Item A. Consider modifying the Area 40 election procedure to require all nominations for Area Standing Committee Chairs and for the Triangle Editor be made by the District Committee Members (or the alternate in the absence of that DCM), with each district making not more than one nomination for a particular position.

The committee felt this would be too limiting, and could, in fact, reduce the pool of qualified candidates. It was also felt that it could pose a dilemma for DCM's if, at the Assembly, more than one person in their district decided to stand for the same position.

The committee took no action.

No discussion.

Item B. Consider changing Paragraph G10.12 of the Area Policy and Procedures Manual to read, "The Triangle Editor must be computer literate with knowledge of word processing software. If necessary, the Area 40 will provide the Editor with a computer, printer, scanner and all software necessary to produce the Triangle."

The committee felt the word "must" was too exclusive. The committee discussed the need for suggested, repeat "suggested" job qualifications. The Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual lists the job duties but does not mention any suggested qualifications.

The committee took no action.

Discussion:

What is computer literate and who judges this?

Glenn: I don't understand what is meant by computer literate, the editor should have the skills to put out the Triangle.

Item C. Consider changing the last sentence in Paragraph G11.4 of the Area Policy and Procedure Manual to read, "The Secretary must be computer literate with knowledge of word processing software."

The committee felt the word "must" was too exclusive. The committee discussed the need for suggested, repeat "suggested" job qualifications. The Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual lists the job duties but does not mention any suggested qualifications.

The committee took no action.

No discussion.

Item D. Consider adding a guideline to the Area Secretary at G11 of the Area Policy and Procedure Manual to read, "The Secretary will serve as the Area Registrar and be responsible for updating GSO's database, Fellowship New Vision (FNV). As Registrar, the Secretary will update group, district and Area information and work closely with each DCM to assure the Area groups are receiving correspondence from the General Service Office."

The committee felt the word "current" should be added to reflect any future changes for updating the GSO database. Therefore, the committee recommends that we add a guideline to the Area Policy and Procedure Manual:

"The Secretary will serve as the Area Registrar and be responsible for updating GSO's current database, Fellowship New Vision (FNV). As Registrar, the Secretary will update group, district and Area information and work closely with each DCM to assure the Area groups are receiving correspondence from the General Service Office."

Vote: 97 For; 2 Against. Motion passed.

Minority Opinion:

What is the cost for changing the Policies and Procedures manual when the secretary does this already anyway?

Jim B: I'm against it because I don't like to always vote in the majority.

Item E. Consider adding a guideline to the Area Chair at G13 of the Area Policy and Procedure Manual to read, "Shall work throughout the rotation with the Area Standing Committee Chairs and the Triangle Editor regarding succession planning for the next rotation and with the Chairs and Editor will seek out persons interested in knowledgeable to stand for election in the next rotation."

The committee felt this would be redundant and should already be taking place.

The committee took no action.

No discussion.

Item F. Consider adding a line item for pre-assemblies to the Area 40 budget to defray the expenses of Area Officers and Chairs for participation in three (3) pre-assemblies each spring, one in each generalized portion of the Area—Eastern, Central and Western Montana—either face to face or by teleconference (per the host district’s preference for each pre-assembly each year, keeping in mind expenses), with the districts each portion conferring and deciding whether to hold such a pre-assembly and, if it will be held, which district will host it.

The committee felt that with no dollar amount specified in the agenda item, they took no action.

No discussion.

Thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work.

In service,

Tim H.

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums

A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Corrections and the action or inaction upon each item.

We reviewed each item and felt we needed to take no action these were the items:

. Consider alternatives to biennial mailing to corrections professionals, focusing on those that may be more effective and fiscally prudent

. The Committee’s suggested:

. That the automatic biennial mailing begun by additional consideration to the Conference Committee on Corrections in 1999 be suspended indefinitely

. That the American Correctional Association Directory of Adult and Juvenile Correction Departments, Institutions, Agencies, and Probation and Parole continue to be purchased on a biennial basis and the contact information therein be sent to the relevant area corrections committee chair.

. Consider updating the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

. The Conference approved the recommendation that the Trustees’ Committee on Corrections undertake a revision of the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” which will take into consideration:

. More stories of recovery from alcoholism through the principles of Alcoholics

Anonymous, drawn from Sharing From Behind the Walls, Box 4-5-9, or other available sources

. Less use of outdated and directive language (such as that used in the section on H.A.L.T.

. Including photographs that reflect current times.

and that a draft pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

. The Conference approved the recommendation that the photo on page 18 of the pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," which shows an inmate smoking a hand-rolled cigarette, be replaced with a photo of the current edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in future reprints, as well as in any revision.

Note: The above items originally came out of committee as additional considerations. The Conference sent it back to committee and these became Advisory Actions.

. Discuss issues that may be involved in A.A. members' complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing "sponsorship agreements: or legally binding documents.

. The committee discussed issues that may be involved in A.A. members complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing 'sponsorship agreements' or legally binding documents, and requested sharing from the A.A. Fellowship regarding this topic to be gathered by the staff member and the trustees' Committee on Corrections and that this sharing be sent to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections.

. Review the Kit and Workbook

. The committee reviewed the contents of the Corrections Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:

1 . That the list of contents be corrected to indicate that both the Corrections Correspondence Service flyer for the outside A.A. member (F-26) and the Corrections Correspondence request form for inmates (CCS-2) are included in the Kit.

. That the Spanish-language and the French-language Corrections Kit contents be updated to match as closely as possible the English-language Kit. The committee heard a report from the Publications director that A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate will be completed in Spanish by fall of 2009, and the DVD A.A. in Correctional Facilities will be available in a compilation of all three languages by the end of 2009.

. That a copy of the booklet A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate (in the appropriate language) be included in the Kits.

. That the list of Corrections Kit Contents be placed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site in the Corrections 'bucket' with the appropriate links to each service piece, pamphlet or book, where available.

No discussion.

2. International Conventions-Regional Forums

A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in IC-RF and the action or inaction upon each item.

We reviewed each item and felt we needed to take no action. These are the items:

A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in IC-RF and the action or inaction upon each item.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

. Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

. Consider a broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

. An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

- . Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums.
- . Be enthusiastic in announcing the Forum in advance, and reporting on it afterwards.
- . Write an article about the Forum for a local newsletter or Web site.
- . Participation is key—get people involved in the planning of the Forum, as greeters, hospitality, registration, etc.
- . Encourage all segments of the Fellowship to attend, including those who speak other languages.
- . Seek ways to prevent conflicts with other local events, such as sharing weekend A.A. event schedules through a central office or intergroup.
- . Let members know that Local Forums can be requested by any A.A. entity; the request does not need to come through the general service structure.
- . Overcome challenges of the cost of attending Forums by encouraging members to ride together and share rooms; some areas have rented buses for members to travel together.

No discussion.

B. Consider responses to the passed recommendation, at the Spring 2009 Area 40 Assembly, that the Corrections Committee request a Local Forum on Corrections from the General Service Office to be held in the spring of 2011 in Great Falls, and that any district wanting to place a bid for location as well as suggest theme(s) other than Corrections for this Local Forum may submit same to our Area Chair by July 1, 2009.

We considered the responses and made a decision to take a new plan of action.

C. Consider including Miles City as a second location along with Great Falls for a 2 day Local Forum event for Spring 2011.
There was discussion.

The Corrections/International Convention and Regional Forum Committee recommends that a Forum request be submitted to GSO for Area 40 to host a Local Forum, one day in Great Falls, one day in Miles City for the Spring of 2011.

Discussion:

Geoff: How did you come up with those two cities?

Mary S: the recommendation was passed in the spring for Great Falls, then Dist 31 put forth an agenda item that it be Great Falls and Miles City.

Linda B: Do you have local groups willing to set up the venue for the forum?

Mary S: Yes, we have groups in both places willing to organize this event.

Lance: I don't know why Miles City was suggested but it is a good place. we had better attendance at pre assembly than Helena.

Paula H: Is this forum repeated or is it two different forums?

Mary S: I believe it is repeated.

Eric: are there any costs to Area 40?

Mary S: this is on GSO's dime.

Gary : I was on the committee the last time it was split and the forum is the same (repeated) in each place.

Andrew W: I love a road trip. How is GSO staff getting from Great Falls to Miles City?

Mary S: We thought that you would drive them.

Scott W: We have done a lot of homework on this and it is all covered.

Lori F: Do I understand this correctly that if we don't pass this motion that we will still have the forum but it will only be in great Falls?

Billie Jo: If we get the Archives workshop to come here will this conflict with the forum?

Answer: No it will be a different time.

Rebecca: we talked about cost of the forum and decided that the 7th Tradition can defray any costs we might incur.

Joe H: Let's not have a registration fee, we made enough with 7th Tradition in Great Falls last time we had a forum.

Scott W: The forum request form does allow a registration fee but let's not exercise this option. We only need to cover the cost of the hall, flyers, and a hospitality room.

Jewel Lea: The expense would come from districts 31 and 41, I think this would be a boon to a remote area such as Miles City and eastern Montana.

Question: I thought GSO would cover the whole cost of the local forum.?

Answer: That is not how it is written. It will pay for GSO representatives to travel and for all the materials they use. The local AA community is responsible for the venue.

Vote. 91 For, 2 Against. Motion passed.

No minority opinion.

D. Discuss how Area 40 should begin preparing for the 2012 West Central Regional AA Service Conference (what deadline for districts to submit requests to host, how to research the appropriate guidelines, etc., and who will be responsible for early planning and preparation). There was discussion in the committee. We decided to begin by finding a place to hold it.

The Conference/ International Conventions and Regional? Forum Committee request that any district wishing to submit a bid for the upcoming West Central Regional Service Conference which will be held on March 2,3 and 4th of 2012, be sent to the Area Chair by February 1, 2010. Bids will then be reviewed at the 2010 Spring Assembly.

Upon sharing this on the floor with assembly, some ideas came out to help any districts wanting to submit a bid. The West Central Regional Planning Guide will be posted on the aa-montana.org web site as well as helpful criteria to put together a bid. Any other pertinent information like past Area 40 minutes regarding the last WCRSC which was held in Bozeman in 2001 can be used as reference.

Discussion:

Linda B: I did the bid package for Billings, it might be useful to hear necessary requirements now so that districts can realistically entertain the idea of hosting the WCRAASC.

Mary S: A bid city would need an airport, hotels, restaurants, and public transportation or car rentals available.

Lori F: How big is the bid package? Can it be put on the Area 40 AA website?

Mary S: The planning guide? Yes I can put it on the website.

Libbie L: is there a formal base packet to fill out separate from the planning guide?

Mary S: There is no form per se, but there are very clear directions. Plus we have resources from others that have done this before.

Gerry R: As the Archivist I was sent a request for a previous bid package to use as an example, if there is a form I didn't see one. If there is a form, please get it to me we need our archival stuff to be as complete as possible.

Sharon S: I don't recall a form but the guide is very clear.

Joe H: The last conference was in Bozeman. Our Delegate will get correspondence from GSO.

Mary S: We have the guide, it is very specific and will be useful in writing out a bid.

Andrew W: Bozeman was a blast! It happens only once every 8 years in Montana. The districts should go for it!

Loren B: I was Delegate during Bozeman, I just want to say go for it don't let the lack of a form concern you. Start now to get your bid in.

CPC/ Trustees- Virginia R.

In attendance were all 4 voting members: Donna from District 21, Marylor from District 81, BilliJo from District 51, and Duane from District 42. We also had Paul from Whitefish and Kelly from Bozeman and were visited by past-delegate, Andrew in the afternoon.

We reviewed the background information from the General Service Conference. It was recommended at the Conference that the video segment directed to professionals in the employment/Human Relations field to be streamed on GSO's AA website. There are already videos prepared for the medical and correctional professions.

We were also interested in ideas brought forward about how to utilize the Grapevine in CPC work. Suggestions included adopting a professional and taking them a single magazine or a subscription, "losing" a Grapevine in your doctor or lawyer's office and inviting Grapevine reps to participate in local CPC presentations.

We talked about what our district CPC committees have been working on. One district drafted a letter for professionals about how AA can be of service to them. One caveat they discussed is how not to make the particular professional think we were insinuating that they themselves needed our help.

Also included in our discussion was how to include people in CPC work who are not computer-literate.

Finally, we reviewed a power-point presentation available from GSO that is a self-contained AA information talk for professionals.

No discussion.

Trustees Committee

We talked about the fact that there are generally 21 class A and class B trustees serving at any given time. At present, we have 3 vacancies. We were wondering why they weren't replaced. It seems that there is sufficient work to be done among the 21 so why aren't there alternate trustees, much as there are alternate delegates? We learned that those responsible for replacing these 3 trustees opted not to do so. In the Service Manual, there is a rather vague method in place to replace vacancies but we thought we could come up with something more specific. As a result, a motion was made, seconded and voted upon unanimously by our committee that Area 40 consider recommending that the General Service Board develop guidelines for contingency plans when the number of serving trustees drops below 19.

Discussion:

Kevin M: Is there already a plan in place or are we making one?

Virginia: This plan is just more specific than what is already in place.

Rich K: Why the number 19? When does the floor become inoperative?

Virginia: We felt 19 was a good number. The work load is huge for these trustees so we figured with only two vacancies the work would not stop or suffer too much neglect.

Jim: It seems the Service Board chooses to use the number 18 as the time to replace vacancies so I would like to use 18.

Tom D: What are we being asked to do?

Billie Jo: 19 is 10% that is a significant shortage.

Andrew W: It seems as this a made and seconded motion to submit an agenda item to the conference.

Glenn: I have no idea what a trustee is and how this is ran. Should we be doing this?

Ken B: This is just basically asking if the fellowship has thoughts on how we vote for and replace our Trustees. As it is now we have no trigger to mandate the filling of slots. The board has bylaws governing this process so basically, anything put forth would be a recommendation to the board to rewrite its bylaws.

Loren B: this is like a black hole, this is what happens when things are not put on an agenda. if we put stuff on the agenda we can research it. Let's do that- it might be prudent.

Linda B: is the reason for not filling Trustee vacancies a fiscal one?

Virginia: No.

Paul L: I am on this committee, it seems as the number of Trustees goes down, the amount of work per person goes up. It can get overwhelming, we decided to recommend this so that all issues receive attention and work does not suffer.

Tim H: I think this a good idea but I go into fear when we consider a floor action without using the agenda process first.

Ken B: The standard work load for a Trustee is being on 3 committees. Two people are on 4 committees, and one person is on 7 committees.

Connie R: We might need to pause, this all sounds reasonable but should we rush into this?

Tom D: It seems we need a Point of Order to table this issue. This will give us time to study the background material and form a better proposal.

I move to table this motion from the CPC committee.

Motion seconded.

Joe H; I am addressing the motion to table the recommendation, this means that if it is tabled it will not go to GSO until two years from now.

Vote on motion to table the committee's recommendation. 29 For; 57 Against.

Call for Question.

Scott W: My experience about items going forth is that it is best to have a solution to present. For Class A and B Trustees, we would be asking GSO to rewrite their voting process, can we hammer out a viable solution to offer with our suggestion in 15 minutes?

Question: Is this even our job, to tell the Trustees to get more Trustees; to basically tell them how to do their job?

Joe H: Question.

Lloyd: Second

Vote to stop discussion. 84 For; 5 against. motion to stop discussion passed.

Vote for the recommendation from the committee. 40 For; 51 Against. Motion failed.

Minority opinion:

Tim M: What I heard is that this is a shot over the bow to get these guys to fill these vacancies. the Trustees are overworked.

Glenn: The trustees topic is not clear, if we had guidelines it would be more clear.

Carol: I believe we need something in place to bring in Trustees when vacancies occur.

Yours in love and service,

Virginia R.

Finance- Linda B.

Serenity prayer. Linda: Two items: Reviewing items, benefits and liabilities spiritual and practical of funding AA through the contributions of the Fellowship. They have asked to gather input from the Fellowship. If we continue to use some literature profits, what's the limit? As of a couple of days ago, there's some background on that issue. Trustees are asking for input. Is there a deadline for input? Don't see one. Last time there was a very short turnaround on getting information back.

Attach: Report of the Subcommittee on Self Support January 28, 2007. Perceptions: We versus them, misinformation being perpetuated. Terry: Need to talk to each District and groups, put in, and get back to us, by the end of the year. Try to get it back by the end of the year. Jenn: Would be helpful to have a uniform survey tool to get a uniform kind of answer. Carole: Came back from the Forum feeling uplifted. Came back from the service conference feeling down, there needs to be somewhat of a movement for talking about it in meetings that we need to make sure that AA is here in 20 years. Doing our part. The unity is not there so much in Billings. May talk at District, but not becoming unified as a district, a WE program. Too much WE and THEM. Needs to be WE as a whole. Money, albeit important is just a tool, it will come if it is an informed group conscience. In presenting back to the general body of area 40. Linda: Questions have to be the main part, that's what they are asking: Should there be a limit? We need to put something on paper. We are funded by our voluntary contributions. Would like to strike the word "voluntary". We have voted to have these services, but we don't pony up.

Bettie: AAs are not welcoming of rules or coercion. That's what voluntary says. To throw out voluntary throws out a principle. Jennifer: Want a minority opinion. We already lost our Directory, what's next. Feel like there can be social pressure not to adhere to this proposal, need to allow comment, maybe interesting things will come out of there.

\$13 million dollar issue here with literature sales. Could see limiting lit contributions to 2009 levels. Personally could see shooting for ideal is to be fully self supporting. Go to three groups, a ton of newcomers, not so much 7th tradition generation. Also go to a big 7th tradition meeting it exceeds his funds by 2 or 3x. Feel bad about that, but also acknowledge his fresh from treatment folks. Need the profit from literature to carry on the work they do. Only concrete suggestion is We suggest we limit contributions to X level, or X dollar amount.

Linda, Have a goal, a percentage to work toward.

Terry: Like that, but there is a business here with employees, with fixed employees. The second question is if we put a limit, what are we going to cut, How spiritual is that? Are we willing to be responsible for cutting vital services and fire people:

Carole: Are we really getting the message out, if our membership has leveled out? How do we recruit and maintain reach and attract keep good members? It's a unity thing.

Doug: Encouraged by District 11, poster going around for support. Little bullet points – your 7th tradition supports these services.

Jennifer: Feel like the money is secondary to reaching out – at regional forum mentioned that treatment is no longer such a source, maybe we need to reach out more actively get back to our roots of spending time with new people and getting them involved.

Carole: Hit the nail on the head.

Terry: Input, each group would do their own thing – self support statement is all we are able to do at this time. Before we can answer the question, need the time to get the new people in, before we start skashing the service structure. Feel both ways, listen to people who are hostile to outreach materials, it isn't either or, how do we get people to meetings? Then reach out to people in meetings. Need to figure out better ways to reach out. The answer to question 1 is who goes.

Doug: For a bean counter the reality is if the money isn't there, things get cut. The upside is that when the numbers are there, we hire more people, do more things. Disagree, feel there should be a limit.

Undisciplined in a lot of ways, but disciplined in a bean counter way. In favor of putting a limit. Need to be working toward a goal, to be fully self supporting.

Carole: Area 63 proposed agenda items, ended up as background item, to be fully self supporting by 2020. Then the question is, what happens when you're not? What do we do with the resentment if GSO takes action to adhere to this?

Terry: A procedural question: Break at noon:

Linda: Let's get that birthday contribution going,

Jennifer: If our primary purpose is carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, how do I explain to a newcomer that we are putting money first?

Betty: The practical should always be in support of the spiritual. Like numbers too, but that's the practical thing. How do we use that to support the spiritual. "Back to Basics" book, research on how early members brought in members. He suggests a four week 12 step immersion, get people who are willing to share, work with the newcomers, take them through all 12 in 4 weeks, going to try this with her home group in Butte., There are a lot of pre-release members there. . Where did it switch from us to calling the newcomer, to them calling us? People couldn't stay sober with once a week contact.

Carole" Propose those 1728 workshops Steps/Traditions/Concepts, traditions how we play well together, concepts, how we survive. Have changed a lot how she sponsors, call them a lot when they disappear. Continue to reach out.

Linda: Second one: Discussion of different ways to communicate with the fellowship, advisory action #8.

Terry: I hope we never step over a drunk to adhere to a Tradition, Paul C.

Finance ...(cont)..... Room 328

Linda: Good discussion this morning, tell Area that we are going to draft a questionnaire to send out to the District 72 groups, send it with our Delegate as Background information for the Spring.

Terry: Put a deadline of Election Day of November 2nd for submission groups. Send in q questions to Linda by September 27, next Sunday, meet at the roundup in Bozeman to finalize the questionnaire. Response time, is November 2nd.

Conference approved recommendation of ways to communicate the 7th tradition. Birthday plan, etc.

Linda – what if we had an Area 40 blog? Who would oversee the content?

Jennifer: Security is a real problem with web sites/social networking sites.

Terry:

Linda: Q? Do you feel that literature sales is a form of contribution?

Discussion:

Tom D: If literature is sold to us even at 25% increase this is still cheaper than any other literature we can buy. What else will we spend profits from literature sales on if not the fellowship?

Sue: When is that survey form available and where?

Linda B: We are coming up with a draft on October 4th or 5th. We will then put it out via email.

Last page of packet in Financials, budget worksheet: The \$1500 archivist training is not yet included in the budget, voted in at Spring Assembly. added to the \$3939, brings us to \$32,504. 2010, Spring and Fall Assembly, don't know of any different pricing, Spring \$4,465, under by \$540. Leave it alone, in case price rises. Need funds to cover travel to Special Forum in Rapid, Terry contributing funds from his travel. We are leaving budget the same for GSO \$700 to New York. Carole used \$479. May need to go in early next year, leave as is.\$844 travel bills for Carole, reduced Roundup budget to \$250, since in Billings, then goes to Butte. Maybe send the Area PI person to the Special Forum in Rapid. One year budget, need to mention that for the future, to be clear. Terry is looking at a \$500 area chair budget. Archives \$3780. Archivist training \$1500, does he have to go next year 2010 too? Why? To report on it, another \$1500, or leave it at \$0? Need to hear back from him. Archives chair, All chair positions have been at \$250,

including preassemblies. Everything is under spent, but leave it there, so there's not a perception that there is no travel funds. PI Chair has only spent \$65. Lori, purchasing literature, to restock \$545, leaving travel at \$250. Carole, suggest just leaving it there. Jennifer: Suggest the PI and CPC chairs be considered for travel to the Native Forum in SD. Put on the Spring Assembly agenda, note that it wasn't on the budget because not passed. Linda Secretary: \$50, not much postage and paper. Leave as is. Treasurer, went over this time, probably not next time. Leave as is. Webmaster, upped to \$170 for increased costs. Triangle costs:\$2400 for 8 issues. \$1500 for software updating and new computer if needed. Postage is going up again in 2010. Suggest as \$1,000 could be achieved with a netbook and large screen to plug in. As functional as a full size.

At \$29,969, based on our expenses. Total income \$28, 673 in 2008. Brings it in line with our contributions. Actual \$22,910 for 2007.

Linda B: Gerry do you have to go to the 2010 Archivist Workshop in order to receive seed money for 2011 Workshop should we win the bid to host it?

Gerry R: I do not have to go to receive the seed money. If we win the bid I might go for one day maybe...

Linda B: so we don't know.

Gerry R: Yes.

Tim M: the basic rate is \$50/ mo plus \$84.05. The basic rate for publishing phone numbers is \$55/mo plus \$84.05.

Paula H: If we changed the hotline budget to \$1600. there would be no cushion, we need to raise the budget to \$1800. to have the cushion to cover the districts that might not be able to pay for the phone service.

Vote on the 2010 Budget. 87 For; 5 Against.

Minority opinion:

Colby D: Our estimated income is less than our estimated expenditure – this is not prudent.

Carleen L: What do we need to add to the Prudent reserve? Is that included in the \$773.25 shortfall?

Linda B. No.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B., Treasurer

- Carole would like stories for the new Special Needs pamphlet.
- Carole would also like volunteers for panels, workshops, or speaking at the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio.

Round Up Reports:

2009 Spring Round Up: Missoula.

The 2009 Spring Round Up in Missoula last April was a great success. The turnout was great, we had 625 registered for the Round Up and 305 came to the banquet Saturday night. Also, if you remember, we tried to get the word out that anyone with less than 6 months sobriety would get free registration, 56 people took us up on that offer. It was great to see so many newcomers when we did the sobriety countdown. Out of the 625 registered, there were 444 from AA, 101 from Al-Anon, 51 double winners, 15 from Alateen, and 14 guests. People came from 112 different cities, from 13 different states. Judging from the smiles, laughter and tears from everyone, this was an experience that will not be soon forgotten. The round up committee was an incredible example of what a little co-operation between

members of Al-Anon and AA can accomplish together backed by some willingness to be of service to others. It taught us a lot about our "real" singleness of purpose.

After all the seed money was returned to the District 81 groups, and the seed money was sent to Bozeman, we had a surplus of about \$3000. We sent \$1000. to GSO, split another \$1000. out to all the Area 40 Districts, and put the rest in the District 81 checking account.

We hope that Bozeman is as blessed as we were with their Round Up this fall, and thank you all for helping to make our Round Up experience so rich and rewarding.

Yours in Love and Service,

Dan K.

2009 Fall Round Up: Bozeman

We are fast approaching 200 pre-registrations with about 2 weeks to go. Historically it seems that about 50% of those who attend do so by pre-registering, with the remainder registering on the spot. So if that holds true we will have no less than 400 in attendance. Also, there is supposedly typically a good pre-registration push in the last 7-10 days suggesting that we could end up with even more than 400. This is all dandy except the total seating capacity of the venue is somewhere around 44 and the capacity for those wanting to eat (vs. just attend and not eat) is around 300. So, you might want to send the message back to your groups that pre-registration is strongly recommended and that those who don't pre-register but who might decide to come at the last minute...check in with our registration chair- Gerry prior to coming. Also additional phone numbers are on the flyer at aa-montana.org for folks to check in and see the situation.

- Speakers are booked and coming
- Lots of fun panels and discussions to be conducted
- Lots of Al-Anon stuff
- Lots of young people stuff
- We will be selling coffee mugs with logo and all for \$3.00 Coffee is separate at \$10 for all you can drink or \$1 per cup.
- Loren is going to sing and dance in between speakers

Lots of other stuff planned and we are looking forward to seeing all who come!

In Love and Service, Arch W.

2010 Spring Round Up: Billings

The 2010 Round Up will be held in Billings May 13-15, the committee has been meeting for a year on the 2nd Saturday at 8:30 AM at Perkins on 27th St in Billings. Flyers are available at aa-montana.org and will be mailed to districts. Information is in the Triangle and will be in the grapevine.

West Central Regional Forum Report: Jennifer W. shared her experience, observations, and thoughts on the Forum.

Intergroup Reports:

Flathead Valley Intergroup

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

We continue to provide the answering service and meeting schedules to help carry the message of AA and let people know where AA meetings are, and why we are here. The answering service continues to field 50-100 calls per month, providing meeting information or connecting the caller with a recovering alcoholic. We update our meeting schedules about every 3 months and our website is updated weekly with meeting changes and event updates.

Since we have moved our monthly business/birthday meeting back to the Steelworker's Union Hall in Columbia Falls, attendance has risen dramatically. At our last business meeting thirteen groups were represented.

Our annual campout at Emery Bay was very well attended and was a treat for all. Our speakers were excellent and the food was abundant and delicious. We provided the meat for the campout and subsidized the rent for the camping areas.

Our entertainment committee has plans for a Halloween party on October 31st, with food and a DJ for a dance following the speaker meeting. The event location is to be announced.

Our annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held November 28th this year, at the Stillwater Grange Hall in Kalispell. Intergroup will provide the turkeys, potatoes and gravy, the rest of the meal is potluck. All AA's and their families are welcome to attend. We will combine the feast with our monthly business/birthday meeting, and will follow the meal with a special performance by Jack Gladstone, renowned singer/songwriter from the Flathead Valley.

We will also be hosting our annual 2010 New Year's Eve Alcathon at the Alano club in Kalispell. This is a 24 hour event of meeting every hour on the hour accompanied by food and fellowship.

The Flathead Valley Intergroup is gaining in numbers and we are all so grateful for the opportunity to serve our home groups and AA valley wide.

Yours in Service, Justin F.

Past Delegate Sharing:

Loren B, Panel 51- Loren shared his experiences in service, what he does to continue giving back and insure the survival of AA as we know it. He spoke of supporting the Grapevine, of participating in the Birthday Plan, supporting the Area 40 newsletter, The Triangle, and using our Area 40 website to announce events and update meeting schedules. Loren invited the fellowship to "use" the past delegates with their wealth of experience and knowledge and invite them to your districts or home groups to give workshops or speak.

Earl Fink, Panel 53- Earl shared some of his service history with us, explaining that anyone can do service work, that it is a God thing. We need not have special qualifications or degrees to participate. Earl urges individuals to research any job of interest, to see if it is, realistically, something they would like to do and are able to do. He says don't be afraid you can't do it, don't worry you won't have the time; God provides for those who wish to serve. He urges us to stay busy in service and shared that it has saved his life.

General Sharing Session.

Prayer and Meeting is Adjourned.

Travel safely!

Next Area Assembly is in Lewistown, MT at the Yogo Inn on April 9-11th 2010.