

AREA 40 SPRING ASSEMBLY 2010

APRIL 10 & 11, 2010

AT THE YOGO INN

LEWISTOWN, MT

Welcome to the Assembly

Terry S., Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, opened the Assembly at 8 AM. The Serenity Prayer was led by Dan from Dist 71; Jeannie, Dist 41, read the 12 Traditions; and Grant, Dist. 81, read the short form of the 12 Concepts.

Roll Call was taken by April, the Area 40 Secretary. There were 14 of 14 districts present with 112 voting members, and 30 visitors for a total of 145 attendees at the 2010 Spring Assembly.

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

Good morning! My name is Carole B. and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor to serve you as your Delegate to the 59th General Service Conference. We are here today to obtain the conscience of Area 40 regarding items on the General Service Conference Agenda and some Area specific items. Our goal, as always, is to help the still suffering alcoholic so that when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, AA is there.

Would everyone who is here for his or her first Assembly please stand up? Thank you for being willing to serve AA. The spirit of rotation has always served AA well. Just like when a new woman comes to my home group; my energy and enthusiasm increase when I see someone new fired up for AA service.

Each DCM has a signup sheet and we would ask that everyone – especially General Service Representatives (GSR's) sign up. If you don't sign up with your DCM, you will not be considered a voting member. Also, non-voting members are asked to sign up so we have an idea how many people attended this assembly. Each DCM will turn the signup sheet into our Area Secretary, April.

Lori, our literature chair, has AA Service Manuals for sale. If you would please take yours out. Page S25 discusses the Group and GSR, page 31 the district and DCM, S44 the Area Committee and S48 the Delegate.

The Service Structure is shown in a great diagram on page S16. There are 93 Delegate Areas and each is shown on page S90 and S91. Page S54 describes the Annual Conference, for which we will be discussing the 60th Conference's agenda.

AA business is conducted using substantial unanimity or 2/3 vote. As such, we are mostly in agreement when an agenda item is approved. Recently, an item on the General Service Board Agenda failed lacking 2/3 vote. The item was routine in nature but the minority expressed their opinion, a change was made to the motion, and the motion passed. Or, more simply, this is a way for a bunch of disagreeable people like me to find a way to agree.

Our Area Chair, Terry S, compiled the agenda you have before you. For this Assembly, we will discuss items on the General Service Conference Agenda and Area 40 specific items.

But what do we do first? Well, the Area Committee, District Committee Members, and non-voting Area Committee members will give their reports. Then the individual committees will meet. As stated in Area 40's Policy and Procedure Manual, we utilize the committee system similar to that of the General Service Conference. At my first Assembly, we did not utilize the committee system and I think we spent most of Saturday figuring out which side of the room was to be non-smoking.

Each committee consists of two DCM's, two District representatives and is chaired by the respective Committee Chair with a couple of exceptions. The Area Treasurer chairs finance and the committee consists of the Delegate, Area Chair, a DCM and a District Representative. Literature has one DCM and three District Representatives. Anyone can attend the committee meetings. If Area 40 specific items are voted on in the committee, only committee members vote. If the item is approved by the committee, it comes to the Assembly Floor as a made and seconded motion.

The Assembly has the opportunity to discuss and vote on the motion. This will require substantial unanimity. I can't express adequately how important the minority opinion is to the Fellowship. As stated in Chapter 7 of the Service Manual – occasionally, a well reasoned minority opinion can result in another vote reversing the first decision. If it seems like you have an opinion different from what you are hearing, it is your obligation as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous to speak up. Preferably, you would do this before the vote but please don't stay silent when minority opinion is called for.

However, most of the items we will discuss this weekend will be that of the General Service Conference Agenda – items affecting AA as a whole. Each committee will discuss the items of their committee and the respective Area Committee Chair will give a report. The Assembly will have the opportunity to ask questions or make comments regarding the agenda items. Comments and questions are limited to 3 minutes and if someone has expressed your opinion from the mike, there is no need to repeat it. However, please share your thoughts with us. Everyone's opinion counts – it is your obligation to speak up.

I will be asking our Area Chair, Terry for a sense of the Area on many issues. This will give me an idea how the Area feels about these issues when it is time for me to vote at the Conference. However, many of the items will not come out of the Conference Committee in the same form they are on the agenda. But I will have an idea how the Area feels and will pray for guidance.

If you don't attend a committee meeting, Past Delegates Scott W. and Mark S will lead workshops. These workshops are very useful to the GSR's. Bob and Mark are very knowledgeable and have a wealth of experience to share.

After the Committee Meetings and Workshops, I will give my report and take questions. Then we will plunge into the discussion of the Agenda items, which are presented by the Area Committee Chairs.

This evening, we will conduct breakout sessions for GSRs and DCMs. These sessions are opportunities to learn from your counterparts in other groups or districts. These sessions will be lead by Scott W. and Mark S. In the back of the room, there are ask-it baskets. You can place your question in the respective basket for discussion during the breakout sessions.

Tomorrow morning there will be reports from the Roundups held around the State. Intergroups represented here today will also have an opportunity to give a report. Then Scott and Mark will provide

Past Delegate sharing followed by more discussion of the agenda items. If time permits, general sharing happen. The Area's Policy and Procedure Manual states: that the Assembly shall end at Noon on Sunday.

Assemblies, like life, are much more fun for me when I am actively participating. I encourage you to participate and have fun!

Area Committee Member Reports

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate- Terry S.

I'm Terry and I am an alcoholic. Good morning, Area 40! It's my privilege and pleasure to serve as your Area Chair, and welcome to the third assembly of the 2009-2010 Area 40 rotation.

This fall, on September 18-19, 2010, we will be back here for the fourth and final Assembly of this rotation. I mention that first because all of us currently serving in elected rotating positions on the Area Committee — District Committee Members, Area Standing Committee Chairs and Area Officers (including the Triangle Editor) — have in common a job to do before the Fall Assembly. We have to encourage our replacements to step up! We are tasked with finding other members of our Fellowship here in Area 40, who we think are ready, willing and able to serve, and invite them to show up and stand up at our Fall Assembly to accept the positions that we will be vacating. Robbie S. liked to say that we "grow" our service leaders. The time is NOW to get to work on that task.

Looking further ahead, next year, in the first year of the 2011-12 rotation, our spring 2011 Assembly is here in Lewistown on the weekend of April 9-10, and the Fall Assembly is also here on the weekend of September 17-18. For each assembly — this Fall and next year — there will be a Friday night A.A. meeting, like the one we had last night, at 7:30 p.m. in this room.

After our Fall Assembly, there will be there will be a special Forum in our West Central Region, in Rapid City, South Dakota, on Nov. 12-14, addressing Native American experience in AA, and AA experience with Native American members and prospects. Next year, the 2011 West Central Regional AA Service Conf. will be Northern Minnesota, March 3-6, up in the vicinity of Brainerd, and the West Central Regional Forum will be in Davenport, Iowa, September 9-11.

In 2012, the West Central Regional Service Conference will be here, in Montana, in Area 40, in a host district we will be selecting during this Assembly, so we can commence the planning and preparation.

Just a reminder, under our Area Policy and Procedures, you've gotta get your agenda items for the Fall Assembly to me, in writing, with background material, by July 1, 2011. Don't be late — I have a tight time line and can't help you if you miss that deadline.

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, before the tax is added. The folks at the front desk know the rate for A.A. registrants. If you have any problems, talk to me if the front desk can't take care of it for you.

Since last fall's Assembly, I have visited 7 of our 14 districts, for workshops, luncheons, listening sessions, panel presentations, a district inventory, business meetings and preassemblies. I will try to visit, or visit again, all of the rest of our districts before the end of this rotation, if not before the Fall Assembly. DCMs let me know if there is a particular date, event or service subject that works for your districts, please.

We have made good use of Area Committee telephone conferences to address various service topics or concerns without travel expenses. I expect we will continue to do so as it becomes necessary. With the general economic downturn in society generally, our Area has been very responsible and responsive, it seems to me, being good stewards of our Area 40 resources. Our delegate continues to emphasize how important communication—transparency—doing our best to assure that every member of our Fellowship in Area 40 can find out what is going on—is to our recovery and to our unity, as well as to our service. Communication doesn't always require travel; it can be done by telephone, email and snail mail, so we all stay in the loop together.

We have a huge agenda for this assembly, which includes 58 GSC agenda items and 9 Area 40 agenda items. As most of you already know from past assemblies, my role is not to participate in the discussion but to facilitate it. You all have the jobs of sharing your comments, questions, and concerns. 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. If somebody else has already expressed your group's view, you will still be expressing your group's informed group conscience with your vote and with your hand in the air when Carole asks for a sense of the Area on a GSC item. I'm not trying to shut anybody up, but we do need to get our work done here.

BEFORE we get to the floor assembly, while our committees are meeting, if you are not a voting member of any committee, you are still welcome to attend any of our committee meetings, or you can attend the workshops in this big room, chaired by 2 of our past delegates. Our GSC is the collective conscience of our Fellowship, and our delegate is our voice at the conference. Here, in our committee meetings, in the workshops and breakouts and on the floor of this Assembly, please share your thoughts, your feelings and your ideas. Just as we have to participate in our recovery program in order to recover, we have to participate in our service process if we are going to serve.

Thank you so much for the honor and the opportunity to serve as your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate. It's a remarkable experience.

Terry S.

Area Secretary- April A.

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

I have a few procedural announcements:

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

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 9:45. I use the count from these sheets to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are Area Committee Chairs and Officers, DCM's or their alternate, and GSR's or their alternate.

I have been busy updating Area 40's group information at GSO through the website New Vision. There are group update forms available for the asking. GSO is publishing meeting directories this year. My deadline to enter new information is May 7th, April 23rd if you send hard copies to GSO. I also update group information all year long; please send any changes to me on the forms provided. 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 most efficient for getting this information to me.

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

The Agenda committee would like to make the recommendation that Area 40 implement the standard format as the procedure for submitting agenda items to the Area Assembly.

Voted. Motion passed, unanimously.

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.

Vote: 89 For; 12 Against. Motion Passed.

Area 40 Structures and Policy committee recommends that we add the 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.

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.

Vote. 91 For, 2 Against. Motion passed.

Finance Committee: Outlined the 2010 proposed budget.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
April A.

Area Treasurer-Linda B.

Hello, everyone. My name is Linda and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area Treasurer. Our task this weekend will be to review, discuss, and consider three agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference. We have been on the road in Area 40 last November and December gathering input about literature profits and our voluntary contributions in their relationship to our spiritual principle of self-support. The process has presented many differing opinions, yet the facts are that our fellowship relies on literature profits to help fund our services to the fellowship. Does this violate our own principle of self-support? We will be discussing this again this weekend. In the February 2010 quarterly report from the General Service Office total contributions from A.A. groups and members for 2009 was: \$6,296,710

And literature profits were:	\$8,244,374
Interest income	<u>\$ 1,187</u>
Total Income	\$14,542,271
Total GSO Expenses	<u>\$13,253,623</u>
Net Income for 2009	\$ 1,288,648

Also, in the quarterly report, total non-A.A. purchases of literature were 30.6% of total units sold in 2009. This percentage was much higher than normal, owing to a large order purchased from Hazelton; estimating that the Hazelton order represented two to three years inventory for them. In 2008, non-A.A. purchases represented 20% of the total units distributed. Are literature profits bought from within the fellowship considered contributions? Research points out that Bill's own writings are inconsistent on this topic. In some places he is clear that absolutely no funding from outside sources should be used to support AA and then, in other places he defines literature sales as contributions, even though a significant percentage of literature sales are to entities outside AA. By the very nature of our first agenda item on Finance, we have much to discuss. Awareness, thoughtful consideration and discussion will be our input for Carole, our delegate, to carry to the conference this year.

There will be two items to consider on the agenda:

1. Replace pie charts with different wording
2. Consider adding 7th Tradition stories to "Where money and spirituality mix".

Lastly, on the agenda, we look for additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship on self-support. Does your group treasurer share the financial view of more than just its group? Are financial reports from our area and the general service office given at group business meetings?

Now about Area 40 finances. There were highlights of the 2009 yearend financial report in the Triangle this year. I have brought copies of the final year end for groups to take to their home group members. Please share this information. There was total income (all voluntary contributions) of \$31,574.75 last year. Operating expenses for the year were \$29,451.12. With income of \$110 and expenses of \$360.29 in the Archivist account, this leaves a profit of \$1,873.34 for the year 2009. Area 40 has demonstrated the principle of self-support very well. Thank you for supporting our service structure in Area 40.

For 2010, we have established a budget of \$31,232.25. As of April 7th, the balance in the check book is \$24,703.76. The prudent reserve is set at \$10,410.75 and there is \$979.78 in the restricted Archivist account. This leaves an operating balance of \$13,313.23. Year to date income is \$8,806.47. Area expenses this year are \$8,822.39. Your contributions are showing great support to Area 40. Both contributions and expenses for the year are at 28% of the projected budget. There is an Area 40 agenda item that may increase the budget by \$1,500, if passed and adjustments may have to be made to the budget total and to the prudent reserve. Please see me later if you have any additional questions or comments. Please take only one copy of each report. If there aren't enough, they will be on our area website for download. A point of housekeeping: Send your area contributions to Area 40 Inc., PO Box 21577, Billings MT 59104. Triangle subscriptions should go to Sharon S, the Triangle editor and contributions to the Pink Can should be sent to the Corrections chair, Mary S. All addresses are available on our area website and are printed in the Triangle. And lastly, thank you for allowing me to serve you and Area 40.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B., Treasurer

Triangle Editor- Sharon S.

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

Again, I have to report, I have had a fabulous time with the Triangle. I've been very fortunate to have lots of articles contributed from Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM's and A.A. members. I am grateful for all the help and support and especially appreciate the efforts of my proofer (you know, that woman who helps me see my errors and get them fixed!). I also want to thank Alex, our Webmaster. The anonymity protected version of the Triangle is on the Area 40 website within minutes of when I send it. I don't always get it right the first time, but he re-posts it as many times as necessary!

You will have noticed that the Triangle is arriving in your mailbox under a new cover. New postal regulations effective in October increased the mail preparation costs. The mailing service I am using helped me look at options and we decided to use the envelope. I hope you like it!

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, 96 groups, or about 35% of the groups, have subscribed. There are 16 paid individual subscriptions. I send copies to all groups with a valid address, non registered groups or meetings who have asked to be added to the list, the DCM's, the Area Committee, West Central Region Delegates and Trustee, other WCR newsletters, and individuals with a current subscription. I have been mailing approximately 300 copies. There are currently about 30 groups with invalid addresses.

The Triangle is the Area's newsletter, just one of the ways for committees, groups and officers to communicate with each other and to help us to better carry AA's message to those who need it. We are using National Change of Address files from the post office to check our addresses and I also use "return service requested" to receive notification of undeliverable mail. I try to communicate with the group contact and/or the DCM when I have invalid addresses so we can get them corrected. The post office is getting more precise about addresses, so please be sure the address you give us is deliverable! DCM's, I've placed a mailing list on your table. It includes any recent Triangle returns and identifies groups with invalid addresses. I appreciate anything you can do to help get correct addresses and would appreciate you sending me a copy of any changes you send to April (or GSO) for Fellowship New Vision and the directory updates!

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

I put "extra" Triangles out on the back table, please help yourselves.

The next time I give this report will be the fall election assembly. I know it seems like a long way away, but time flies for me (this gets worse as I age!), so I want to ask you now to think about the fall election assembly and whether you will be willing to serve as the Triangle Editor. I might not see many of you until September, so I will try to be talking to people this weekend to see who is interested. If I miss you and you are curious or know someone who might be interested, please be sure to talk to me before the weekend is over! This is a really great job and I'm sure anyone who serves will, as I have, gain far more than is given!

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Sharon S.

Area Archives- Tim H.

Hi my name is Tim H and I'm an Alcoholic and Area 40 Archives Chair. It has been an easy winter and not just the weather unfortunately I did not do any workshops. (Hint Hint) But I did stay in touch with my committee and the Archivist. I also was able to take part in a teleconference call and a pre-assembly. Both events went well and were informative. I look forward to the upcoming work that is in front of our committee and making a report to the Area.

In Service

Tim H

Corrections- Mary S.

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

The Pink Can balance is currently \$1312.42. Many groups throughout the Area consistently contribute to the fund. The groups that contribute are, Talk Story Group, East Helena Group, District 71, Missoula Women's Group, Darby Group, Early Birds Group, Anaconda Traditions Group, District 11 Billings Group, It's a New Day Group and The Tuesday at 8 Group I have had a steady request for literature and I have ordered literature for Montana State prison, Watch West and East. Other facilities

are the Helena County jail, Yellowstone County Detention facility, District 93 and The Elk Horn DOC Facility for women. 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.

The Montana State Prison's next orientation will be held on May 1st from 8:00 am -2:00pm on Saturday, lunch will be provided. Any applicants can fill out the paperwork and have it in by April 23, 2010. I have applications here with me at Area Assembly. Indecently, there has been some confusion about who can carry the message into Montana State Prison and yes... women can too. Meetings have been temporarily closed down until May, 2010. The new contact person there is Pat Wright. Her number is 846-1320 ext.2419. She can be of assistance for any questions concerning the recent shut down of meetings.

I have been invited to conduct a Corrections Workshop for District 42 in April and look forward to that.

Our 2 local agenda items are the WCRAASC that will be held in 2012, this weekend we will recommend a site from the 2 districts that have submitted bids and allow the Assembly to vote on them. Also, The Local Forum request has been submitted and I have that report for the Area as well. Thank you for letting me be of service to you.

Mary S.

Area 40 Corrections Chair

CPC-Virginia R-

Hello everyone,

My name is Virginia R. I'm an alcoholic and delighted to be the chair of the Area CPC Committee—undoubtedly one of the funnest committees here. Our task is to inform professionals, for example, teachers, social workers, clergy, and medical and legal professionals about what AA is and what it is not.

In October I was invited to participate in a CPC luncheon in Great Falls. It was well attended by both AA members and professionals.

I have attended two of the pre- assemblies—one in Elmo and one in Billings and I have been invited to attend a workshop in District 81 in June.

I think I can speak for all the committee chairs when I say that a busy Area COMMITTEE Chair is a happy Area Committee Chair. Please invite us to your districts- we will be glad to be there as a group or individually and I can almost guarantee that we won't overstay our welcome.

Yours in Love and Service,

Virginia R.

Treatment- Paula H. Good Morning, my name is Paula and I am an alcoholic, the Treatment Chair for Area 40.

It's been a rewarding six months working by email and phone with the District Treatment Chairs in Area 40. What wonderful chairs we have! We

have an updated map, so we can do Bridging the Gap contacts a little easier. I gave each district table a map, and copies are on the table in the back of the room. Alex has agreed to make us a cleaned up digital copy! Many of the out-patient and in-patient treatment centers have been contacted, or re-contacted, resulting in the start of several meetings.

Best of all, MCDC opened its doors to AA in January 2010. We are glad to be back! Orientation for MCDC was held December 5 at a Treatment /Corrections workshop in Helena where three of four district chairs signed the proper forms to begin taking meetings into the facility. (The fourth district signed up at another time.) While things have not been as smooth as we would have liked, we are in!

I appreciate being asked to participate in the Pre-Assemblies in Boulder and Elmo. I regret that I was not able to attend either. I believe Pre-Assemblies to be an important tool to help inform us of the issues we will consider at Area Assembly.

At this Assembly, we will be considering, reviewing, discussing and reporting on a number of items, one of which is the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process. Another item is to consider two forms for Bridging the Gap for use throughout the Conference. Please join us in the Moccasin room.

I appreciate all the districts who have reported their activities to me so I can report them to you. If I have missed anyone/anything or if you would like to let me know what is going on in your district, please let me know. My contact info is in the Triangle or I'd love to talk to you here.

District 11 – Doug D reports that an informational meeting is held at Rimrock the 1st Tuesday of the month. Facilitates meetings are held at MCDC in Billings.

District 12 – Kim B reports that AA meetings are taken to the girls at Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch every Tuesday at 6 pm.

District 41 – Jim W has been working with Malstrom AFB and Gateway Treatment Center to establish new meetings. The District is also maintaining meetings at Rocky Mountain and Benefice. Benefice is considering adding another meeting to its schedule!

District 51 – Jamie S took over treatment this year. Thank you to Matthew G for his service last year. The district combined the position with Bridging the Gap. Jamie matches patients with AA contacts in her

District. She is also making a list of treatment centers in her district and contacting them about meetings and what items each facility needs and then getting them updated meeting schedules, big books, and pamphlets and recruiting AA members who want to take meetings into the facilities.

District 61 – Dee G has been very instrumental in getting meetings back into MCDC, Butte. We owe her and other members of the district a round of applause. I was not any help in this process as it began when I was out of the country, and I was too sick when I got back to do anything. It just proves that “AA is a 'we' program!” District 61 also takes AA meetings into Elkhorn Treatment Center, Boyd Andrew and MIP classes. Dee has contacted, Our Place, a mental health resource center, to see if the members of the district can be of service there. District 61 will hold their 4th Annual Treatment/Correction Workshop next Saturday, April 17. I look forward to being there.

District 72 – June K has been dedicated to recruiting folks to go into MCDC the 1st Friday of every month.

District 81 – Has a new Treatment Chair, Mary Ellen D. The District is taking meetings to the Providence Center twice a month, to Teen Recovery every Tuesday night and to MCDC on the 4th Friday of each month. She contacted Turning Point outpatient treatment center, who refused our services. Mary Ellen has formed a committee to carry out the treatment work of the District. Her goal is to have chairs for each of the centers the district takes meetings into and is recruiting treatment chairs from each group in the District since a different group is responsible for the meetings each month. We are losing Mary Ellen this summer. She is going to Alaska! Thank you Mary Ellen for your service.

District 93 – Barry L is recruiting folks to go into MCDC with Missoula. That district is also bringing meetings into Montana Addiction Services in Hamilton four times a week!

I look forward to the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas and to traveling throughout the great state of Montana this summer should I be asked.

Yours In Love and Service,
Paula H.
Area 40 Treatment Chair

PI- Tim M.

Area 40 PI Chair

Since the Fall Assembly I have traveled to the following Districts as your Area 40 PI Chair;

- District 71 - (Butte/Anaconda/Dillon and surrounding area),
- District 11 - (Billings and surrounding area),
- District 41 - (Great Falls and surrounding area)

The main topic at all of these invitations was the 1-888-607-2000 Area 40 Hotline number, which you will hear more about in my report during committee assignments.

I had a pretty good sense at the start of this rotation that much of my time would be dedicated to this. I was perfectly alright with this, knowing that we are not asked to take on a new vocation when we accept a service position but to take on an avocation, a hobby if you will, that provides us a sense of purpose and an opportunity to improve the process and ourselves along the way. The Hotline number is stabilizing and I foresee that the incoming PI Chair will only have it as a minor task thus allowing them to focus their attention on other areas of Public Information.

As things have a way of revealing more upon further investigation, I came to see that all the interest by districts in the Hotline number also provided me with many opportunities to talk about PI, albeit in generalities, about why we have a Public Information Committee in an Anonymous program. The reason being, perhaps arguably, is that none of us would be sitting here in the Yogo Inn in Lewistown Montana at an Area 40 AA Assembly this beautiful Saturday morning, if it wasn't for the help and support of third parties. People who are not members of AA but are willing to lend their support and allow us to work through them to carry the wonderful message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering Alcoholic.

So if you're sitting here this morning full of gratitude wondering how you can repay and keep AA alive, in five short months you will have that opportunity by standing for the PI chair position. If you're sitting here this morning feeling anything but gratitude then all the more reason for you to stand!

Yours in Service,

Tim M.

Area 40 Public Information Chair

Grapevine- Rich K.

Good morning, my name is Rich, I'm an alcoholic and your Area 40 Grapevine/Policy and Admissions chair.

Recently I've been able to attend three pre-assemblies. First, we gathered a carload from Billings and headed to Boulder Hot Springs and enjoyed a "too short" fellowship and sharing session with the folks there. The following weekend, a trip to Elmo by way of Helena was met. I had a wonderful trip with 3 other committee members from Billings and enjoyed the hospitality in Helena of Terry S. and his wonderful bride. The following morning we met up in Missoula with more AA's and car pooled the rest of the way to Elmo. The fellowship and information sharing at Elmo was well worth the trip. The third pre-assembly was in Billings with the local committee members in attendance. This was a great session and lasted a bit longer and we were able to hit more of the topics.

In June I have been invited to Helena for the Grapefest, which I plan to attend and am very much looking forward to.

Topics that the Grapevine committee will be addressing this weekend include discussing collections of Grapevine stories to be published in 2011 or later, a discussion of the relationship between the AA Grapevine Board, the AA Grapevine office, and the Conference Committee, as it relates to the decision making process. Also to be considered will be a request to publish La Vina on an equal basis as the Grapevine. Also to be discussed will be a request from our WCR Trustee, who will rotate next year into the Chairman of the Grapevine Board. The request will be to give him some feedback into these questions:

1. Of what value is the Grapevine to AA?
2. At what cost if there is a break point, do we maintain the publication?

These questions are being asked because of the financial situation that the Grapevine finds itself in.

Items that will be discussed in the Policy and Admissions committee include the idea of the General Service Conference undertaking an inventory of itself and a report forwarded by the General Service Board regarding the development of procedures for the submission of a minority appeals to the General Service Conference.

It looks to be an interesting weekend.

Respectfully, Rich K.

Literature- Lori F.

Hello. My name is Lori F. and I am an alcoholic. It's great to see all of you, especially those new to the assembly. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 40 Literature Committee Chair.

First of all, I want to thank the six Districts involved in the two Pre-Assemblies I was invited to attend, one in Boulder on March 21, and the other in Elmo on March 28. These two events helped prepare me for this assembly, and also gave those who are unable to attend this weekend an opportunity to contribute to our informed group conscience.

I want to call your attention to the Literature Display at the back of the room. Please take a moment this weekend to view the abundance of material available to you through the General Service Office. The books and audio-visual materials are for display only and not for sale. However, feel free to take a literature catalog and order form, a pamphlet or two, or a contribution envelope. I do ask that you avoid setting beverages on the literature tables for obvious reasons.

I hope that all of you have a copy of "The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service," but if you don't, you will find them for sale near the literature display. Please note that the price has increased to \$3.50 each, and there are also a few large print service manuals available for \$8.00 each. A "self-support can" has been provided for your convenience.

Our committee has nine agenda items to discuss this assembly, including a request to develop conference approved literature focusing on spirituality, and a request to review the booklet "Living

Sober.” Please pull me aside this weekend if you have questions about any of the Literature Agenda Items, or, even better, come and sit in on the Literature Standing Committee meeting and participate in the discussions.

In closing, I would like to share three things that I will try to keep in mind as we discuss, deliberate, and sometimes argue our points of view this weekend. First, a passage that Bill W. wrote for a Grapevine Article on the importance of anonymity: “I learned that the temporary or seeming good can often be the deadly enemy of the permanent best. When it comes to survival for A.A., nothing short of our very best will be good enough.” For me, these words are very relevant to our business at this assembly.

Second, more words of wisdom from Bill W.: “With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous.”

And finally, here’s a quote from former Class A Trustee and Chairman of the Board Leonard B’s “story,” told at a service conference I attended: “One of us is not smarter than all of us.” I will add – “not even if the ‘one of us’ is me!”

Thanks for your attention and for allowing me to serve.

Lori F., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

DCM Reports

District 11

Good morning from District 11. As I reported last fall we had experienced a substantial decrease in our operating contributions as we cleared an outstanding financial obligation to South Central Montana Inter-group. I am pleased to report and wish to thank all of our District 11 groups for their generous support to rebuild our depleted operating budget and prudent reserve balances.

Over the past several months we have seen an increased interest in District 11 business meeting with at least 9-10 GSR’s present at our monthly meetings. All of our district positions are filled and volunteer support has been outstanding.

We are working hard to continue to build unity within the district and the question has been posed to the groups “What would they like to see from there district representatives” as of this date the suggestions include a “Unity Workshop” with participation and speakers from the local groups, additionally it was recommended that the district conduct an inventory to better understand and serve the AA community.

Our local groups are all doing well with many reporting increased attendance such that meeting times and frequency have been extended to accommodate the need.

Meetings are being conducted at the local jail and correctional facilities as well as the psych center on a regular basis. Ted A. has been elected to fulfill the unexpired Corrections Chair position vacated by Doug M., who stepped down for personal reasons late last year.

A special thanks to Donna H. and the PI/CPC committee for their hard work and dedication to get PI activities going again in Billings. PSA's, are out at the local television stations as well as meeting schedules placed at local hotels and motels. Regrettably, Donna has had to step down due to health reasons. She is doing fine and recovering well. We wish to thank her for her leadership and wish her a speedy recovery. Jeff W. has been recently elected to fill the unexpired term and is moving forward with the activities previously started by the committee participants.

It is evident that the district is experiencing some growth opportunities and challenges but we are mindful of our responsibility to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Respectfully submitted,

Colby D.
DCM, District 11

District 12

Greetings Area 40,

My name is Nick D. and I am an Alcoholic, and serve as the DCM for District 12.

District 12 boundaries are Laurel to the East, Big Timber to the West, Harlo and Broadview to the North and the Wyoming boarder to the South. We have eleven groups that makeup District 12.

- *Absarokee Group, Absarokee
- *Bridger Group, This new group that has just started, and meets on Tuesday at 7: pm
- *Clarks Fork Group, Fromberg
- *Harlowton Group, Harlowton
- *Hays Group, Absarokee
- *Joliet Group, Joliet
- *Laurel Home Group, Laurel . Laurel also has a new Women's meeting on Thursday's at 6:PM
- *No Name Group, Columbus
- *Now Group, Big Timber
- *Rock Creek Group, Red Lodge
- *Stillwater Group, Columbus.

Of these eleven groups, five are actively participating in District 12. There are thirty-three meetings held weekly in District 12. Attendance remains strong and is well supported by newcomers as well as our many old-timers. District 12 is still well funded by our groups even in these difficult times.

There have been some changes around our District; we have moved our District meetings to The Laurel Home Group. We were holding our District meetings on the third Sunday of the odd months, now we are holding our meeting the third Sunday every month at 4: pm, it is a lot less confusing and our meetings are better attended.

District 12 holds two events each year the first is the Mid Winter Social, it was held on Feb. 20. We had karaoke, good food, good fun and fellowship. We also had a silent auction that was well supported. We would like to thank Melinda and Curt W. from Bozeman for sharing their experience, strength, hope and the solution with us. We had a real good turnout, thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event a success, also to all those who attended. The second event for us is Firemen's Point Campout on the world-famous Stillwater River. It will be held on Aug. 20 thru 22. We will have a potluck followed by a campfire speaker meeting both Friday and Saturday. Saturday we will also enjoy Carol B. and the Delegates Report. Please come join us for rafting, food, fun, fishing and fellowship. There are flyers available on the table and soon on the Area 40 Web Site aa-montana.org.

We are grateful to each and every one of you who are willing to give up a weekend of your busy life's to suit up and show up to help Area 40 take care of the business of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. District 12 would like to enthusiastically suggest that you ask yourself two questions when considering how you vote on the many important issues that Area 40 will consider this weekend.

How does it affect Alcoholic Anonymous as whole, and will it help us carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic. Bill W. words still ring as true today as when he wrote," that the good is the enemy of the best"

In closing, I would like to thank District 12 and Area 40 for the privilege of allowing me to serve in this rotation, as I owe everything to you, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, strong sponsorship, and the grace of GOD!

In love and service,
Nick D.
DCM District 12

District 21

On March 21, 2010, I was elected DCM for District 21. This was the first District meeting in some time. We are currently in the process of organizing our district which consists of: Culbertson, Glasgow, Plentywood, Poplar, and Wolf Point.

We are working on an electronic newsletter to better inform our District of events and to disseminate information of concern.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura S., DCM District 21

District 23

Perpetual Regards from the Sunrise District:

I'm Mike M. and I am an alcoholic. The past seven months have seen the number of the District's groups continue to remain stable. There are four (4): The Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group; the Life Again Group in Glendive; and in Sidney, the Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Groups.

The Savage group remains small but steady. Many people are traveling from the surrounding area to support that group and read from the Big Book every Wednesday.

Glendive meetings are three days a week.

Between the two (2) Sidney groups, meetings are held four (4) days of the week. Attendance is steady to growing. In October, The Welcome Home Group added an Open Meeting on Saturday at 7pm and most recently changed the meeting time on the Sunday 8pm Open Meeting to 7 pm. The Monday Noon Group features a luncheon, prepared by J. Scott W., on the last Monday of the month. If in Sidney on that day, stop on by for a meeting plus lunch on Scott.

Since the last assembly we have held two (2) District Meetings and two (2) Fellowship Parties, The Parties were held on Halloween and New Years Eve. These Fellowships, again, featured good food, heartfelt words from all during the Open Meeting portion. By golly, we even had fun. During the Halloween Party, people were amazed to see Mrs. Doubtfire there. To this day, I continue to get comments on how good I looked in a wig, dress and related accessories.

Hoping to draw attendance to our District Meetings, one was held in conjunction with the Halloween Fellowship and one, to discuss the Area Assembly and other District matters, was held as a Potluck Meeting prior to the Welcome Home Groups Saturday 7pm Open Meeting. Attendees did show up, but alas, more were hoped for. For upcoming events: a District Meeting and Picnic is scheduled for June 5th at one of the local Sidney area parks. Stay tuned for details.

The Lower Yellowstone Sober Fest is scheduled to be held August 20, 21 and 22nd at the Lion's Youth Camp in Makoshika State Park. Speakers and events are being planned. Come on over for this annual event. You won't be disappointed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Yours In Fellowship and Recovery
Michael M.
DCM-Dist 23

District 31

We have had two district meetings this year. Jim G our DCM had to relinquish his position due to personal and family matters. We wish the best for their family now relocated in another state. Thanks to the We Care Group of Miles City, and other volunteers, our second District meeting went well with alarming success. We were honored to have 2 AA and 2 Al-Anon speakers for a mini workshop. Scott W. came to share and reaffirm our support for regional assembly. This will be done for whatever is needed. Two members are prepared to lay down their life if necessary.

Our District has six active groups with GSR representation. They are Colstrip, Forsythe, Jordan, and several in Miles City. Areas not represented as yet include Baker, Broadus, and E_____, though wildcat meetings do exist at times.

Yours, Neil T.

District 41

Hi, I'm Lee, Alcoholic and DCM 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, right here--Lewistown, MT. The District focus over the past six months has begun with GSR and District Chair participation. Since the end of last year we have held three GSR "schools". The one, just last week included a dozen interested in "freely giving back". A number of which are here this weekend. One important practice we have been incorporating is using the Traditions in all of our "autonomous" group's affairs. I have come to a new awareness of what my job entails. If the Traditions are the boots the GSRs use to 'trudge' through their group's 'happy' progress then my job becomes to help keep those boots clean and polished. Kind of like a shoe shine person, but just a little more involved. A few groups have accomplished group inventories and others are curious about the process.

The interest in group participation to represent and unify our District is growing. With some 18 registered groups and 2 more new ones that have started in the last couple of months, and a half dozen meetings that include new Step studies, Tradition studies, CD speaker and Big Book Story studies, there are a lot of new formats carrying the message. We have, in an average month, some 270 meetings in District 41. Some of our current growth is attributed to our cooperation with the professional communities throughout. There is an ongoing renewal in AA interest. Most recently, re-kindling a

relationship with a local treatment / corrections facility who are asking the questions what AA can and cannot do when the hands of their clients and rehabilitators reach out.

While certain workshops, listening sessions, pre-assemblies and teleconferences have not enjoyed the standing-room-only crowds (that those of us dedicated to service work would anticipate) the emphasis has been on Recovery. Just this increase in participation requests Unity and Service by default.

We've been getting out into Area 40 and participating in events like the Bozeman Roundup and speaker events like the "Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm"—collecting "spiritual information" to prepare for hosting our upcoming, next Spring, Roundup, May 13-15, 2011, and our April 17th Annual 12 Step/Big Book Study and potentially upcoming Special Forum.

We are getting things together for a spectacular summer of picnics and camping fun with many plans underway for the annual Founder's Day Picnic, and Unity Camp Out, as well as, bi-weekly barbeques.

We sent me to participate in the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Dubuque, IA.

While there, participation included a listening session / workshop on Newsletters. It was rewarding to host this event, as I felt obligated to do some research on the subject. I would say I feel funny bragging about *our* Area newsletter, the Triangle, but I'd be lying. I may be slightly biased, but from the results that I compared and contrasted Area 40 easily has the *best rag in the Region*. Something that other Areas within the Region saw parts and production practices in which to emulate. These parts and practices are easily identified as good craftsmanship built around a goal to strengthen our Spiritual Unity.

As our relationships within the fellowship grow, I like to explain the phenomena with the phrase: our ever-growing 'home group'. I certainly feel that way about Area Assembly. I look forward to this weekend and working with each of you in keeping our traditions, morals and basically Alcoholics Anonymous alive and well in Montana.

It is always great to see new faces and rekindle with the ever strengthening ongoing friendships here.

Thanks to everyone here for including our District and allowing us 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 everyone. My name is Gerry and I am an alcoholic from Shelby MT and DCM for district 42.

We are still holding meetings in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cutbank, Shelby, and Valier. We also take meetings into the CCA prison, otherwise known as Crossroads Corrections of America, on Sunday evenings. Our meeting schedules are on the Area 40 website, as well as contact names and numbers.

District meetings are held every third Sunday at the Marias Medical Center at 3 PM.

The Valier group will hold the lake Francis Round Up the week end of July 30th- Aug 1st. You all are invited for a great time, good food and fellowship.

The Cutbank group now has a meeting on Wed. evening as well as Monday and Fridays. Augusta is starting a new meeting on Fridays.

We always enjoy visitors, so stop in and see us if you get up north.

Yours in Service,

Gerry L.

District 51

Hi, my name is BilliJo D; I am an alcoholic. A gift of God is the fact I have been sober since July 23, 1989. It is my honor & pleasure to serve AREA 40 as District 51 District Committee Member.

I live in the best District in the Area! We have grown to twelve (12) groups and thirty (30) meetings. Every week there are four (4) meetings in Malta, one (1) in Dodson, one (1) in Ft Belknap, one (1) in Chinook, twenty-two (22) in Havre, and one (1) in Box Elder. Attendance varies from two (2) regulars, in small towns like Box Elder and Chinook, and up to twenty-five (25) at the 3rd Step or Fireside. Road trips around the District are encouraged!

More exciting that is the number of meetings and availability of meetings is the number of newcomers coming in our doors. Monthly and subsequent monthly anniversaries are the norm lately.

Our Jail Meeting has been a regular Sunday night fixture in the District for well-over ten years with very few of the incarcerated folks joining us in the rooms afterward. Lately, we see several former residents of county hospitality hanging out with us in meetings. May 16th we will have a Corrections Playshop – that is the same day as our District meeting and monthly pot-luck & Speaker's Meeting.

Of course, our groups with few members struggle to pay the rent, let alone contribute to District, Area, and GSO. And on that note, there are two members of Box Elder Group and they would like to ask the AREA if any group has a literature rack for sale or to give away. If so, please see me this weekend and I will share the contact information.

The annual Havre Mini-Conference was a smashing success! Numbers were up, prices were down, and the speakers were outstanding. We will hold it again on September 24-26. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the most affordable round-up on the Area.

Other fun stuff include any excuse to party. Fort Belknap hosted a speaker and pot-luck feed in November – in time for much thanks-giving. The event was well-supported by the District and there were newcomers from Blaine County. We had Anniversary Bash or Christmas Party every weekend in December; our well-attended annual New Year's Eve party in Havre, hosted by the Fireside Group, and Malta reactivated their New Years Eve party as well. Valentine's Day weekend there was the annual Mexican pot-luck and party hosted by the 12X12 group.

Monthly we have a pot-luck/speaker meeting the third weekend of nine (9) months of the year. Fireside hosts a speaker and cake birthday night the last Friday of the month. We are gearing up for the four campouts this summer.

We have had some turn-over on the District Committee. People were there to step up and shoulder the responsibility for the open positions. Soon we will have another turn-over. I have accepted a voluntary, temporary position in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. I will leave this great Area and the best District in the area in July. Yes, five (5) months before the end of this rotation; I leave District 51 in capable hands. With sadness, I bid you all good-bye for now.

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

"District 61 is thriving with 36 groups and 103 meetings a week in Helena, East Helena, White Sulphur Springs, Townsend, Elliston, Boulder, and Lincoln. Our Workshops committee cooperated with Districts 71 & 72 to hold a Pre-Assembly in March at Boulder Hot Springs. This provided a forum to ask questions

of our Area servants about items under discussion at the upcoming Assembly. On April 17, we hosted a group of community corrections and treatment professionals in a very productive panel session. All involved felt it was a helpful interchange, with the professionals learning more about what AA does and does not do and the AA s learning more about the perspectives of the professionals. Jeff M. cooked and served a wonderful meal to accompany the session. This workshop was a joint effort of the PI, Workshops, Corrections and Treatment groups. We very much look forward to hosting our delegate Carole at the Grapefest, our annual celebration of the Grapevine headed up by the Grapevine Committee on June 19 at the Wilson House. Our treatment committee brings meetings into MCDC, Elkhorn Treatment Center, Boyd Andrews and WATCH. Our corrections committee brings meetings into Riverside, Lewis and Clark County Detention Center, and the Townsend and Boulder Jails. We have an active Bridging the Gap coordinator to help make contacts for people getting out of facilities, as well. Our Archives committee has been working diligently to record the reminiscences of old-timers and has interviewed several already, as well as collecting all archival materials from the district and group histories. The PI committee puts out meetings schedules and literature to the community on a regular basis. We are truly fortunate to be a part of the larger service structure that stretches into a circle of love and service around the world. Thanks for letting me serve. Respectfully submitted, Anne B, Alternate DCM”

District 71

My name is Peg H. and I am a grateful alcoholic. There are five people here today representing District 71, which is located in Southwestern Montana. Our district consists of towns ranging from Butte/Anaconda to Dillon and back up to Drummond. We have an active district that has twenty three A.A. meetings a week held. Typically, there are 10-15 people in attendance at our district meetings. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at St Anne’s school in Butte at 7:10 p.m. As far as service work goes we are blessed to be able to represent A.A. in schools, treatment facilities, M.S.P., S.T.A.R.T. & W.A.T.C.H. programs, Warm Sprigs meetings (civil/forensic) M.C.D.C., C.C.S., Montana Youth Challenge program at Western Montana College, and the Butte jail. The times and places of these meetings our located on the Area 40 website. I and Kevin M. were able to partake in the Area 40 teleconference. We thought it was informative and an efficient way to communicate via the phone and we are looking forward to taking part in the next one. Lastly, we participated along with Districts 61 & 72 during the pre-assembly at Boulder Hot Springs. It was a good time and helped prepare us for the assembly. Thank you and we’ll see you next time in Lewistown!!!
In love & service,
Peg H. – District 71 ALT. DCM

District 72

Jennifer W, alcoholic, District 72 DCM. We have been keeping busy in District 72 since Fall Assembly.

We currently have between 41 and 55 groups – we are in the process of sorting out which groups are still active, and which have gone by the wayside. We have approximately 84 active meetings at this time in District 72.

Since Fall Assembly we have had quite a few events to keep us involved:

- HOW Group had a Speaker event in October, with Lee G. as the speaker,
- Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years marathon meetings and parties, as well as our annual Valentine's Day workshop, dinner and dance.
- 7th Tradition workshop which Linda B. came for, thanks, Linda.
- The Primary Purpose Group brought Dr. Burns B for an all day workshop on alcoholism that was very well attended, and the CPC committee had professional guests attend as well as our AA members.
- We hosted the Roundup, which was well attended, but in a smaller venue than would have been ideal.

We sent me to the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Dubuque to listen up and report back, and we participated in the Preassembly a couple of weeks ago in Boulder.

We have been talking about reviewing our District bylaws this year to see if they are still a good fit, or if they need updating.

We had considerable discussion about what to do with the funds left over from the Roundup, and finally decided to do 60/30/10 split to disperse them to GSO, Area and District.

Also, we have been talking about the upcoming regional special topic forum in Rapid City SD on Carrying the Message to the Native Community and how we can best participate in that, and learn how to more effectively carry the message to the still suffering Native alcoholic. We'll be sending me, I'm hoping that some of our Native members can come along too; I think the meeting in the car could be really useful.

We are looking forward to our District 72 birthday party in September, our district events chair and archives chair are organizing that.

District 81

Greetings from District 81 in the heart of the Montana Rockies and Western Montana. My name is Dan and I'm an alcoholic. It is an honor to be here at yet another assembly with all you wonderful people.

District 81 has fifty-two groups in seventeen communities with nearly one hundred meetings a week. There are nineteen groups in Missoula and thirty-three groups in Alberton, Arlee, Clinton, Frenchtown, Haugen, Hot Springs, Noxon, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Ronan, Seeley Lake, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior and Thompson Falls. Our District Business meetings are well attended and we have an enthusiastic group of committee chairs and GSR's. I'd like to thank all of you from District 81 who are here this weekend.

District 81 meeting attendance has been outstanding, and many groups have moved to accommodate larger attendances. There is a larger than ever group of young people attending meetings and it has been very good for our fellowship. Meetings are healthy and solid, and the traditions are at work on a large scale. The newcomer is welcomed and encouraged just as our singleness of purpose suggests. The fellowship gathers often outside of meetings also; with activities like bowling, softball and other activities. Yes, we insist on having fun!

Special Events are a key focus of our activities in District 81 and since last fall we've had a lot of fun. We had our 9th Annual Halloween Bash in Lolo and it was a great success. The Silvertip and Sunrise Groups had a Gratitude Dinner in November that was an awesome event. The Sunday Speaker's Meeting hosted Thanksgiving Dinner and The Missoula Group hosted Christmas Dinner. Then the High Noon Group hosted marathon meetings from 6:00pm on New Year's Eve through 6:00pm on New Year's Day. The Chapter Nine Group had a great pizza party in January and District 10 Al-Anon had a Valentine's Day Party that was a potluck, AA and Al-Anon speaker event. They did this in appreciation of the support and co-operation during the 2009 Spring Roundup in Missoula. Our Grapevine Chair, Erin, had a Grapevine Writing Party on Feb 28th that was a lot of fun. Upcoming events include an AA Basketball Tournament on April 17th and our Annual Founder's Day Event on June 12th. Carole B. will be giving her Delegate's Report and then we will have a CPC workshop and presentation, followed by a picnic at Franklin Park, with a traditional young people/old-timers softball game. The old timers won last year, so a grudge match is in the works.

I attended the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa the first weekend in March and enjoyed that experience very much. There were about ten of us there from Area 40 and I had an awesome time there with all of you. I'm sure the topics that sparked the liveliest discussion there will probably do the same here. Go figure! There seemed to be a large group of the attendees that believe that we should stop spending on things like PSA's, new literature and literature changes. The same people kept repeating the same theme over and over. It seems to me that it makes more sense to increase contributions so we can continue to reach out to the newcomer and be current with our message. I also think it is important that we don't let the Grapevine disappear. I think it is very important to newcomers. Drinking almost cost me everything, so it seems like a small sacrifice to contribute a bit more. That's what I came away from the conference with.

I'd like to thank Libbie, Eric and all of you from Area 40 who took part in the Pre-Assembly in Elmo on March 28th. It's always good to run through the agenda to get a sense of what people are thinking. I think pre-assemblies are a very valuable tool.

We in Missoula had such a wonderful experience with the 2009 Spring Roundup that we thought it would be a great idea to put in a bid to host the 2012 WCRAASC in Montana in March. I'm sure that those of you who attended that roundup believe that District 81 and Missoula has what it takes to do a good job organizing an event like this. We've never been host to this conference before and would be honored and privileged to have the opportunity to have that experience. We have an abundance of enthusiastic people who are ready to take this on. Thank you in advance for your support.

I've really enjoyed attending these assemblies and would like to show my gratitude to all of you by saying thank you for helping to show me the importance of being of service to the fellowship by being involved.

It's a pleasure to be of service to you,

Dan

District 91

Greetings to all from District 91 in the northwest corner of Montana. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this weekend because of a prior commitment. But I know our District is in good hands with all our GSR's and Sam B., the alternate DCM in attendance. Thanks Sam for your service.

Our district covers the Tobacco and Flathead Valleys from Eureka to Elmo. Most of our district committee chairs are filled and we are awakening from the winter with lots of enthusiasm. 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.

Once again our District voted to assist groups with financial need to send GSR's to Assembly this spring. Our goal is to get all groups represented and make that happen if at all possible. 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.

We had a great District Inventory on February 6. We'll be working on implementing some changes that came out of that. Thanks to Terry S for being our moderator and to Tim H. for helping as well. The Into Action weekend was a great success on February 19-20. The speakers and workshops gave us all a lot to think about. This event is held annually in February. Come join us next year.

I represented our district at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Dubuque IA last month. I had a great time with my travel mate Kim S. There was a lot of lively discussion and a lot information sharing. It was a great opportunity to fellowship with our trustee, our delegates, and many of our region's members. I saw a t-shirt at the airport as we were leaving that said, "What happens in the cornfield stays in the cornfield." As I grew up in Iowa, I found it quite amusing. I was also glad that I no longer practice "cornfield" indiscretions and had done nothing that needed to be left in one. Now that's progress.

Our district along with 81 and 93 hosted a pre-assembly the last weekend in March. It took place at the Chief Cliff meeting room in Elmo. I know that I had a great time and that I ate well. Thanks to all who made the long trip over for us.

Our Delegate, Carole B., will give her conference report to our district May 23. Her report will undoubtedly be informative and thought provoking and will most likely be preceded with some kind of food. Our regular district meeting will follow immediately after. There are several campouts in the planning stages, come check one out this summer. We are also in the early planning stages for the Spring Round Up 2012 which is chaired by Mary M.

In closing, I must remember as I cast my votes that my only job here is to help the still suffering alcoholic. AA and I need to be there when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. Thanks to all of you for being there with me.

In service,

Libbie L., DCM District 91

District 93

Hello everyone, my name is Eric and I am an alcoholic. It's been a busy week and a half so it was nice to take a drive out to the Corvallis area for the Spring Fling Saturday night the 17th to eat, fellowship, and watch our amazingly talented people perform. There were 30 to 40 attendees and about six different performances followed by a candlelight meeting. In other news we had some more great attendance at the Spring Assembly. Twelve voting members were present and the Attitude of Gratitude, Conscious Contact, Darby/Conner, Experience Strength & Hope, Florence, Hamilton, Lolo, Its A New Day, Stevensville, Talk Story, and Working With Others Groups were represented. I will soon slowly type

a report on this so if you would like I can visit and do a short presentation. I would like to thank all who attended and took the time to get informed and be of service. And while I am thanking people I would like to thank the Policy & Procedures Committee for their work it getting all that together. My hope is that this will simplify things and remember these are "guidelines" and there is a lot to digest. This week we will begin to plan our campout at the end of June so if you have any suggestions or want to help feel free to contact me. Yours In Service, Eric D.

Area Archives- Gerry R.

Good morning everyone, my name is Gerry and I am an alcoholic. I also have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Archivist. As always, a warm welcome to old friends, new friends and soon-to-be friends. Well, here we go again folks, making history. I know many of you might not look at it that way however, your butt being in that chair makes you part of this historical event. Please know that your willingness to be here this weekend, in service to Alcoholics Anonymous and the still suffering alcoholic, is just as important as the willingness of any of those who have come here before you. Remember this as we go through this weekend - especially this evening, when, after sitting there all day, you can choose tell yourself either "man my butt is tired," or, "I'm making history here," - I've learned it's all about perspective. Thank you for being here, and thank you for your willingness to serve.

When last we met, I was given the honor of carrying, to California, Area 40's bid to host the 15th Annual National AA Archives Workshop in 2011. I'm happy to report this morning that your bid was successful, and that Area 40 will, in fact, be hosting this event. I will be giving a separate report on the scope and status of planning for this event later in the weekend. For now, many of you have heard me say this, but it bears repeating – They are as excited about coming up here as we are about having them. This promises to be a very unique event for everyone involved.

2010, thus far, has been, and will continue to be, a busy year for the Area 40 Archives. After last fall's assembly, invitations have rolled in like you wouldn't believe. I've already traveled to Billings last month with a display for their Founder's Day celebration. District 11 did a fantastic job with both the event and with hosting me and a couple of sponsees. Colby, that's one big house and one great coffee maker. Many thanks, to you to and District 11 for your gracious hospitality. Kenny, Mark and I all had a memorable time.

Counting that display and the one today, it is possible that I will have displays at ten different events this year alone. That is amazing! AA history in Area 40 is alive and well.

One of these events is a bit out of the ordinary and warrants some explanation at this time as I will be presenting a floor action on it at the end of this Assembly. In 2007, I set up an archival display at the 17th Annual Native American Indians in AA (NAI-AA) Convention which was held in Billings. This is an AA event that travels each year, and its 20th Annual celebration will be held this year in Las Vegas Nevada, September 9-12. The Chair of this event liked my display at the Billings convention and has asked if I would be able to bring it to the Las Vegas event, at their expense. I told him that I was willing, however, the material belonged to the Area 40 fellowship and, as such, I would need to get their permission to travel with it to any event held outside of Area 40. If I do go, I would be driving, and the only material, which is not easily replaceable, that I would take on this trip, would be the Area's collection of first edition books. Everything else can be cranked off of my computer or ordered from GSO. If anyone has any questions about the event or the display, please catch me at some point prior to my presenting the floor action at the end of this Assembly.

I have purchased quite a bit of storage and conservation materials over the course of the last six months, much of it related to the digitizing and storage of our collection of taped archival interviews and other recordings. Work on this project is slow but progress is being made.

I have a new helper at the repository, Kenny R. from the Last Chance Recovery Group in Helena. If anyone else is interested in coming to, or helping with the repository, or any of the upcoming events, please get me your contact information this weekend.

What a joy to be sober today. What a privilege to be of service. Thank you for both.

In Service,
Gerry R.

Area Advisor-

Greetings, Area 40. It is good to be in Lewistown once again. It seems like only a short time since our fall assembly.

Since last fall, I have had the privilege of participating in three sharing sessions on the 7th Tradition: one in Victor, one in Kalispell and one in Missoula. There were excellent discussions at each of these sessions. Thanks to everyone who participated in them. I sent my brief notes on these sessions to Carole and Linda.

I have also participated in the Area 40 conference calls. These seem like a useful way to keep all of the Area committee informed.

I will endeavor to keep an eye on the coffee and make sure we don't run out.

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W
Area 40 Advisor

Webmaster –Alex M.

Website Redesign:

Currently I am working on a total redesign of the website. I want to add more functionality and make it easier for users to find meetings, which currently is the number one use of the site. When I started the redesign I had set a tentative deadline of December 31st 2009. I am currently about 75% finished and a few database technical issues are holding me back from being done. You can, however, come by and take a look at the pages I have finished and are ready for production.

Thanks:

Tim M. will be giving an update for the 888 number project and our meeting listings, but I would like to, at this time, thank Sandy A., Scott W., David V., Scott J, Brooke M., Mike B., Rolf S., Barb D. Kelly M., Mike R., Libbie L., John V. and Brandon M. for keeping the online meeting schedules up to date.

I would also like to thank Lisa H., Nick D., Fred F., Scott W., Scott J., Michael B., Betty P., Sarah S., Jami S., Ruth P., Bob M., and Lynnette L. for keeping the 888 volunteer list up to date.

Flyers:

If your District or Home Group is having an AA related function, please send me the flyer so I can include it in the Calendar of Events.

Yours in service,
Alex M.

Area 40 Webmaster.

Workshop – Scott W. “Practicing AA’s Principles- The pathway To Unity”

Lunch

Workshop- Mark S. “Practicing AA’s Principles- The Pathway to Unity”

Delegate’s Report

My name is Carole B. and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor of serving as your delegate. This has by far is the most difficult report I have had to write. I firmly believe that Alcoholics Anonymous is currently saving my life by serving you.

On February 22, 2010, my big sister, friend, and biggest fan was killed by a drunk driver who ran a red light at 70 miles per hour. She had just come from Office Depot where she purchased a printer cartridge so I could finish printing the General Service Conference background materials. You have walked me through all of it. You have encouraged me to go on even when I really don’t want to. Many of you have asked what you can do. Well, for me, you’ve been there. However, I think there is a bit more we all can do.

What we can do is continue to serve Alcoholics Anonymous; continue to reach out to newcomers, to those yet to come, to those about to leave, and the professional community including corrections professionals. We’ve yet to scratch the surface in helping those who desperately need AA.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do and what you will continue to do to help alcoholics like me. In particular, I would like recognize those who participated in the panel discussion on April 9 at the Nexus Treatment Center. I suspect there are a few suffering alcoholics at the center.

My activities from the Fall Assembly until now have been:

- October 2009
- Fall Roundup in Bozeman
- Delegate’s report/Finance listening session in District 51

- December 2009
- Finance Listening session in District 11

- January 2010
- General Service Board Weekend

- March 2010
- West Central Region AA Service Conference
- Pre-Assembly in Elmo

- April 2010
- Pre-Assembly in Billings

I got to attend the General Service Board Weekend because I am the chair of the Conference Committee on Public Information. This was a fantastic experience. I believe we are in very capable hands with our Board. The Board frequently asks the question "What does the Fellowship think?" when making the tough decisions and finical considerations.

Also, while during the Board weekend, I heard about the good work of one of our own. Prior to the earthquake in Haiti, a sober member from Bozeman was working for the Catholic Relief Services. She saw alcoholism affecting the lives of the people in Haiti and she needed a meeting. Having trouble finding a meeting, she got connected to Ken C., the South Florida Delegate. Ken called the Southeast Regional Trustee, El N. who put him in contact with Trustee-at-large U.S., Don M. They were at the October Board weekend and the International Committee had just finished talking about how to help the still suffering alcoholics in Haiti.

It turned out that there was a French speaking meeting in Port-au-Prince but most Haitians speak Creole. A few pamphlets are now being translated into Creole and I hope to hear at the General Service Conference, that AA has begun to reach the still suffering alcoholics of Haiti.

I bring this up because it is a classic example of reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic. This one of many reasons why need a General Service Office.

The West Central Region will host an Additional Forum in November with a theme of Singleness of Purpose: Carrying our Message to the Native American. While at the Pre-Assembly in Elmo, a sober member of the Elmo Group who happens to be Native American was offended by Native Americans being singled out. I don't know if the theme is helpful or divisive.

The Big Book says "the Realm of the Spirit is broad, roomy, all inclusive, never exclusive or forbidding to those who earnestly seek." How does singling out an ethnic group fit with the First Tradition? How do remarks made about other groups affect unity? Do terms we use such as sponsorship lines cause divisions within AA? Am I making every effort to assure when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help that the hand of AA is there?

I bring this up because based on my recent personal experience, it is very clear to me that we can do more.

The International Convention is July 1-4 in San Antonio, TX. I was honored to submit 13 names to chair or speak at a meeting. Nine of those people have been asked to participate. Ken B., our Trustee, asked me to participate in the West Central Region meeting.

Speaking of Ken, he continues to conduct conference calls (note to self – next call is Sunday night). The calls are very helpful in discussing the happenings at GSO and at the General Service Board level.

On Thursday, I will fly to New York for a couple days of playing and to attend the General Service Conference. Sharon, our Triangle Editor, has made labels for you to take if you wish to send me a card or letter while I'm there.

Our workshop at this year's conference will be taking the inventory of the General Service Conference. Inventory has been very necessary for my spiritual growth and I suspect it is also true of the Conference. It is probably time for Area 40 to take its inventory again since the last time was in the early 90s. District

91 just completed their inventory as did the Traditions group in Billings. Perhaps your District or Group can disclose damaged or unsalable goods to be rid of promptly.

For the Area, maybe it's time to look at the number of Assemblies we conduct, their location, how we utilize our Delegate and Area Committee Chairs? What more can we do to help the still suffering alcoholic?

When I return, I will commence providing my reports to you as follows:

May 16 – Spring Roundup
May 22 – District 41
May 23 – District 91
June 12 – District 81
June 13 – District 72
June 19 – District 61
July 17 – District 71
July 18 – Districts 42 and 51 (jointly)
August 21 – District 31 (noon)
August 21 - District 12 (5 pm)

Thanks to the DCMs for being flexible and working together to allow for multiple reports in a weekend.

In the Fall, you will be electing your trusted servants for the next rotation. I have secured my position as Area Advisor for the next rotation. If you have an interest in serving AA in such capacity, talk to the person currently holding the position, pray, put your name forward, and see what happens.

It is a huge honor serving you and I love all of you.

Thanks for letting me serve. Carole B.

Pink Can Report

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
	beginning balance			1795
1/12/2009	deposit		360.32	2155.32
1/23/2009	deposit		129.99	2285.31
1/28/2009	Harland check order	16.85		2268.46
3/18/2009	deposit		171.91	2440.37
4/1/2009	deposit		76.66	2517.03
4/3/2009	deposit		1364.93	3881.96
4/16/2009	deposit		403.7	4285.66
4/16/2009	check to AAWS	115.94		4169.72
	credit card order			
	capital one AAWS			
4/17/2009	order	490.6		3679.12
4/30/2009	AAWS order to	426.92		3252.2
	Watch East			

30-Apr	AAWS balance due	26.11	3226.09
7/1/2009	World Service order to	389.33	2836.76
Yellowstone	county jail Billings		
7/9/2009	deposit	368.3	3205.06
9/17/2009	deposit	984.48	4189.54
10/6/2009	check to AAWS	900	3289.54
11/16/2009	deposit	1034.2	4323.74
	Missoula Women's		
11/21/2009	Group	5.11	4328.85
11/21/2009	Early Birds Group	70.04	4398.89
11/21/2009	check to AAWS	1000	3398.89
12/3/2009	check to AAWS	1000.00	2398.39
1/31/2010	deposit	1985.5	43489.39
2/12/2010	check to AAWS	2000	23489.39
2/12/2010	deposit	81.36	2465.75
4/8/2010	deposit	846.67	3312.42
4/8/2010	check to AAWS	2000	1312.42

Area Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policies

A Review Work Book

The committee reviewed the work book and found it satisfactory.

No discussion

B Review report from the trustee's committee on the feasibility of developing a format (e.g. Power Point presentation) for a self guided tour of GSO's A.A. Archives to convey the experience of visiting G.S.O. and the Archives, for those who have not yet visited the General Service Office in New York.

The Committee felt this was a good idea.

Discussion:

Mark: How much is this Power Point presentation expected to cost?

A: I am unsure, but the one developed in 2003 was \$4,200.

Area 40 Agenda Item for Archives

- 1 Consider in light of the principle of self support, funding the Area Archivist to attend the 2010 National Archives Workshop in Macon GA, September 23-26, 2010 for the purpose

Accepting seed money for the 2011 event, as well as the workshop banner, for a total Expense not to exceed \$1500.00. Item passed the Assembly

The Committee recommended this item. Providing that the event is self supporting, and after passing seed money on to the next workshop site, that Area 40 be reimbursed for the Travel expense of \$1500 with monies from this event.

Discussion:

Linda B: could we get some to preregister in order to produce some seed money for this?

A: I was working towards that.

Rich K: I am in support of this motion with one caveat, that this travel be considered as part of the cost of having this workshop. The event will be self supporting.

Tim H: All monies above \$1500. seed money for the next workshop site goes into Area 40 coffers.

Vote: 91 For; 13 Opposed

Area 40 Agenda Items for Structure and Policies

2 Review and report on the status of hosting the 2011 National AA Archives Workshop

(No back ground – the committee is being asked to provide a status report to our Assembly)

The committee did this and asked the Archivist to give the status report to the Assembly

Which he did. Things are coming into place for the Workshop.

Discussion: (reverts back to Area 40 Agenda item for Archives) Cory: I thought that we heard the last time that someone will pick up the banner and the seed money and that we don't need to send anyone.

Ken: When I came here I didn't know anything about Archives, maybe the new people in AA don't have the same reverence for Archives as there used to be. Maybe we should spend the money around here.

Carleen: I have been given good advice, never miss an opportunity to "sell" your product. We need to "sell" the people at the 2011 workshop on coming to Montana, the Archivist needs to go to accomplish this so the event will be self supporting.

Lori: I feel churlish saying all this and having to make a decision against funding his trip. I feel we should.

Andy: These are good reasons to go. We kinda put in the work and got the bid, now it might be a slap in the face for our Archivist not to show up to receive the banner and seed money. I think we could.

Nick D: I would feel better if the money would be earmarked to ABSOLUTELY be repaid to Area 40 for this trip.

I would like to make a friendly amendment to the committee's motion. That everything above the \$1500. seed money be put in Area 40's coffers.

Seconded.

The Archives committee accepts the friendly amendment.

Carla: If we don't make enough money how will we get reimbursed for the Archivist travel?

Tim H: Good question, there is no guarantee that we will make enough to cover both the seed money and be self supporting.

Gerry: I don't have any information about whether the proceeds are enough to defray costs. I have only heard of one workshop in the recent past that was not self supporting.

Vote: 74 For; 29 Opposed. (69 is a quorum) Motion with friendly amendment passed.

3 Consider forming an ad hoc committee to develop a qualifications section, similar to

That in the A.A. Service Manual, for each Area Service position, proposed qualifications to be considered at the Fall 2010 Area Assembly for inclusion in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures. Item passed the Assembly.

The Committee recommended this, and gave a list of names to the Area Chair for consideration.

No Discussion.

Vote: 89 For; 11 Opposed. No minority Opinion.

4 Consider eliminating the Lending Library (audio and video cassettes) currently

Maintained by the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair, depositing the tapes in the Area

40 Archives. The Committee recommended this. Item was passed by the Assembly.

Paul G: What is the benefit of having this library? Why are we keeping these books locked up? Maybe some groups can use them.

A: The committee thought that maybe the funds used for this library could be better used for other services and for getting stuff into the Archives.

Rich K: I don't think these materials are the proper materials for archives.

Gerry R: I wanted to keep some outmoded media as the Archives sometimes has requests for these materials.

Paula H: I wonder if it is appropriate for these outmoded media be stored in the Archives and converted to a newer media format.

Vote: 87 For; 12 Opposed (66 is quorum) motion passed. No minority opinion.

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums:

A. Review Progress Report from Trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

We reviewed the report and the committee was satisfied with the revisions to the pamphlet.

Discussion from Area 40 Committee:

The subcommittee met 4 times and felt the pamphlet could be strengthened. The fellowship has issued a call for submissions which will be accepted until June 15, 2010.

Clear emphasis of AA suggested 12 step recovery programs in both non narrative portions and in selected stories, as well as positive effects on alcoholics who have contact with the fellowship, both behind the walls and after release.

More stories that emphasis sponsorship, corrections correspondence and pre-release contact, also to represent the fellowship in gender ethnicity, culture and faiths. The fellowship is encouraged to supply feedback. Some outdated language like the groovy and an image of a guy rolling a cigarette taken out.

No discussion.

a. Review progress report from the trustees' Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents.

We reviewed the report and our committee was satisfied with the progress so far.

In our committee we discussed:

"Deciding to participate in Corrections 12 step work is an important individual decision. AA members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities and fully understand regulations prior to commencing such work."

Background being quite extensive, the committee has made adjustments in pamphlets, AA guidelines and workbook to include wording that strongly urge the fellowship to be aware that they are still obliged to follow the rules of each institution they are involved with to share the message of AA.

If a member has a problem with signing a document that states they will follow all rules and regulations than they ought to not enter the institution and carry the message there. As this has become an issue of sorts and really not everywhere at this time it is something we do need to address and be prepared for in the future.

No discussion.

3. Consider the request to add 2 sentences to the pamphlet "Carrying the message into Correctional Facilities" regarding prior review of regulation and paperwork related to Twelve Step Corrections Work.

As a committee we thought it was a good idea. We discussed:

After the sentence on page 2 (“obey the rules of the facility you are visiting.”}

“Deciding to participate in Corrections 12 step work is an important individual decision. AA members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities and fully understand regulations prior to commencing such work.”

Discussion: Neil T.: What 2 sentences?

Mary then read the above sentences.

Neil T. We get this information in orientation to these facilities.

This is for a pamphlet.

SOA: For

- D. Consider request to add a phrase to the pamphlet “AA in Correctional Facilities” regarding the signing of volunteer agreements.**

We considered the request to add the phrase to AA in Correctional Facilities under Policy Meetings and it was the sense of our committee that it be included.

No discussion.

- E. Consider request to add 2 sentences to the pamphlet “A message to Correction Professionals” regarding communication between AA members and prison administrators about the specific regulations of individual facilities.**

Our committee considered the request to add the 2 sentences and it was the sense of the committee to add them.

No discussion.

SOA: For

- F. Review contents of the Kit and Corrections Workbook**

Our committee reviewed the contents and we were satisfied.

No discussion.

International Conventions- Regional Forums

- a. Discuss the upcoming International Convention**

No Background information.

Carole gave us some information on the convention.

No discussion.

- b. Review report from trustees’ Committee on the site selection process for the International Conventions.**

A history is given on the process and the general consensus is that a consistent timeline for selection of the city is suggested, increased communication about how the site is selected and offering more specifics on how the city is recommended and providing reasons why the site was selected.

We discussed the report and our committee felt satisfied with the Trustees' findings.

No discussion.

- c. **Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums and attract 1st time attendees.**

Our committee came up with several ways to encourage participation and attract 1st time attendees.

Developing community pride through rotation, service sponsorship, support other Forums and other service sponsorship events. Let AA members know they have voice and encourage to share.

No discussion.

Area 40 Agenda Items for International Conventions-Regional Forums

1. **Discuss status of the local forum request to the General Service Office (status report to Assembly)**

A report was read and submitted by Jewel lea G. and Scott W. and the proposal has been submitted to GSO and we are waiting for their answer in August of 2010. From there we can proceed.

2. **Consider District 11 and 81's bid to host the 2012 WCRAASC. Review and report timelines, planning, and implementation necessary during the rest of the rotation.**

Our committee read and reviewed the bids and discussed attributes of each bid and we all agreed that each site would make a perfect host for the WCRAASC therefore our committee was unanimously in favor letting the Assembly make the site decision.

We also felt that the Guidelines for the WCRAASC clearly state what the committee needs to do. The guidelines will be passed on to the next rotating delegate of Area 40 who will either be the chair or select a chairperson for this event. At this point according to the guidelines we are on track.

WCRAASC BIDS:

2012 West Central Regional AA Service Conference Committee Bid District 81

It would be an honor and a privilege for District 81 to host the 2012 West Central Regional Service Conference in Missoula. District 81 has been blossoming in service and has the active fellowship - required to enthusiastically support a successful conference.

- In April of 2009 we hosted a successful Spring Roundup with over 650 people in attendance. It was self-supporting, received great reviews, and was thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance.
- Missoula has not hosted a regional event, such as a service conference, and we would be honored to host our very first regional event.

- Missoula is home to an International Airport with service provided by Delta/Sky West, Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air and Allegiant Air. Complimentary shuttle service is available to and from hotels.
- The proposed conference hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn, has 22,000 square feet of conference space and a block of 120 rooms available for as low as \$89 per night.
- There are 10 hotels within walking distance of the conference facility with rooms available for as low as \$65 a night.
- There is a wide variety of restaurants within walking distance of the conference facility providing options for every budget and taste.
- Known as the “Garden City”, Missoula is one of Montana's most culturally diverse cities, with a beautiful landscape which will be sure to entertain all who care to venture outdoors. There is easy access to recreational areas for hiking or skiing, including riverfront trails and the historic “M” trail which overlooks the city.

WCRAASC 2010 Bid from District 11

District 11 appreciates your consideration of our proposal and we look forward to hosting this important Alcoholics Anonymous event in Billings.

There is a onetime set up fee of \$1500.00 for the conference room and additional breakout session rooms. The main conference room will be appropriately equipped with audio/video equipment. In addition, the facility has sufficient rooms for the breakout sessions. Should a weather event preclude normal attendance at the conference, the room set up fee has been confirmed with a minimum booking of 50 sleeping rooms for both Friday and Saturday nights.

Coffee is \$24.78 per gallon which includes the gratuity. The facility is willing to provide a buffet for meal functions.

An airport shuttle is available.

The Holiday Inn has successfully hosted large AA functions in the past.

Discussion:

Linda B.: remember other Areas are attending this event so where we hold it might matter to those traveling from far away.

Carole: Dist 11 should have plugged the skiing, hiking and shopping in their bid.

Margaret: Missoula has skiing and better scenery.

Tim: Billings has a good Harley Davidson Store but Missoula has one within walking distance of the motel.

Joe: Is there a basic set up fee in the Missoula facility?

Andrew: I don't know.

Scott: I served on the WCRAASC committee in the past. This is a regionally funded event; Area 40 is not financially responsible for this. We still need to be prudent about spending the money though.

Neil: There is a famous battlefield close to Billings, and there is fine fishing.

Tim: We all traveled to far regions of MN and NB and made it there with no problems. Missoula is close to Kalispell.

Connie: Has the WCRAASC been held in either of these cities before?

A: No.

Linda: Who hosts the Spring Round Up that year?

Scott W: 2012 Spring is in Kalispell, and Fall is Missoula

Sandy: The West Central Region (WCR) consists of Montana and states east of us.

Bud: We want visitors to see beauty not refineries and smog.

Carleen: Can someone talk about what Missoula thought about putting on both events in the same year?

Andrew: Missoula (Dist 81) thought about it and decided we could do it. The two events are very different. Missoula has never hosted a regional event, we have enthusiasm and a number of young people involved in service work so we could make it work no problem.

Vote: 60 for District 81 (Missoula) and 50 for District 11(Billings). Not a substantial unanimity.

We went directly to the hat to make the decision.

-District 11 (Billings) was chosen from the Hat to host the 2012 WCRAASC.

CPC/Trustees:

No report submitted.

CPC:

- A. Review contents of CPC Kit and Workbook. Reviewed.

No discussion

Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. Pacific Regional Trustee
 - 2. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee

No discussion

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

No discussion.

- C. Review slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc.

No discussion.

- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

No discussion.

No background information was available to the committee for A,B,C, and D above.

- E. Discuss a suggestion to clarify the language on page S65 in *The AA Service Manual* under the heading "Regional Trustee" regarding nominating a regional trustee candidate in the same year when nominating a trustee-at-large candidate.

No discussion.

Finance:

I want to thank Jennifer for the excellent note taking. There were 5 voting members present and 11 other AA members sitting in at the Finance committee. We met for both the breakout sessions for our discussion.

- A. Review input from the Fellowship gathered by the trustees' Finance Committee on the following:
 - 1. If we continue to use literature profits to partially 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?

Our committee came to the consensus 4-1 that we should strive to be self-supporting through our voluntary contributions; that we should strive for perfection, not must. We need to be careful in changing the status quo by requiring perfection or nothing. We must see where we have gotten off track and a new approach of being pro-active must be our individual responsibility. All members of AA shoulder this responsibility. We are always trying not to use literature profits, we talk about it, and we even make some progress. How do we keep an informed group conscience? It is by talking, sharing, and then taking action. We need to focus on how to increase contributions, so that literature profits would be a moot point. In 2009, there were voluntary contributions of approximately \$6,300,000. If each person would double what they contributed, we would be within \$5000 of meeting GSO expenses. Another way to not rely on literature profits is by utilizing the "Birthday Plan". We would then be self-supporting through our own contributions.

There was discussion about cutting expenses, from the bottom-up, as shown in our inverted triangle. All organizations in these economic times are dealing with cut-backs. Let's think about what is best for AA as a whole, the bigger picture. We need to reflect some more, give and take, and live within our means. Our budgets continue to grow and our contributions are not matching that. Is it time to take inventory and rein our expenses in? Being mindful, it is us, recovering alkies that keep asking for services to the fellowship. If we can vote for more services, we can also vote to cut spending. The power of the purse would then carry weight in our financial responsibility.

There was also approval for setting limits on using literature profits, but how the application of this is another agenda item. Does the fellowship feel that literature profits bought from AA sources are a form of contribution? While it is not a voluntary contribution, do we AA's feel that monies generated by ourselves is an acceptable form of income.

As you can see, there was much reviewing done. There were 23 areas and 1 past delegate that gathered input on this agenda item. More will be revealed.

Discussion:

Colby D: Since GSO is a model organization for other GSOs' and those GSOs are self supporting why isn't our GSO self supporting?

Carole B: The Irish GSO is self supporting; in fact it sends money OUT to help the groups. I'm not sure how this is.

Nick D: Do not limit the amount of literature profits used to support GSO.

Geoff: Does Ireland have Pink Can funds? This might be robbing groups of 7th tradition money.

Connie R: I'm the Archivist's Old Lady. 20% of our literature profits come from Hazelton if we limit using literature profits lets use the money that comes from others

Linda B: A lot of money comes from outside sales.

Lori F: If we don't have the money, then we should curtail events and things. It's concerning that we ask for more and more money and expect the money to appear. I think we should move towards

Amelia: I use a book from Hazelton, I got it in treatment.

Tim H.: If we have more profits in literature what will we use it on? Will we lower the cost of the literature? How low?

Bill: If we all gave more than one dollar we wouldn't be having this discussion.

Sam B: Does GSO have an emergency fund? Do we have to sell to outside entities to be considered non-profit?

A: Yes.

Peg: we need to challenge the fellowship; the GSRs should get the background material on this and inspire others to put more in the basket.

Rich K: Should we limit the amount of financial support to GSO from literature sales? Yes, 50%. We can phase in higher limits over a period of years. Maybe we can vote to adjust the trigger for replenishing GSO's emergency fund so that the fellowship has time to respond with their support before profits from literature are used.

Carole B: We have the power of the purse already; if we don't want to use literature profits then we need to contribute more money so we don't have to.

My group needs to add \$100/month to our 7th tradition to give to GSO. We should eliminate the Pink Can and have the districts buy literature for correctional facilities.

Dave: Sell other books! There are many good books by AA's that are not conference approved, Hazelton is selling them and making money on them (we aren't). AAWS could be making more money.

Linda B: Use the Birthday envelopes, let's pony up! Use them.

SOA:

#1 above: In favor of no limit

#2 above: NA

B. "Self-support: Where Money and Spirituality

1. Consider request to replace the "pie charts" on page 12 with text such as: Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District, Area, GSO and intergroup/central offices, if one services your district.

Adding the text was unanimously approved. Don't remove the charts, though. Pie charts are a helpful source of examples, especially to newcomers. Many people are visual and are drawn to the example. The pie charts are not set in stone, they are only suggestions. Our friend from Area10, Colorado, suggested that having the pie chart watermarked with the word "EXAMPLE" would allow for each group to make their own choices in their splits.

No Discussion.

Break for Dinner

DCM Breakout Session-

8:30/10:00

DCM Breakout – Led by Past Delegate Mark S.: Ask-it-basket and sharing

Mark: Have been a DCM, probably come up with some of your problems, others have solved it. Any problems to

Dale D31: Not a problem per se, but three towns don't have active AA groups. Batted it around how to get something started up – Baker, Broadus and Ekalaka. Any ideas?

Mark. Sponsee in Elkins Arkansas, he put up posters in stores in town. Meetings at 8 at the Fire Hall. They didn't show up, but he kept going, So Mark showed up to keep him company. Then someone else started. So then they 12 stepped a guy, then there were three, then it

took off. Persistence is what it takes. Have to commute to another town. Not easy. Chances are, be yourself for awhile.'

Dale: Tried that method, didn't really work. Went two months, all told 3 people in 6 months. Another group from Miles City goes to Baker. But they are the only ones there. Maybe go once a month to those towns, see what works.

Jennifer: Knowlton meeting was a once a month, worked well.

Anne: Bridging the gap program is really important

Matt: Jail meetings? That could be good.

Mark: SPECIAL FORUM: It is by request, for a special purpose.

What can we do to promote Unity?

Anne: Everyone listen to me, we'll get along fine.

Jerry: In Shelby, go to other meetings in the District. Carpool around, to the different towns, get to visit in the car to and from.

Mark: What do we do about meeting openers using prescribed marijuana shortly before the meeting?

Dan: the No Name group in Missoula had an opener he had some sobriety, but he was smoking Marijuana, they suggested that maybe it would be better if someone else opened up the meeting.

Matt: Get three or four people to talk to them and say you don't appreciate it.

Mark: Pills prescribed can get pretty high too.

Nick: A meeting describes what sobriety is, the traditions say it is an outside issue. It's not our job.

Anne: Don't have to kick them out – just not put in service.

Doug – are they trusted servants?

Mark: Something like 10,000 people getting medical marijuana certificates

Dale: We depend a lot on group conscience, let it rule on this. Group conscience, yes, can come in and listen. Know about pain, wouldn't even think about it, and know the high would lead to a better high. The legal kind at least ask for them to come to the meeting straight.

Sam: Sober times come in to play here. What's legal and what's not – when you're not, booze is illegal. How are you going to know if they're impaired all the time? Consistency and sobriety time are more important.

We have always been self policing. We throw not our kind out by example. Demonstrate contented sobriety – what it is. People should be welcome at our group, maybe not give service positions. We have a duty and responsibility to not let an outside issue infiltrate and

take over our meetings. When we teach the message we were taught to carry from our books and literature we can stay on point.

Dan: Slippery slope here. We have trusted servant guidelines. Have to have two years of sobriety for positions. We do that to protect AA from people who are using, but also to protect them. Two separate things – 1) Is it OK to smoke dope and go to meetings 2) is it OK to have a service position and smoke dope. Experience is can't use anything and control it. Hate to chase someone off by not being compassionate. Wait to hear the right thing.

Mark: Keep the door open to them; just don't put them in a service position.

Doug: We have the pamphlet – the AA member and other drugs – down the line we are going to have to address this issue in the pamphlet. Give it to these people, for them to figure it out.

Sam: Knew a guy who went to the doctor, been depressed for a long time – told the doctor he was sober, and the doctor said he would make some different choices about prescriptions. A place to start – educating doctors – CPC.

Mark: Other topics:

Dan: An interesting situation going on in D81. A member is separated from his partner; she has a restraining order out on him. Volatile situation going on for over a year. He brings his personal life to the meetings, makes threats, super-disruptive to meetings. We're really having a tough time with this. Almost a fight between him and someone else outside a meeting. He was outside screaming obscenities. There was a kid's camp going on at the same time. Offensive. At least four people approached, wanting District to intervene. What are the options? Have a group take him aside, and say it's causing problems, making ladies afraid to come to meetings. Or the meetings could get restraining orders – don't know what to do. Need your help.

: Had a situation like this in Texas. We create our own black eyes by allowing poor behavior. Told Bobby that the cops would be called if he didn't cut it out. Had to draw a line in the sand about what was acceptable.

Doug: Home group had someone show up and get threatening physical violence. Group got a restraining order against her. There are other meetings she could go to.

Eric: Victor group had a situation between two people – someone was stating religious views – people got out the Traditions and said you can't kick someone out because of this reason. Might not work in this situation.

Doug: As a DCM, it keeps coming back to the home group.

Anne: A guy brought a gun to the meeting; they called the cops and had him taken away. Another guy stalked the meeting on a loud scooter driving up and down, screaming obscenities, he ended up killing himself.

Dan: He has a sponsor, it's driving them nuts. Ladies quit going. It's more than disruptive.

Using rage like he used to use alcohol.

Andrew: Been around long enough to see a lot of things like this. Got to be dealt with in the meeting.

Jennifer: In San Francisco, we had "Al Pacino from Hollywood" who was very misogynistic and violent. We had a business meeting and created two service positions - guys who would sit on either side of "Al", and if he got disruptive, immediately escort him out of the meeting. it worked well.

Nick: Pretty black and white – disruptive, call the police. Don't care about hurting their feelings. Been at lots of meetings where cops were called. Can't make idle threats, have to follow through. If nothing changes, nothing changes.

Jerry: Some of these people are mentally ill, not simply alcoholics. There was a guy who didn't feel welcome, quit coming, killed himself. Everyone feels bad about something like that, but we are not psychologists. Lead them to a psychologist.

Jennifer: My District is asking – what are other groups doing about the Special Topic conference? Possibly thinking

Mark: SD has remote communities for Native population who aren't coming to town for meetings.

Rock: Went through treatment three years ago in Great Falls: There was a Native meeting then, Disbanded, but could put them in touch.

GSR Breakout Session-

Meeting openers are using prescribed marijuana shortly before the meeting. What can/should the group do about this?

- Experience-individual decided, while it is an “outside issue”, that it wasn't right to chair a meeting when using the drug.
- Experience-some of us don't have any experience with this, some of us have the experience of being clear of all substance.
- Be honest with use with sponsor.
- Mind is altered when using.
- Home group is autonomous and will decide how to deal with such issues.
- The 3rd tradition says that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.
- The home group has a right to determine the length of sobriety necessary to chair meetings.

What is a forum? Why special?

- A non-alcoholic Trustee thought it would be nice to bring the General Service Office (GSO) to us, thus the Regional Forum. The regional forum brings the flavor and taste of GSO to us. Friday through Sunday, the General manager of the GSO, someone from the AAWS Board and the Grapevine, et cetera, come to us to share with us about what they do and answer our questions.
- We get to facilitate the local forum in our area and GSO brings 2 people to answer questions. It is nice to know what the GSO does, what we are doing and what we are spending our money on.
- Special – no answers.

What can I do to promote unity?

- Self support creates greater unity.
- Business meeting participation helps unity.
- Use of a sponsor and the inventory process.
- Speaking to people directly rather than talking to others about issues and/or problems.
- Caravan to meetings-the meeting before and after help.
- Socialize with other members in many different ways.
- Traditions meeting as a group for a common understanding of the traditions and unity.
- Remember we are all the same on the same playing field as alcoholics!
- Definition of Unity - the state of being one; oneness of mind, concord, harmony, or agreement; (in literature and art) a relation of all the parts or elements of a work constituting a harmonious whole and producing a single general effect.
- Experience- starting with a desire for serenity grew into service to home group and the many components to unity which create a very satisfying life.
- Bonds between us within our pain or others' pain.
- Participate in Roundups and other events outside of the comfort zone.
- Share with others, especially newer people, how we carry the message.
- Allow diversity; practice acceptance; give a thorough welcome to visitors.
- Encouragement (sponsorship) to attend Area Assembly, Roundups, Conventions, speaker events.
- Practice unity on the home group, and then take it out on the road. Help each other grow.
- Our home group alternates chairs with home group members and newcomers from a treatment center.
- Unity keeps a group of people alive.

- We put the unity in community.
- Speak with someone I don't know and introduce myself to others.
- Smile at people even if I don't like them.
- Talk to people who I wouldn't normally talk to.
- Old timers are participating in activities which makes it more valuable to newer people.
- Take the action and don't wait for others to reach out or talk.
- Let others live so I can live.
- Personal accountability, practice principles in all of my affairs, avoid "promotion of self by character assassination of others".
- Lead by example and talk less.

The DCM talks about her personal life in her report; the Alternate DCM doesn't run the meeting very well; the Secretary hasn't provided minutes for 3 months. HELP!?

- Ask them what I can do to help.
- Remember it is no "us" versus "them".
- Hold officers accountable to their positions; ask questions pertinent to service position duties and responsibilities.
- Take our own inventory.
- "Sponsor" into service position by outgoing officer guidance and information; don't leave your successor high and dry!
- Practice treating others with dignity and respect.
- Eliminate gossip.
- Service work shows me how it works and my judgments.
- If I see a problem or bring up a problem, I identify a solution.
- Ask for help for the judgments, practice the spiritual axiom.

Other than using a time, what are some techniques for getting people to shorten their sharing?

- Put in the opening statement about 3 minute share and ask that people NOT share a 2nd time before others have shared.
- Chairperson may tactfully deal with long shares, "Thank you for sharing" and move on.
- Six months of sobriety suggested before chairing a meeting, to deal with long shares.

- Importance of letting everyone share in some meetings with at least an opportunity to say their name and that they are alcoholic.

SUNDAY:

Round Up Reports:

2009 Fall Round Up:

As your trusted 2009 Fall Roundup chair, it is my privilege to report that the event appears to have been a big success based upon:

- a) a large amount of unsolicited positive feedback and praise received by myself and other members of the committee from members of both fellowships as well as our distinguished out of town speaker guests.
- b) the unanimous positive reaction of the Roundup Committee at our wrap-up meeting yesterday, Oct. 16th and
- c) The committee's ability to hand you this check in the amount of \$4,768 which, by the way, is net of \$1,500 in seed money already passed along to the Chair of the 2010 Billings Spring Roundup.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to make this event a successful one as well as the dedicated group of Roundup Committee Chairs who made my job much easier than I had anticipated it would be....those trusted servants are, and I apologize for missing anyone in this list:

Betsey, Cathy, Chris, Frank, Gerry, Guthrie, Jeff, Joe, Katie, KC, Kelly, Loren, and Nancy

The Roundup had 410 registrants, comprised of 276 AA's, 73 Alanon's, 37 Double Winners and 24 who chose to not be classified. Based upon comments made by Roundup Committee members and others, the event will likely be remembered for the following reasons, listed in priority starting with the point most consistently mentioned:

1. Overall Quality of Experience by those in attendance - comments included: "great event", "fun", "well organized", "incredible", "smooth", "one of the best Roundup's ever"!
2. The Venue : many people have specifically mentioned how impressed they were with the level of guest service by motel staff, food, facility, etc.
3. Occupancy limitation and the fact that we had to turn people away; the Grantree management-imposed limitation for folks seated theatre style in the ballroom for the Saturday night event was 398. We began the event Friday morning with approximately 300 pre-registered people and by the end of Friday night's activities 100 more had registered at the door, putting us beyond capacity at that point. A difficult decision was made by members of the committee who were present (with proposed emergency remedies considered) to close the event for further walk-up registration and an announcement was made to the 300 people in attendance at the Friday night speaker event to pass the word "back home" to friends and family that the event was officially closed to anyone who had not pre-registered.

We will never know how many people in total would have come between those who caught wind of the closure prior to coming and those who showed up on Saturday (perhaps about 30 or so?) only to be lovingly turned away and how much of a problem the overflow would have been and what effect it would have had on those who did indeed pre-register well in advance. I stayed at the front desk (along with other brave and willing volunteers ☺) for the majority of the time Saturday and personally apologized and consoled those who were affected, most of whom were understanding and supportive. Nevertheless it was an awkward situation that will certainly be remembered, anticipated and planned for by the next District 72 Roundup Committee. Initial suggestions include:

- a) plenty of pre-planning for video feed to other rooms in the Grantree, which was considered and researched to some degree this time too but never ended up happening for various reasons. **this is my fault** and I take full responsibility for not accomplishing some level of video feed in advance and I do believe that with ample amount of time spent researching and planning in the future that SOME amount of additional people (beyond 398) would be able to attend future Roundups at the Grantree but at the same time I strongly suspect that there would nevertheless still likely end up being a capacity cutoff situation that would need to be planned for in advance as best as possible.....even with video feed planning and preparation, strong wording on the Registration Flyer should be considered as to the potential that the event could fill-up at the last minute and the committee should creatively shoot for getting our valued members statewide to pre-register vs. jumping in the car at last minute...
4. Great Alanon emphasis in the event – many commented on how great it was to have so much Alanon stuff and how nice it was to have AA and Alanon so integrated.
5. Location – Grantree vs. MSU: overwhelming feedback (both solicited and unsolicited) from those who have attended Bozeman Roundups in previous years at the MSU venue has been that the Grantree was much better.
6. Babysitter Service: a number of people commented on how they wish there had been a baby sitter service. This was discussed in the planning of the Roundup and the decision was made to not offer babysitting service but it should go on record that it was one of the more frequently mentioned things.

Other suggestions/observations/matters of business that came up in our Wrap-up committee meeting:

- Put out-of-town speakers on panels and discussions elsewhere in the Program throughout the weekend for us to enjoy and benefit from as well as for them to have more involvement and to feel more “a part of”.
- Need actual hospitality room (with snacks) and not just in the atrium – we did have an extra room right by Registration Desk and could have used it.
- The amount of panels and discussions was good – “a busy Roundup is a good Roundup”.

In Love and Service, Arch W

2010 Spring Round Up:

No report submitted.

2010 Fall Round Up

2010 Fall Roundup Report

The 2010 Area 40 Fall Roundup will be graciously hosted by District 71 in Butte, MT Oct. 1-3 at the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center. This year's theme is "Gratitude is an Action Word". The Friday Night AA Kick-off speaker will be Darrell D. from Butte, MT. The Alanon Kick-off speaker will be Lisa P. from Butte, MT. Friday Night there will also be an AA Trivia contest w/prizes. Saturday's Alanon Luncheon speaker will be Palmer G. from Miami, FL. The Sat. night banquet speaker will be Deb H. from Pioneer Town, CA. The Saturday night entertainment will include a game show and an ice cream social. The Sunday morning spiritual speaker will be Brian P. from Union, ME. This year's emcee will be Sara S. from Butte, MT with invocations by Tom H. also from Butte, MT. Bottomless souvenir coffee mugs will be available for \$5.00. You may refill them all weekend for FREE!! The flyers and pre-registration forms are available at the back table or on-line at aa-montana.org. The Copper King is offering special round up room rates of \$50-\$60 until July 1, so get your reservations in ASAP. The reservation phone number is on the flyer. You may give our registration form to Betty P. today or mail them to 2010 Fall Roundup, PO Box 224, Butte, MT 59703. The total cost of the entire weekend's entertainment including all meals is \$67.00 by Sept. 1 and \$72 thereafter. For more information email fallroundupbutte@yahoo.com or call Virginia C. (AA) or Colleen K. (Alanon). We hope your trip to beautiful Butte, American will be enjoyable and a good time will be had by all. We look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Yours in service,

Rick P.,

2010 Fall Roundup Chairman

Intergroup Reports:

Greetings from the Flathead Valley Intergroup

The Flathead Valley Intergroup represents AA groups throughout District 91. Our monthly newsletter and business meeting minutes are mailed to groups from Elmo to Eureka and to any others that request it. Each group in the valley is entitled to one representative to Intergroup. Following the monthly business meeting we hold a valley- wide birthday celebration where any attendee may receive a commemorative sobriety medallion, usually presented by their sponsor. We generally have 10 to 20 celebrants with anywhere from one- day- at- a- time to 30+ years being given out.

We continue to provide the answering service and meeting lists to help carry the message and let folks know where AA meetings are and why we are here. The answering service continues to field 50 to 100 calls per month, either providing meeting information or connecting the caller with a recovering alcoholic. Fortunately, we're still able to effectively make direct contact between the alcoholic in need and one in recovery. Our hotline committee is in the process of updating the call lists to ensure that the answering service has a willing recipient with a real phone. We update our meeting schedules about every 4 months and the website is updated weekly or whenever changes and additions become known. Our website still generates over 150 hits per month and continues to provide information about upcoming events and up to date meeting changes. We've recently appointed a new web committee and expect excellent things from them.

Our annual campout will again be at the Emery Bay Group Camp Sites on the east shore of Hungry Horse Reservoir. It will be held over the weekend of 6-8 of August. Speakers meetings, excellent meals and discussion meetings will fill the weekend along with swimming, hiking, and general lazing about. We provide the meat for the meals and subsidize rental of the spaces for that event.

Our entertainment committee has organized a speaker meeting and potluck or other special event each month during the winter. The two or three potlucks and music nights that we had this year were well attended. Food seems to help generate attendance.

As usual, our corner of the state has a batch of campouts coming up and those will be posted on the website. We'd encourage any of you to come join us in the great out of doors. We do campouts and potlucks really very well in the Flathead Valley, thanks to a whole lot of folks who've traded their booze and drugs for food and sobriety. We absolutely insist on enjoying life and our Flathead Valley intergroup is dedicated to helping with that endeavor in service and sobriety.

Yours in Service,

Alida W., Treasurer Flathead Valley Intergroup

WCRAASC Report:

My name is Eric, alcoholic, and here are some of the highlights of the West Central Regional AA Service Conference held in Dubuque, Iowa on March 5th to the 7th 2010. I made it to Dubuque with minutes to spare on Friday due to a powerless flight delay in Chicago. We opened with the Serenity Prayer at 7pm and two guys with the same name "Mike" did the readings and Rick C. who MC'd this Conference referred to them as the M&M guys but he couldn't decide which one was "plain" or "peanut". Next up was General Session 1 on the topic of "What is the difference between general service and service in general" presented by Area 63, South Dakota. Two ladies from the Area shared and one was a sponsor and the other was her sponsee and we all felt a little sorry for the sponsee because she had to ride over with her sponsor in the car. Both felt that there really was no difference and that both kinds of service make us o.k. We then met the Delegates from the Region and delved into the discussion of the General Service Conference Agenda items part 1. So here we go! CORRECTIONS: Item B got some play time on the report from the Trustees Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents. Most of this had to do with the "Federal Report Rape Discloser" in our jails and prisons and the 5th Step. The best solution I heard was wait until the sponsee is out of jail to do the 5th step. FINANCE: Items A & C on self support was a horse that was beaten and killed every which way you and I can think of and some I had never thought of. Whatever your opinion was I am sure it was expressed. One suggestion I heard was to bring up the 7th Tradition as a topic at your meetings and if you come out alive your higher power was working! PUBLIC INFORMATION: Item B on PSA's and there usefulness was discussed in great length and it was stated that approximately 1% of our fellowship use's these to get in the rooms of AA. But that 1% is 20,000 people and in treatment they told me that an alcoholic who is drinking affects 29 people around them so you do the math. Also discussed was the use of full faces of actors portraying AA members and "Anonymity in a Digital Age". More air time was spent on these and "Facebook" came up and it was not your friend! Report & Charter: Item A came in to play about producing the AA Service Manual every other year and in years not produced publish the AA Directories. So bottom line I came away with after extended air time is that we need to keep our Group info up to date so visitors and the still suffering alcoholic can find us and you will hear about the

Service Manual costs later. Sunday morning we heard from our West Central Regional Trustee Ken B. and our last General Session titled "General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process-Communication-The Key to an Informed Decision". We closed the Conference with the Responsibility Statement. One thing I forgot to mention was what a great speaker we had Saturday night and the hospitality was awesome! We really have our work cut out for us when this Conference comes to what should have been Missoula, MT in 2012 and I would hope all of us would be of service to the AA member and their families as well as continued service in some capacity be it opening meetings, sponsorship, District, Area, National, or World service so that we are available for those who have not found us yet. Yours in grateful service, Eric D, DCM 93.

Past Delegate Sharing:

Scott W. and Mark S. both shared their experiences and their acquired wisdom from their years of service to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Resume Committee Reports

Finance (cont.):

2. Discuss request to include information about AA. Grapevine.

Committee was in favor of this. Groups cannot contribute to the Grapevine. Income comes solely from subscriptions and purchases of materials.

No Discussion.

3. Consider request to add Seventh Tradition stories.

The committee would be in favor stories that follow the dollar and how that money is used in spiritual principles and how it serves our primary purpose. Where does the dollar go in the 7th Tradition basket, what is the purpose of giving funds outside the group. Our primary purpose is not to pay for coffee; it's in carrying our message to the still suffering alcoholic.

No Discussion.

- C. Discuss additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about self-support.

We went on the road in Area 40, asking for sharing. It generated groups to return home and bring up the topic at their business meetings. Give out the information, share it, and exchange ideas. The communication must come back from the groups to their GSR's and up and down the triangle. Sponsorship is a vital way of communicating about self-support. Self-support is not just money in the basket; it's in the actions we take, it's in the time we give, it's that hotline call or that jail meeting. A member said, "I donate to Habitat for Humanity but have no voice, I contribute to AA with money in the 7th tradition basket, I give time, love, and service to AA, and I have a voice. The results become my experience, strength, and hope.

Discussion:

Carole B: What do you, Area 40, think is effective?

Paula H: In my home group we have had several meetings with the topic of 7th tradition and contributions have picked up. For years now we have been able to send more than recommended to GSO.

Cindy: after making a contribution, I got a letter from GSO soliciting future contributions. Maybe we can do that at Area or District?

Laurie: Our group got a letter from GSO saying they had not received any contributions from our group this past year. Maybe we need to model different behavior, we could make birthday envelopes available and inform everyone about the birthday contribution program.

Geoff: Some people have nothing to give, so if you have a few extra dollars try to put some in for the ones that can't.

Tim H: We can do a better job of spreading the word about what the 7th tradition is needed for and what GSO, Area, and District does for us.

Tim: I had to ride a bike to meetings for a while so the money I saved on gas I put in the basket. Ride a bike!

Carole: For the birthday envelopes, if you want the contribution to be attributed to your home group, you don't HAVE to know your group number. just write the name of your home group and they can pull up your group number at GSO.

Loren B: When the Big Book price was raised from \$6 to \$8 I recall hearing that GSO needed money, I think that the trigger for literature help too quickly. We also need to be better at informing our Area, District, and groups that GSO needs money.

Lastly, our delegate has asked that I share a little about the ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS. This will be operational in May. You will be asked questions your contribution. It will allow you to designate your group name with the city and state. Check it out. This is another electronic media tool for making our contributions. How easy it will be to contribute to the Birthday Plan this way. I know I will.

Grapevine/Policy and Admissions

5 voting committee members sitting in on discussions.

All of the following Agenda items were discussed at length:

Item A: Annual Review of the workbook.

No discussion

Item B: Items for production in 2011 or later.

No objections to any particular items.

Several questions about selection process of items.

Sharing of reasons for production. Mainly for profit items to generate income to subsidize subscriptions.

No discussion

Item C: communications of the GV Board, GV Staff and the Conference Committee on the Grapevine.

No discussion

Item D: consider request to produce La Vina the same as the Grapevine.

Try to increase subscriptions first.

Possible printing and production in different manners.

English one way/ Spanish the other

Decrease publication numbers

Gerry R: A few years ago the Grapevine (GV) went to color, the reason was to make it more attractive in an effort to increase sales. Did this work?

Rich: I don't know if there was an increase in sales then, I do know that sales are down now.

Rebecca S: In the committee today we discussed the GV we took a poll regarding the importance of the GV to individuals there, it scored an "8". We were also unanimous that La Vina should be equal to the GV in every way. The sense of the Committee was that this is important but we also cannot run the magazine into debt. Subscriptions can be bought online it is fast and easy.

Jim H: I am really embarrassed that the magazines are not equal. We have a magazine that looks like it has a lot of advertizing when it really doesn't. This magazine (GV) doesn't need to be pretty. We need to focus on getting the GV and La Vina into correctional facilities.

Pat: I think maybe we could do birthday contributions to the GV for their birthday, or just contributions in general.

Sandy: I am passionate about the GV, I've subscribed for years. I buy it for the stories- not the pictures. Maybe we could try printing the GV and La Vina like instruction books do where one side is English and the other side is Spanish.

Rich: The Grapevine is a company and cannot accept donations.

SOA: Opposed.

Maybe if we took the La Vina proposal apart, broke it down into 3 sub parts we could weigh in on each part of the proposal.

Making La Vina in color SOA: Opposed

Changing the La Vina binding SOA: For

Publishing more stories in each issue SOA: For

The request for a survey from Ken B. was also discussed at great length.

Questions from Ken B.

How important to the fellowship is the Grapevine? Scale of 1 to 10

Average of 8.2

Why Low? Not an avid reader, not necessarily the basic text opinion.

Why High? Our meeting in print. Use with sponsees. Current. Important to newcomers.

Results of considerations:

Item B: Split

Item D: Split almost across the board.

Area 40 Agenda Item for Grapevine

At what point would we be unwilling to participate and support the Grapevine?

Nobody knows clear to it should always be supported by the GSB as long as possible even at a loss.

1. Discussion:

BilliJo: I think that the GV helped me stay isolated and emotionally retarded in AA.

Connie R: I was at the WCRAASC in Bmjidge, MN the financial solvency of the GV was being discussed then. We need to remember the spiritual reason for the GV and not focus so much on the money part.

Nick D: How upside down is the GV? I think to decide on this issue of limit we need to know the amount of loss we are talking about.

Terry S: There is an estimated loss of \$250 in 2010.

Gerry R: I subscribe to the GV and the digital archives of the GV. I would be happy to contribute to the GV if it were possible. GSO and AAWS both take contributions why not GV too?

Dan: When I am on my ranch and 70 miles away from the closest meeting, I need the GV.

Carleen: I love that here is always someone who says that something might be a bad thing, but it (GV) saves lives. BilliJo I am glad you had it to hide behind, it kept you around long enough to get better. I subscribe to the GV but I don't read it.

Policy and Admissions

Items A and B: These items dealt with replacing delegates with their alternates and visitors to the conference and were considered regular business and not discussed at length.

No discussion

Item C: This item given a cursory review.

No discussion

Item D: This item discussed the process of taking an inventory of the General Service Conference, and was discussed at length. While the idea of the inventory was interesting, the concern was how would it be implemented and what would be done with the inventory was discussed.

No discussion

Item E. This item concerns the process of Minority appeal process and was discussed at length and in general the idea that a process would be standardized and used only as a last resort was a minimum request.

No discussion

Literature – Lori F.

The Literature committee was represented by Nick D., DCM-12, Neil T., DCM-31, Mary M., DR-91 and Deb C., DR-93. I would like to thank Mark V. from District 72 for helping me take notes. We also had seven other A.A.s sit in on and participate in our meeting. The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by discussion of the agenda.

- A. Review the revised draft pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.”
- Revision was proposed by Area 20 Northern Illinois in December 2006.
 - Pamphlet revision to include current experience became GSC Advisory Action in 2007
 - 2009 Recommendation to approve revised pamphlet failed.
 - 2009 Floor action to return pamphlet to Trustee’s Literature Committee (TLC) for additional discussion was approved.
 - Current draft contains new introduction; had additional review by AA members who are also physicians.
 - Pamphlet is only available to Conference Literature Committee member at this time, so we had no material to review.

No discussion

- B. Review the revised draft pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
- Pamphlet revision stemmed from a request from Area 54 Northeast Ohio.
 - Became a 2009 Advisory Action for the TLC to conduct a thorough review and look to eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.
 - Pamphlet was last revised in 2005.
 - Pamphlet is only available to Conference Literature Committee member at this time, so we had no material to review.

No discussion

- C. Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Result of several requests from several areas over the past 20 years+.
 - Reasons for requests include: many people are put off by what they perceive to be the religious nature of AA and this may create a barrier; although an outside issue, some courts have ruled that AA is a religion; some atheists feel pressured to conform to a belief in a higher power.

- Currently, many of our pamphlets and other pieces of literature contain some explanation of the spiritual nature of the program, but there is not a single piece of literature which consolidates this information.
- A recommendation in 2009 for the TLC to develop a questionnaire to gather input on whether there is a need to develop this type of literature failed.
- The agenda item was the result of a 2009 Floor Action to recommit, which passed.

The committee was split on whether AAWS should develop literature of this type. Some felt that we are becoming more divided, that AA is not in the business of defining God, and that we have plenty of literature addressing this issue. Others pointed out that Bill W. wrote about being sympathetic to people of no faith and that we should try to be as inclusive as possible. Sense of the committee was narrowly opposed to this item by a vote of 3-2.

Discussion: Mark: I was in the committee, I'm in favor of it. It was hard for me to hear any mention of God. I now realize that AA does not define God or a Higher Power.

Carla: ditto. We are inclusive, we are viewed as having religious overtones- maybe because of the Lord's Prayer.

Peg: Maybe it is because of the Lord's Prayer.

Nick D: The Big Book is plain, it is a God of our own understanding as in Bill's Story. Maybe we should decide if the Lord's Prayer is appropriate or not.

SOA: Split

- D. Consider request to change a sentence regarding closed meetings in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About AA."
- Item was proposed by Area 29 Maryland.
 - Under the section titled "What is a closed meeting," the first sentence currently reads: "A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group, or visiting members from other groups." The proposal is to change this to: "A closed meeting is limited to members of A.A."
 - The reason for the proposed change is that it is thought that the existing wording misleads the reader to believe that if one is not a home group member, one cannot attend a closed A.A. meeting, and that the language is not consistent with the Third Tradition.

The committee agreed that the existing wording was vague and could be simplified, but was not in favor of the proposed change. The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed to the change as written, but would like to note that it would have been in favor of a change as follows: "A closed meeting is limited to those with a desire to stop drinking."

No discussion

SOA: Opposed

- E. Consider request to update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" with new stories reflecting more recent experience.
- Item proposed by Area 75 Southern Wisconsin (original proposal was to develop a new pamphlet for military veterans suffering from alcoholism).
 - Reason is that veterans often feel a sense of hopelessness and abandonment by the military as they face life after active service and that the current pamphlet speaks to an entirely different population.

- The TLC took no action on the request as presented but instead is asking the conference to consider revising the current pamphlet.

The committee agreed that process of identification was important for the newcomer, and that it would be better to revise the current pamphlet than to produce a new one. Some of the issues in the background material, such as PTSD, were considered to be outside issues by some. It was also mentioned that the current pamphlet, like some others, divides us rather than promotes unity. The sense of the committee was 4-1 in favor of the revision.

No discussion

SOA: For

F. Consider request to review the booklet “Living Sober.”

- Proposed by the Wednesday Night Living Sober Group of AA in San Francisco, CA.
- Reasons: It is thought that the relevance could be enhanced with some updating – for instance there are no references to the internet or social networking sites, but it contains quaint, outdated references, such as to “ham radio.”
- Booklet has not been revised since its publication in 1975 with the exception of an addition of an appendix containing sections of the pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.”
- Estimated cost for limited review and creation of a draft manuscript is up to \$2,500.

The committee was split on the need for updating. Some thought updating was unnecessary – we don’t update the Big Book because of outdated language. Others pointed out that we rely on attraction in our message. Still others thought we should totally revamp or eliminate the booklet. Several questioned the cost estimate and thought it would surely cost more than \$2,500. The sense of the committee was opposed to the update by a vote of 3-2.

Discussion:

Jennifer W: to add “Living Sober” was a critical tool for my recovery, I hope it doesn’t become so dated it becomes obsolete.

SOA: For

G. Consider request to define the editorial responsibility of G.S.O.’s Publications Department.

- Proposed by Area 76 Wyoming
- Requested wording is as follows: **“Editorial responsibilities of the Publications Department of the General Service Office be limited to the following in pamphlets and literature where not otherwise specifically addressed by other Advisory Actions:**
 - **Update financial and publication data that change on an annual basis;**
 - **Revise dates that require periodic updating;**
 - **Correct typographical and spelling errors;**
 - **Maintain any accurate indexing, pagination, and cross-referencing.”**
- Reason for request is that a clarification of delegated authority is needed as the Publications Department has not been given clear direction on editorial latitude. This has resulted in controversial changes that did not go through the conference approval process and later had to be changed.
- The TLC noted that the request as presented may limit and not cover all responsibilities commonly undertaken by the Publications Department.
- In the opinion of John H. (member of the Publications Department) this wording is broad enough to apply to all literature in addition to the Service Manual.

The committee agreed that the job description for the Publications Department should be clear and specific, and that this wording does the job of establishing boundaries. A concern that this essentially makes the department nothing more than proof readers was expressed. The sense of the committee was unanimously in favor of this item.

No discussion

SOA: For

H. Consider request that the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated.

- Requested by Area 29 Maryland
- Reasons are: the anonymity protection is inadequate; video should have updated pamphlet covers and the 4th Edition Big Book; GSR, DCM and General Service Board are not covered.
- Estimated cost for revision is \$40,000.
- Total distribution in 2009 was 60 copies.

The committee agreed that it did not seem fiscally responsible to update this video, with additional comments being that personal contact is better than using a video and we have plenty of other resources to use, i.e. the Service Manual. The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed to updating this video.

Discussion:

Paula H: Do you have any sense of distribution from early years? Was it always unpopular?

A: I have no early distribution figures.

SOA: Opposed

I. Consider request to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in A.A."

- Proposal from Area 36 Southern Minnesota
- There is no Conference Approved literature of this kind other than a few Grapevine articles in the Digital Archives. GSO Archives was able to provide a document "History and Resources of Women in AA" - all non-conference-approved literature.
- Estimated writer's fee is \$150,000 - \$200,000.

The committee was split on this idea. While most thought the cost was too high, several were attracted to the idea of this book, stating our history is important and this may help attract more women. A compilation of existing literature/articles may be less costly. The sense of the committee was opposed by a vote of 3-2.

No discussion

SOA: Opposed

Respectfully submitted,

Lori F.

Public Information/Report and Charter

There were fifteen people in attendance at our committee meeting. All voting members were present: Eric D. - district 93, Nick G, - district 12, Karen T. -district 51, Mike M. district 23 and myself Tim M. Committee Chair. We went through the Public Information Agenda items first. The response to them was as follows:

2010 Conference Committee on Public Information

- A. Consider 2009 Annual Website Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information.

The Committee accepted the recommendation by the Conference Committee.

1. Public Service announcements (P.S.A.s):
2. Considering approving the proposed 2010 television P.S.A. - "My World" - developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.

The video was not available to the Committee so we had no comment.

3. Considering that the 2010 A.A. TV P.S.A. "My World" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

The Committee agreed with the Conference Committee on this.

4. Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

The Committee agreed with the Conference Committee on this.

5. Assess the need for a new television P.S.A.

The Committee agreed with the Conference Committee on this.

No discussion

- B. Consider adding a statement to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" 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 with the Conference Committee on this.

No discussion

- C. A.A. Videos for Young People Project:

1. Consider approving the video with the working title "Animation" as part of the A.A. Videos for Young People Project.

The video was not available to the Committee so we had no comment.

2. Consider the trustees' Public Information Report on the A.A. Videos for Young People Project.

The committee had no discussion on this item.

No discussion

SOA: For

- D. "A.A. at a Glance"

1. Consider replacing the term “drying out” with “detox” in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer so that the phrase “provides drying-out or nursing services or sanitariums” is changed to “provide detox or nursing services or sanitariums.”

The committee agreed with the recommendation of the Conference Committee.

2. Consider placing the full text of the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the service piece “Information on A.A.” into the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer.

The committee agreed with the recommendation of the Conference Committee.

No discussion

- E. Consider development of a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members of potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media.

The committee felt that creating a policy was a good idea but showing full faces was not.

No discussion

SOA: For

- F. Consider submitting a request to the Conference Committee on the Agenda to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of “Anonymity in a Digital Age.”

The committee unanimously agreed we should do this.

No discussion

- G. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

The committee felt the P.I. Kit and Workbook are fine the way they are.

No discussion.

Area 40 Agenda Item for PI:

1. Review and report the status of the Area 40 888 number.

Status of the Area 40 Hotline number 1-888-607-2000

Since the Fall Assembly I have visited District 71, (Butte/Anaconda/Dillon), District 11, (Billings), and District 41, (Great Falls), concerning Public Information in General and the Area Hotline Number in specific. Probably the biggest area of concern that was voice during my visits was about the Area Hotline number not being in many of the phonebooks throughout the state. In mid December Area 40 entered into contracts through AnswerNet to be in the following Dex yellow pages;

- Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Miles City, Glasgow, Great Falls - Main, Great Falls - Valley, Helena, Lewistown, and Missoula. I am also happy to report that I received the new Dex directory for the Helena area on last Thursday and the Hotline Number was in it!
- Kalispell is not listed in a Dex directory because Qwest does not do business in this area. I have spoken to the DCM and to Larry L. a member of the Intergroup up there to get this number in the CenturyTel directory that does service that area. Alida W. a member of the Kalispell Intergroup attended the Spring Assembly and has agreed to work with their Answering Service, and if necessary CenturyTel, to get the number that is listed in their director transfer to the Area 40 Hotline number.

The reason we will only be listed in the Yellow Pages of the Dex directories is because the 1-888-607-2000 number is not owned by QWest but by AnswerNet so it can only be in the Dex yellow pages.

It is also my understanding that the dates the above books are published varies but once the new books for 2010 come out the number will be in them. The cost to be in the Dex directories was budgeted for 2010 but AnswerNet required a \$175.00 processing fee for the year and the entire year paid in advance for a total of \$1195.00.

We also signed contracts to be in the following Co-op directories around the state for a total yearly cost of \$636.00 that was not budgeted for in 2010 because when we were doing the budget at the Fall Assembly we were told it would cost far greater than the amount we eventually got them to agree on;

	Directory	Published	Cities covered	Cost
1.	Nemont	January 2010	Glasgow/Plentywood/Wolf Point/Scobey area	\$63.60
2.	Range	February 2010	Forsyth area	\$81.60
3.	North Tri Central	April 2010	Havre/Chinook/Big Sandy/Fort Benton area	\$68.40
4.	3 Rivers North	June 2010	Browning/Shelby/Cut Bank/Augusta/Fairfield/Belt area	\$73.20
5.	Great Falls Community	July 2010	Great Falls/Malmstrom AFB/Centerville/Cascade area	\$64.80
6.	University Of Montana Campus	August 2010	Missoula area	\$66.00
7.	Central Montana Community	September 2010	Lewistown area	\$75.60

8.	3 Rivers South	October 2010	Dillon/Ennis/Virginia City area	\$69.60
9.	Yellowstone Valley Community	November 2010	Big Timber/Absarokee/Huntley area	\$73.20

The 2009 year end budget showed that we had a deficit of \$2100.44 was due to the 2010 expenses for being in the directories was paid in 2009. This will result in the 2010 budget not reflecting these expenses. Our Area Treasurer Linda has also asked me to remind you that this service is saving your districts allot of money. It is not only the right thing to do, but our responsibility to contribute more to Area 40 to pay for this service.

As of the end of April 5th we have 508 contacts in the Area 40 Hotline database with all district represented except 21, 23 and 42. The online meeting information has also been updated within the last year for all districts except Districts 21, and 42. This is a vast improvement from the paper lists that AnswerNet was using which in some cases were 5 years old.

Since I reported at the Fall Assembly until the end of March of this year our invoices reflect that AnswerNet has received 354 calls for 228 minutes and made 33 patch calls, (A patch call is when someone requests to be connected to a member of AA and actually is). The total costs to districts during this time period was \$134.50 and to Area 40 of \$330.00 for a combined total of \$464.50.

Some districts have voiced concerns that the total call number seems low. In talking with AnswerNet about this I was told that they do not bill us for many of the calls for just meeting information. In order to track all calls they would need to bill us an additional amount of \$65.00 a month to pay for the labor cost to do so.

I was also asked why we needed to pay the base rate to Dex to be in the yellow pages for 2009 even though we were not in many of the directories yet. What I was told by AnswerNet is that this is Dex's billing policy and that AnswerNet just passes on their charges to us without making anything from it.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind the fellowship that this service is only as good as we make it. There have been some concerns voiced in my rotation about some bumps along the way with the service AnswerNet is providing us. On the reverse side of this I was informed recently that it took AnswerNet fifteen tries before they could connect with someone to talk to the person who wanted to reach another Alcoholic. So please if you make the commitment to put your name as a contact make sure you are available at the times and days you say you are. If you are a district PI and/or Answering Service chair please keep the call database current. Also notify any organizations in your districts that we cooperate with, (Hospitals, Mental Health facilities, Law enforcement, Newspapers etc.), about the 1-888-607-2000 number so they will update their material to reflect it.

In closing on behalf of all the still suffering Alcoholics reaching out for help, Thanks to all the members who have volunteered their time, efforts and talents, especially Alex our webmaster, to create and to update the online meeting information and contact lists, and to be contacts when someone needs our help. We are all truly better off because of it. Please keep up this very worthwhile effort!

Discussion: We might be saving the Districts money but is it costing the Area more?

Peg: we are concerned about the low volume of calls. We would like them all to be counted, are we getting services we don't pay for?

Tim: the company will count all our calls but it will cost us an extra \$65 per month.

Valerie: When we get a call what shows up on Caller ID?

Tim: 406-248-2337.

April 11, 2010 Recommendation by the Public Information Committee at the Spring 2010 Assembly

That the current process of having districts pay for the calls billed to each district be discontinued and the following process adopted.

The Area 40 PI chair will forward the itemized bill received from AnswerNet to the Area 40 treasurer for payment up to the amount of \$250.00 a month. In the event the monthly itemized total amount is over \$250.00 the Area 40 PI chair will bill each district on a prorated basis. (Example: If the total bill is \$300.00 and district 11 has 30% of the billable calls that month they would owe \$15.00, $((\$300 - \$250.00) * .3 = \$15.00)$).

Nick D: I need clarification on this will this allow us to send money to Area directly to cover the cost of these calls?

Tim: At this time each district is billed individually this is cumbersome for AnswerNet and for the districts.

Nick D: I agree.

Vote: 81 For; 5 Against

Minority Opinion: Joe: we haven't gotten any calls we just figured let's leave it alone.

Carole B: I'm against this because the subject is so new, it hasn't been discussed enough. The issue is not properly vetted.

Lori F: I would want to take this back to our groups to discuss it if I were DCM.

Peggy: I make a motion to reconsider.

Nick D: Second

Vote to reconsider: 20 For; 66 Against. Motion failed.

Report and Charter

2010 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2008-2009 Edition:

1. Review revisions from the A.A. Grapevine Board.

Our committee had no comment since the mailed to the Conference Committee only

No discussion.

2. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.

Our committee had no comment since the mailed to the Conference Committee only.

No discussion

3. Review revisions from the General Service Board.

Our committee had no comment since the mailed to the Conference Committee only.

No discussion

4. Review list of editorial updates.

Our committee had no discussion on this item.

No discussion

5. Consider request to (a) publish and distribute The A.A. Service Manual every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and (b) publish the A.A. directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published.

Our committee agreed not to go to publishing every other year. On (b) the committee felt that the directories should be kept up to date and therefore published every year.

Discussion: Deb: Is that(the directory) info on AA.org? Is there no place to find this comprehensive list online? How about updating it digitally.

Paul: the information in the directory is confidential and cannot be put online. I think it should be published yearly.

Tim: Usually at least one phone number listed in a town is good, even for the older directories.

Connie R: we need to consider that we can keep group information updated electronically all throughout the year now. The information shouldn't be too old.

6. Consider request that The A.A. Service Manual be reprinted only as necessary and consider publishing every three to five years with changes being sent as insert to existing manuals.

Our committee felt we should not do this and to "Stay the course" of what we are doing now.

Q: Are service manuals self supporting?

A: I don't know.

7. Consider request to gather sharing from the Fellowship concerning the general nature of The A.A. Service Manual.

Our committee unanimously agreed that this was a good idea.

Peg: I am using the service manual to work with sponsees.

SOA: For

8. On page S23, consider adding "(see Chapter Eleven)" in the paragraph under the heading Tools Available from G.S.O. so that the last sentence reads: "They are designed to show groups the kind of help that is offered to groups everywhere by G.S.O., and thus get more people interested in service activity (see Chapter Eleven)."

Our committee agreed with this.

No discussion

B. The A.A. Service Manual, 2008-2009 Edition:

1. Consider request that areas may choose to opt-out of the 30-day pending period to complete processing of new groups.

Our committee felt that the original ideas for doing this were still valid so we should not do this.

No discussion

C. General Service Conference Final Report:

1. Consider placing Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions and Floor Actions That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions following the Advisory Actions.

Our committee felt we should leave the format of the Final Report as it is.

No discussion

Treatment/Agenda

Spring 2010 Area 40 Treatment Committee Report to Assembly

Thank you to the committee members, Joe H (substituting for Jim W, District 41), and Ann (substituting for Tom D, District 61) and to all who participated. Thank you all for you input and support.

The Treatment Committee has two responsibilities on its agenda, Treatment and Agenda. This time we also had an Area 40 item. We opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Treatment

A. Review progress report from trustees' Committee regarding the proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlet. Work has begun. Thirty-eight stories were submitted and the selection process began in March.

No discussion

B. Consider a suggestion to change "Treatment Facilities" to "Treatment" in the Conference Committee name and in related A.A. literature where appropriate. The committee thought this is a beneficial change because the field is so varied, including detox, in- and out-patient centers, day programs, aftercare and half-way houses, for example. A concern was raised about the expense. All old pamphlets will be used before new ones are printed, therefore cost will be minimal.

No discussion**SOA: For**

C. Consider two locally created forms – one for treatment clients and one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts. The committee liked the new forms, however the wording will have to be changed a little because the translation from French (submitted by Northwest Quebec Area (90)) and needs smoothing.

No discussion**SOA: For**

D. Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook. The committee reviewed the materials and wondered if the word "Facilities" would be removed. One person suggested that each District Treatment Chair collect items of local interest to pass along to the chair in the next rotation.

No discussion

E. Review contents of Special Needs Kit and Workbook. The material was not available.

No discussion**Agenda**

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2011 General Service Conference. The committee reviewed the submissions and voted as their favorite number, 7) Service – Gratitude in Action.

No discussion

B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2011 General Service Conference. The committee reviewed the submissions and voted as their favorites, in order of preference; numbers 13) Continuous Action – As a Way of Life, 40) We Absolutely Insist on Enjoying Life. We try not to indulge in cynicism over the state of nations, nor do we carry the worlds' troubles on our shoulders, and 17) Are We Reaching the Newcomer.

No discussion

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2011 General Service Conference. The committee reviewed the submissions and voted as their favorites in

order of preference; numbers 41) Living the Traditions; 23) Attraction-Giving constantly of ourselves without demands for repayment, and 25) How do you make the newcomer feel welcome.

No discussion

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form. The committee reviewed the form and commented on its length, 10 pages!

No discussion

Area 40 Agenda Item for Agenda

1. Review and report on the GSC Workshop topic, "Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process," for a possible sense of the Area for the delegate.

In September of 2008, Brooke C, Panel 58 Delegate from Wyoming submitted a proposal on behalf of the Area. "That the General Service Conference re-instate the Conference Committee on Agenda's duties and responsibilities to be once again consistent with The A.A. Service Manual, which reads: 'Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting, has the year-round job of communicating with GSO on subjects for the Conference agenda and theme.'" (p S60, CONFERENCE COMMITTEES, Agenda) Three other Areas (67, SE Texas, 35 N Minnesota and 62 SC) support this proposal.

It seems that somewhere along the line from 1973 to 1983 things changed, and since 1983 the trustees' Conference Committee sets the agenda instead of the Agenda Committee. There is no record how or when the change was made. However on page S56 of the Service Manual, under Sources of Agenda Items, the last paragraph reads: "Whatever its origin, any agenda item follows the same path to the Conference agenda: The A.A. Staff studies it in the light of previous Conference actions, then passes it on to the trustees' Conference Committee or the appropriate Conference committee....."

After discussion, the committee recommends that an Ad Hoc committee be formed to study the process and bring the process and the Service Manual in line.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Paula H, Area 40 Treatment Chair

Linda B: Thank you. I would like to see clear and consistent methods for this across the board.

Announcements:

1. The Area Chair, Terry S. announced the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a qualifications section, similar to that in the AA Service Manual, for each Area 40 service position. The proposed qualifications are to be considered at the fall 2010 Area Assembly for inclusion in the "Area 40 Policies and Procedures". Those named to the committee are: Andrew Ware-Chair; Sharon S, BilliJo D, Colby D, and Tim M.
2. The Area Chair, Terry S. announced that, after polling the Area 40 Officers, we have given the "OK" for the Area 40 Archivist, Gerry R, to accept an invitation to display our Area 40 Archives at the 20th annual NAI-AA Convention in Las Vegas, NV September 9th, 2010. This trip is funded by the NAI-AA convention.

General Sharing Session.

We closed the meeting by reciting the "Responsibility Statement" together.

Meeting is adjourned. Travel safely!

Next Area Assembly is in Lewistown, MT at the Yogo Inn on September 18 & 19, 2010.