

Welcome to the Assembly

Sharon S., Area Chair/Alt. Delegate opened the assembly at 8 AM with the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions and Concepts were read by Jennifer and Rory.

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Linda B., the area secretary. There were 14 of 14 districts present with 100 voting members and 22 visitors for a total of 122 attendees at this assembly. The officers, committee chairs, district committee members, area advisor, archivist, and webmaster were all in attendance except Terry H., Corrections Chair. She was absent due to a family wedding obligation. Carole B, Area Advisor, stepped into the Corrections position. There were six past delegates present.

Orientation to the Assembly

My name is Terry S. and I am an alcoholic. I am your Area 40 Delegate to the General Service Conference this year and next year. Everyone who is attending their first Area Assembly, please stand up? Thank you! A.A. survives and thrives on newcomers. That is every bit as true in service as it is in recovery. Whatever brought you here, whatever you think and feel about this particular Assembly, keep coming back! We need your participation here. We are joined this Assembly by our West Central Regional Trustee, Ken B., from Nebraska. It is a pleasure having him participate in our Assembly. Ken is approaching the conclusion of his four year term as our Regional Trustee. I believe that Ken has served us very well, and has earned our respect and gratitude. Ken, please stand up?

My job now is to give you a brief orientation to this assembly. The first thing that happens following this orientation is that members of the Area Committee will give their reports. This includes the Area officers and Area Service Committee chairs, sitting up at this front table, as well as all of the district committee members and our Archivist and Web Master. If you have any questions for any of these folks please find them and ask your questions during our breaks. You may even want to invite them to visit your district.

After the midmorning coffee break, we will elect our Area 40 nominee for the position of West Central Regional Trustee. And next year, that trustee position will be elected from among nominees chosen in the 8 Areas in our Region. Our election of our nominee for that position follows our Third Legacy voting procedures. You can find those procedures in the first Chapter of the Service Manual. After that election, we will move into the committee meetings. In Area 40 we use a committee system based on the committee system at the General Service Conference. Each of our standing service committees will meet in separate rooms. Feel free to attend any of the committee meetings. If you prefer, you can attend the Workshop that will be held in this room while the standing committees are meeting. The committee meetings are led by the Area Committee chairs except for the Finance Committee, which is led by the Area Treasurer. Each committee discusses the items on the agenda for that committee. All of the items of we will discuss in committee at this assembly are Area 40 specific items, including review of what the 61st

General Service Conference did this spring. The reviews are Area 40 specific, as our committees decide whether any Conference action or inaction needs to be pointed out to this Assembly, as either particularly great or as something that we should question. Each committee will discuss these items and choose to make a recommendation, to make a comment or to take no action. When taking a vote in committee, only the members of the committee vote, but anyone can attend the meeting. For those of us who are not in the committee meetings, two of our past delegates, Earl F. and Scott W., will lead a workshop here in this room, about "How AA Takes Its Inventory."

This afternoon, we will be participating in an inventory of our Area Assembly. It has been almost a decade since we last took our own Assembly inventory, in 1992. Area Advisor Carole B. will give us a brief orientation to this inventory process, which will then take the entire afternoon.

After dinner, we will begin our Floor Assembly, when we meet here in the big room to hear the committees' reports. Each committee chair will report on each agenda item and then we will have a chance to discuss the item. If the committee makes a recommendation for action on an item, we will take a vote following the discussion. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum (two-thirds of the voting members present). By past action, a valid vote with two-thirds of the votes cast in favor of an action passes. There will also be time for minority opinions after a vote on a committee recommendation. Minority opinions help ensure that we have an open discussion on each issue and that no voice is squelched in the process. For all of us, new or veteran, please participate. Take part in the discussions. If you are confused, then ask questions. Ask the people around you. Go to the microphones and ask. We are seeking clarity and consensus, but it takes a full discussion to get there. In the interest of saving time, if someone else has already expressed your view, it is not necessary to repeat it. If nobody has expressed your view, get up and go to a microphone and share it with us. An informed group conscience requires voicing of all views about the item.

After an hour of floor assembly work, Ken B. will share with us. His insight into the state of Alcoholics Anonymous today can be enlightening for us all. After a coffee break, the curtain will divide this big room into two rooms, and there will be a G.S.R. breakout at one end, and a D.C.M. breakout at the other end, chaired by Earl and Scott. You don't have to be a D.C.M. or G.S.R. to participate in one of the breakouts. It is a chance for everyone who wants to be there to ask questions, share in discussion and get answers about service-related topics.

Tomorrow morning, we will hear a series of reports on Roundups, A.A. Archives Workshop in Helena next week, and the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Billings next March. Then I will give an abbreviated and summary delegate's report about this year's General Service Conference and my activities since. Following my report, our invited past delegates, Earl and Scott, will share. Each Assembly, we invite two of our past delegates to participate in the Assembly, in one or two workshops, in breakout sessions and in sharing. We are blessed in Area 40 to have a stellar group of past delegates who have retained their love of and enthusiasm for Alcoholics Anonymous. We can all always learn from them. After the last coffee break of this Assembly, we will resume the Floor Assembly and complete the remaining business on our agenda. To the extent time allows, there will be general sharing after completion of that business. Finally, a reminder to get things started: please, GSRs, sign in with your DCM. DCMs, turn the completed sign in sheets to the Area Secretary, Linda B.. This will enable us to determine how many voting members are present and to determine the number of votes required for a quorum, which is two-thirds of all voting members. Thank you

all for being here. Let's have fun and get the work of Area 40 done! Thank you for my sobriety, and this opportunity to serve. Terry S., Panel 61, Area 40

### Reports from Area Committee Members

#### Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Good morning everyone. My name is Sharon S. I am an alcoholic and honored to serve as your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. {Only if Terry does not ask: How many people are here for their first assembly?} Welcome, and a special welcome to those of you here in Lewistown for your first Area Assembly.

Past actions indicate Standing Committee and DCM Reports and Intergroup Reports be limited, or held, to 5 minutes. Traditionally, this has been interpreted to mean a 5 minute report. Since we have a very tight time line at this Assembly, I have requested that reports be 3 minutes, if possible. Linda will ring the bell as a signal at 3 minutes and 4 minutes and at 5 minutes please stop. I'm going to try to set an example here and say what I need to say in 3 minutes.

Terry has given you a great orientation to the assembly. My job is to keep us on track. We "loosely apply" Roberts Rules of Order. Each of you has great responsibility this weekend: let us hear your thoughts and ideas and questions by going to the mike if someone hasn't already stated them. Particularly, I encourage you to go to the mike if you appear to be in the minority. A well-informed sense of the assembly can only be achieved if all sides are heard. To this end, please consider whether your enthusiastic support of one person's position might dissuade someone with a different position from speaking.

I have had some great spiritual experience since our last Assembly. I was able to attend the Local Forums in Great Falls and Miles City. We had a technically challenging, but lively audio conference call July 10, and then I had quite a long rest and ongoing practice of patience and smashing of self reliance, as a result of a fall off a Bozo Ball in exercise class. Thank you for every thought, prayer, call and the many hours of help! Most of the time it has been very clear to me how well I am taken care of! God didn't suspend gravity when I made my mistake, but He sure did show up with all of you and the others who took care of me. I spent a couple of months hopping around, I'm still moving slowly, but I'm grateful to have been able to attend (with lots of help):

- The Great Wild West Soberfest hosted by District 21
- WCR Forum in Davenport, Iowa

And hope to see you all, plus some of your home group members and AA buddies at:

- the National Archives Workshop in Helena next week (September 22-25)

- the Fall Roundup in Helena October 14-16.

Next year is a big year for us too, as we'll be hosting the West Central Region Service Conference March 2-4 in Billings. You'll be hearing more about that this weekend. Mark your calendars also for the Assemblies April 14-15 and September 22-23 here in Lewistown.

I have fallen far short of my responsibility to visit half of the Districts this year. I hope to be able to do better next year. The deadline for agenda items for the Spring Assembly is February 1. Perhaps you will leave this Assembly with some ideas from the inventory. I would be delighted to help your home group or district with the process of getting an item on the agenda.

Thank you for trusting me to serve you and thanks for helping make this a great weekend. Have fun taking our inventory!! Your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Sharon S.

#### Secretary

Hello everyone and welcome to all attending this assembly and a special welcome to those who are attending for the first time. My name is Linda B. and I am your area secretary/registrar and an alcoholic.

I have a few procedural announcements: In order for all to share and to get through all the area business we have before us, each Area Committee Chair and DCM has 5 minutes for their reports, discussion or comments from the floor are given 3 minutes to share. Please be mindful when the timer goes off; your time is up. I will assess AA penalties to any individual that doesn't adhere to this policy.

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. The attendance sheets are used to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCM's or their alternate, GSR's or their alternate, and most Area Committee Chairs and Officers. Please sign in with your DCM if you are here as a visitor also for a total count of those attending this assembly.

All those giving reports may e-mail your report to me at [lindablack2009@hotmail.com](mailto:lindablack2009@hotmail.com). If you choose to submit your report in hard copy, I will need two copies. In addition, I will need the minutes from all the committee meetings and breakout sessions being held later today. E-mail is more efficient and is preferable, but hard copies will be fine. Remember, two copies.

There are Ask It baskets in the back for submitting questions and topics to be covered in the GSR and DCM breakout sessions tonight. Don't be shy, it's anonymous!

I have been updating Area 40's group information at GSO through our database, Fellowship New Vision. Most groups are current in the database and there are a few groups that have unknown contact information. I will be talking with a few of you DCM's this weekend to finish these up. Group updates should be used whenever your group has any changes. There are forms available for any group that has changes.

Recommendations from committees that came to the floor at the Spring 2011 assembly were:

Area 40 Website:

Consider a request to add Libby and Troy meetings on Area 40's website.

**Vote: For 71, Against 17 The motion passed.**

Consider that there is a discrepancy in Area 40 Policy and Procedure manual on the oversight of the Web page. It is unclear when the Webmaster should go to the Delegate when and what the Web Master should take to the PI Committee.

**The PI committee decided that the Area 40 PI Chair, Web Master and Archivist should research this further and bring back to the committee in the fall.**

Archives:

Consider Area 40 Ad Hoc Committee's draft of "Qualifications for Area Committee members" (tabled from Fall 2010 Committee meeting)

**The Archives committee recommends that Area 40 adopt the qualifications as drafted by the ad hoc committee, using the wording "suggested" in the wording for computer connectivity and skills for general qualifications. For 72, Against 9 Motion Passes**

Consider Area 40 AdHoc Committee's proposed protocol and time line for Area 40 to conduct an inventory of itself.

**The Archives committee recommends that Area 40 implement the proposed procedure for an Area 40 Inventory, to be carried out at the Fall 2011 Area Assembly. The questions from the ad hoc committee will be used for this inventory and disseminated immediately following the Spring 2011 Assembly. For 72, Against 0 Motion Passes**

The Archives committee recommends that an Area 40 Inventory be conducted every 4 years at the Fall Assembly, beginning with the 2011, and carried on in 2015, etc. The questions will be disseminated 5 months prior to the inventory through area communications, including the Spring Assembly minutes, Area 40 Triangle and Area 40 Website. For 81, Against 1 Motion Passes

#### ADHOC COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

The ad hoc committee proposes the following:

That Area 40 conducts an inventory of itself at the 2011 Area 40 Fall Assembly. The inventory will be conducted during the Saturday afternoon session of the Assembly, lasting from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The four hour time period will consist of two and one half hours of four small group discussions answering four questions each. One question from each of the following headings: (Groups/Districts, Individual/Participation/Attendance, Committees/Committee Chairs/Officers, Area Assembly) on the question list. The Area Chair will appoint a moderator for each group as well as a recorder to take notes on discussions and report to the whole assembly during the later session. We want to be mindful of the make-up of the small groups, trying to the best of our ability to make sure the small groups are as consistent as possible. (E.g. same number of GSRs, DCMs, Officers and Committee Chairs, Guests and Past Delegates, also striving to get adequate representation from all districts on each of the small groups) The last one and one half hour of the inventory will be done as a whole assembly report on the questions and allowing for additional discussion from the floor. The Area Chairperson shall appoint a non-voting member to moderate this session. All notes and reports from the small groups along with notes of any additional discussions will be given to a special secretary, appointed by the Area Chairperson, who will make a complete report and provide it to the Area Secretary to be included with the Assembly minutes as well as providing a copy of the report to the "TRIANGLE" Editor for publication and distribution to the groups. These results will also be published on the Area 40 Web Page under the heading of "2011 Inventory Results."

The questions to be used for the Inventory will be available at the 2011 Area 40 Spring Assembly and will be distributed to the DCMs, the Area Secretary, for inclusion in the minutes, as well as a copy given to the "TRIANGLE" Editor for publication and published on the Web Page under a special heading "2011 Inventory Questions". This should allow adequate time for input and shared experience from past participants at the Area Assembly as well allowing the most preparation time for the GSRs and others who will be participating in the inventory process.

As it states in the "Big Book" an inventory is a fact finding and a fact facing process, therefore the ad-hoc committee ask that we not take any action from the inventory without careful thought, consideration and discussion and we always remember to place principles before

personalities.

The Ad-Hoc committee recommends that the inventory become an on-going, regularly scheduled item on the Fall Assembly Agenda, every four years. Questions for the future inventories are to be determined by the Area Chairperson from: submittals from groups, an ad-hoc committee or from shared experience from other Areas and the General Service Conference. The request for questions needs to be made at the Fall Assembly, one year prior to the proposed inventory, so that there is adequate time for response from the groups. Once the questions are determined, no later than the Area 40 Spring Assembly prior to the proposed inventory, they will be published in the Area 40 Spring Assembly minutes, the Area 40 "Triangle" and be published under the heading of "\_\_\_\_ Area Inventory Questions" on the Area 40 Web Page. We also suggest that the Area Chairperson appoint a non-voting member as a moderator for any future inventories, to allow for complete participation, and an inventory secretary to record and report the results of any future inventories.

Respectfully submitted, Area Inventory Ad-Hoc Committee

#### AREA 40 INVENTORY QUESTIONS

##### GROUPS/DISTRICTS

- Is Area 40 represented by all districts in Area 40? If not, what is being tried to encourage participation by those groups or districts not yet represented?
- Are we doing a good job of aiding the flow of information to all the different entities of our service structure?
- Considerable expense is incurred in presenting Conference reports to the districts across Area 40 with seemingly low participation and attendance. What can we do to correct this or can our funds and efforts be spent more productively?
- Is the business of Area 40 being carried out just at assemblies, or is its' business being recognized by AA groups in Area 40 the year round?

##### INDIVIDUAL/PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE

- Are we attracting new people to participate in the Area 40 service structure in an enthusiastic way or are we boring them? If not, what could we do to improve this?

- Is the Area Assembly attracting Alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our AA community?
- Do we effectively integrate new people into the Area Assembly?
- Do we as members of the Area Assembly, come to participate? What can the Area do to help us be better prepared?

COMMITTEES/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- What has the Area Assembly done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the communities—the physician, clergy, court, law enforcement officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
- Mindful that holding an office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our area officers with care? What could we do differently?
- In recent years, we have very seldom had the Area Committee Chairs asked to put on workshops in Districts. Why is this?
- The “Triangle” is a source of considerable expense for Area 40. Is it effective in helping us to carry the message or has it outlived its usefulness. What could we do differently?

AREA ASSEMBLY

- Are we upholding our ‘primary purpose’, to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic? What more can the area do to carry this message?
- Are the steps, traditions, and concepts governing our decisions and actions when we conduct business at the assembly?
- Is the Area Assembly effective in communicating information between the General Service Conference and the Groups?
- How can Area 40 more effectively conduct its' business?

The Archives committee recommends that Area 40 add the following three items to the policy and procedures manual.



DON'T PANIC!! I will tell you when it's time to panic. Although we are currently not fully funding the services we have voted for, we have plenty of time to "right the ship" so to speak, and I think we should avoid hasty reactions to the information presented here. You, as trusted servants in Area 40, will decide our path to self support. Will we contribute more? Spend less? Change the size of the prudent reserve?

You will have several opportunities during this assembly to make choices that affect the finances of the Area. The Finance Committee will be presenting a budget for 2012, our "best guess" based on past experience and future expectations. A friend of mine in District 72 called the budget a spending plan, a term that I believe reflects what we actually do here. A true budget, whether it's for a corporation, a small business or a family, includes income projections. This is a near impossibility for us, as we in A.A. are way better at guessing our expenses than our contributions. We seem to decide what we want to spend and then have faith that we'll be able to pay our bills. I wonder how many of us would budget this way in our business or family. How prudent do you think it is to plan to spend large amounts of money, or small amounts for that matter, without knowing what will be coming in?

There are items on the agenda for this assembly which, if passed, will increase our budget. Bill W. said, "Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: 'Is this service really needed?' Far be it from me to second guess Bill W., but I would add another question: "Is this something that my group is willing to pay for?"

In closing, I know that reports filled with numbers might be a lot to absorb this early in the morning. After you have had more time to look at them, I would be happy to answer any questions that you have. Yours in service, Lori F., Area 40 Treasurer

Area 40 Budget vs. Actual by Committee 9-13-11

	<u>Jan 1 - Sep 13, 11</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>	17,168.37		
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Spring Assembly</b>	4,517.49	5,000.00	5,000.00
<b>Fall Assembly</b>	0.00	2,058.33	4,750.00
<b>Regional Service Conference</b>	2,035.31	1,800.00	1,800.00
<b>Regional Forum</b>	1,134.86	1,200.00	2,050.00
<b>Regional Trustee</b>	0.00	325.00	750.00

<b>Delegate Expenses</b>			
Area 40 share to GSC	3,239.00	3,239.00	3,239.00
Other Expenses NYC	19.90	700.00	700.00
Travel expenses	783.19	838.25	1,400.00
Roundups	0.00	286.67	400.00
Other Expenses	318.33	75.00	150.00
Delegate Expenses - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Total Delegate Expenses</b>	<b>4,360.42</b>	<b>5,138.92</b>	<b>5,889.00</b>
<b>Area Chair Expenses</b>	678.97	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Archives Chair</b>			
Ad Hoc Committee	30.44	0.00	
Archivist Display & Travel	0.00	358.33	500.00
Archives Storage	3,130.75	2,912.27	4,150.94
Archivist Training	0.00	0.00	
Archives Chair - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>208.92</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total Archives Chair</b>	<b>3,161.19</b>	<b>3,479.52</b>	<b>4,900.94</b>
<b>Corrections Chair</b>	1,406.07	1,108.92	1,150.00
<b>CPC Chair</b>	59.00	208.92	250.00
<b>GrapeVine Chair</b>	53.07	208.92	250.00
<b>Literature Chair</b>			
General literature purchases	564.54	500.00	500.00
Literature Chair - Other	<u>39.75</u>	<u>208.92</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total Literature Chair</b>	<b>604.29</b>	<b>708.92</b>	<b>750.00</b>
<b>Public Information Chair</b>			
Directory Listings	1,048.80	0.00	1,750.00
Area Hotline Expenses	2,419.50	1,054.17	1,500.00
Public Information Chair - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>208.92</u>	<u>250.00</u>

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES      SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2011

Total Public Information Chair	3,468.30	1,263.09	3,500.00
Treatment Chair	0.00	250.00	250.00
Secretary			
Secretary - Mgmt & Gen	78.57	150.00	150.00
Secretary - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Secretary	78.57	150.00	150.00
Treasurer			
Treasurer - Mgmt & Gen	118.15	195.75	200.00
Treasurer - Other	<u>181.70</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total Treasurer	299.85	395.75	400.00
Website	79.56	170.00	170.00
Triangle	3,666.89	2,355.42	3,350.00
Area Workshops	0.00	0.00	
Archivist Account	211.12	0.00	
Program Services - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Program Services	<u>25,814.96</u>	<u>26,821.71</u>	<u>36,359.94</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u><u>-8,646.59</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>-26,821.71</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>-36,359.94</u></u></b>

Area 40 Budget vs. Actual by Line Item 9-13-11

	<u>Jan 1 - Sep 13, 11</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			

Individual contribution	46.00		
Group Contributions	14,271.55		
District Contribution	899.71	*	
Roundup Contribution	125.00		
7th Tradition	1,104.61		
Triangle Subscriptions	390.00		
Other Income (recouped from)			
Literature	331.50		
Total Other Income (recouped from)	<u>331.50</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>	17,168.37		
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Travel Expenses</b>			
Gas	1,986.76	3,412.67	4,370.00
Mileage	587.14	1,130.08	1,500.00
Meals	924.63	2,127.67	2,895.00
Lodging	2,941.17	4,528.17	6,010.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	2,570.09	1,618.33	2,270.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	<u>3,239.00</u>	<u>3,239.00</u>	<u>3,239.00</u>
<b>Total Travel Expenses</b>	12,248.79	16,055.92	20,284.00
<b>Rent</b>			
Archives storage	3,130.75	2,912.27	4,150.94
Meeting space	<u>771.68</u>	<u>1,361.67</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>
<b>Total Rent</b>	3,902.43	4,273.94	6,050.94
<b>Literature Expenses</b>			
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	110.25	100.00	100.00
Service manuals (for resale)	<u>457.44</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>

**AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES      SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2011**

Total Literature Expenses	567.69	500.00	500.00
<b>Photocopies / printing</b>			
Background information	51.41	26.00	60.00
Photocopies / printing - Other	191.74	435.42	570.00
<b>Total Photocopies / printing</b>	<u>243.15</u>	<u>461.42</u>	<u>630.00</u>
<b>Dues, registration, fees</b>	118.56	170.00	170.00
<b>Postage</b>	2,695.73	2,259.25	3,285.00
<b>Supplies</b>	513.68	221.67	250.00
<b>Telephone</b>			
800 Number	3,468.30	1,054.17	3,250.00
Telephone - Other	240.88	0.00	
<b>Total Telephone</b>	<u>3,709.18</u>	<u>1,054.17</u>	<u>3,250.00</u>
<b>Miscellaneous expense</b>	<u>1,815.75</u>	<u>1,825.33</u>	<u>1,940.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>25,814.96</u>	<u>26,821.70</u>	<u>36,359.94</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>(8,646.59)</u>	<u>(26,821.70)</u>	<u>(36,359.94)</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>(8,646.59)</u></u>	<u><u>(26,821.70)</u></u>	<u><u>(36,359.94)</u></u>

\*District Contributions include \$541.75 in Hotline A/R not yet received

Checkbook Balance 9-13-11	\$17,445.75
Prudent Reserve	-\$12,119.98
Archivist Account	<u>-\$1,044.83</u>
<b>Operating Balance</b>	\$4,280.94

Triangle Report-Lee T.

It has been a very interesting beginning. Between software issues, maintaining contributing article participants, and developing working printing and distribution company relationships we ended up with a varied publishing schedule. As fortune would have it the not-so-missing “missing issue” arrived just in time for you to read about the Spring Assembly and recall those moments from a half a year ago. Hopefully this has helped in refreshing your memories, as if it were just last month, and at least for those that are coming back to Area or are first time attendees an aid to get up to speed with what has been happening at Area.

Costs of publication: Mailing costs with a bulk mailing license are not so bad, but publishing costs are on the rise. With a low end on groups that contribute the nominal fee of ten dollars per year does not cover the expense of providing a hands-on copy of the Triangle to each group in the Area. While it is a bit hard to project how many groups may end up contributing the current trend does not look so well. While the newsletter is available on line, many are not aware of where to find it. Look right on our aa-montana.org web site. In fact with current technology I can read the Triangle on my cell phone. While this technology is not available to all we are certainly at the brink of this becoming more and more common place.

In the meantime, while we *are* distributing this periodical via the mail consider a contribution towards your group’s subscription. While it is in the scope of my position to apply a price of subscription increase, this does not change the fact of past action that provides a copy to all groups despite contributing efforts. I am becoming more aware of the fact that some groups do not receive a copy. This may be due to insufficient mailing information. There is a point of diminishing returns which would allow for the subscription quantity to pay for itself if a strong majority of groups received a copy and subsequently contributed towards the expense. A combination of accurate mailing information allowing for subscription participation coupled with a strong self-supporting attitude would validate the Triangle’s usefulness with our Area efforts as the principle of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition suggests.

This is one of the questions that we are going to face during our Area Inventory this weekend. How important is the Triangle to our Districts and groups? Is it a valuable tool providing unity throughout the Area, the West Central Region, and perhaps all of A. A.? Does it ultimately aid in our efforts to carry the message? If so, can this be accomplished with just an on-line edition?

For me these questions come *after* my concerns about participation in article contribution throughout the Area. I have to keep doing the next right thing. After some simple calculations I came up with the possibility to achieve the remaining rotational publishing goal with the contribution of just ONE article from each of the District’s that have not contributed during this rotation. That is, out of 14, there are 13 eligible District’s, so it is easy to guess which ones you are! In fact, if every District simply picked one person that would be willing to share something about their experience, strength and hope as it relates to their sobriety, service, home group, an A.A. event they’ve attended, or other A. A.

related topic we could meet our goal. In issue 4, this past summer, I requested some specific help on topics that correlate with upcoming issues which typically require that extra contribution so that they may be completed. The first one relates to our upcoming National Archives Workshop with a general theme of "Not Regretting Our Service Past", followed by next February's general theme of "Love of Service", and finally to help complete next summer's "Camping" issue something along the lines of "Sharing Your Campfire Sobriety Story". Take this back to your District meeting, or decide right here at the Assembly, and let's get a schedule of participation going. You can reach me through the contact information our Area Secretary has provided, or the information found in any of this year's Triangles.

Help out by making sure I get the District meeting update information sheets found on your table before the end of the Assembly. Without an updated 'New Vision' list I am going by a combination of contributions I have received and the Group meeting schedules found on line. Look at the current Group meeting information available; compare it to the current mailing list. If there are groups that are correctly listed, but not on the mailing list please provide me with an accurate group contact mailing address so I can get a Triangle to these groups. If you've got questions about this process see me sometime this weekend. Get these packets back to me before the end of the Assembly.

While a few of you have had questions concerning bringing your subscriptions up to date, this information is an important start to keeping the records straight. Thank you all for your ongoing help and thank you so much for allowing me to serve. Lee T., Triangle Editor

#### Treatment Chair Report-Colby D.

Good morning my name is Colby and I am an Alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to report as your Area 40 Treatment Facilities Chair. It is good to see you all here; I hope you have had a fulfilling summer. I can share with you that mine has been filled with the blessing of a new grandson; he arrived in early summer in Little Rock, Arkansas. While I was visiting the new arrival, I attended several meetings in the small town of Cabot, Ark.; the group there was very welcoming and attended well. They focused on having our message presented to the new person in its undiluted form. At the close of the meeting, in typical fashion, announcements were asked for and made. Of special note, was the active voice of an old-timer who had made it his business to remind folks that the floundering vessel (*that would be the newcomer and not so new newcomer, he may have been referring to me!*) usually just doesn't show up by themselves? It takes action and effort on our collective part to be and seek out those who suffer from Alcoholism and provide them the structure, literature, meetings and face to face contact with each other where lives can be changed and transformed. As our summer closes our activities must continue.

Since the Spring Assembly I have been busy fielding countless requests for contact information to assist those leaving treatment facilities around Montana and helping them to get in touch with AA in their home town. Little did I realize; how busy some districts are in their efforts to assist in the Bridging the Gap process. Area 40 has several pockets of enthusiasm with regards to the Bridging the Gap activities; District 61, 72, and 81. Thank you for your ongoing active participation, keep up the good work. Please keep your BTG cards and contact information coming.

Many districts are updating BTG, and temporary contact information to be passed along to local treatment centers and institutions. As always having an active committee can assist with maintaining the process and continuity as requests are made to have members available to talk with the newcomer. One of the keys to a successful treatment facilities district plan is to have and maintain current updated contact information; I encourage all of you to be diligent in this area. This can only be supported by a host of volunteers willing to carry our message.

Throughout this summer I have put together a contact list for our Area for the District Treatment Chairs and Bridging the Gap contact information, not all districts have representation in both areas so I would encourage those districts to fill those vital positions as soon as possible. I have placed the latest contact information worksheet on the table in the back of the room; please feel free to take one. Please send any updates to [jcolbydinges@aol.com](mailto:jcolbydinges@aol.com). Have a great weekend!      Respectfully submitted, Colby D., Treatment Chair Area 40

**Area 40  
Summer 2011  
Rotational Listing**

**Treatment Chair Contact Listing**

District #	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	Email Address	Home Phone	Cell Phone
11	R.	Luis				409.598.0521
12	D.	Cheryl		<a href="mailto:cibhuntin@aol.com">cibhuntin@aol.com</a>		
21	G.	Joseph	PO BOX 931, Glasgow MT 59230	<a href="mailto:hydropwrmaker@hotmail.com">hydropwrmaker@hotmail.com</a>	406.228.8314	406.363.7390
23	K.	Jerry	319 4th ST SE, Sidney MT 59270		406.488.3125	406.480.1653
31	H.	Corrina	PO Box 1043	<a href="mailto:chorn@ppleweb.com">chorn@ppleweb.com</a>		406.740.1066
41						
42						
51	S.	Jamie	PO BOX 1904, Havre, MT	<a href="mailto:jamienmickelson@hotmail.com">jamienmickelson@hotmail.com</a>	406.439.95.75	
61	C.	Brad	211 Sawmill Rd, Clancy MT 59634			406.439.4070
71	D.	Tom	717 East Third , Anaconda, MT 59711	<a href="mailto:thomashdewing@gmail.com">thomashdewing@gmail.com</a>	406.563.2897	

72	R.	William		<a href="mailto:rutherford_william@yahoo.com">rutherford_william@yahoo.com</a>	406.586.7069	
81	B.	Margaret	4724 Wilkie St Missoula MT 59808	<a href="mailto:margaret.mtsage@gmail.com">margaret.mtsage@gmail.com</a>		406-830-0903
91	S.	Luke		luke020307@hotmail.com		
93						

Arc hives Chair-Joe H.

Good morning everyone. I am Joe and I am an alcoholic. I am currently serving as your Area 40 Archives Chair. If you are new or just attended your first Assembly this spring and are still wondering how your attendance at these Assemblies makes a difference, then we have a real treat for you.

At the spring assembly the Archives committee considered an agenda item that originated in Area 40, was presented as a recommendation from the Archives committee through their secondary assignment of Structure and policy and was passed on the floor of the spring Assembly. At this Assembly we will be conducting an inventory of ourselves as an Area. All of this came about through your active participation at these assemblies; all of you make all of this possible.

Next weekend we will have the honor and privilege of hosting the National Archives Workshop, in Helena Montana. This is a first for the whole West Central Region. This also came about through your participation at previous assemblies.

We have a lot to do this weekend. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Archives Chair. In love and service, Joe H.

Corrections Chair-Terry H.

Dear Fellow AA Members, Assembly attendees and Area Committee Members , it is of course, my pleasure and privilege to serve as your Area Corrections Chair.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year Area 40 has distributed \$4127.52 in literature from The Pink Can to State and Regional Prisons, Jails, and Treatment Facilities where alcoholics are confined. That is the equivalent of 578 Big Books to alcoholics who otherwise would not have one, though not all were Big Books, there was a sprinkling of 12 and 12's also. There were also requests for the Daily Reflections from Treatment Centers which I did not provide. \$2102.70 in Contributions were made to The Pink Can Fund from Area 40 AA groups. There is currently a balance of \$3088.02 in the Pink Can Fund. I have also supplied literature and can covers to AA groups for the Pink Can Fund. There has been a lot of discussion about

the Fund and I am hoping the Agenda Item at our Fall Assembly will bring clarification as to the distribution of Pink Can Funds. Many requests I get come directly from Treatment Center program directors not AA members. Some are for requests for books used in the treatment centers programs. The intent of the Pink Can Fund as I understand it is to provide the individual alcoholic confined in a facility a Big book or other AA literature, not provide treatment centers with Big Books and Literature.

We have a few problem spots in Area 40. In one district, people in charge of facilities have made it virtually impossible for AA members to be able to accommodate the volunteer mandates of the facilities. Hopefully with periodic contact expressing a desire to help the mandates will be relaxed. In other districts we do not have available volunteers to take meetings into facilities requesting them. It is sometimes frustrating to not have a simple answer or an answer at all.

I had a stamp made with the Area Web address and the Hotline Number on it and I am stamping all literature I send out with it. I would encourage all the districts to do the same. We seem to be having some problems with our contact programs but contact can always be made through the web site or the 800 number. It has been my experience that the contact cards we use need at best 60 days and at the least 30 days to get from the Facility to the Area or DCM to the GSR to the AA member who will be the contact.

I had a fantastic time at the District 21's Wild West Sober Fest and did my best to add to the Wild part! The people who attended the Corrections Workshop were engaged and enthusiastic which really makes the whole presentation. Thank you District 21 for the invitation. I'm not sure that 'God, whose mysterious ways we may not understand' didn't send me there just to meet a contact for the Dawson Co. Correctional Facility in Glendive. God sometimes does that to me, sends me to Fort Peck to meet someone from Glendive. I had just weeks before made contact with the program director of the Glendive Facility but could not help her with outside members for the AA group currently going on. I sent her literature and books and information on the Inmate Correspondence Program. We'll see what happens there now.

I think God did it again when he sent me to Great Falls to pick up someone from New York to take to Miles City. I'm speaking of the Local Forum that was held in Great Falls and Miles City in June. The corrections committee sponsored the Local Forums and Scott and Jewel Lea Weiss were the Chairs. Both Forums were fabulous and informative and inspiring. I spent hundreds of miles with Jim M. who was serving on the Corrections Desk at the General Service Office. He had a lot of encouragement as I bent his ear about some of the challenges we have in our Area. He told me I wouldn't be able to solve all the problems. WHAT! He did have some great ideas and it will be the benefit of alcoholics confined in long term prison situations if we can get them implemented. One discussion is how we on the outside could never stay sober on AA meetings alone, that we have to work the steps to have a spiritual awakening sufficient to recover from alcoholism. We couldn't do it but it is all we offer to alcoholics confined. So out of our discussion we came up with the idea (it is done in other areas) of Step Weekends in the Prisons. They have religious weekends in Prison. Why not Step Weekends? It also happens that the Yellowstone Group in Billings had already invited Rick C. to come the first

weekend of November to do a step weekend for AA members. See how God works! It is my hope that anyone who would like to become involved in Step weekends in the Prisons will come to this weekend and we can use it as training. I am very hyped about this. Plus it never hurts me to work the steps again so I was already going. The Flyer is on the Website. Let me know if you are going for the purpose of Step Weekends in Prisons.

There is a lot to be done in Area 40 and I realize I won't be able to address a lot of the challenges we face trying to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic. But I know it is a process and that between the Area and the Districts and the Groups and mostly the AA member more is being done all the time. Thank you so much for your effort and your willingness and your desire. Yours in service, Terry H., Area 40 Corrections Chair

	PINK CAN ACCOUNT	DEBT	CREDIT	BALANCE
1/1/2011	WORLD SERVICES BALANCE (AAWS)			3066.26
2/4/2011	NEXUS TREATMENT CENTER	285.6		2780.66
2/15/2011	DISTRICT 11 CORRECTIONS CHAIR	285.6		2495.06
3/28/2011	DISTRICT 72 CORRECTIONS CHAIR(BB'S)	285.6		2209.46
	DISTRICT 72 CORRECTIONS CHAIR(12X12'S)	263.2		\$1,946.26
5/6/2011	DISTRICT 71 (2 CASES BB'S) (1 CASE 12 AND 12'S & 1 CASE DAILY REFL)	727.2		\$1,219.06
5/19/2011	WATCH EAST (BB'S)	285.6		\$933.46
6/2/2011	DISTRICT 72 CORRECTIONS CHAIR (BB'S)	285.6		\$647.86
6/14/2011	ELKHORN TRMT CNTR-SHARON(BB'S)	285.6		\$362.26
6/20/2011	DISTRICT 11 CORRECTIONS CHAIR (BB'S)	285.6		\$76.66
6/28/2011	AREA 40 CORRECTIONS CHAIR(\$251.64)	76.66		\$0.00
1/14/2011	CHECKING ACCOUNT			
	SEED FROM AREA		100	100
1/18/2011	CLOSED PAST ACCT. \$2758.93			2858.93
1/20/2011	PO BOX	58		2800.93
3/6/2011	PAY BACK AREA TREASURER SEED	100		2700.93

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES      SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2011

3/7/2011	DEPOSIT-GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS			
	DISTRICT 72 \$1503.25			
	MSLA WOMENS GROUP \$7.30		1510.55	4211.48
3/24/2011	DEPOSIT			
	AREA PAID PO BOX RENT \$58.00			
	MSLA WOMENS GROUP \$7.30		65.3	4276.78
4/4/2011	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS			
	POLSON EARLY BIRD GROUP		71	4347.78
4/15/2011	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		151.55	4499.33
	TALK STORY GROUP \$83.67(VICTOR)			
	MSLA WOMENS GROUP \$10.60			
	ANACONDA TRADITIONS GRP \$37.75			
	RECOVERY GROUP \$19.18			
5/11/2011	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		110.37	4609.7
	TALK STORY GROUP \$90.37(VICTOR)			
	RECOVERY GROUP BILLINGS \$20.00			
6/21/2011	CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE			4609.7
6/28/2011	PINK CAN CHECKING ACCOUT & AAWS			4609.7
6/28/2011	AREA 40 CORRECTIONS CHAIR(251.64)	\$174.98		\$4,434.72
7/9/2011	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		\$30.00	\$4,464.72
	ANACONDA TRADITIONS GRP \$30.00			\$4,464.72
7/9/2011	PINK CAN FUND TOTALS	3399.24	2038.77	\$4,464.72
8/3/2011	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		53.02	\$4,517.74
	MSLA WOMENS GRP MAY/JULY \$23.02			
	ANACONDA TRADITIONS GRP \$30.00			
8/9/2011	DISTRICT 72 BIGBOOKS	285.6		\$4,232.14
8/9/2011	NEXUS TREATMENT CENTER	285.6		\$3,946.54
8/23/2011	WATCH EAST (BB'S)	157.08		\$3,789.46
8/31/2011	GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS		11	\$3,800.46
	MSLA WOMENS GRP JUNE/AUG \$11.00			

9/1/2011	PINK CAN TOTALS	4127.52	2102.79	\$3,800.02
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Public Information/Report and Charter/Website

Good morning, my name is Paula and I am an alcoholic. I appreciated being able to attend District 81's (Missoula) Delegate report and the Kalispell, District 91, Pi/CPC/Treatment Workshop. Both were very informative and well attended!

I have had a few questions about the phone line, mostly about billing. Most districts have updated their phone contacts. 1) Why are AnswerNet employees taking the phone numbers of callers instead of through and why is patch time so high? "Employees are giving numbers instead of patching the callers is because after my agents have had to hold the caller in hold for several minutes as they are trying to reach a volunteer or find a volunteer who will take the call. Most of the time, the caller will indicate to just have them call them back because they do not want to sit in hold, thus reason for some of the patch time being high because the callers are in patch hold." 2) Why is my District getting calls for other districts or from out-of-stat? "Employees start by phoning the district where the person is calling from. If no one answers, then the employees call the nearest districts until someone answers." SOLUTION to these two questions. Districts need to make sure that their phone lists are current and that AnswerNet has correct phone numbers and availability of the AA volunteer.

Debra wants us to know that "the caller id will display 406-248-2337 when her employees are calling volunteers for callers. We have had on more than one occasion where we have finally dispatched the message and then have several of the volunteers whom we have tried to reach, call in and are extremely rude on the phone. Saying, " who is this and why are you calling my phone!?" I (Debra) have had this happen to me personally while taking calls." We are getting an extremely good deal on our AnswerNet charges. Please let everyone know the caller ID number. I hope that I won't hear about this rudeness again! If a group would like to add volunteers to take calls, please submit your name to either your District PI or Phone Chair. Alex reported that meetings are now listed for Troy and Libby on our website as was decided in April 2011.

Archives Committee has updated p 16 I of the Policy & Procedure Manual to read Area 40 will be responsible up to a maximum of \$250.00 per month (instead of \$1000.00 per year) as was decided in April 2010. Literature racks at schools, hospitals, libraries, public offices and health departments are being stocked regularly. Contacts are also being made in middle and high schools.

At dinner tonight, Colby, Treatment Chair; Libby, CPC Chair; Carol B, Corrections Chair stand-in and I are meeting here at the Yogo Inn restaurant

to discuss ways our committees can together reach out to businesses and institutions. We welcome your participation. Just let me know by noon so I can reserve a large enough table. I look forward to our PI Committee break out discussions and to our Area inventory. Thank you for allowing me to serve! As usual, it has been a growing experience. Paula H., Area 40 PI Chair

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees

Good Morning Area 40 Assembly. Thank you for having me here as your Cooperation with the Professional Community Area committee chair. It has been an exciting summer.

Since the last assembly, I've been busy with CPC work. I held a Workbook Workshop in Victor for District 93 in June. It was well attended and, I hope, very informative.

In July I found myself on my way to Haiti for the second time this year. On the way there, I had a layover in New York City and was able to visit Valerie O. the publications director at GSO. I had contacted her last spring with questions about Big Book translations. I had also supplied her with the name of a translator I knew who lived in Haiti. While at GSO I got my own private tour and got to meet the outgoing CPC Mary C. and the incoming CPC Adrienne B. It was way cool. After arriving in Haiti, I delivered a French Big Book to that translator who has been hired by GSO and who is now in the process of translating the Big Book into Haitian Creole. He will also have a copy of the five already translated chapters from our AA friends there. I am really excited to have been able to be a part of sharing the message in this way.

I was able to attend 2 AA meetings while on this trip. It is amazing how our stories are the same no matter the language; Fear, Desperation and Hope sound the same. Once again I felt blessed to have the one AA meeting in the whole country within walking distance to where I was staying. It was a wonderful experience.

Back at home, District 91 held a wonderful CPC luncheon in August. PI, Treatment, and Corrections were also participants. It was well and attended and well received by the professionals in the Flathead. I gave a GSO supplied power point presentation "Let's be Friendly with our Friends" to the attendees. It is a very informative, succinct report.

Upcoming events I plan to attend are the Fall Round Up in Helena, my home group's annual Fall Refresher, the Flathead Valley Women's Recovery weekend, and of course the WCRAASC in Billings in March. I am waiting to be invited to your group or district; I also have a display with pamphlets and power points in the back. Let me share this with you this weekend.

From the Service Manual page S1      "Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the AA Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles: it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Join me as an alcoholic in action by cooperating with our professional “Friends”, and as we gain their confidence and gain their referrals to Alcoholics Anonymous, CPC in Area 40 will not wither and the still suffering alcoholics can be given the truth and won’t have to die. Thank you, Libbie L. Area 40 CPC

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC)

My name is Gary E., your alcoholic Area40 Grapevine Chair. It is a privilege to serve AA in any capacity. First I would like to thank Carole for stepping in for me at the Spring Assembly because I was unable to attend. In June I attended the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Grapefest in Helena sponsored by the District Grapevine Committee along with Terry who gave his Delegates report. Well attended and enjoyable. I am available to do workshops just give me a call.

This weekend the Grapevine Committee will be doing some brainstorming on ways to help bring the Grapevine out of the whole financially once we finish with our agenda items. Kind goes along with what we will be doing this weekend, taking an inventory.

Take a look at the Grapevine display and pickup a subscription form and fill it out and place in the box provided and then grab a Grapevine to read. Maybe two people can split the subscription cost and share our “Meeting in Print”. Most of the items on the display are for display purpose only. There are some order forms at the display. Also, be looking for the pocket planner and calendar that will be showing up soon.

The Grapevine is very important recovery tool, which I think a majority of us would agree. My experience over the years as a member of this fellowship when the call for help comes the fellowship steps up and makes it happen if they feel that whatever it is is important. I can give you all kinds of facts and figures on why we need to support the Grapevine but, that is just information. You can read all about it in the final Conference Report. Can we fulfill the challenge that Terry has issued for a 100 new subscriptions in Area 40 by the end of the year? I know we can do it.

One final item is the WCRAASC in Billings next spring in March. I have called Janet at the Grapevine office in New York to find out what they have available for displays. Hope to have an outstanding for the Conference. Again thanks for the privilege to serve. Gary E., Grapevine Chair

Literature

Hello everyone, my name is Mary M and I am an alcoholic. I have the opportunity to serve as the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair.

**LET LITERATURE CARRY THE MESSAGE, TOO.** Today, as in the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, the A.A. message of recovery from alcoholism is carried by one alcoholic talking to another. However, since the publication of the first edition of the Big Book in 1939, literature

has played an important role in spreading the A.A. message and imparting information about the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery. [from AA guidelines on Literature]

Please take time this weekend to look at the literature display at the back of the room. There are new literature catalogs for 2011 / 2012 and there are a few price changes with Literature packages and some service material.

There are Service Manuals on the back table 'on sale' for \$3.50 and there is an 'On Your Honor' can next to them. The books are for display only to show you what is available for Conference approved literature from G.S.O. Feel free to take some pamphlets with you. I made contact with Gayle S.R our new secretary of trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature at GSO. She is also responsible for Box 4-5-9. You can subscribe to Box 4-5-9 for \$3.50/ year for an individual or your group can get 10 issues for \$6.00. You can also read a pdf version online at aa.org.

**Update:** There is a new Special needs /Accessibility Kit which contains an assortment of pamphlets, an AA Grapevine and the Workbook: There is also a new Special Needs pamphlet. I will have that available for display at our next assembly. AA e-books is coming soon, check it out at aa.org in October.

I am looking forward to this assembly and our inventory. This is where it all comes together for me.      In Service, Mary M., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

### DCM Reports

#### District 11

My name is Brandon and I am an alcoholic. Currently serving as DCM for District 11. Here is a bit of update since the last Area Assembly.

In June Eric E. (Alt-DCM) and I traveled to Miles City for the Local Forum. Jim from GSO (serving on the correction's desk) spoke about how corrections work in AA directly impacted his life. I will do his story no justice by trying to paraphrase it, just let me say that after his story, I am pretty sure there was not a dry-eye in the room.

District 11 did not hold a July meeting, as been a "standard" to get July off.

In August District 11 was invited to host Sunday morning breakfast at the Fireman's Point Campout hosted by District 12. We have plenty of volunteers show up and help cook for about 85 people. We manage to cook and serve (without any complaints) 12 dozen eggs (scrambled), 30

lbs of hash browns, 15 lbs of bacon and sausage. We also provide some milk and juice for the weary campers. After breakfast, Terry S. gave those in attendance his delegates report - He has been a busy man!

I was unable to travel to Davenport, IA to take part in the Regional Forum - which is unfortunate considering how much I love Iowa (Sorry Sandy, had to say it) I would like to extend a personal thank you to all groups and members in District 11 for allowing me to serve as DCM this rotation. In Service, Brandon M., DCM, District 11

### District 12

District 12 has 28 meetings from 9 groups in 8 towns.

The district is financially sound and retains no debt. We currently have four committees, Grapevine Rep, Daniel M., PI & CPC, Steve O., Treatment & Corrections, Cheryl D., Literature, Nick G as well as a Secretary/Treasurer Dan M.

The Annual Fireman's Point Campout was August 19-21, 2011 located ½ a mile south of Columbus on Hwy 78. The campout has evolved to 2 nights and 3 days. Friday night kicked off the event with a potluck and speakers Jack S, Harlowton and Bob H, Huntley. New to the campout this year was SOB Poker run (Sober Old Bikers) with 25 participants on Saturday who stopped mid-way for a riverside meeting. The Serenity Prayer was stopped short when a black bear staggered into the meeting, not seeking sobriety it wandered off. The meeting resumed. The River Rafting scheduled also for Saturday was cancelled due to that Rafting company's trips being sold out for that day. Awakening at 3 am, Master Chef, Dave started his gynomuss grill to BBQ's Brisket, Pork Shoulder and 10 dozen ears of sweet corn provided by District 12 for the Saturday evening potluck. The speaker around the campfire meeting was Don M. from Billings. Kudos to Dave for sharing his bbq talent.

Sunday morning a pancake, egg, hashbrown, bacon, sausage, breakfast was prepared by District 11. Thank you District 11 for bringing and preparing a fantastic meal that was followed by Area 40 Delegate's report from Terry. New this year we put up 'Friends of Bill W.' signs on the highway. A fellow member from Nevada happened by, saw the sign, and joined us.

Thank you to our Speakers for sharing their stories, all who attended and joined us for Great Food, Fishing, Sharing & Story Telling, Fellowship, Friendship plus So Much More. If you don't think you can have fun while being sober, then you haven't ever been to the Fireman's Point Campout!

District 12's Annual Mid-Winter Social will be held in Joliet February 18, 2012 with the district providing ham, turkey, homemade mashed potatoes & gravy to compliment the best Potluck in Area 40. A yet to be announced speaker and silent auction will end the evening. Plan now to attend—a Flyer will be on the Area 40 website shortly. Living life beyond expectations, due to sobriety, service and fellowship, Sandy A., DCM, District 12

District 21

Our summer campout, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wild West Soberfest** was a success! It was held on the Missouri River and Fort Peck Lake, August 12-14, 2011.

We were honored with a speaker from the Bronx, Frank S., our Area Chair, Sharon S. and Corrections Chair, Terry H. and Terry S. with his Delegate's Report. Terry S., animated as always, explained what was going on in a way we could all understand, something some of us find quite elusive. Sharon shared, in her candid manner and broken hip, a little about herself and how she came to grow in service. Terry H. jumped from table to table scaring us into understanding the current Corrections issues.

We enjoyed good food, music (by Halacholic), our friends from other districts and families and friends from around our District. Some were fishing, some swimming and others just enjoying the company of each other. Our meetings, enjoyed around a campfire circle, warmed us all in spirit and fellowship. Submitted by Laura S., DCM, District 21

District 23

Greetings All. Since the Spring Assembly, my goal to visit all the meetings in the District has yet to be fulfilled. I still have to visit the Thursday Night 7pm meeting of the Circle Group. Yes, we do have a meeting in Circle. Although, I have visited both of the groups in Glendive, I still need to visit some of the different meeting times of these groups. Speaking of meetings, between the (6) groups, (3) registered and (3) unregistered, which meet in Glendive, Sidney, Fairview and Circle, currently we have (14) meetings total. Between all the meetings, all seven days of the week are covered. We may have to drive a bit, but one can attend a meeting a day in the District. As the saying goes: "Get in the Car!"

The (3) registered groups are: Glendive's Life Again Group and Sidney's Monday Noon Group and Welcome Home Group.

The current (3) unregistered groups include the Circle Group, the 12 to Life Group in Glendive, and a Big Book Study Group/Meeting which recently started to meet on Mondays at 7pm at the Fairview Alliance Church in Fairview, MT. Time will tell how this meeting goes.

This summer has seen (2) unregistered groups/meetings disband: The Fairview's Young Person's 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Big Book Study Group, which was meeting on Monday Nights, stopped meeting and has disbanded due to the organizer deciding to go to College. We did have a brief meeting going on in Sidney, also on Monday Nights, but that one also folded.

Of mention, in Sidney, by cooperation, but not affiliation, folks are also finding support in a Thursday Night NA meeting and a Friday Night Christian 12-Step Recovery Related Group. Our Sidney Young People have recently started what they call "The Sober Life Young Person's NAAA 12 Step Recovery Group", a group for person's under 25 focused on both AA and NA. principles.

During the Wild West Soberfest, we heard from our Area Delegate. He reported on a matter of importance to our District which concerns the request to have a hardbound copy of Daily Reflections made and distributed. As was reported, the Literature Committee took the matter up and decided that No Action be taken. This proposal did originate from our District and was reviewed at our last District Meeting on September 3rd. At this time, no plans exist to revive it.

We are having an upcoming District Meeting in Savage, MT as part of our Halloween/Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29th at the Savage Community Center. I don't plan on dressing up as "Mrs. Doubtfire" as a past DCM did, but I do plan on having fun, so if your travels take you to our part of the state, drop on by. Please see the poster and website for details.

My plans, as reported at the Spring Assembly, are still my plans. I am working on them with support of others and continue to "trudge the road of happy destiny" in my recovery efforts, ever keeping in mind--Rule 62--"Don't Take Yourself So Damn Seriously!"

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you all. I remain, on The Beam Of Recovery Today. J. Scott W., DCM-District 23

#### District 31

The "Special Forum" was held in June in Miles City MT. That went over great. Although attendance could have been better, I would like to say the food was great and those that attended told me they enjoyed the form and learned a lot. Thanks so much for all those who helped put on a terrific AA event.

The district meeting that was held in August in Colstrip was good, although attendance could have been better. But, once again, the food was great and now that I have a better idea how to put our events on the website out there for all to read, we hope to have better turn outs next time.

The meetings in Terry MT are new; so is the Peacemakers meeting in Miles City, MT. Both are just getting started, but so far seem to be doing great.

Our next district meeting will be in Forsyth, MT. Although in talking at this conference with others in our district, it was found that we tried that tactic before and it still didn't work to get those in the Forsyth area involved. There are good people in the program but lack initiative to get involved on the district level. This is a main concern at this time.

I got to attend the Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa which I will be forever grateful to my district for the opportunity. Thank You! I had a good time and learned ways to further this great movement. Thanks, Corrina H., District 31

District 41

I want to take a moment to thank all the GSR's and committee chairs and fellow members of District 41 that were able and willing to make the fall assembly this weekend. Thank you for all you do, for your service and support of the groups in our district. Your gift of service brightens my day and it continues to brighten my life in recovery.

Since last time since we met here, District 41, has been active with a number of functions, to name a few. We had the privilege to host the 2011 Spring Roundup with the theme, "Together We Can, Together We Grow." Approximately 370 people were in attendance for the roundup. It was very successful and a great time had by all and a lot of time and effort put in by many that are here today. Jaime L. was the roundup chair and I have to say I was proud of her commitment.

June 18<sup>th</sup> District 41 played host to a Local Forum on corrections service. I went to Miles City the next day, too. I want to thank Scott W. from Billings and Mary S. from Great Falls for all their efforts in helping to make the forum happen. Oh, and we can't forget the little part that Ken B. our Regional Trustee played in this forum, as well as Jim M., GSO staffer on the corrections desk. What a terrific job they did as well as our delegate, Terry S., and so many others from Area 40 that helped with travel and participation. If I try and name all that helped, I'd miss someone and that's no good. I'll just say we know who you are and many, many, thanks to you all.

We had our annual Founder's Day Picnic at Ryan's Barn and once again there was good fellowship, speakers, and workshop. I just recently had the gifted opportunity to attend the West Central Regional Forum where once again Ken B. played a little part in that. The forum was well attended and so informative I have to say. It was a huge success. Thanks to all the Class A Trustees, Class B Trustees, and GSO staffers and the groups in and around Davenport, Iowa.

District 41 has come a long way in filling its chair positions and in the spirit of rotation. I'm excited to say all positions but the Treasurer's chair have been filled. The past Treasurer is still serving as well and we know it's a matter of time and someone will be called to serve in that capacity. Groups and GSR's are getting the word that we not as effective in carrying the message when we don't change and without our participation. All of us in service want to see our groups do well, so one of the main focuses going forward is helping with groups getting GSR's participation, group structure, and inventory. Potluck workshops and gatherings are planned in the coming months to get the majority of groups participating.

I know we are all looking forward to the upcoming events between now and our next assembly. We are very fortunate as we have a lot going on in the way of mini-conferences, roundups, workshops, and a lot for terrific groups to meet at. In closing, I just want to say you all inspire me and when I grow up I want to be like most of you. Thank you and God Bless. Yours in love and service, Casey L., DCM, District 41

District 42

Good morning everyone. My name is Duane C. and I am an alcoholic; DCM for District 42, Area 40-Montana, West Central Region. Doesn't that sound impressive?

District 42 has done pretty good for the size of the area it covers. We have 7 active groups holding 21 meetings a week.

Augusta started a meeting last spring and it seems to be doing well. They want to get registered and join District 42. That will be good.

Valier held its annual roundup July 29-31. It was a success. Good speakers and lots of food, fun, and fellowship.

We still take meetings into the GCR. Prison in Shelby every Sunday. For some reason attendance by inmates is way down. We can always use more volunteers to help at the prison. Love in service, Duane C., DCM, District 42

District 51

Hello, my name is Leo and I am an alcoholic. District Committee Member District 51 from Havre, Mt. Thank you for entrusting me to serve.

Since the last Area Assembly, District 51 has seen very much activity. We have 16 groups with approximately 35 meetings per week. One meeting has a speaker/birthday meeting the last Friday of the week; which is incidentally the oldest and best meeting in Havre. The Sunrise Alano Club has speaker/pot luck meetings as well in the months of October - May. This June, District 51 hosted an Archives Workshop where we invited the Archivist, Gerry R. to come to Havre and give a presentation on the beginning and early days of Alcoholics Anonymous. Area Delegate Terry S. came and gave his Delegate's report as well. I very much enjoyed the workshop however; the attendance from our District was less than stellar! I chalk this up simply to poor communication and timing. They who were not there don't know what they missed.

There are several AA related functions throughout the year such as; The New Year's Eve Party which is held every New Year's eve at the First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. That is one heck-of-a party! There are currently four campouts per year during the summer months of June, July, August and September. There has also been talk of starting to have one in May as well. These are very good opportunities to fellowship as well as to get out and enjoy nature. They are held in Beaver Creek County Park; the largest county park in the United States which is approximately 15 miles south of Havre. The June Campout, however, was canceled due to flooding so we had only 3 campouts this year.

Another function we have every year is the Havre Mini Conference. For the last few years, it has been held at the Human Resources Development Council Building on the South end of Fifth Avenue in Havre. They have some very good speakers lined up this year. At the Mini

Conference; there is a CPC workshop/luncheon. Professionals from within the community are in attendance and it is, from what I can tell, very well received. Fliers for the Mini Conference are available.

Within the District, all District Chair positions are filled with the exception of one; the Corrections Chair. We are having difficulty with our local "Treatment Facility" in cooperating with us. They seem to have a negative opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous and won't allow any meetings to be held in their facility. I hope to have a representative from there attend our Havre AA Mini Conference. Perhaps then they can form a more positive of us.

I was fortunate enough to go to Akron, Ohio this summer. I visited Dr. Bob's house and saw where much of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous was written. I especially enjoyed visiting the Mayflower Hotel where Bill W made his unforgettable call to Reverend Tunk which eventually led to his meeting with Dr. Bob and the ultimate formation of AA. I would encourage anyone interested in the history of AA to visit Akron and see where it all started. I plan to attend Founders Day next year and hope to visit more historical buildings. Again, I thank you for allowing me to serve. Yours in love of trusted service, Leo B., DCM, District 51

#### District 61

Greetings from District 61! We have 94 meetings a week and approximately 44 groups in Lincoln, Townsend, Boulder, Elliston, East Helena, and Helena. Busy people are happy people and we have a lot to be happy about. We had the Grapefest, various campouts and group birthdays this summer. Next weekend the Area Archivists committee will host the National Archives workshop in Helena. Do not miss this event! You will get to see things there you will never get a chance to see again.

Next up is the Roundup, October 14–16 at the Colonial Red Lion. We have a great lineup of speakers including Mark S. Book your room by September 20<sup>th</sup> to get the conference rate. See me or Misty G if you would like to register this weekend.

Finally, we have the Attitude of Gratitude November 19 and that is also sure to be a good time.

The best news I have to share with you is that we have been invited by the VA Hospital to bring meetings into their new Behavioral Health unit. We also provide speakers and/or bring meetings in to Elkhorn Treatment Center, Boyd Andrews Intensive Outpatient treatment, Men's Pre-Release, Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson county jails, MCDC, and Montana State Prison.

The alternate DCM, Rebecca, and I have been visiting groups and that has been fun and informative. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you. Respectfully submitted, Anne B., DCM, District 61

District 71

Hi everyone! I am an alcoholic; my name is Peggy, DCM for District 71, which includes Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Opportunity, Lima, Phillipsburg, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, and Whitehall. We have a total of 64 meetings ranging from 7 am till 8pm. Last month we had all our district chairs filled. An then, last night at our district meeting, our Treatment chair said he just could not fill the positions due to some other commitments.

We were in dire straits to get someone to take the chair and work with corrections, so we could get Bridging the Gap working. Fred P. said he would step up to the plate until we could find a replacement. I have talked to Terry H, Area Corrections Chair, and Colby D, Area Treatment Chair, about how we can get cards out faster to the districts so the client has someone to get him or her to a meeting as soon as possible. I did talk to Watch and they said they talk about the cards being filled out in the first month that they are there. I suggested that they wait for two months so they know just what the card is for. Some of the guys get to go to the Opportunity meeting and they tell me that they were getting out in two or three days and would love to have someone contact them. If you could ask whomever takes the card to just send a note to the client saying that they will take them to their first meeting and get a phone number to reach them it would be very helpful.

Our Archives chair and I will be attending the National Archives Workshop presentations next week. We are really looking forward to it. Our meeting schedules are on the Web site along with all our other stuff. Yours in service, Peggy H., DCM, District 71

District 81

Hello my name is Erin and I am an alcoholic: and I am the District 81 DCM. Our district spans from Thompson Falls to Superior with many towns in between. There are approximately 115 meetings held each week by 41 AA groups. Our district meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at the Alano Club (450 W. Broadway Street in Missoula) from 2-4 p.m.

Currently, all of our committee chairs are filled and between 15 and 20 GSRs are usually in attendance. Since our district spans across such a large geographical area we see less attendance from some of the smaller towns, although we do have regular attendance from several GSRs who travel over an hour to reach us every month. (And several of them are here today, too.) During the warmer months the Alt. DCM and I have been traveling around the district to do group visits. We have met some wonderful people and are happy to see that AA is alive and well even in the woods. The Mission Valley/St. Ignatius Group graciously hosted our annual traveling District at the Bison Range in August.

Our service commitments include: meetings to MCDC in Butte on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month; meetings to the Providence Mental Health Center two times per month; meetings weekly to two correctional facilities, participation in prison meetings, and meetings weekly to the Teen Recovery Center.

The Area 40 2012 Fall Roundup committee has been busy planning the festivities that will be held October 5-7 of 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. The committee meets monthly before the district meeting. The Round up Committee has been holding some fundraisers, including a '80s party.

Our district is working with our local correctional facilities to strengthen the relationships and hopefully allow for more meetings on the inside. There have been some changes that have limited the number of people who can take meetings in to the jails, while at the same time increasing the requirements for who is eligible to enter the jails. This includes barring anyone with a felony conviction ~~ever~~ or a misdemeanor conviction within the last five years from taking a meeting into the jail. Our corrections committee is working on this and we are hoping that as we continue to fulfill our commitments doors will open further.

To help our district get funds to their intended destination, we have added the contact info for GSO, Area 40 and the District to meeting schedules.

Since our last Area Assembly many fun events took place District 81. The Polson Ray of Hope Camporee took place over Labor Day weekend. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sober Float took place on the Clark Fork River and attracted participants from two districts. Our Founder's Day Celebration was a good time and we enjoyed hearing our Delegate's Report. We are busy planning our Halloween Party in addition to other upcoming events like the holiday marathon meetings and related get-togethers.

I am grateful to serve Area 40 and District 81. Our district has such a lively mix of alcoholics who accomplish so many great things. Alcoholics of all ages and from many walks of life are active in all levels of service and we are thrilled to welcome five new faces to the Area Assembly this year.

Yours in Service, Erin G., DCM, District 81

#### District 91

District 91 still reaches from Eureka to Elmo. There are 21 active groups with 8-10 groups regularly attending our monthly district meeting. That is 113 meetings a week. The District business meeting is held at 3 PM the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month with a rotating meeting locations where the host group representative volunteers their meeting hall for the upcoming meeting. Once in a while there are a few group members actually attending that are interested in General Service because they have heard that service keeps you sober. It seems to work very well as it brings the district to the group.

In my travels around the district, I took the opportunity to attend the potluck and the speakers' meeting of the Annual Flathead Valley Intergroup campout that was approximately 80 alcoholics and their families.

Last weekend I joined 6 other members from Area 40 at the Regional Service Forum in Davenport Iowa. It was definitely as powerful as any service conference. Alcoholics Anonymous is in good hands.

Upcoming events are the Serenity Group's Annual Fall Refresher which will be held on October 8-9<sup>th</sup> with our very own Andrew W. speaking. Also coming up is the Annual District Into Action weekend February 17-18<sup>th</sup>. Our district has continued to assist GSRs financially to attend Area Assembly as it is imperative for an informed group conscience. Also, the years highlight was a CPC workshop. Small and intimate, but, yet powerful and effective. There were 45 people in attendance with 20 or so being professionals. Four AA speakers including Erin G., District 81 DCM and myself as both of us have had unique experiences with the Department of Corrections. Also, making a great impact on other professionals and alcoholics alike were four professional speakers including a judge, a psychologist, a chemical dependency counselor, and a youth probation officer. Our Area 40 CPC chair, Libbie L., gave a most excellent PowerPoint presentation on what AA is and isn't. The event was a huge success and District 91 is definitely making a host of new friends in the professional fields concerned about alcoholism.

District 91 organizes alcoholics to attend DUI court, Wilderness Treatment Center, Pathways Treatment Center, and is consistently active in the Flathead County Jail meetings. Every district chairperson except Archives is active with committees.

This last year has been so awesome to be a participant in district services. Thank you for my sobriety.  
Sam B., DCM, District 91

#### District 93

My name is Jay T. and I am an alcoholic. Greetings from the Bitterroot Valley. We have 14 groups and 3 meetings with 27 plus meetings a week. This summer we had Norm's Picnic on the West Fork. We had not one but two speakers from California. We also held our Painted Rock's Campout. Terry S. came up on Sunday morning to give us the Delegate report. We would like to thank him and hope he will be able to make it again next year. Sorry that the fliers did not get on the web site, will make sure it does next year. We would like to thank Libbie for coming to our District meeting and putting on a workshop. I would like to thank District 93 for letting me serve you. Jay T., DCM, District 93

#### Area Advisor

Hello, My name is Carole and I'm an alcoholic. I currently serve as your Area Advisor. The advice booth is open and ready for business. I attended the conference call on July 10 and assisted the Area Chair in typing the agenda. Thanks for letting me serve. Carol B.

#### Webmaster

The new design of the website went live on February 4th and since then there has been lots of tweaking done to both the design and functionality. We are averaging around 3,300 visits per month with 11,300 page views with 47% of the traffic being new visitors to the site. I have also noticed a substantial increase in the number of emails to the webmaster, folks write about meetings locations, lost friends, help getting started in A.A among other things. In other words, folks are relying more and more on the website for information.

I would like to thank the folks around the state that volunteer their time and keeping current the information we provide on the site. This is so important! Since February 4, these volunteers have made 840 changes to the meeting and 888 volunteer databases. If you have any suggestions on how to make the website better please share them with me. Thanks for letting me serve; it is a privilege and an honor. Alex M., Area Webmaster

#### Area Archivist

It is, as always, good to be here at another Assembly among old friends, new friends, and soon-to-be friends. In the interest of saving time for the Inventory process, it may be quicker if I start with what didn't happen since we last met. If you recall, last spring, we discussed, and decided, that the Area 40 Repository would be moved from its present location to a more user friendly, archives friendly, location in downtown Helena. As it turned out, once the landlord of the new location approached the city regarding the pertinent codes and regulations involved in the remodeling process for our move, she, and I, were both dismayed to find that the expense involved in satisfying all those codes and regulations was more than she had planned on. The end result was that she had to inform me that due to the expense involved in what would be mandatory changes to accommodate our moving in, she couldn't go through with the agreement. She was most apologetic, but I assured her that we understood her predicament. I contacted our old/current landlord to inform him that the planned move would not be taking place, but that we would continue to look for a new location. He offered to help in the process, and agreed to allow us to rent, month-to-month, until we find a place. Due to the upcoming Archives workshop however, the search has been put on hold.

Another potential, non-event involves my invitation to present a display at the upcoming Native Americans in AA convention in Las Vegas, October 6-10. The invitation came after last Assembly and the Area Committee was polled, according to Area 40 Policy and Procedure, and they approved my taking our display down to the event for another convention. However, due to my basement being flooded this spring, along with some other financial set-backs, I informed the NAIAA committee last week that even though they were willing to reimburse about half of my expenses, I could not afford to make the trip. At this point, their committee is discussing whether or not they wish to cover all my expenses, in which case I told them I could make the trip. Sounds like bribery, but it's not. The simple fact is that with every event I attend, there are always incidental expenses that I incur. In this case, those expenses amount to over \$400.00 on top of what they already would reimburse me for. Though I was able to absorb those costs for last year's event, I can't do it for this year's. They are very understanding and are simply considering

their financial situation, just as I have done. I do know, however, that they are trying hard to make it happen. They will let me know shortly about their decision.

One thing that did happen, early this spring, was, through the help of past Area 40 Delegate Bob H., I was able to contact the man who donated to Area 40 a copy of the first printing, first edition big book. It is the one behind me, which is part of every display I've presented. There have been a couple different stories floating around as to how we acquired this book, so I felt it necessary to track it to the source and get the real story from the donor himself. I've placed copies of our exchange of letters on the display table. There is also a copy of the front page of the June 1990 Triangle in which Tom tells the story of how he came in possession of the book. In our exchange, I was also able to secure a deed of gift from him, which ensures the book will remain in our care always.

Later this weekend, I will present a report on the upcoming National AA Archives Workshop. You will notice that the display this weekend makes some subtle mention of the event. If you are planning on attending the workshop, and have not yet sent in your registration, please don't. We will be accepting registrations, here, this weekend, or you can bring it with you when you come. Experience tells us it might be best if we try to all avoid the old alcoholic, 'it's in the mail' discussion. I must say I am really looking forward to this weekend. Nothing says 'I'm willing' like sitting down and doing an inventory with 150 of your closest friends. What a joy to be sober today, what a privilege to be of service! Thank you for both! Gerry Robinson, Area Archivist

#### Election of Area 40's Nominee for West Central Regional Trustee

The past delegates that stood for this nominee position were Mark S., Earl F., Scott W., and Andrew W. Third legacy procedures were followed in electing our nomination for the position of regional trustee. In the first vote Mark received 9 votes, Earl received 25, Scott received 21, and Andrew received 37. The second ballots were cast with Mark receiving 2 votes, Earl received 26, Scott received 18, and Andrew received 48. According to procedure candidates with less than 1/5 of total votes are withdrawn. In the third balloting Earl received 34 votes and Andrew had 59. In the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot, Earl received 29 votes and Andrew received 64. Andrew W. was elected by 2/3 majority of the votes cast and became Area 40's nominee. Our past trustee, Ken B., remarked that Area 40 has a wealth of excellent servants and all would have been a great candidate. Thank you all for standing for this position.

#### Area 40 Inventory Orientation/Small Group Discussion/Inventory Reports and Discussion

Group 1:

1. Is Area 40 represented by all districts in Area 40? If not, what is being tried to encourage participation by those groups or districts not yet represented?

Districts represented well at Area. Sponsor a group or district to Area.

2. Are we attracting new people to participate in the Area 40 service structure in an enthusiastic way or are we boring them? If not, what could we do to improve this?

Could increase Native American attendance by having District meetings on the reservations.

3. What has the Area Assembly done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the communities—the physicians, clergy, court, law enforcement officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?

Ask chairs to come visit your District.

4. Are we upholding our ‘primary purpose’, to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic? What more can the area do to carry this message?

Help groups learn the best way to carry the message. Are all the reports necessary in the Area agenda? The “slower” parts of our business need to be streamlined.

Group 2:

1. Is the business of Area 40 being carried out just at assemblies, or is its business being recognized by AA groups in Area 40 the year round?

Concentrated at Area, but conducted throughout the year by pre-assemblies, Delegate reports, etc.

2. Are we attracting new people to participate in the area 40 service structure in an enthusiastic way or are we boring them? If not, what could we do to improve this? Lead by example, enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Consider streamlining the Assembly agenda. Consider funding strategies to help people come to Area.

3. Mindful that holding an office is a great responsibility (.), are we choosing our Area officers with care? What could be done differently

Yes, we choose with care. Pool of willing may not be the best qualified. Consider a nominating committee to encourage the best qualified. Print nominations and qualifications in the Triangle before the Assembly.

4. Is the Area Assembly effective in communicating information between the General Service Conference and the groups?

There is communication; however, not all AA members are interested in the service structure of AA. It can help to be concise and have 'information bombs' or bullet points of items, rather than a report.

Group 3:

1. Considerable expense is incurred in presenting Conference reports to the districts across Area 40 with seemingly low participation and attendance. What can we do to correct this or can our funds and efforts be spent more productively?

Have the Delegate report by dividing the state into four zones. Have the report as part of a larger "fun" function. Bring food.

2. Do we as members of the Area Assembly, come to participate?

Yes. Background information needs to be accessible on the Area website. DCM schools would be helpful. Pre-Assembly is well attended.

3. What has the Area Assembly done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the communities—the physician, clergy, court, law enforcement officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?

Panel luncheons work well. In Helena, the District Corrections and District Treatment committees work together and the luncheon is well attended and respected. Have the Area chairs contact the state level corrections and law, i.e., the Attorney General's office.

Bridge the Gap needs better coordination. Have CPC chair go to the conventions of other professions.

4. Are the steps, traditions, and concepts governing our decisions and actions when we conduct business at the assembly?

Yes. Sometimes personalities come, but mostly yes.

Group 4:

1. Are we doing a good job of aiding the flow of information to all the different entities of our service structure?

GSR needs to keep the group contact information up to date. Area needs to increase information to remote or non-wired groups and individuals. Focus on certain issues instead of all issues. Try to recruit knowledgeable nominees for service positions. Orientation information to DCMs before Assembly. Bring up service as a meeting topic.

2. Is the Area Assembly attracting Alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our AA community?

Welcome new participants. Sponsor an "at-large" member to come experience the Assembly.

3. The "Triangle" is a source of considerable expense for Area 40. Is it effective in helping us to carry the message or has it outlived its usefulness. What could we do differently?

Many ask "what is the Triangle?" It is sent to 300 groups/8 times per year. Give an electronic option to groups to save Area \$. Is it on display at your group? The information we need is often in the Triangle.

4. How can Area 40 more effectively conduct its' business? Explain acronyms to everyone. Review the format of the Assembly Agenda and update.

**Area 40 Inventory Questions Group 1, Fall Assembly 2011      Moderator: Mark M.      Recorder: Sandy A.**

### **Topic #1: GROUPS/DISTRICTS**

**Is Area 40 represented by all districts in Area 40?** Yes, currently we felt that Area 40 is represented by all groups at assembly, but that is not always the case.

**If not, what is being tried to encourage participation by those groups or district not yet represented?** How do we get groups to Area Assembly? (As well as the District Meetings)

- Sharing rooms @ Assembly
- Carpooling to District & Assembly
- Have your GSR's that did attend the district meeting - call GSRs that did not attend to find out why
- Carpool to other groups—put more money in their baskets of financially sound
  
- Pass a second basket at group meetings to help Districts & GSR's to cover Assembly expenses
- Sponsor another group or District
- 
- DCMs visit other groups in district and enthusiastically sharing what happened at assembly
- Sponsor people into Service
- Theme Assembly's—'Bring a Sponsee'
- Develop Comradely at District Meetings—make it more fun
- Go to other groups, don't be isolated to just your own home group - other groups
- Going through the concepts
- Sponsor people outside of your own home group
- Be an example and show other people how to be of 'service'—make it so that there isn't a lot of excuses

- District's & Intergroups get together to put on a GSR, Concepts Workshop or on 'General Service'—include potluck & speakers
- Attend Pre-Assembly's and bring group members, GSR's
- Don't complain about having to attend District or Assembly's.
- Put a challenge out to other groups that your group can beat their home group numbers—attend their meeting by carpooling, they in turn should attend your meeting, trying to beat their group numbers
  
- Get the information out to members what happens at the district, assembly's, and workshops
- Have District's combine for Delegate's Report

**pic #2: INDIVIDUAL/PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE**

**Is the Area Assembly attracting Alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our AA community?**

- Area 40 is doing a good job at attracting members with different backgrounds.
- One person felt that the Native American population on the 7 reservations that are in need of AA
- Hold Workshops & bring your District meeting to the reservations
- How many people are at Assembly's are with less than 6 months sobriety—bring them to District Meetings, Workshops & Assembly's

**Topic #3 COMMITTEES/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**In recent years, we have very seldom had the Area Committee Chairs asked put on workshops in Districts. Why is this?**

- Give an assignment, each District chair puts on a workshop for their committee
- Tell someone within they are doing it
- Have a special events chair
- Bring it up at district meetings
- Area set up a 4-corners workshop chair (or alternate Delegate or Alt. DCM), with a budget, who helps districts in those geographical areas set up those workshops, monthly or quarterly
- Go to a WCR Service Conference, next one is in Billings
- Travel to other regional forums, or area assembly's that are closer to your geographical area
- Combine workshop with District Meeting with a potluck to get more participants at both meetings

**Topic #4 AREA ASSEMBLY**

**How can Area 40 more effectively conduct its business?**

- Helping groups to carry the groups do a better job of carrying the message to the suffering alcoholics
- As Area Committee members figure out how to work together, than the districts committee members may work together more
- ? Is giving Area chair reports—really necessary, who did listen to the every word?
- How can we make it more fun? (A streaker was suggested)
- Speed along the reports; maybe change them to 3 minutes. Plus the Triangle prints all the reports.
- Someone asks questions of the area assembly attendees and the one who can answer the question—gets a door prize
- Change the order of the agenda at the assembly—put reports at a different time.
- Have power point of what is being reported on for people who can't hear, due to the sound system—the way we've always have done it—may not be the best way
- we can be more effective if don't bring new people at each assembly
- e-mail district reports to all the DCMs & committee chairs
- Put workshops on at the Area Assembly's

District Workshops, Sponsor people into Service! Make it more fun!

**Inventory Questions Group 2 Discussion      Moderator: Andrew W.      Recorder: Libbie L.**

GROUPS/DISTRICTS

Is the business of Area 40 being carried out just at assemblies, or is its' business being recognized by AA groups in Area 40 the year round?

Business is concentrated around spring and fall assemblies, continual through delegate reports, pre-assemblies, committee workshops, post-assembly reports, tele-conferences, and email. Our business is carrying the message. Area assembly attendees are the messengers. I am responsible.

INDIVIDUAL/PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE

Are we attracting new people to participate in the Area 40 service structure in an enthusiastic way or are we boring them? If not, what could we do to improve this?

Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Sponsor into Service. Show you care about AA, are interested in the outcome. Consider revamping the schedule of the assembly. Consider social, fun events along with business. Consider finding strategies to help people come to events. I am responsible.

#### COMMITTEES/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mindful that holding an office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our area officers with care? What could we do differently?

Yes. Sometimes the pool of available applicants isn't the best qualified, but the most are willing. Be active in making your choice. I am a bad director-God puts people in places for a reason. Groom our predecessors; look at committees especially and consider a nominating committee, but leave elections open for floor nominations. I am responsible.

#### AREA ASSEMBLY

Is the Area Assembly effective in communicating information between the General Service Conference and the Groups?

We do it, but are we effective with delegate reports, committee reports, Box 459, Triangle? It's not about "me"; if they don't want to do anything with the information. When sharing, try to be enticing, short, and concise. Drop information bombs. Once again, I am Responsible

**Group Three Area Inventory Questions September 17, 2011**      Moderator: Earl F.      Recorder: Anne B.

This is a fact-finding and fact-facing mission.

**Groups/Districts question: Considerable expense is incurred in presenting Conference reports to the districts across Area 40 with seemingly low participation and attendance. What can we do to correct this or can our funds and efforts**

Don—we are a pretty rural area, are we combining districts so the delegate doesn't have to go to so many places? D 11 and D 12 combined at Fireman's Point. Have 2-3 districts get together. Can only make the information available, can't make people come. Mary—is it not a budget line for travel for the delegate to travel in the Area? Our district reimburses the delegate's expenses. Linda—we could implement that Zone theory where we have four zones in the Area and those people within the Zone promote unity within it to put on the delegate report. Doesn't have to be just the delegate report—can be pertinent to what's needed in that zone. Much more productive. Takes cost away from the delegate having to

do so many reports. Would create unity within the zone. Rebecca—delegate has done two reports that had more than one district. Gary—zones are what we did with the pre-assemblies. Vic—couldn't we use electronic means, e.g., Skype or conference calling, to put on the reports? Would not be workable or desirable for everyone but it would cut expenses. Margaret—I am on several boards in my city and we are doing several conference calls to save time and money. That's really becoming a popular scenario. Ray—attendance in my district wasn't that great for Terry's report but I heard it increased attendance in other districts. Having the delegate give a report brings a better working knowledge of AA to the average member. Jaffey—D72 elected not to have the delegate report as a district meeting. But we get all the GSRs there, as far as other members, I don't know. I would have shown up if it had been a district meeting but I slacked instead. It's important that the delegate visits the districts individually because a lot more people are driving long distances to get to his reports. Jay—D93 has an annual campout and we invite the delegate to come and give the report there. It gets the info out to everyone who goes to the campout. A lot of districts do that, attaching it to a function gets more people. Joe—D21 does that too. This year it was even bigger—people from two other districts came, too. Good way to go about it. Rebecca—if it was a campout I would be there. John—Reinvent the idea of a carpool coordinator. I really believe in that. Newcomers can't come because of lack of money or drivers' license or shyness. Earl asked what kind of attendance people saw at the reports. Erin—we held ours at Founders Day, a little early in the morning, but we had 25 people there. The same group of people attends whatever event. When I was younger in AA it helped me understand the service structure. It's valuable. Ray—there was about 28 at ours, a Saturday afternoon in the summer, 30% of us are going to do the deal and the rest are going to do what it is we do. It's people in service who are going to be going. Casey—it worked well in D41 this year because we had him give it at the Spring Roundup. We had about 100 people there. Some people came from out of town just to hear the delegate's report—from Shelby and Valier; they came down because they don't often get a chance to hear the delegate's report unless they can attend an event as well. We are able to reimburse him with roundup funds as well. Dave—D12, we always had our delegate speak before the barbeque. We had a really good showing. This year D11 had breakfast first and we lost quite a few people. We had 35- 50 people out of 100+ people in attendance. We lost quite a bit by feeding them first. Earl—I gave a lot of reports. We had a lot where there were between 6 and 20. There was one this year that had 6 people, which was in held in conjunction with an event. Are the conference reports boring the average AA member? Are we just reaching the same people in the districts that we reach at the Assembly? Jay—this year we had one new guy and he was the one asking Terry the most questions. He was really interested. It made him think and ask questions. How many people we reach I don't know, but it helped him. Dan—how boring is the delegate's report, how long is it, and what is in it? Earl—is that a question? Dan—why isn't our individual districts interested in the delegate's report? Linda—one thing we forget is that we all got here because we were sponsored. We had service sponsors. I was fortunate in my home group to have a past delegate who threw me in the car. We steward people into service. Don—I don't know that you can tell the delegate what to talk about because each conference has different issues that it's concerned with. People don't want to hear the delegate because they don't think it's important, and they don't think it's important because nobody has explained it to them. That's getting back to the idea of sponsorship. Don't know that we can do anything about that here. Gary—if we just leave the conference report at Assembly, you're not going to reach that one newcomer who is our future delegate. Sometimes you can't put a price on some of that stuff.

Service sponsorship, that goes without saying. Some delegate's reports are long, drawn-out and boring. I like it because I understand it. Need to understand bit, but it can go on too long. My long can only absorb what my butt can bear. Joe—we had 50 people listening to our delegate's report at our campout. I don't think any of them were bored. It's interesting stuff as far as I'm concerned. Linda—the reports I was interested in were the ones where I had information about it, such as the Early Bird report so I could understand what is going on. I want to see what the topics are going to be for next year. Now we have the opportunity to help pick topics. The newcomers in our groups came up with some of the ideas for topics and were interested in following up with it. James—I agree with feeding first. If you don't get enough participation and nobody is listening, why not send an email to the district and have someone there deliver the report? Chris—couldn't attend the report due to commitments, but I like what Linda said about the zones and a weekend campout. The delegate comes and hits four places in the area and cover 90% of the area. We need to have the delegate going where the newcomers are. Dan—I bring the conference reports to the meetings. Many people are not interested and are uninformed. Some think that GSO has millions and should give them money. There's no interest. Dave—I've been sober for three years and hit a delegate's report every year. It didn't make a lot of sense to me the first year but I was never bored. It makes a lot more sense to me now. One group in my district is really good at participating in everything AA does. Another group gives very little support on anything. They do their meetings once a week and feel that is enough. That is my responsibility to let them know they should do more for their group by participating in these things. It's been good for me. You can count on the same people every time for doing this. Earl—do you consider this a problem in our area, should we do something different or is it okay? Erin—seems to be working fine. Don—it's not a problem, the expense is worthwhile but the district needs to be smarter about doing events and getting the word out. Food first. I don't know if we could do it more effectively. Don't know how to do that. Not going to get people to Skype if they won't come to the events. Linda—we need to get the dates set earlier and communicated earlier. Casey—the zone concept is worth considering. A rotation within those zones that was tied to a popular event could make the delegate's report more effective. Anyplace else could still make a special request to have a delegate's report too Troy—the Area covers the delegate's travel expenses? Maybe if the districts were paying they would be more effective at raising awareness. Don—good idea, but he would never make it to Havre then. I am interested in it but that's what my town feels. Gary—some districts do defray the delegate's cost, but some aren't able to do it. We don't ask for money for this and that, we have splits. We do this as a united thing at the area level. He is representing our whole area, everybody, not just a single district. Todd—I like the idea of different zones, I live in Sidney which is pretty remote, seems like the district meetings have few people show up to them. If there were some kind of function it seems like a lot more people from the district do show up to those. The idea of each zone having a different function on a different day would get more people there to listen to it. Dan—spring and fall conferences, seems to me we could have delegate reports at each of those. Earl—he already does that, when invited. Generally it's 30 or so people who attend.

**Individual/Participation/Attendance: Do we as members of the Area Assembly, come to participate? What can the Area do to help us be better prepared?**

Rebecca—I come to participate. What would help me is being better able to get to the materials. Would love to get it on the website. I get a CD from the DCM, but it would be a lot easier if I could get online and find that material. Anne—echo that. Gary—two copies of the agenda went into the Triangle. Erin—would also like having the information on the website because I sent it out to everyone in my district and they found it confusing. Chris—ask Alex—how hard would that be? Alex—GSO is very specific, you cannot put their stuff online, period, because there's a lot of personal information in those files. If you put it online, Google can index it. We in the Area have a lot more control about what gets posted. For example, we have two versions of the Triangle. The printed version has all the information. The online version doesn't have personal information. We can do that with the Area information and build a link for each community. For me, this is a no-brainer. I can put that stuff online in 15 minutes. Linda—I think what would help us be better prepared is to get the Triangle and read it and when I have to update a pdf, I send it to Alex and he does it very quickly. Still need to have people go through the DCM to get the confidential information. Don—caution you that a lot of people don't have computers and don't want to have one. I love the idea of electronic information but it could not be the sole means of accessing the information. We would cut people out. Alex- would have to be an option, but not the only way. Gary—we talk about lack of participation but no matter what group you belong to, you are always going to have minimal participation, but that is a fact of life in organizations. Mary—it's my job as a committee chair to get that info and pass it on asp. If they need a hard copy, I get it to them. It's all about passing that on. We get that disk not too long before the spring assembly and that's just the way it is. Don't be afraid to pass it on to those people who appear to not want to hear it. I was one of those people. Linda—we have a great opportunity, for the next spring assembly, we are hosting the WCRAASC in Billings. That's a way to get prepared—participate in that. Having pre-assemblies worked for a little while to help people prepare but then attendance slacked off too. Dan—these four questions, were they in the Triangle? Group—yes. Casey—Missoula put on a good pre-assembly, but on their flyers, they had pictures of tacos and there wasn't a single one there. Erin—I will mail you a taco. Earl—share how you prepared for this assembly. Chris—read the background from spring assembly to keep him awake. It helped me to read it out loud. It just takes time. Ray—went through all the files because the DCM sent them, did the reading that I could, talked to a senior member in the group and went through it with him. I took advantage of people who had the experience before me. Our Area Chair is always willing to help me if I have questions, too. Jo—D61 our DCM had the info for us a couple months ahead of time I had time to talk about it in our group and we got some input. Jay—I get all that stuff as DCM, I print every piece of background, and give it to each chair. We got three empty chairs so I read that stuff. Jaffey—fm in school, and I'm expected to do reading to be prepared. It's up to participants about whether or not they are prepared. Send emails to DCMs who send the emails on to everyone in the district. Linda—we had a new member who asked if they could send out information about what each person's job is, I suggested he read the service manual, and he would not do it. Chris—there's not a whole lot Area can do besides giving us eh information as quickly as possible. We need to educate everyone on how the service structure works, but as has been noted, some people don't care. Earl—anyone ever been to a GSR school? Several people raised their hands. Earl—anyone have DCM or district committee school? None. Carole—brought up the idea of having a DCM school because the FNV needed cleaning up, but got no takers. Gary—I let my committee members know what was going on, sent out some emails, and got my report ready. I don't think I could ever prepare enough. Try to stay current and do what needs to be done.

James—three months ago I got reservations here. This is a suit up and show up thing. This is all or nothing, that's what AA is for me. This is how I do it, by showing up, listening to different opinions. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Dan—asked our DCM what is was going to be on. He told me it was in the agenda. I want to get prepared, but I want to get prepared in one minute. Vic—GSR school? I thought it was just “tag, you're it.” Earl—what resources do you use to be prepared? Mary—AA.org, aa-montana.org. Jay—oldtimers. Linda—Box 459. Alex- the delegate. Mary—it's out there, but people do not know where it is. The pre-assembly taught me a lot. Jeannie—we have a good DCM. I had a disc of the information six weeks ago. We go over it in the meetings. Me, personally, I went over the Traditions and the Concepts before we came. Erin—I like the concept of the DCM school, to be held at the first assembly that we attend. Earl—I've thought about that a lot. We pick our area officers in September, but there's not a lot going on between then and January 1. If we don't prepare during that time, we've lost four months. Can be better informed when they rotate into their new position. Get us ahead of the game instead of behind it.

**Committees/Committee Chairs: What has the Area Assembly done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the communities – the physicians, clergy, court, law enforcement officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?**

Jo—Bridging the Gap is really falling through the cracks. Maybe because Treatment and Corrections are not combining, but we had women in Elkhorn who were excited. We ran into a big wall because when they got out of there they went to a corrections facility, we sent a BTG card to the places they were released, but they weren't getting contacted by an AA member. Chris—what are we doing currently? Earl—the CPC committee chair is available, we utilize the network of Box 459; if an interested professional wants to learn about AA, that goes to the CPC Area chair. Most of the work is done at the district level. What we need is some ideas about what we can do better. Mary—Libbie has a beautiful power point and has done a couple of workshops. She is available for workshops. Gary—it's frustrating as an Area chair, and I don't know how hard we want to push that we are available. If you call us, we will c come. As PI chair, I did two workshops. Do I force myself upon people? No, you don't do that. It's their choice. It was frustrating to me that I thought it was an important committee and I only did those two workshops. Jay—our CPC chair couldn't make it in the spring to assembly, she called me, I told her we have an Area CPC chair, and told our chair to call the Area chair about a workshop. Libbie came down and put on a really nice thing. I was able to understand what she was talking about. It was simple and informative. Anne—Carol's idea about having our Area chairs talk to state officials such as the Attorney General is a good one. Dave—used to see papers at every meeting. We haven't had somebody with papers in probably two years. In Columbus. I know there's been DUIs. Jo—D61 puts on a Treatment/corrections workshop every year. What has happened, four years ago, there was a SCOTUS decision stating that people can't be forced to go to AA. Joe—they still do send people to AA, they get around it by making people sign an agreement saying they will follow what the evaluator suggests and that's how they get around the religion things. Chris—slips are still there, it's called alternative sentencing guidelines. In lieu of prison, they go to DUI court and they require the slips be signed. Rebecca—getting back to the question, our district is fortunate in that we can send our committee people here to the assembly. Not every district can do that. So when we discuss this, our committee people hear it. IF they

didn't know they could call Libbie, they know it now. Chris—the Triangle is a wonderful tool if we use it. All the groups get it. Use it as a tool to send to all the groups. Erin—I would like to see DCMs make connections between the area committee chair and the district chair. Linda—flyer to professionals from GSO—those are easily copied and distributed by the local committees. The Area could send those to the local committees. The letter to the professionals is wonderful. Gary—those are available in the workbooks. Earl—no, this is an actual publication that is sent to professionals. Don—having the Area committee chair contact the state agencies is a great idea. Having connections made between the Area committee chairs and the district chairs is important too. How about a conference call? Give them the information about how the chairs are available that way. Are we doing a lot as an Area to reach out? No. Earl—are we hitting all the groups of professionals? Who are we not going to? Casey—in the past we spent a year planning a CPC luncheon that draws six to 12 people. In the CPC workbook, there are quite a few tools. The direct mailers, Libbie's power point are a fantastic tool. She'll come out and hold your hand through it if need be, but its user friendly. She's been sending out emails (I haven't got that—has Tom??) She has a constant flow of ideas that don't involve a luncheon, because I don't feel we got the most bang for our buck with that. There are other great tools. All of her suggestions really fired up our committee. Mike—having professional liaisons, people who are professionals (e.g., physician, teacher) who are also in AA, who can reach out to others in their profession. DCMs could see if people in the fellowship are interested or willing to serve in those roles. Jeannie—all these different professions deal with alcoholics, and they all have their own conventions. At the area level, the committee chair could send someone to their state convention. Earl—we did that in Indiana and nobody wanted to come to that booth. Anne—we could ask to get invited to be presenters at a state professional conference and at least leave pamphlets. Dan—you have to be real careful reaching out. It's not easy but we are working at it. Earl—what could the area do to help? Dan—we are talking to Libbie to get suggestions. Jo—D61 invited professionals. It's almost like seeing a new alcoholic coming in; when they leave, their whole attitude about AA has completely changed. We've had prosecutors and judges, and it's been phenomenal. Very successful. Maybe the area could do something like that. James—there is a yellow sheet on what AA is, what it does and does not do and that would be helpful to send out to the professionals. Linda—one of the things we do here is allow past delegate sharing, not to tread on them, but our time might be better utilized by having the past delegates and/or area chairs present to the assembly on how to do some of these things. Generate ideas this way. Mike—I remember going to my physician and begging him to help me. Never once did he suggest AA, which is how I got sober. Each of us should reach out to our individual physicians. Give them literature; ask to have it available for other patients like us. Earl—in 2002, Area 40 produced a flyer called "sponsor your professional." Would this group be interested in looking into producing something like this? Group—yes. Linda—that's a good thing to take back to your groups. See how we can implement this in a PI packet. That can come from anybody through their districts. February 1 is the deadline to submit this as an item. But anyone can do this, get together with another district and do it. Don't try to run on your own. Dan—my doctor told me he had 8 years of schooling and 45 minutes of that was a class on alcoholism. How many clients did he have that were alcoholics? I brought him pamphlets. Mary—there's beautiful pamphlet called "If you are a professional AA Wants to work with you," and several others. Go look at the pamphlets that are out there. Earl—can the Area put together a list of suggestions? Linda—you can ask to ride along with a law enforcement officer and while you're there you can tell them about AA. Let them ask the questions. Jay—we have a new

judge and new under marshall in Darby. I introduced myself to them and let them know about AA. They then knew they could contact me. I talk to another judge all the time; she did not understand alcoholism at all but she sent a lot of people to me. They will listen if you talk to them.

**Assembly: Are the steps, traditions, and concepts governing our decisions and actions when we conduct business at the assembly?**

Mary—yes. I love minority opinion. Chris—that is powerful. Mary—the right of participation, the way we vote the whole deal. Chris—I agree. It works. Linda—I challenge us to take a look at some things. In Concept 11, we stand up and elect people right then. We have elected people who have not done those positions. It's been brought up before that we could have the DCMs put forth a slate, so we can talk to those people and get to know them before voting. The way we elect people could be better. Also the Tradition Seven, we have this Pink Can fund. Does the Pink Can take away from the funds that go into the group coffers? Chris—the same people who put into the Pink Can are the same people who put money in the basket. I don't see it taking away from group funds. Casey—Linda's nailed it again. This happens in our district. Are we electing or nominating the right people for that position? I know it happens in desperation to fill the chair; possibly, people stand for a position they are not able to fulfill. How we go about a better review process? It's a good suggestion to have the DCMs put forth a slate, they've vetted them, and they have a sense that these people are willing and able. Pink Can still confuses me to this day. We cut it out of our home group. We don't separate it out; we fully fund the Corrections committee so we have enough money to buy the books we need. Gary—Eastern Washington, their area chairs are appointed (except the treasurer, Area Chair, etc.). They have to submit a resume. Does that give the people a chance to have a voice? Jay—we should not have to act from desperation. Rebecca—three of our past delegates said they were shanghaied into service today. If we are nominating the willing, we are here because we love AA, if I really want a service position, and I don't get PI, I might be just as willing to do CPC. We don't know who really has the best qualifications until they get into the job. Dan—we all got the heart, we want this, we want to help make this the best thing there is. But you can't make an eagle swim, a badger fly, or a duck dig a hole. If we have someone who is really qualified, the person with the heart will jump in and help. I don't know about this application shit. Don—the good is the enemy of the best. I never want to prevent anyone from service, but I don't want to elect someone who is not capable simply because they are willing. We have to balance that. We are falling short if we are simply filling the position to fill it. Rebecca—in lieu of having the best person stand for the job, what do you do? How do you get the best person to stand up? Don—I ask them. Don—6- 8 months ago a fellow in my home group, the GSR, came up here. He then quit. I said I would do it. I haven't a damned clue about any of this. I'm trying to absorb what you are saying. I stumbled into here like I stumbled into AA. Happy to see some young guys from our area here.

**Area 40 Inventory Group 4, Moderator Scott W., Past Delegate, Recorder: Catherine J. DCM 72**

**Group/Districts**

Q. Are we doing a good job of aiding the flow of information to all the different entities of our service structure?

*Identified problems*

- Sometimes it is my own fault, Haven't read the email
- Having an inventory with a pre workshop.
- Area is doing a good job of getting the info to the individual groups.
- Add talking point/ summary of information sent
- Is getting info from the groups
- Website complaints, groups are not updating the district/area
- Coordination with the master website, each district should have its' own website coordinator
- Two-way flow conduit, we need to receive info from GSR's groups too.
- Area does a good job of sharing a ton of info, but what about our isolated small areas. Trying to get info to outlying areas, we can do more improvement. Support the small groups form those areas. Second that motion.
- Not all people are connected to the Internet, old-timer' are disconnected sometimes.
- Groups/GSR's don't always know how to do the job, is there a way to provide more info on how to do the job. Life gets in the way of doing the job, do people understand the responsibility of certain jobs in AA. Happens at all levels area/district/group

*Application of a solution:*

- Tried to indicate all of the tools of AA and how but communicate my enthusiasm for all the parts so I focus chosen to pick one or two to work
- As DCM find it difficult to share how I do my job, but if I go with a few bullet points at the district or area finance literature, hit on hot topics, indispensable
- Going to regional conference form do vital to our fellowship to get that view in a safe environment.
- What can we do better? You don't just throw jobs at people. At our district level branch out to the strongest GSR's, elect those GSRs to a committee position and foster another and another i.e. service sponsorship.
- Desperation got me in service, group got me a sponsor, sponsor got me into being a GSR then GSR attends Area.got more info.
- We have a responsibility to get it for ourselves. Seek those people that have experience, strength and hope in service.
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**Individual/Participation/Attendance**

Q. Do we effectively integrate new people to the Area assembly?

- 1<sup>st</sup> time assembly attendees, Feel welcomed

- The group I started in wasn't a big service group. But moved on and the new sponsor was involved, how do I get motivated? Is it available yes, have I looked at it no. That is my responsibility, where is my specific area where do I fit.
- People relax; we don't come to meetings because we are alcoholics. Keep coming back.
- Every assembly we read an orientation at the mike, can we get that orientation to the DCM and GSR before we meet at Assembly, second motion.
- 'I am responsible statement' this is awesome I get connected. It is
- I have 24 years and thought 'I was exonerated from service', feel some pressure to know what I'm doing. There is a lot to learn. To take what I can from this, I am trying to have an accepting of who I am because of our personal recovery and do things we don't always do so well which is connected and just how important.
- I have 20 years never done area, I am on fire for service, I'm so excited about getting someone else fired up and bring them back to this exciting thing at Area to have old timers who are new to area, I thought I would be the only one.
- Go to the website <http://www.aa-montana.org/> glossary of terms, more info than you probably want to know
- 'Damn' Let me share how to write an agenda item, and it inspired him to teach others how to write an agenda item.
- Spirit of rotation on the committee area chairs, allow chairs to open up for new people
- Reading agenda items, the higher you get more abstract, people stop listening, How does this affect my group
- Explain this is how it matters to you, making it interesting
- The most important is the welcome. It is overwhelming, this a program of attraction or is it get down to business get this done. Musical chairs at service, people need to be willing to step out of positions and be mentors and offer themselves as mentors.
- Last Assembly, whole lot of people did not know what they were voting on and it past we need to orient them better into the process, lots didn't know what they were voting on, second that motion.
- Orientation went to fast, lost the content. Real orientation.
- Musical chairs of committee members, we need to nurture them and bring them along
- Area chairs could benefit on an odd even cycle, as we pass into the next session. Service sponsor have them on an odd even cycle.
- Default is other Committee chairs, serve as alternate when they can't come.
- GSRs need to get the info for each group, like off the web.
- Website, agenda assembly, stuff is available on the web.
- Mostly online/ then there is a strong contingency not connected online

Q. The triangle is a source of considerable expense for Area40. Is it affective in helping us to carry the message or has it outlived its usefulness?

- What can we do differently
- 10 % of expenses
- Triangle is real important to me. Wont pay attention to email, disconnected
- Most info I get from the triangle.
- I read the Triangle, plan on writing for the triangle, good tool to carry the message; I like to see activities and what's going on- campouts.
- Triangle is sent to every registered group in MT.
- Just under 300 groups in area 40, sent out in a mailing 8 times a year
- Each DCM given a list to help update
- Turn the Triangle into a pull instead of a push?
- I can't remember the last one I got and hopelessly incorrect. addresses I'd like to see it be self supporting similar to Off the road
- Ask people have you ever heard of the Triangle have you seen the Triangle? Do an inventory of readership?
- GSR's job to get [Box 459](#) and [Triangle](#).
- Never looked at it, never knew about it, member in the middle
- Need to announce at meetings,
- Group conscience to pay for the Triangle
- Being self-supporting. Never a system in place to keep track of how it was paid for.
- Feature a piece of literature at the end of the meeting a feature the Triangle/Grapevine more visibility.
- I have joined the digital age; we are moving towards the digital age, the Triangle is not self supporting I'd like to send up send hard copies to people who want them. Groups are not getting it and don't know they are getting it
- Anything under 300 is more expensive
- \$15 would be self supporting if
- Cell phones are a fad, nothing changes if nothing changes, aiding the flow of information a responsible GSR you got to have that expense could be absorbed within the group. 80 % wouldn't know what the Triangle is.
- What is the Triangle
- Costly and ineffective tool for the vast majority of us, should go online. New people don't know what they need to know a change the news i.e. Serenity Slander
- Need the address to send contribution, our groups need to use it more as a reference
- I rely on the hard copy, before I became a GSR
- How many current paid subscriptions, 80% haven't subscribed.

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## Assembly

Q. Are we upholding our “primary purpose”, to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic what more can the Area do to carry the message?

## Agenda

- Have some inspirational speaker, spiritual, it all looks like business to me, maybe labeling it expanding on it like “experience, strength and hope”
- At the breakouts, we get that.
- Bill from Miles City and the first to pass on to Agenda hasn’t changed until 1988 or 1998.
- **Review our Agenda, the look of it the feel of it, can it be more “user- friendly.”**
- Area chair is responsible from the strong suggestion what the meeting should look like, times can change, themes, where are they sharing, are they sharing the whole synopsis
- Having our past delegate present at Assembly is a strength
- Honor the past-delegates

## Committee system, only four voting members

- General quorum, we have enough spiritual safeguards, we can make mistakes we can always change it.
- Dismayed our Agenda items we didn’t have enough time with, no pointers. We are out of time, Area 40 specific things, how do you do that without having to put them back on the agenda.
- Agendas, keep it vague to fit Area 40, up to committee to flesh it out, didn’t feel that support. Opinions about it already
- Meet Area Chair with District Chairs between assembly ie. conference call, to understand better their role in service.
- How to write an effective agenda item FROM past experience, **seconded.**
- Floor assembly discussion can make the committees accountable.

**Are we carrying the message to the still sick and suffering are we doing that what’s our motivation?**

- It is our Primary Purpose
- I think we are when we have active committees, CPC, Corrections, weekly monthly, that is an Area wide thing. GSR's first trip to Assembly, infectious excitement gets others to come to Area. Commitment to service is what the Area is about, I'm tired of this I want to be happy and discover that service can help on a different level. Keep that excitement, attraction alive is vital
- Still suffering can be 3 months or 20 years sober witness an argument, but then got to see people make amends at the mike.
- 1<sup>st</sup> part, each visit I believe the Area assembly is serving its primary purpose come to see recovery happen the democratic process rules of etiquette, then we are prompted to get more information. Great place to tap into solutions that work here we can have a free flow share based on experience not opinion Those that are well informed, can let go of ego. It is infectious. Got some invitations to go visit district, if I don't ask show up invite her. **Grab chairs and have them come visit, it unites us so we can carry a message and build enthusiasm.**
- Can't get more to How do you get someone to get involved.
- Best way is through sponsorship if you want what I want you got to do what I do
- If we were out drinking we would not know each other but in our meetings we are together with recovery in alcoholism bring back Robert's rules of order
- YES!!! We do uphold our primary purpose during our area assemblies. We can come together and work together for the betterment of the whole. Assembly is still helping the sick and suffering alcohol learn and take back and give it back

We get to hear from other groups, districts, for solution not all A members know anything about what goes on find someone you don't know have breakfast and share your experience with service.

#### Floor Assembly-Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

##### Treatment Facilities/Agenda- Colby D.

There were 12 representative members present at the Treatment Committee meeting; members were: Colby D., Margaret B., Darlene R., Mike C., Luke S., Richard L., Jennifer H., Mary M., Dave B., Leo B., Luis R., and Vicky W.

##### Agenda

- A. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Agenda.

Information can be looked up in the Final Conference Report.

##### Treatment Facilities

A. Review the "Bridging the Gap" process within Area 40.

Information regarding the BTG was discussed at length highlighting the importance of establishing and maintaining a list of volunteers at the district level to receive BTG cards and be available to meet with those potential new members when they have requested a contact.

Updated Treatment chairs and BTG area 40 contact sheets were distributed as well as requests for updates from those districts without representation.

Richard L. requested that the area look at having a central repository of contact information to assist with BTG, he felt this would expedite the process in getting treatment or corrections folks contact information, he suggested that this contact list could be included as a part of the Area 40 website. (Item to be referred to area for further consideration or action in conjunction with area 40 website.

Leo B. discussed a recent happening in Havre where AA has been excluded from participating in a treatment facility. The allegations included that a recent break-in was caused by AA folks. Leo was instructed to meet with the facility administrator and gather the all the facts. It was also suggested that the district look at the makeup of the various groups of individuals participating in taking meetings into a facility to ensure that we have enough folks established in sobriety and familiar with our program.

It was also suggested that Leo utilize experience from the area to help rebuild this relationship. Margaret B. wanted to know who gets "Watch Information"; Margaret was provided Teri H. contact information.

Additional questions regarding building a successful BTG included what information should be presented, frequency of BTG meetings, filling out completely the BTG contact cards.

Luis R. suggested that discussing the pamphlet "What AA is and What AA isn't" is very effective to dispel fears, concerns and succinctly provides information to those whom are interested in being or receiving contacts from AA once they leave an institution.

It was agreed that a successful BTG committee starts at the district with a committed list of informed volunteers willing to take meetings into institutions and meet with local individuals after they had submitted the information request card.

It was also suggested that BTG or Treatment chairs meet face to face over lunch with local administrators of the treatment center programs. I was further suggested that these meeting be informal and conducted away from the place of business or contact.

- A. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities

Items from the GSO conference were discussed and delineated in the latest conference report no further action was taken.

I would like to thank Vicky W. for providing and recording minutes of our meeting. The meeting was closed at 12:10 pm. Respectfully submitted, Colby D., Area 40, Treatment Chair

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy- Joe H.

Archives

- A. Review draft Area 40 Policy and Procedures which reflects updates as noted in section G2.B.

The Policy and Procedures document posted on the Area 40 web site is current as of the spring 2011 assembly and a new document will be on the web site as soon as possible.

- B. Review 2100 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Archives

There were no advisory actions concerning Archives. The additional consideration for Archives was to develop an informational piece on basic archival preservation. An e-mail request was sent out to update experiences of archivists/ archive chairs for the archives workbook. They plan to update the shared experience stories every 5 years. I did submit a report sharing my experiences.

Area 40 Structure & Policy

- A. That area 40 split the positions of Alt. Delegate/ Area Chair and that the Area 40 Structures and Policy Committee be charged with building qualifications and job descriptions for the two new positions.

There was a lot of information discussed in committee. There just was not enough information to bring a recommendation to the floor of the assembly at this time. By a vote of 3 to 1 the committees decided not to take any action on this agenda item at this time.

- B. Consider Area 40 extend financial support to DCM's in Districts that are financially unable to fully support their DCM's attendance an Area Assembly.

Lot of discussion and sharing from District 91 on how they support GSR's in their district .Not enough background material to bring forward a recommendation from the committee.

Good opportunity to encourage development of more background material.

We had 4 committee members present as well as the area archivist, Dist 91 treasurer, and a GSR from dist 72. Sherry was filling in for John as a committee member. Thank all of you for your input and participation. Joe H., Area 40 Archives Chair

Corrections/International-Regional Forums- Terry H. (Carole B. standing in)

Those in attendance: Carole B., Area Advisor sitting in for Terry H., Corrections Chair, Brandon M., DCM District 11, Laura S., DCM District 12. Chris, District Representative District 41, and Cheryl, District Representative District 12

Carole offered Terry's regrets that she could not be at the Assembly because of a family commitment. Carole also read part of Terry's report which emphasizes that we should be working with correctional facilities to bring recovery in not just meetings.

Corrections

A. Review the "Bridging the Gap/temporary contact" process within Area 40.

The Committee discussed the temporary contact program within the Area's correctional facilities. We discussed using the toll free number as a method of establishing temporary contacts. Terry has been putting the toll free number on literature purchased for correctional facilities. Terry hasn't had any corrections contacts come through any channels yet this year.

B. Consider making the Pink Can Fund Program one of the defined responsibilities of the Corrections Committee and, for the purpose of Pink Can funds:

1. Jails, Youth Detention Facilities and all programs that are operated by the Montana Department of Corrections, where alcoholics are confined, are eligible for said funds
2. All requests for funds come through the district in which the facility resides
3. The Area 40 Corrections Chair will provide a detailed Financial Report at both the Spring and Fall Assemblies.

The Committee brought forward a made and seconded motion. However, after presenting this to the Assembly, the Committee met again and re-worked the recommendation.

***The recommendation brought forward is:***

- 1. The Area 40 Corrections Committee recommends that the Pink Can Fund Program become one of the defined responsibilities of the Corrections Committee.***

Floor Discussion.

- Does this mean that the area committee decides who get literature? No
- Will Pink Can funds be absorbed in area funds? No, the bank account will remain separate.
- Who handles the money and bank account? This is the responsibility of the Area Corrections Chair

***Motion passes.      For 77      Against 5***

Minority Opinion

Who currently manages the Pink Can and where does all the funds go?

If it's not broken, don't fix it

The agenda item wasn't vetted out—more background information needed

- 2. The Area 40 Corrections Committee recommends that the Pink Can fund be used to supply AA literature to alcoholics who are detained in a facility as the result of a law enforcement action. The detaining facility must be located in the geographic boundaries of Area 40. All requests for literature must come through the district in which the detaining facility resides.***

Floor Discussion:

- The Boys and Girls Ranch doesn't get funds from the Pink Can. Will they be able to get literature from the Pink Can? Sandy, DCM, District 12
- The Elkhorn Treatment facility needs books, having literature is a great benefit to those in the program. Will they receive assistance of literature?

- Who gets to decide who the alcoholic is?
- In a sober living house in Missoula, we don't get to hand carry books-the facility hands them out. Are we failing by not giving books individually? We would like the request to come through the District because this will get another alcoholic involved.
- The goal is to put books in the hands of an alcoholic. The facility will ultimately decide who gets a book not another alcoholic.
- I received by Big Book in jail; I'm here today because of it.
- Big Books are placed in the library in the Boulder Jail
- Laws of facilities are set-we provide and trust that the book finds an alcoholic
- MCDC is not a Corrections facility-it's a Treatment facility. Why are they receiving literature?
- Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch only AA literature they get comes from district and its volunteers. Literature is very important.

**Motion passes.      For 64      Against 18**

#### Minority Opinion

Who decides who is an alcoholic and who gets literature? Earmarking funds is an effort to control how money is spent Pink Can takes away from 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition; are monies contributions or donations

- C. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Corrections.

The Committee was pleased with the actions taken by the Conference Committee on Corrections.

#### International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Review the report of the 2011 Local Forums in Great Falls and Miles City including attendance and financial information.

We reviewed with appreciation for the report and the work that went into planning the Local Forums.

B. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for International Conventions/Regional Forums

The 2010 International Convention was very successful. The next International Convention is in Atlanta in 2015.

In closing, the Committee discussed the benefits of conducting Corrections workshops at the district level. Terry has much experience working with correctional facilities and can help your district in your efforts to carry the message. According to Area 40 Policy and Procedures (G 4.5) a detailed financial report of the Pink Can will be given at both the spring and fall assemblies.

Public Information/Reports- Paula H.

Thank you to the Committee members and others who took part in the meeting. Your input is invaluable

Public Information

A. Review the Area 40 Web site content, with particular attention to consistency between the Web site guidelines and Area 40 Policy and Procedures manual.

Thanks to Gerry, the Archivist, for providing the background material. The Committee reviewed the guidelines and the manual and found discrepancies as to who oversees the Web site. Under the web site guidelines in the paragraph headed Web Site Committee, it states: "The Area Delegate, or designated substitute, will provide oversight and review of all proposed changes and external links." At a later date this statement was adopted under Anonymity: "G8.8w The Public Information Committee will oversee the Area Website contents. Ever mindful of our Tradition of anonymity." Therefore,

***The PI Committee recommended that the Archives Committee review the sections of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual that refer to the Web site to resolve inconsistencies or inaccuracies so that the Policy and Procedures manual can be updated.***

***The motion passed.                      For 67                      Against 15***

Minority opinion was that PI should do the work first before submitting it to the Archives sub/committee of Area 40 Structure & Policy. There needs to be more information before we vote. Maybe this should have been tabled and worked on later.

There then was a motion to reconsider by Lori F. It was seconded by Corrina H. Voting was 36 For and 39 Against. Motion to reconsider fails.

B. Review the Fall 2011 Web site report from the Area Webmaster.

The Committee reviewed the report. A question was asked about how to publish events so that people can attend them. Alex reminded us that posting events is the responsibility of the Districts hosting them. Just email [calendar@aa-montana.org](mailto:calendar@aa-montana.org) to upload your flyer and/or info to Alex, the Webmaster, and to Lee, the Triangle editor.

C. Consider all business pertaining to the Web site operated by Area 40.Inc.

The Committee had nothing but praise for the site, commenting especially on the new Smart Phones application!

D. Review the suggestion by Past Delegate, Carole B, that State officials and agencies be informed about AA and discuss and/or propose a method or methods for doing so.

The Committee discussed Carole's suggestion. They came up with a letter campaign, taking the letter from the samples of the PI Workbook. The Committee will discuss this at the next Area Assembly and devise a

method for doing so.

E. Review the operation of the Area 40 888 number.

People voiced some concerns about the 888 number. One is cost; two is why are AnswerNet employees taking the phone numbers of callers instead of patching through and why is patch time so high? and three is why a district is getting calls for other districts or from out-of-state? The solution to these questions is for each district to update the phone list contacts. This is important so we can keep our hot-line costs down. The fewer calls AnswerNet has to make in order to contact an AA member, the shorter the call, the lower the charge. Sometimes a caller is on hold for several minutes and still no AA contact is made. Also note the caller ID number of AnswerNet: 406-248-2337. Put that in your phone so you know who it is when you are called for a 12th-step call! Let everyone know the number!! The form to pass around groups is on the Area 40 web site, [aamontana.org](http://aamontana.org). Click on "Area Committees", scroll down to "Forms and Other Documents", and click on "Group 888 Hot-line Sign-up Form". If you need for me to send you a printed copy, just let me know.

F. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Public Information.

The Committee reviewed them, but had no time to discuss them.

Report and Charter

A. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Report and Charter.

The Committee reviewed them, but had no time to discuss them.

CPC/Trustees- Libbie L.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Committee/Trustees**

61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Review, 12 Members present, voting members present included: Libbie L.-Chair, Erin G-DCM81, Catherine J-DCM72, Corey C-DR91, and Julie B-DR71. Thanks to Catherine J for taking notes.

2011 Area 40 Spring Assembly Report is in Black Type

2011 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Delegate Report is in Red Type.

2011 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Final Report is in Blue Type.

### **CPC Committee Considerations**

There were no CPC Advisory Actions at this conference

#### **A. Discuss the concept of a compilation DVD of CPC literature.**

Currently send print material to professionals who request information from GSO. This would allow information to be sent on a DVD to these professionals instead of the pamphlets and DVD that they now send. Estimated cost is \$1350.00

Consensus of the committee is that this may be redundant as all are already available on-line through aa.org. We like the concept as it is not always easy to navigate a web site. The digital media would consolidate information in one location. It is also easily distributed. All pamphlets are still available as is the website. It would be a good addition to our toolbox for information sharing.

Requested that the Trustee's Committee on CPC/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities explore replacing the current CPC DVD with a new DVD compilation including the following material:

- Table of Contents
- Intro letter including references to aa.org and other resources on the web site

- 'If You Are a Professional'
- 'Information on Alcoholics Anonymous'
- 'AA Membership Survey'
- 'Alcoholics Anonymous in you Community'
- 'About AA'
- 'Is AA for me?'
- AA Cooperation with the Professional Community videos

The committee agreed with the concept of combining the AA CPC DVD with a compilation of CPC literature would be very useful in CPC service work. The committee requested the trustees' Committee on CPC/TF/Special Needs explore replacing the current the current DVD with a new compilation to include the material as listed above.

The committee requested that the trustees **bring back a report and draft product to the 2012 Conference** Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community.

**B. Discuss a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the AA Grapevine, La Vina and La Vigne in CPC endeavors.**

Sample letter is included which contains a summary of sharing from non-alcoholic professionals and AA members regarding their use. Enclosures to the letter are a copy of the appropriate magazine and how to subscribe with price list, (including the digital subscription).

Consensus of the committee is that this would be a useful tool for CPC representatives. The letter was simple and succinct with good examples of magazine use. There was some concern about the price list "pushing" our product and the fact that La Vigne is not conference approved literature at this time. We did feel it is important to inform people how to obtain the product we are recommending. The La Vigne may need to be excluded unless the conference approval status is changed.

It was requested that the Trustees Committee bring back a report and draft product to the 2012 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Committee.

The Committee discussed a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the AA Grapevine, La Vina and La Vigne and **took no action.**

**C. Review a draft service piece regarding use of the AA Grapevine, La Vina, and La Vigne in CPC endeavors.**

Includes suggestions for using these magazines as a tool and examples of how professionals have used them in the past. This is a one page document that would be included in the CPC Kit/Workbook.

Consensus of the committee is that it would be an appropriate addition to the CPC kit. It suggests simple ways to use our magazines as a tool for CPC representatives. Concern again that La Vigne is not conference approved.

Reviewed a draft service piece regarding use of the AA Grapevine, La Vina and La Vigne in CPC endeavors and suggested including the piece in the CPC kit with a few minor edits.

The committee reviewed a draft service piece regarding use of the AA GV, and LV in COC endeavors and **suggested including the piece in the CPC kit with minor edits suggested by the committee.**

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

**1. Review Contents**

The committee had a lengthy review of the CPC Kit and Workbook. We reminded everyone that the kit is available through your literature representative or directly from GSO for \$12. We also used this time to discuss ideas and possibilities for Area 40 CPC activities and workshops.

The committee reviewed the workbook and made the following suggestions.

**2. Add a list of goals and project suggestions for CPC committees**

- a) Like in other workbooks and guidelines. (PI, Treat, Correct.)
- Remember open meetings
  - Send letters
  - Subscribe to Grapevine, About AA

Consensus of the committee was that it would be an effective addition to the current CPC guideline sheet. Succinct, practical information is always helpful. It would not duplicate the currently available literature.

That a list of goals and project suggestions for CPC committees be added to the workbook.

That a list of goals and project suggestions for CPC committees be added to the CPC Workbook.

**3. Sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals.**

- a) samples of ideas/portfolios/presentations/skits

Consensus of the committee was that it would be an effective addition to the current CPC Kit/Workbook. Succinct, practical information is always helpful. It would not duplicate anything currently available.

In light of the Fellowship sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals, include a summary of shared experience from CPC committees and professionals for one-on-one contact in the Workbook.

The committee reviewed the Fellowship sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals. The committee **requested that a summary of shared experience from CPC committees and professionals for one-on-one CPC contact with professionals be included in the CPC workbook.**

**4. Sample guide letter for healthcare professional school administrators.**

- a) sample form letter with suggested enclosures

Consensus of the committee was that it would be an effective addition the current CPC Kit/Workbook. It would not duplicate any of the sample letters currently available. We would recommend some changes in wording, but agree with the general concept.

Add two bullets on page 20 of the Workbook (Guide Letters) regarding suggested elements in CPC letters: see below

The committee **suggested adding two bullets on page 20 of the CPC Workbook** regarding suggested elements in CPC letters:

- Invitation to accompany professionals or students to open AA meetings.
- Invitation to present on what AA is and is not
- 

**Trustee Committee**

**Election/Advisory Actions/Additional Considerations/No Action Taken**

It was recommended that the **following slates of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in May 2011:** See page 10 of 2011 Final Report for list of names.

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

1. Northeast Regional Trustee
2. Southwest Regional Trustee
3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada

Names of trustee candidates and those voting are given. Resumes of candidates are only given to the committee members.

**Election-**The appropriate members of the Conference eligible to vote elected a new Northeast, Southwest, and Trustee-at-Large/Canada.

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

**Advisory Action-**Recommend elections and appointment, at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2011, of the slates of trustees and officers proposed.

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

**Advisory Action-**Recommend elections, at the annual meeting of the members of the AA World Services Corporate Board in May 2011, of the slate of directors proposed.

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

Review of slates of trustees and directors are for disapproval if any.

Again, resumes are only given to the committee.

**Advisory Action**-After intense debate, the Conference rejected a motion to reinstate two non-trustee director nominees for the AA Corporate Board, and voted to approve the slate of directors (without those two nominees), consisting of seven rather than nine directors, for election at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2011.

**Additional Considerations**-Requested that the trustees Nominating Committee examine the impact of the Conference disapproving a recommended slate and bring a report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees.

The committee requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee **examine the impact of the Conference disapproving a recommended slate and bring a report back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustee.**

**No Action Taken**-The Conference did not approve a recommendation by the committee that the Conference note with grave concern the lack of communication between the General Service Board and the Grapevine Board regarding the size and composition of the Grapevine Board, and recommend that the General Service Board take action to improve communication and cooperation among all its Boards and bring a report to the 2012 Conference Committee on Trustees

Finances- Lori

The Finance Committee was represented by Terry S., Area 40 Delegate, Sharon S., Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate, Sandy A., DCM-12 and Rebecca S., DR-61. I would like all the members of my committee for their input and participation. Todd M., Sec/Treas for District 23, sat in on and participated in our meeting. The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by discussion of the two items on our agenda. What follows is a melding of our standing committee discussion/minutes and the Floor Assembly Presentation by the Treasurer.

- A. Prepare and propose the 2012 Area 40 Budget, with consideration for additional expenses that would result if other committee recommendations pass.
- B. Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Finance.

The committee decided to discuss Item B prior to hammering out the budget. We reviewed the General Service Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations for Finance and accept with gratitude the decisions of the Conference. For your reference, these appear in the 2011 Final Report of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the GSC of AA on pages 6 and 65. We did note that the Conference Finance Committee requested that a Financial Talking Points document be prepared and placed on the AA website and distributed in other ways to the fellowship. We agreed that more information about AA finances is always helpful.

Next we moved on to item A, the budget. Our committee decided to make a few changes to our budgeting process which we hope will simplify things. First, in the past, Area 40 has allocated funds to committee chairs on an arbitrary and equal basis. For instance, this year, each committee chair was given a budget of \$250.00 for Area travel, supplies, copies, etc.

We decided to create a single line item for all committee chair travel, including the Secretary and Treasurer, and another single line item for all committee chair supplies, copies, postage, etc., including the Secretary and Treasurer. The Delegate and Alternate Delegate/Area Chair would still have individual budgets for these items. In addition, we created a single line item for any computer hardware and software purchases instead of allocating these to individual committee chairs and officers.

Please bear with me as I present this budget recommendation as I have struggled with trying to make sure that this is as easy to understand as possible. I have also asked members of my committee to step in and rescue me if I start to get that “deer in the headlights” look. The fact is that it’s rarely fun to talk about money—unless you’ve won the lottery. I have a bad habit of assuming that because I understand something, everyone else will understand it too.

Please refer to the report, Budget vs. Actual by Committee that you should have picked up yesterday. The first column shows our expenditures through September 13<sup>th</sup>. The last column shows the approved budget for this year, 2011. Now let’s look at the proposed 2012 budget handout. I would like to start at the top of the proposed 2012 budget column (on handout and overhead) and briefly explain the committee’s reasoning behind each item. I will try not to get into a lot of confusing detail with the hope that you will help me by asking specific questions after the budget proposal is presented as a recommendation from the committee.

**AREA 40 Budget 2012**

	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>9/13/2011</b>	<b>2011 Budget</b>	<b>2012 Proposed</b>	<b>Note s</b>
1	Spring Assembly	\$4,517.49	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
2	Fall Assembly	\$0.00	\$4,750.00	\$5,000.00	
3	Regional Service Conference	\$2,035.31	\$1,800.00	\$2,250.00	Billings, MT- March 2-4, 2012, includes Del, Alt. Del, Lit & GV Chairs, Archivist Only in odd
4	Regional Forum	\$1,134.86	\$2,050.00	N/A	years
5	Regional Trustee	\$0.00	\$750.00	N/A	invited to Fall Assembly in

					odd year
6	Delegate Expense				
6A	Area 40 Share to GSO	\$3,239.00	\$3,239.00	\$3,239.00	GSO asks for a minimum of \$1,200
6B	Other Expenses to NYC	\$19.90	\$700.00	\$700.00	Add'l Hotel (2 nights) and Incidentals
6C	Travel Expenses	\$783.19	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	Travel in Area 40 - 14 Districts
6D	Roundups	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$600.00	Kalispell and Missoula
6E	Other Expenses	\$110.17	\$150.00	\$150.00	Copies, postage, supplies
7	Area Chair Expenses	\$676.69	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Area 40 trav, copies, postage supplies
8	Archivist**			\$0.00	
	Archives Display & Travel	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	Per Fall 2009 Action
8A					Month to Month, \$350.00
8B	Archives Storage	\$3,130.75	\$4,150.94	\$4,200.00	x 12
8C	Archives Training	\$0.00		N/A	
9	Corrections Chair			\$0.00	Moved to Line Items 19 & 20
9A	Local Forum	\$962.27	\$900.00	N/A	
10	CPC Chair			\$0.00	Moved to Line Items 19 & 20
11	Grapevine Chair			\$0.00	Moved to Line Items 19 & 20
12	Literature Chair			\$0.00	Moved to Line Items 19 & 20
12A	Literature Purchases	\$567.69	\$500.00	\$760.00	all AAWS and Grapevine purchases
13	PI Chair			\$0.00	Moved to Line Items 19 & 20
13A	Area Toll-Free Hotline	\$2,419.50	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	Spring assembly '10 voted \$250/month

	Phone Directory				
13B	Listings	\$1,048.80	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	
14	Treatment Chair			\$0.00	20
15	Secretary			\$0.00	20
15A	Supplies			\$0.00	20
16	Treasurer			\$0.00	20
16A	Software,Supplies, PO Box			\$0.00	20
17	Webmaster	\$79.56	\$170.00	\$170.00	
18	Triangle Newsletter	\$2,393.18	\$3,100.00	\$4,000.00	8 issues per year- publishing cost
18A	Supplies, Hardware, Software			\$0.00	21
19	Committee Chair Travel	\$679.11	\$2,100.00	\$1,000.00	Travel
20	Committee Chair Postage/Supplies	\$510.52	\$250.00	\$500.00	CCs, Sec & Treas POBs, postage, supplies copies
21	Computer Hardware and Software	\$1,054.97	\$200.00	\$150.00	Del, Sec, Treas, Arch, Tri: Computers, Printers, Software & Upgrades
22	Ad-Hoc Committee Expenses Phone and Conference	\$30.44		N/A	Phone, Travel
23	Calls	\$210.44		\$200.00	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,603.84</b>	<b>\$36,359.94</b>	<b>\$35,569.00</b>	
	<b>Prudent Reserve</b>			<b>\$11,856.33</b>	4 months of budget

\*\*     Archivist has separate account out of which \$211.12 was spent this year. This appears on financial statements but is not budgeted.

The notes in the far right column are from our committee discussions both prior to the assembly and during our standing committee meeting and also from information obtained from the committee chairs, officers, archivist, Triangle editor and webmaster. I would highlight line 6A Area 40 Share to GSO. The committee was in favor of changing the amount we have budgeted for the last 5 years to \$1,200.00, the minimum requested by GSO. We studied several years of past minutes to determine how we got to the figure of \$3,239.00, a long and convoluted path. While we realized that one assembly's actions are not binding upon the next, we were unsure whether it would be appropriate for the committee to change this figure. We chose to leave it up to the assembly. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend a 2012 budget of \$35,569.00 with a prudent reserve of \$11,856.33 (4 months of the budget per past action).

Here's the hard part. If this budget is passed, we will need the groups in Area 40 to approximately double their contributions in 2012 in order to meet our expenses. With that in mind:

**The Area 40 Finance Committee recommends the 2012 Budget. The vote was 82 votes For with none opposed.**

Thank you for your attention and for allowing me to serve. Lori F., Area 40 Treasurer

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions- Gary E.

Grapevine committee meeting notes

Sept. 17, 2011 Open with serenity prayer. All committee members present along Ken B.

A. Review 2011 Conference advisory actions:

- Conference agreed the GV can be sold via commissionable outlets including on line sellers.
- Committee requests that the Board ensure contracts adhere to our Traditions and we can end the contract if they don't.
- Financial status report to be submitted to the 2012 Conference.

Ken B. expanded:

I-Tunes is one of the commissionable outlets. We are selling it through our own website aagrapevine.org still in development. Tradition protection built into the recommendation. We'll be able to get out of any contract immediately if need be to protect anonymity. Facebook, twitter and RSS resources on the Grapevine site- if you did that it put a link to the GV site on your Twitter account/FB page. Pushback from fellowship and links were. More discussion is needed. Some argue that this is not an anonymity break. Next year's workshop topic at the Conference is "Anonymity in the Digital Age."

-Investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources - the two affiliate boards need to work together. AAWS and GV Boards are not using the same apps/ each selling literature but working parallel and not in tandem.

-Editorial revisions by GV staff on GV pamphlet be approved with minor changes.

#### Policy and Admissions

##### B. Review Conference actions:

- Admissions of foreign visitors and alternate delegates filling in.

-GSC to conduct an inventory over the next three year (2013,2014&2015) period so all the businesss can still get done while the inventory goes on.

GSC has never done a complete inventory.

-Set dates for 2014 GSC

Conference committee on Archives is secondary committee- Archives has requested additional time should the need it to present information.

- Minority appeals- the right to appeal is clear, but the processs for doing it not. Who and how it is handled is not?

An appeal process was drafted and adopted in 2011.The process is contained in the 2011 Conference report.

##### How to promote the AA Grapevine:

-One group had a separate can for change for the GV. Once the can contained enough monies for a subscription each members name was put in a hat and drawn to win it. Also could be used for a newcomer or subscription for an institution.

-Place computer to the GV display to help people sign up.

-Announce when the new GV issue comes out. Announce how to buy the GV.

-Sponsors an buy a subscription for Christmas gift or for their sobriety BD.

-Two people split the cost,

- Digital magazine costs less. (digital archive access is an additional charge) push the digital magazine.
- Make GV subscription a door prize or a raffle prize at different functions.
- Hold a competition between groups or Districts
- Promote the 100 additional subscriptions challenge

Literature- Mary M.

**Literature Fall Assembly 2011-** The Literature committee present: Jim B DR 51, Joe L DR 42, Bob T DR 61, Jay T DCM 93, we also had five other AA's that participated in the meeting. Thank you for Morgan from Bozeman for taking notes.

**Agenda Item A: Review the status of Area 40's request to AAWS to produce a hardbound *Daily Reflections***

**Background:**

From the 2007 Fall Assembly

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

Area 40 sent the request to AAWS in December 2007 via a letter from Andrew W. This was never received or was lost, so Terry S resubmitted the letter in June 2011 and the request has been denied at this time and we should perhaps consider if Area 40 still considers this an important item and, if so, wishes to submit an agenda item for the next conference. Here is the original letter sent by Andrew W.

3214 Cummins Way, Missoula, MT 59802

Addrienne Brown, Literature Desk

General Service Office

December 12, 2007

Dear Addrienne,

I am writing to request that AAWS consider printing a hardbound edition of "Daily Reflections." This request was brought up by District 23 of Area 40 and discussed at our recent Fall Assembly. The motivation for this request is the concern that the life span of the paperback version of "Daily Reflections" is too short and that the poor condition of some of the copies used at meetings was a poor reflection on the groups. It was the sense of our Area Assembly that publishing a hardbound edition of "Daily Reflections" would be a good idea. Since this book is already conference-approved, please consider this a request to the Publishing Editor and not a request for an agenda item.

Thank you for your consideration of this item and please let me know if I need to provide you with any further information concerning this request.

Yours in love and service,

Andrew Ware, Panel 57 Delegate, Area 40 Montana

Our Committee did not think this was important at this time to produce a hard cover Daily Reflections. I got a clarification from Andrew that our request was not technically declined, rather put on a list of things to look at a later date.

**Agenda Item B: Review 2011 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations for Literature.**

**The following three recommendations on Literature resulted in advisory actions from the conference:**

1. The revised pamphlet "The AA Member—Medication and other Drugs"

be approved and available as of August 2011 which it is. [P-11 25 cents]

[Although there is substantial change to the pamphlet, one theme remains the same in the new version. "No AA member should play doctor. All medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified physician."]

2. The trustees Literature committee continue to develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee expressed support for the trustees' efforts to develop a pamphlet which reflects the wide range of spiritual experiences of AA members and asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration. 201 stories are being reviewed.

3. The text under “When you’re a G.S.R.” in the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative” will be revised to more accurately reflect the history of the General Service Representative. (The revised pamphlet is expected to be available by November 2011)

**Progress Report Notes:**

Understanding Anonymity has been revised and completed

There is now a new Special Needs pamphlet called “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” and as of couple months there is a Special Needs Accessibilities Kit. Contains pamphlets, the Grapevine and Workbook for \$18.00.

Some of the Literature packages have increased but also include more pamphlets and are still a savings of around \$6.00.

The subcommittee working on the revision of the “AA and the Armed Services” pamphlet has begun reading 43 new stories submitted for consideration. They were asked to bring a draft pamphlet or a progress report to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

The committee also reviewed the draft revisions to the Living Sober booklet and requested that the trustee Literature Committee continue to review the booklet Living Sober, focusing on outdated language and/or practices, and provide a new revision to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review. *Living Sober* booklet [1975]

**Agenda Items that did not make the floor or out of committee:**

**Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-Support or “green card” to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool. No Action thoughtfully discussed**

**Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develops literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.” Thought fully considered no action taken**

**Consider a request to include the AA Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book. Thought fully considered no action taken**

**Consider a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office Thought fully considered no action taken**

**Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-Support or “green card” to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool. No Action thoughtfully discussed**

**Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develops literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.” Thought fully considered no action taken**

**Consider a request to include the AA Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book. Thought fully considered no action taken**

**Consider a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office. Thought fully considered no action taken**

Our committee reviewed these items.

West Central Regional Trustee Sharing- Ken B.

Ken said he was starting to feel like a lame duck; with the process of knowing that he will soon be replaced. He loved how the bantering over an agenda item was demonstrated last evening, and if you enjoy it also, you may be on a greater path of general service. There is an energy that is so great. Also, the nomination process for Regional Trustee was great with such a remarkable slate of candidates. (Thank you for trusting me with the markers to score the balloting.)

Ken made the comment that AA could be in serious financial straits in the future. With the recent stock market crashes, we will need to ramp up our retirement accounts. AAWS and Grapevine Inc. should consider a defined contribution plan rather than a defined benefit plan. The cost of production of the Grapevine has crippled it. AAWS is also having short term solutions. The age of books is going away. There is \$400,000 budgeted for applications for digital books and technology. Our cash cow (the Big Book) is like the dinosaurs of the past. Already the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of the Big Book are public domain. The dynamics of book sales is changing. George M., the chairman of the General Service Board has been open and honest about this situation. We need to watch that book revenue will eventually play out.

There are clouds on the horizon that aren't pink. We must be vigilant and principled with our actions. There is a prevalent trend that the principles of the steps, traditions, and concepts are not being implemented by the General Service Board at this time. We are not paying attention to the Concepts. Think through the process and see the logic in the situation. Don't approve things that can't be done. (Ken was referring to a proposal that Grapevine cut 1/3 off their expenses, but there is nothing left to cut.) Ken encouraged us to watch the shape of AA. He much admired the leadership and service of AA in Area 40 and said to “Grow with it.”

GSR Breakout

There were three questions for the GSR Breakout session.

Question #1. Why is the Lord's Prayer used in meetings since it's a spiritual program?

- \*Other options could be the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> Step prayers. Could also say the Responsibility Statement.
- \*chairperson decides on how to close meetings in some groups
- \*Lord's Prayer is referenced in "AA Comes of Age"
- \*Groups determine way of closing their meetings
- \*Some like the group meeting they are at so they tend to respect the closing prayer of the group
- \*Bill W said, "Words are optional. the message is what's important."
- \*St. Francis Prayer was also mentioned.
- \*Someone suggested a group conscious meeting regarding the topic to determine what is best for the group
- \*Desperation to stay sober determines willingness to pray the Lord's Prayer even though it may not be their preference.
- \*Let's not change what has worked for 75 years. If it ain't broke, don't fix/change it.

Question #2. Service is not supported in a particular group; what do you do?

- \*include AA pamphlets on service
- \*bring in other member to influence with ideas regarding service and its value
- \*a few people can't control a group unless it's allowed
- \*medallions have service, unity, and recovery on them-start handling them out at group
- \*Truth prevails. Persist in carrying the message of the value of service.
- \*may need to find another group

\*take what you want and leave the rest.

\*Remember we are alcoholics. Be an example of attraction.

Question #3. How to encourage participation at group level

\*Lead by example-bring people along.

\*If you want what I have-do what I do.

\*Sponsor people into service

\*Infectious enthusiasm about service and area assembly

\*Sponsors include sponsees with stories of fun and enthusiasm for the experiences at the area assemblies and being of service

\*others in groups that participate in area are greater force of support to attract others rather than being the only one to have the experience of area assemblies

\*Some have the experience of being told by a sponsor, "This is what you will do."

\*Others have experience of "no support" from group members to be of service and are implementing a workshop on the value of service.

#### DCM Breakout

The DCM Breakout only had two questions, but they were all that was needed for the discussions.

Question # 1. What are the duties and responsibilities of the DCM? How do we get people involved at the District level?

\*communicate with the groups and the GSR's

\*follow-up with non-active committee chairs

\*attend meetings, especially rural meetings, to provide information and become a link for members with no phone or internet connections.

- \*keep your District meetings limited to one hour
- \*personally invite people to the District meetings
- \*have meetings in a central location or rotate around the district
- \*combine committee chairmen to require less people to serve

Question #2. How do you get involved in World Service?

- \*keep informed on what is happening at the General Service Board and at the General Service Office
- \*rotate on in service; serve as a DCM, then at Area, etc.
- \*understand what AA does and how far AA reaches.
- \*sponsor meetings in other countries, Loners/ Internationalists, living overseas, Correspondence with groups in other countries.

Respectfully Submitted, Earl F., Past Delegate

### Roundup Reports

#### Spring 2011-Great Falls

\_2011 Spring Roundup was held in Great Falls, MT on May 14-16, 2011. The theme of the roundup was

“Together We Can, Together We Grow”. The roundup was a success. We had tons of cookies and a live band named 49<sup>th</sup> Street Blues Project. There were great AA, Alanon, and Alaateen speakers. We were solvent and able to pass on seed money to Helena for the Fall Roundup. By asking for volunteers, we got nowhere. By asking for help, we got others into service.

#### Fall 2011-Helena

The Fall 2011 Round Up is scheduled to be in Helena October 14, 15, and 16 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. Although there are several of hotels in the area, the Red Lion is giving us a great rate for the rooms, \$74.99 plus tax, but only if the rooms are reserved before September 20<sup>th</sup>. So hurry to get the best rate.

Our Friday night opening speakers will be Mark S from Kalispell and Kelly P from Helena. A 7<sup>th</sup> tradition ice cream social will follow for a time of fellowship. Saturday we will have a workshop with all of the speakers, the Al Anon speaker will be Mary G from New York Saturday afternoon, followed by cake in celebration of Al-Anon's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An Old Timers meeting will be held in the afternoon. Dinner Saturday night will be served, a raffle and sober-down, with Myra S from New York speaking afterward. We will have a dance from 9-12 Saturday night with DJ music provided. Sunday morning we will hear from Diana S from New York for our closing meeting.

Of course, there will be marathon meetings throughout the weekend, lots of time for fellowship, as well as an opportunity for fun in sobriety. The cost for the entire weekend's events has been kept to an amazingly low amount of \$35, \$40 after October 1. That is \$15 for registration and \$20 for dinner before October 1.

There are registration flyers on the back table and I will be taking registrations today for your convenience. You can mail them in to the address on the form, as well. There is a map to the facility located on the Area 40 website now and any questions can be answered with the contact information on the flyer. There is also a flyer for raffle contributions. If you have something you would like to donate to the raffle, see me after the meeting or call Michelle M. at the number on the flyer.

There will also be a sign language interpreter for the main meetings, and please let me know if you need other accommodations.

We are really excited about this event and hope to see you all there! Thank you for allowing me to serve. Misty G.

#### Spring 2012- Kalispell

On behalf of District 91, I would like to invite you to the next Spring Roundup. This will be held in the beautiful Flathead Valley, home of Glacier National Park and many scenic lakes and rivers. The dates are May 4-6, 2012, only 230 days away. Our theme is "Half Measures Avails us Nothing". Our speakers are Katie, Charlie & Madeline P. We will be holding the roundup at the Red Lion Hotel @the Mall in downtown Kalispell. We have a *screamin' deal* for you to stay at the Red Lion; \$89.95 per night for 4 people. That included a free *Roaring Start Breakfast!!* Registration is only \$20 for the roundup. Hope to see you there. Report given by Paul L. from the Whitefish Group

#### Intergroup Reports

##### South Central Montana Intergroup

South Central Montana Intergroup report-Fall Assembly 2011-Area 40

My name is Don. And I'm an alcoholic. I am also the chairman for the SCMIG. It has been a year since I last reported to the area. We continue to be a viable, busy, service entity to the fellowship in both district 11 & 12.

Events; we have sponsored 3 events this year. The holiday party in Nov 2010, Founder's day in Apr 2011 and, the Cooney Campout in July of 2011. All events were well attended and we hope of value to the fellowship. We have already started planning and have secured a location for the Holiday party in November of this year. Founders day will be in March 2012 and the Cooney Campout July 2012. We hope these events bring value to the fellowship and show newcomers we are not a glum lot!

Finances; Overall we continue to not be at our prudent reserve. The financial situation is stable though. The Bookstore continues to be fully self supporting. We thank all the groups who continue to financially support the SCMIG.

The Future; the future continues to look bright for the SCMIG. We have a steady participation of 8-10 groups and have filled and rotated many service positions within the organization. The transition for our new Treasurer has been completed and the new Events chair is off to a great start planning the Holiday party. We continue to focus on carrying the message through the meeting schedule, events and literature. The SCMIG is supporting the upcoming WCRAASC in Billings by chairing the Hospitality room committee and the bookstore chair is also chairing the literature committee for the event. We also continue to work with and support the district 11 committee. We hope our continued focus on carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous keeps us on the right path. We continue to see steady growth in meeting attendance, and have seen new meetings added to the schedule this year. God willing this will continue. Respectfully, Don M., SCMIG Chair

Flathead Valley Intergroup Intergroup

Intergroup's Business meet is held the last Saturday of every month at 6:30pm at the Columbia Falls Steelworkers Union, 133 6<sup>th</sup> Street West Columbia Falls, Montana. After the Business meeting Intergroup hosts the

monthly Birthday Meeting at 8:00pm followed by cake and fellowship. Intergroup has 14 Chair positions which are filled and one open position for the Alcathon Chair. All current Chairs are very passionate, dedicated and active people in sobriety within the Flathead Valley willing to serve Intergroup.

Chair: Nikki T.                      Co-Chair: Jeff C.

Trustees: Del G., Fred H., and Randy B.

Archivist: Fred H.      Hotline Chair: Sonya G.  
Secretary: Tammie N.      Treasurer: Alida W.  
Web Chair: Larry P.      Entertainment Chair: Sonya G.  
PI: Tammie N.      Campout Chair: Mike V.  
Thanksgiving Chair: Jeff      Thanksgiving Co-Chair: Ralph S.

Alcathon Chair:

On July 30, 2011 all Intergroup Chairs gathered to amend our Bylaws so that they reflected the current Intergroup. The last time the Bylaws had been amended was November 2001. Clearly, Intergroup was way over due.

Intergroup is also in the process of formatting and creating questions to be answered/addressed for an Intergroup Inventory to be conducted fall, early winter.

I have also been in communication with Sam B. at District 91 who voiced interest in conducting a District/Intergroup Inventory to occur either winter 2012 or spring 2012.

Intergroup prints the AA meeting schedules for the entire Flathead Valley as far up north to Eureka all the way to Elmo Montana. Intergroup also has a website which is [aa-kalispell.org](http://aa-kalispell.org), Toll-Free Hotline which is (888) 607-2000, Annual Halloween Event, Annual Thanksgiving Event in which anywhere from 100-200 people are in attendance, Annual Alcathon for New Year's Eve through New Year's Day, Annual Campout at Emery Bay in Hungry Horse, Cinco de Mayo Event, so on and so forth. We are alive, strong and continue to serve alcoholics in need. Nikki T., Intergroup Chair District 91

#### Report from West Central Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa

Thanks to your support I had the privilege of representing District 72, Area 40 at the West Central Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa September 9-11. It was a very full weekend and I learned an enormous amount about the service structure. Specifically, how the Twelve Concepts relate to our Area, our Districts, our Group and my own recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. We had the opportunity to meet with Trustees, General Service Staff, our West Central Regional Trustee. Some important ideas that I got from the weekend and would like to pass on to the Area:

- We are responsible for AA future let it begin with us, take action to meet and share to carry the message more effectively.
- On April 24th 1960, the Twelve Concepts which maintains the security and future of Alcoholics Anonymous and serves as a guiding light and a beacon to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.
- 14 Class B (boozers) and 7 Class A (amateurs) serve on a variety of committees: Trustees' Committee, Conference, Finance & Budget, Corrections, Literature, Nominating, CPC/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- General Service Board 21 Trustees-7 non-alcoholic (Class A)14 alcoholic (Class B)4 general service trustees 2 at large US Canada, 8 regional trustees- 6 US 2 Canada. Regional trustees serve 4 years bring regional point of view
- Regions in GSO Western Canada, Eastern Canada, Northeast, Southeast, East Central, West Central, Southwest, Pacific
- West Central Region Area 24 Iowa, Area 35 Northern Minnesota, Area 36 Southern Minnesota, Area 40 Montana, Area 41 Nebraska, Area 52 North Dakota, Area 63 South Dakota, and Area 76 Wyoming.
- There is Dignity to positions, we need to retain the best people we can get and we pay them appropriately.
- **Culture of inactive district, steps I can take to get more groups involved:**
  - If this were not fun, or worthwhile, how many of you would be there?
  - Make phone calls, notify in a number of ways.
  - Let Groups know they are in charge, they have the power
  - Sponsorship and Food
  - Send an agenda in advance, if you want a say, show up,
  - Send small core to go out to visit the group
  - Put on a Presentation, "What is service?"
  - Hold District mini-Conference, (Unity Day)
  - Sponsor people into service
  
- BIG NEWS!! E-books our big project, in November Big Book will be available on Apple and Android, be sure to purchase. Twelve and Twelve is next.
- "Primary purpose to carry the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic, our contributions are just a way to get there." AA Contributions online <https://ctb.aaws.org/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx%3flang%3den&lang=en>

I also attended two workshops on Saturday night "AA in the Digital Age" and "Working with Old-timers and Newcomers". On another note, we heard from our new Grapevine Editor. It was very moving and we are entering an exciting time in AA/Grapevine history.

Check out the new [Grapevine.org](http://Grapevine.org) website for yourselves. Grapevine is offering an ALL access 7 day free trial. Try it you might like it...

One of the most important revelations that I received after this weekend was that Alcoholics Anonymous has loved me back to life and that the power of the group saved me from active alcoholism. So, when I head out to visit groups, or meet with sponsees, or show up for family or go to work my focus in that is to love, that's it just bring the love that was so freely given to me. And where I'm from I was told that "Tolerance is the lowest form of love and sacrifice is the highest." AA asks us to do both.

I wanted to thank you wholeheartedly for allowing me to serve. In love and service, Catherine J. DCM 72

### Report from the Local Forum Committee

Final Report - Area 40 Local Forums:

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to share this report on the Local Forums. First, the factual information.

- 1) June 18, 2011 in Great Falls, MT at the Best Western Heritage. 41 members registered.
- 2) June 19, 2011 in Miles City, MT at the Range Rider Museum. 50 members registered.
- 3) Area 40 budgeted \$900.00 for the Forums. Expenses totaled \$972.27, 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions totaled \$641.56 for a total net expense to Area 40 of \$330.71.
- 4) The General Service Office forwarded a plethora of pamphlets, literature of all variants and workbooks to each Forum. None was left at the end of each Forum.
- 5) Expenses for the two presenters: Ken B, West Central Regional Trustee and Jim M, GSO staff were covered by the GSO.
- 6)

Both Ken and Jim came prepared with more information that could possibly be presented in a one day session. Both started their first presentation with some personnel stories that definitely qualified them to be alcoholic.

Ken was tasked with presentations on: the finances of Alcoholics Anonymous and a presentation on the Grapevine.

Jim was tasked with presentations on: services available from the General Service Office and a presentation on the Corrections Desk assignment at the GSO.

Both shared extensively on the topics and gave wonderful presentations. Simply, the intent of a Local Forum to create a Regional Forum experience was exceeded. The members of our Fellowship that were in attendance varied from seasoned service workers to folks new in

sobriety. Many great questions were asked and the general sharing at the conclusion of each Forum was filled with great ideas to carry forward in our service work endeavors.

One particular bit of sharing that took place warrants sharing with you this morning. Jim M, gave many examples of how our contributions to GSO are put to work. He shared many stories from his work on the Corrections Assignment. He told one story about a prison in Salem, OR. A riot was taking place and a group of the men in that pod were standing off to the side of the riot. When asked by the guards why they were not participating, one of them said they were in AA and did not want to get involved in outside controversy. Word of their actions made it to the warden of the prison and he was impressed to say the least. Because of the riot, the prison was in lock down—no one in or out. But it was the usual day of the week when the outside AA members came to have a meeting. The warden was so impressed with the inmates that he made an exception and let the outside AA members in so they could have their meeting.

By the telling of that story, the demonstration of the power of our Steps, Traditions and Concepts—the principles we get to live by every day had a new light and a new importance to everyone in the room. Then, a woman in attendance at the Great Falls Forum raised her hand and said that one of those men was her son, had been locked up for 20+ years and he 12 stepped her. There was not a dry eye in the room.

Thank you to all who were able to attend either of Forums. Both were the same, yet different in their own particular way. By the way, the pot luck in Miles City was one of the best ever. There is a wonderful article written by Anne B from District 61 and her experience at the Forum in the August 2011 Triangle. I would encourage everyone to review her input. Respectfully submitted Jewel lea W., Co-Chair

#### Report from the National AA Archives Workshop Committee

The 15<sup>th</sup> National AA Archives Workshop is four and a half days away from getting started. Four and a half days, folks! As predicted, we have AA's coming from every corner of the nation and Canada to attend, and participate in, this unique and exciting event in Helena, this coming Thursday through Sunday.

Please allow me to give you one last rundown of just some of the people, and the organizations they represent, who will be attending. We have:

Michelle Mirza—GSO Archivist

Annah Perch—Stepping Stones

Cody T.—Akron Archives

Linda C.–GSC Archives Committee Chair

Mike G.–Co-editor Silkworth.net

Arthur S. Noted AA Historian

Carl B.–Past WCR Trustee

Old-Timer Panel–Over 40

All-in-all, we will have over 25 different presenters.

Those of you who have been involved registrations for Roundups and other local events know that the numbers always look real scary up until a day or so before the event. Here's what our numbers look like as of Friday. We have \_\_\_90\_\_\_ total registrations \_\_\_65\_\_\_ of which are from out-of-state, and \_\_\_25\_\_\_ are from Area 40. Put another way, two-thirds of this event is being supported by non-Area 40 attendees. I've said from the beginning, the success of this event will be determined by the level of support it receives from Area 40. Bottom line.

I mentioned yesterday, if you are planning on attending, please do not mail in your registration at this point. We will be accepting registrations, here, this weekend, or you can bring it with you when you come. The main thing is, just get there.

To ward off any confusion, I need to remind you that we are utilizing split venues for this event. The Thursday and Sunday portions of the event will be held at the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel, 2007 N. Oakes St., while the main portions of the event, Friday and Saturday, will be held at the Gateway Convention Center, 1710 National Ave. Maps, and a complimentary shuttle will be provided at the hotel during the weekend. My best advice is, just get to the Wingate Hotel, and it will all make sense.

We have also opened a second block of rooms at the Quality Inn, just across the street from the Wingate as an overflow precaution. The address and phone number there are: 2300 North Oakes St., 406-442-3064. The shuttle will arrive for pickups and deliveries there as well.

The committee has been working hard to develop an enjoyable and informative workshop. We all hope that you are able to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there. Gerry R., Area 40 Archivist, XV-NAAAW Chair

Report from the 2012 WCRAASC Committee

The West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference will take place on March 2–4, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Billings, MT. Fliers are available on the back table and on the Area 40 website.

Registration is only \$12.00. This is an excellent opportunity to bring new people interested in General Service to an event that takes place once every eight years in Area 40, Montana.

The first committee meeting took place on January 29, 2011. Don B was selected by the Area Delegate to serve as Chairman for the conference per the Service Conference guidelines. 5 people were in attendance at the first meeting. Committee meetings have taken place approximately once per month with the most recent meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The committee has grown to 18 members, with all committee chair positions filled.

The next committee meeting will be Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at the District office in Billings. Volunteers to assist with all committees are welcome to attend the meeting. The Hospitality & Registration committees will need a lot of volunteers. Please contact the Chair or Co Chair of the Service Conference to offer your services if you are not able to attend the committee meetings. Contact information is available on the flier.

The Service Conference provides an opportunity to meet the 8 Delegates serving the West Central Region, hear your fellow trusted servants in similar service positions share their experience at various break out sessions and participate with the discussion of the Agenda Items assigned to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference. In addition, our West Central Regional Trustee Ken B will share a Regional Report on Sunday morning.

Again, this Service Conference takes place in Area 40 Montana only once every eight years. I would enthusiastically encourage you to make plans now to attend and bring a new comer. The committee looks forward to seeing you at the Service Conference. Respectfully submitted, Scott W., Co Chair

#### Delegate's Report

Good morning, Area 40, I'm Terry and I am an alcoholic. Since we last met here in April, I have participated in the 61st General Service Conference in New York, given delegate reports in Districts 12 (with District 11 also attending), 21 (with District 23 also attending), 31, 41 (at the Spring Roundup, with District 42 attending), 51, 61, 71, 72, 81, 91 and 93. I have also participated in both days of our two day Local Forum and in the West Central Regional Service Conference in Davenport, Iowa, not to mention some speaker meetings along the way.

I have emailed my report of what happened at the Conference to the entire Area Committee, passed out paper copies across the Area, and tried to address every question anyone has raised with me. And it has been a real opportunity for growth!

What is the primary purpose of A.A.? What's the most important thing we do? Stay sober and help other alcoholics get sober! So for all of our service work, from the group business meeting on down to the general service conference and on down to the quarterly board meetings, at every level, in every service category, the question always should be, how is this helping the still suffering alcoholic? And after we ask that question, we should open our minds and hearts and ears and listen to the answer. All of our literature—books and pamphlets and guidelines and kits and workbooks and magazine and history books and books of experience, strength and hope—our websites and dvds and streaming videos, our workshops and panels and meetings, in schools and treatment centers and correctional facilities, and our open and closed meetings, discussion and speaker and book and candlelight and outdoors and hiking meetings, and float trip meetings and everything else—the bottom line always has been, still is and always will be, recovery begins with one alcoholic sharing and everything else we do has to be geared to make that happen, to help to happen, to support that happening.

In the past 3 years, our membership increase has averaged 10,000 a year. During that same three years, our contributions have gone down an average of almost \$19,000 a year. Our G.S.O. functional expenses are what it costs to support our service work in the United States and Canada—you can see the breakdown of what is included at page 70, Final Conference Report: group services, fellowship services, gsc, world service meeting, international convention, regional forums, publishing, *Grapevine*, *LaVina*, supporting services for the Fellowship, etc. Our functional expenses have gone down during that same three years, by an average of \$269,000 per year.

In the same 3 years our literature profits were up by an average of \$260,398 per year. In 2008, our functional expenses exceeded our contributions by almost 3 million dollars, more than our entire “literature profits,” so we had to tap the prudent reserve to cover the rest of that shortfall. In 2009, we used 66.2% of the “literature profits” to cover the shortfall in contributions and in 2010 we used 64% of the “literature profits” to cover the shortfall in contributions.

We are close to being self-supporting. If each registered group contributed an average of \$137.45 (instead of \$99.24) in 2010, we would have paid for our functional expenses and not needed any literature [reserve fund] money. With an additional contribution of \$38.21 per group we would have been self-supporting. That's not a realistic number for self-support, though, because less than half of our registered groups contributed. If each of the 44.9% of our registered groups that did contribute had contributed an average of \$306.12 per year, instead of the \$221.02 actual average contribution per contributing group, we would have paid for all of our functional expenses. \$85.10 more per year per contributing group (\$7.10 more per month), and we would have been self-supporting last year. If every individual member of A.A. had contributed \$1.75 more per year (non-contributing members contributing a total of \$1.75 each), we would have been self-supporting. We are so close! We are currently okay. We are in the black. We have been cutting our expenses (the folks at G.S.O. are doing wonderful work in finding ways to keep costs down). Our contributions are hovering around what we expected, sort of, in the 1st half of 2011, just a little lower than our projections, but expenses are below projections and literature income is above projections, so we are okay right now. The thing is, we may be looking to literature sales for more support for our functional service costs in the future, due to small increases in contributions, if any, and potential large increases in service costs, in the current economy, despite heroic cost-cutting measures. And our literature sales will cost more and earn less.

A.A.W.S. is likely to feel the crunch of the digital publishing world, just like the large publishing companies have. Our A.A.W.S. excess of income over expenses could decline in the very near future, which would be a bad thing for A.A. unless we become self supporting through our own contributions.

*A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*, is already feeling the crunch that has killed some mainstream mags, and crippled others. *Grapevine* lost a total of just over \$670,000 in 2008 through 2010. In 2010, in order to remain in operation, *A.A. Grapevine, Inc.* received a transfer of funds from our reserve fund of over \$588,000. Now, it's not time to start selling pencils to raise money.

Trying to break even on the international convention in San Antonio, we made \$844,545, which in effect replaced the *Grapevine* draws from our reserve fund. Plus, *Grapevine* spent \$400,000 to prepare to go digital, and that \$400,000 was a big chunk of the total losses. Without those capital investments in the future of the *Grapevine*, our losses for our current publishing operations have been around \$90,000.00 per year over the last three years. We projected a \$93,971.00 (basically \$94,000.00) loss in 2011, and it is now a \$102,000 because of a \$8,000 increase in budgeted expenses. Why? Look at page 65, Final Conference Report, right column, second bullet. The Conference recommended including a single issue of *Grapevine, La Vina* or *LaVigne* in the GSR packets for all new GSRs. *Grapevine's* share of that cost is \$8,000.00. If current *Grapevine* subscribers in all 93 areas in the United States and Canada renewed their subscriptions, and each Area added 100 new subscriptions, we would double the *Grapevine's* subscriptions and make the *Grapevine* self supporting. In Area 40, if we meet that challenge, we are doing our part. *Grapevine* has gone digital, and hopes to self-supporting within 3 years. Of course, there are no guarantees, just like there were none when the first 100 members published the 1st printing of the 1st edition of our Big Book. Right now, there seem to be A.A.W.S. and General Service Board directors who believe that *Grapevine* is failing and has to be either eliminated or absorbed into A.A.W.S. so that losses can be reduced or eliminated, by any means possible.

If we want to maintain the *Grapevine*, now is the time to step up and support it. There is one more long-term financial factor—our pension plan projections for the future (for our current and past employees who are vested to date in our defined benefit plan) show a current 5.9 million dollar unfunded liability. For the next 3 years (2011 through 2013) we need to come up with 1.6 million dollars each year, to fund our pension liabilities, and starting in 2014, we need to continue to dump a million dollars a year into the plan. If we convert to a defined liabilities, but what I am talking about is the future liabilities for already vested benefit entitlements under the existing defined benefit plan. As long as we are a going concern business, we cannot avoid that liability. We may be able to reduce it in some technical tax ways. Somehow, we need to correct this enormous cost to our corporations. There is a committee working on this problem, and a recommendation should be forthcoming either this year or next year.

Collectively, A.A. is trying to meet these challenges. A.A.W.S. offer our first e-book, for use on mobile devices (smart phones and pads) in November 2011. Our digital bookstore will feature the Big Book first, and the Twelve and Twelve second. Apple devices will be the first on which our free apps can be installed and the first e-book available, followed by Droid and later other devices. At this same time, we face the kinds of

issues that A.A. has always faced. Are we carrying the message to the newcomers? If so, why are so few of them sticking around? How can we do better carry the message? Should we be getting back to basics? What does that mean in terms of our 12th step work, our meetings, our groups and our service structure? How do we learn to respect our anonymity tradition in a digital age? How do we respond to efforts to leave God out of the steps? How does autonomy apply today? What an order! But, every time I go back and read A.A.'s history books, I am reminded that it has always been like this. There have always been new challenges. There have always been disagreements about what is best for A.A. And we have always had members who want to "improve" our message and our Steps and our Traditions. And yet, out of all that turmoil, A.A. is still here, past our 75th anniversary, over 2 million of us worldwide. For the one million four hundred thousand of those members are in the United States and Canada. Today, for every member of our fellowship on this earth, 338 drunks are still drinking and dying out there. In our service area for every member of A.A., there are 25 wet ones out there. It is time, once again, to redouble our efforts to share the physical, spiritual and emotional sobriety we find we were before we came to Alcoholics Anonymous. Ken shared with you last night some of the grave concerns he has with A.A. today. I share many of those concerns. But I believe our Fellowship and the Conference, the collective conscience of our Fellowship can walk through these difficulties and emerge stronger than ever. Let me fill you in on some other events at the Conference.

We resubmitted a request for publication of a hard cover *Daily Reflections*. At the Conference, Valerie checked on status of that request and told me that Publications had no record of the request. Andrew provided me with an electronic copy of his letter making that request, and I forwarded it to Valerie. At the A.A.W.S. mid-year meeting, "No Action Taker" was the response to the request.

*Grapevine* asked the Conference for authority to go forward with its digital project, and got it. Page 7, Final Conference Report, Advisory Action 7, and I have told you about that action. A.A.W.S. went ahead with its digital project without asking for Conference approval, and the two justifications I heard were that the survey of the Fellowship about e-literature indicated Fellowship approval. That's a true statement, but the result was a complete bypass of the Fellowship, which I find troubling. The other justification was that it was just a matter of formatting. Given the magnitude of this project, I find this an even more troubling justification. Apple won't let us put our apps on their devices unless we give them a chance to make the sales themselves. As a result, if you buy a Big Book on your Apple smart phone, you will be given a choice of buying it from us or from them. If you choose to buy it from them, they get a percentage of the sales. If you buy it from us, they get no percentage of the sales. The choice is up to you, not up to AA as a whole. I don't see any affiliation problems here.

If there is problem with our free app working on your smart phone that relates to our app or our digital product, you come to us about the problem. If the problem is with your smart phone, you go to your phone manufacturer and service provider. If I subscribe to a magazine or buy a book from Barnes and Noble, and delivery by the Postal Service, or Fed Ex or UPS, or whoever delivers the publication is a problem, I talk to the Post Office, or Fed Ex, or UPS. If the publication itself is messed up, I talk to Barnes and Noble, or the author or editor. I don't confuse problems with the format and content of the publication with problems with the delivery system.

Page 7, Final Conference Report, Advisory Action 11, the Conference approved continued work on the pamphlet about the wide variety of spiritual experiences of our members, including atheists and agnostics, and asked that draft pamphlet or current status report be provided to

the 62nd General Service Conference. This advisory action took a lot of time. It seemed clear right away that this would pass, but folks in the minority made several efforts to prevent its passage by amendments to return it to committee, take out express reference to inclusion of stories by atheists and agnostics, and so forth. I voted with the majority, because I would like to see the draft product, at which time we can have a more concrete discussion of whether it is consistent with our Steps and Traditions. In the abstract, the idea that a sober alcoholic can have a Higher Power of his or her understanding while denying either the existence of, or any information confirming the existence of, a specific Supreme Deity seems entirely consistent with A.A. principles, but maybe reading specific stories by people who do that will clarify whether there is any real problem here. There are certainly very strong feelings about this, so more information before making a final decision seems worthwhile.

Page 7, Final Conference Report, Advisory Action 13, the General Service Conference is going to take its inventory, in 2013-15, following a plan outlined at pp. 11-13. It looks like a much more structured and detailed version of what we did yesterday. It provides some good examples of questions that might be useful for group, district and inventories in the future, and the results should likewise be instructive. Our next two delegates will be involved in this inventory.

Page 7, Final Conference Report, Advisory Action 20, established a procedure for a Concept V minority appeal to the Conference itself. This defines how a minority, at service levels BELOW the Conference (members of staffs, committees, corporate boards or trustees, as referenced in the first paragraph on Concept V) can pursue a minority petition or appeal to the Conference, and how such an appeal would be handled.

Pp. 7-8, Advisory Action 22 approved the full face video policy, which requires approval of such a video by substantial unanimity by both the General Service Board and the General Service Conference before such a video can be produced.

Page 10, Final Conference Report, Advisory Action 40 approved the slate of directors for the *Grapevine*, leaving vacant two non-trustee director slots. *Grapevine* had spent time, energy and money finding two members of the Fellowship to fill those positions, and submitted its proposed slate of delegates to include them. Those two names were removed from the slate of directors, without any dialogue between *Grapevine* and either A.A.W.S. or the General Service Board. This led to some dramatic and emotional arguments about restoring those people to those positions followed. It was very unpleasant, and very inappropriate. If this is the level of communication between *Grapevine* and the other corporations, we could be in BIG trouble down the line.

Page 67, second bullet point, No Action Taken, the Chairman of the General Service Board ruled that a floor action to reinstate the two non-trustee directors to the *Grapevine* Board was out of order. *LaVigne* came up in several contexts at the conference. A courtesy copy of it was provided to every conference member. It is a magazine that mirrors *Grapevine* except that it is in French, pretty much exactly as *La Vina* does, except that *LaVigne* is not produced by *Grapevine*. It is produced and paid for by A.A. members who work as volunteers. Four Areas in Canada are involved in this endeavor, and *LaVigne's* subscriptions pay for the publication costs. There is money left over after costs are paid—*LaVigne* is making money, not losing money—belongs to the A.A. Areas producing and supporting this undertaking. The participants all love A.A. and do

their best to operate consistent with A.A. principles. I have received inquiries from our Area about whether there are affiliation problems as well as outside contribution problems here, since we heard that *LaVigne* made a contribution. I can contribute two observations to discussion about *LaVigne* and principles.

First, *LaVigne* is doesn't appear to be a separate entity at all, any more than the *Triangle* is a separate entity from Area 40, so I am not sure there can be any kind of "affiliation" involved. Second, I am told that contributions are handled differently in Canada than around my district. My district does not contribute money it receives from supporting A.A. groups (or district functions) to Area 40, figuring that the groups sent any money they wanted Area to receive directly to Area. We try to use the money at the district level, since that is where the groups sent it. I don't recall Area 40 sending any Seventh Tradition money on to GSO, and I think my district would oppose Area 40 doing that, for the same reason. In Canada, I am told, districts do send any money they have (over and above their prudent reserves) to their Areas. Areas do the same with GSO. As a result, since *LaVigne* is making money, the four Areas supporting its productions send that money to GSO, you could say that the money comes from *LaVigne* publication, although it is actually sent to GSO by the four Areas. It seems to me that we might ourselves be trampling on the principle of autonomy if we start trying to dictate whether those four Areas can send that money to GSO, but we could have a dialogue about that in Area 40, if we see it as a concern. Should GSO accept that money? It was \$40,000.00 last year. In Area 40, do our members, groups and districts see that as accepting an outside contribution?

Thank you for letting me serve. I am trying my best to leave A.A. in at least as good shape when I rotate out as it was when I came on board. If we all strive to do that, then A.A.'s future will be bright. Terry S., Panel 61, Area 40

Past Delegate Sharings- Earl F. & Scott W.

Wonderful sharing was presented by Earl F. and Scott W. Here is the excerpt that Scott read at the close of the sharing.

*From Delegate's Report- Fall 2007*

Bob, Hitchens, past General Service Office Manager gave a presentation at his 15th and last General Service Conference in 1977. Almost 30 years ago he offered the following words regarding our Fellowship.

'Some of us sometimes are fearful of the future. We fear this development or that problem may destroy us all. Fear not, if this Fellowship ever falters, it won't be because of two hatters or professionals in the field. Nor will it be abused by Rand type reports or by members with other problems. No, it won't be because of any of these things about which we seem to worry so much. If we ever fail, make no mistake about it, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we are just not wise enough or good enough to hold this thing together. It will be because we think too much about our rights and too little about

our obligations and responsibilities. But I don't think we are going to fall apart. I know we are going to stick together and keep AA strong and growing.

You and I know a land that is bright and there is a stillness for the spirit. A land we can live in for as long as we choose to do so. For it exists really only in our own hearts. It's a magical land called AA. The Lord I believe created AA for us. May it be His Will that we keep it safe."

I believe those words are still true today. I also believe I am honored to be a part of the environment of recovery and observance of the Traditions and Concepts that is alive and well in Area 40. Simply put, I am no more than a product of that environment. Everything I am today or hope to be tomorrow I owe to you. (Scott's closing remarks in this paragraph.)

#### Closing

All business was finished and there was a short time for general sharing. It was moved and seconded to close the assembly at 12:00 Sunday, September 18, 2011. The dates for the 2012 Spring Assembly are April 14 & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The assembly closed with the "Lord's Prayer".

Respectfully submitted, Linda B., Secretary







