

FALL AREA ASSEMBLY-SEPTEMBER 22-23. 2012

WELCOME

Sharon S. opened the fall assembly with the Serenity Prayer. Lynn read the Traditions and Daniel read the Concepts. Sharon shared a few housekeeping notes and spoke about the modified agenda format. There are hearing impaired seats in the front row for those that need them. As always, meals are not paid by the assembly and smoking is outside away from the front doors.

ROLL CALL, PASSED ACTIONS SPRING ASSEMBLY 2012

Roll Call was done by Secretary Linda B. Total attendance was 131. There were 98 voting members at this fall assembly with quorum being 66. All officers, committee chairs, and DCM's were present. Anne B., District 61 was absent but Carla B., Alt DCM was present in her place. Sandy A. had to resign due to health problems in District 12, but Daniel M, the newly elected DCM was present.

Hello to everyone, my name is Linda B. and I am an alcoholic. I am glad to see Area 40 servants ready to roll up their sleeves this weekend and get to work. Please have your sign in sheets to me by the first break so we can figure what quorum is for voting this assembly. I wonder who my successor will be? If, you are interested in running for Secretary, come visit and I'll brief you on the duties. I have enjoyed working with the Fellowship New Vision Database and updating your group records from Area 40. Our trusted servants are constantly changing, so there is always more database work to be done. Remember, all reports this assembly must be given to me and our Triangle editor, Lee. I would prefer electronic copies, if you can.

Here are the motions passed at our 2012 Spring Assembly:

"The Finance Committee recommends that starting in 2012, Area 40 send only the requested contribution for the General Service Conference delegate fee."

Motion passes with 75-For and 15-Against

The Public Information committee recommends that Area 40 use the Area 40 website as secure repository for the collection of Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact (BTG) information from each district in Area 40.

Motion passes with 87-For and 10-Against.

The P.I. committee recommends that Area 40 form an ad hoc committee, including the webmaster as a member, to consider ways to place Area background material and other material on the Area web site in secure locations that can be accessed by members.

The motion passes with 87- For and 3- Against. No minority opinion

Under Area 40 Structure and Policy the Committee recommends that the sentence “The Area Delegate, or designated substitute, will provide oversight and review of all proposed changes and external links,” be eliminated as it is superseded by G 8.8 “Also, as an alternate assignment, the Public Information Committee shall consider all business pertaining to the website operated by Area 40, Inc.”

For- 80 Opposed- 3 Motion passes

The Archives committee recommends replacing the past action from Spring 2011 with the proposed action submitted to committee: (Item B in its entirety, as it appears below)

For-83 Opposed-2 Motion Passes

1. In the event that the Delegate resigns or becomes unable to serve, the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate shall become the Delegate and the Area Advisor shall assume the Area Chair duties until the next Area Assembly when a third legacy election shall take place to select an Area Chair to fill out the term.

2. In the event that the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, or Secretary resigns or becomes unable to serve, the Area Advisor shall assume the duties of the position until the next Area Assembly when a third legacy election shall take place to select someone to fill out the term.

3. In the event that the Area Advisor resigns or becomes unable to serve, the Area Chair shall appoint a Past Delegate to complete the rotation.

4. If for some unusual, unlikely, or unforeseen circumstance this replacement process does not work, the following process will be used: a. the available Area Officers (Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and the Area Advisor (or a previous past Delegate if the Area Advisor is unavailable) will confer to determine the best solution given the specifics of the vacancy or vacancies; b. an Area Committee meeting will be scheduled as provided in section 1.4 of the Policy & Procedures Manual (audio conference or other meeting technology would be acceptable) to discuss the recommended solution; c. the Area Secretary, or person designated by the officers, will poll the Area Committee as outlined in Sections G11.3; G13.3; and G14.4.

Item 4 eliminates the problem of all officers not being able to serve as delegate.

-4 takes care of this, by the fact that the Area Committee would vote on most practical and feasible person to take the place of delegate in the “unusual circumstance”... (unanimous decision by committee)

The Archives Committee Recommends that the Area form an Ad Hoc Committee to consider revising the current: The Suggested Agenda Framework for Area Assembly. (Non-Election Assemblies) considering items raised in the Area Inventory, and changes in the Spring 2012 Agenda Framework for Area Assembly and to include responses to the Spring 2012 evaluation form. The Ad Hoc Committee will report their findings to the Archives and Policy and Procedures Committee at the Fall 2012 Assembly.

For-80 Opposed-5

Motion Passes

The Archives Committee Recommends deleting wording of G 11.4 "...if the Secretary does not want to use a computer, it will not be required...it is not a requirement to be computer literate to hold the position of Area Secretary." And G 12.4 "" "...if the Treasurer does not want to use a computer, it will not be required...it is not a requirement to be computer literate to hold the position of Area Treasurer."

For- 89 Opposed -1 Motion Passes

Consider including language in the Service Guidelines and Qualifications of the Area 40 Policy & Procedures to reflect the following responsibilities, which have evolved with the 800 number, for Public Information and Area Treasurer (for consistency with other 800 language in the Treasurer's responsibilities):

1. The PI Committee Chair's responsibility to review and sign contracts with all the directory listing services and to share that information with the Treasurer for budgeting purposes.
2. (Area Treasurer responsibility) The Area will pay for all directory listing services related to the 800 number. Item E Consider including language... All parts of this item as a motion has been withdrawn

Respectfully submitted, Linda B., Secretary

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Area 40, Inc. Budget vs. Actual by Committee / Project January-Sept 15, 2012

	<u>Jan-Sep 12</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income	23,258.36		
Expenses			
Spring Assembly	4,357.71	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fall Assembly	53.70	5,000.00	5,000.00
Regional Service Conference	1,597.02	2,250.00	2,250.00
Delegate Expenses			
Area 40 share to GSC	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Other Expenses	198.00	150.00	150.00
Other Expenses NYC	51.00	700.00	700.00
Roundups	0.00	320.00	600.00
Travel expenses	612.57	1,400.00	1,400.00
Total Delegate Expenses	2,061.57	3,770.00	4,050.00
Area Chair Expenses	593.28	860.00	1,000.00
Archivist Account			
Archivist Display & Travel	219.91	250.00	500.00
Archives Storage	3,150.00	3,150.00	4,200.00
Total Archivist Account	3,369.91	3,400.00	4,700.00
Literature Chair			
General literature purchases	928.32	760.00	760.00
Total Literature Chair	928.32	760.00	760.00
Public Information Chair			
Area Hotline Expenses	1,605.50	2,250.00	3,000.00
Directory Listings	1,237.50	1,370.00	1,750.00
Total Public Information Chair	2,843.00	3,620.00	4,750.00
Website	155.88	170.00	170.00
Triangle	1,916.97	3,000.00	4,000.00
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	455.88	450.00	500.00
Committee Chair Travel	1,462.06	1,000.00	1,000.00
Computer Hardware/Software	0.00	150.00	150.00
Conference/Phone Calls	209.61	150.00	200.00
Total Program Services	20,004.91	29,580.00	33,530.00
TOTAL	3,253.45	-29,580.00	-33,530.00

Area 40 Inc. Budget vs. Actual by Line Item-January- Sept. 15, 2012

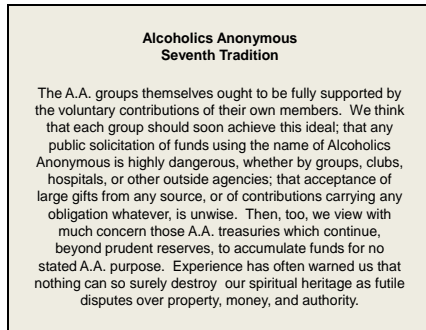
	<u>Jan-Sep 12</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Individual Contributions	511.33		
Group Contributions	17,433.14		
District & Roundup Contributions	3,180.83		
7th Tradition	654.56		
Contribution to Archivist Acct	300.00		
Triangle Subscriptions	540.00		
Sales of Service Manuals	<u>638.50</u>		
Total Income	23,258.36		
Expense			
Travel Expenses			
Gas	2,543.49	4,141.00	4,366.00
Mileage	784.31	1,092.00	1,147.00
Meals	853.70	2,295.00	2,425.00
Lodging	3,478.96	6,302.00	6,562.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	51.00	150.00	150.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Travel Expenses	8,911.46	15,180.00	15,850.00
Rent			
Archives storage	3,150.00	3,150.00	4,200.00
Meeting space	<u>947.32</u>	<u>2,350.00</u>	<u>2,350.00</u>
Total Rent	4,097.32	5,500.00	6,550.00
Literature Expenses			
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	325.22	760.00	760.00
Service manuals (for resale)	<u>603.10</u>		
Total Literature Expenses	928.32	760.00	760.00
Photocopies / printing	1,797.39	2,675.00	3,475.00
Dues, registration, fees	170.88	170.00	170.00
Postage	502.81	1,053.00	1,303.00
Supplies	519.12	322.00	322.00
Telephone			
Directory Listings	1,237.50	1,370.00	1,750.00
Phone and Conference Calls	209.61	150.00	200.00
800 Number	<u>1,605.50</u>	<u>2,250.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Telephone	3,052.61	3,770.00	4,950.00

	Miscellaneous expense	<u>25.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
	Total Expense	<u>20,004.91</u>	<u>29,580.00</u>	<u>33,530.00</u>
	Net Ordinary Income	<u>3,253.45</u>	<u>(29,580.00)</u>	<u>(33,530.00)</u>
Net Income		<u><u>3,253.45</u></u>	<u><u>(29,580.00)</u></u>	<u><u>(33,530.00)</u></u>
	Checkbook Balance 8-31-12	18,448.71		
	Prudent Reserve	(11,176.67)		
	Archivist Account	<u>(1,344.83)</u>		
	Operating Balance	5,927.21		

Slide 1



Slide 2



First, I think it's always useful to read the Seventh Tradition. It appears here in the long form.

Slide 3

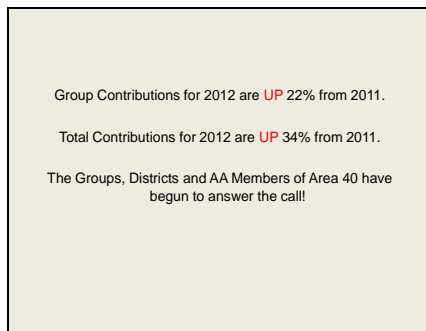


Before we get too far along, I would point out that a Seventh Tradition basket will be available throughout the assembly for personal contributions. It is in the back of the room, clearly labeled, next to the coffee area. Now I have something very important I would like to tell you.

Slide 4

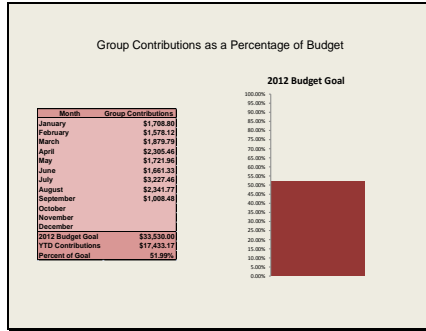


Slide 5



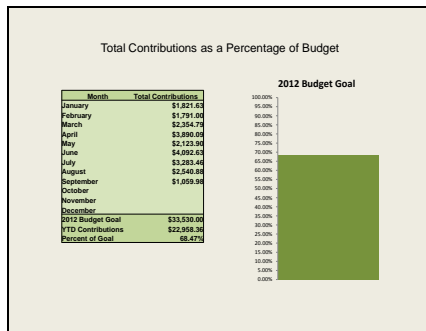
This year Group Contributions alone are approximately \$300 more than the 2011 Total Contributions for the same time period, that is through mid-September.

Slide 6



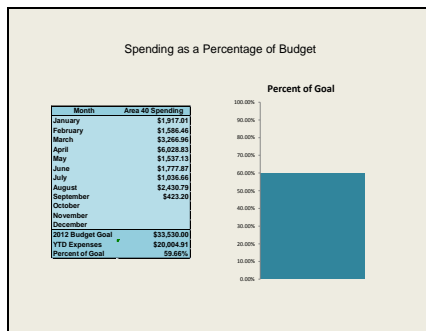
Our budget for 2012 is \$33,530.00 (after the change made at the Spring 2012 Assembly). This chart and graph show group contributions to date as a percentage of our budget. Just over three quarters, or 75%, of the year has passed.

Slide 7



Total contributions to date get us a little closer to 75% of our budget.

Slide 8



As this chart shows, we have spent approximately 60% of our budget. If we add in the expense of this assembly we are closer to 75% of the budget spent.

ORIENTATION TO THE ASSEMBLY

My name is Terry S., and I am an alcoholic. It has been my privilege to serve as your Panel 61 Delegate to the General Service Conference last year and this year. All GSRs and folks here for your first Assembly, thank you especially – GSRs are the heart of this process, and the majority of our voters, and newcomers, newcomers, you are an important part of the future of Area 40.

The primary purpose of A.A. it to stay sober and to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic. Bob H. said this last night during the Friday night meeting –everything we do at an Area 40 Assembly, everything we do at the Area level, is to support that primary purpose. We are here to make decisions about how Area 40 can best support the recovery work of members of the Fellowship here. And during the Fall Assembly in every even numbered year, we elect a new slate of Area trusted servants and this is one of those Assemblies, folks. We are also going to be choosing who will lead us in our effort to support our primary purpose work.

Now Sharon, our Area Chair, has prepared an agenda that shows us all how things will progress over this weekend – what comes next, and then next, and so forth. We have an Area Policy and Procedures document that informs this process. We have a Service Manual that describes how our Area process fits into the entire A.A. Service structure. We have a past actions document, to explain how developed this process.

No matter how familiar or unfamiliar you are with any or all of these documents, it's time to participate. We learn our principles best by participating. A.A. is a spiritual rather than legal entity. We operate on spiritual principles. When we are deciding important questions about what we are going to do, we are not willing to settle for a 51% to 49% vote, where a difference of one or two votes can settle the question. We want to decide important questions by substantial unanimity – a 2/3rds majority – or the proposed action fails. And when we do decide, either yes or no, we want to give the minority (those voting against an item that passes, those voting in favor of an item that fails) a chance to tell the prevailing side why the matter should be reconsidered. We call that the “minority opinion” or “minority report.” We even have a “Third Legacy” procedure. What's our third legacy? Right, service. In choosing our service leaders, our Delegate, Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and also that procedure. It assures that we will either select a candidate for the job at hand by substantial unanimity, or we will draw a name of one of the candidates left in consideration out of a hat. All this substantial unanimity takes extra time and energy. It can be frustrating. It seems terribly inefficient. But in over a half a century of doing things this way, we have survived and grown as a Fellowship, rather than dividing and dwindling. At the end of the weekend, you and may have disagreed vigorously. Warmly. Emphatically.

But we are still both here because alcohol had us by our throats, and A.A. saved us from death or worse. We are together in our disease, and together in our recovery, and after all that disagreement, we can respect and even cherish each other, and stay united in this Fellowship. our Second Legacy.

You are all part of this process. Everyone here, voting and non-voting members of the Fellowship, have the right to share from our microphones, to be a part of our efforts to reach substantial unanimity. Go to the microphones and participate. And when you do, remember, the microphone is your friend. Speak right into the microphone. Remember, the microphone is your friend. Do that, and we will hear you, and you will be an active part of this process.

We took our inventory last year. We reported the results and some proposed changes are on our agenda this weekend. Sharon has also made some changes to that agenda process. It will be all of us, not just the new folks, who may have questions about what is going on. Go to the microphone and ask! Ask the folks sitting next to you, too, whether you know them or not. Ask your DCM. Ask other Area Committee members. Area Committee members, stand up, please. Ask past delegates. Past delegates, stand up, please. Talk to each other on breaks. Seek out answers. Be a part of this process to support our primary purpose.

Together, here, acting as Area 40, and in our home groups, acting as sober alcoholics, it's up to us to step up and be responsible when newcomers reach out for help with their alcoholism. You know, something really spiritual happens when sober alcoholics share and pursue our 12th Step work because it is vital to our own sobriety, but over time, as we do pursue 12th Step work, we are changes, and no longer strive to help the new man or woman to save ourselves. Instead, we share our recovery because of the joy we find in the recoveries of the newcomers. Two years ago, Carole B. said, from this microphone, that this is not a "self-help" program, but a program of sharing with others. Bill W. wrote, in a different place in our literature, that this process of being part of a recovery community that is growing up around you is something you will not want to miss. Being here, participating here, is part of what you will not want to miss. Welcome and thank you.

DCM REPORTS

DISTRICT 11 Greeting Area 40, my name is Brandon and I am an alcoholic. Currently servings as DCM for District 11. My two year rotation as DCM is coming to an end, and I want to thank the GSR's and groups in district 11 for allowing me to serve as DCM.

What a wild ride it has been - and I mean that in a good way. I guess what I have heard is true - about the time you really get a grasp on, and a knowledge of the position, it is time to rotate

out. My hope is I have at least helped district 11 be a little better, because they truly have helped me, and left me a better person.

We held our elections over the last two months and have filled all positions with the exception of treasurer - I am confident we will have that position filled at our October meeting. I want to congratulate Erik E. from the Traditions g

Group, he will be the new DCM for district 11 starting in January 2013.

It has been a slow few months since the last assembly. We still have our service commitments every month - Psych Center, Men's Shelter, Women's / Family Shelter, and the Crisis Center, as well as a monthly meeting at the local treatment center in Billings.

In August, we once again served breakfast at Firemen's Point campground to our fellows in District 12. Thanks you District 12 for once again trusting this crazy band of alcoholics to cook for you. We had a great turn out from district 11. Mindy was on hashbrowns (she's hired Full Time by the way), Erik and Chris were in charge of the meat, and I was doing the eggs. Dave was watching over all of us - Thanks Dave, Mindy, Erik and Chris! After breakfast was served, Terry S. gave all of us his Delegate's Report. A huge thank you to Terry from District 11 for everything you have done over the last two years!

Our district meetings are held the second Saturday of the month @ 2931 Colton in Billings. Come by and say hi if you are ever out and about! In service - Brandon M.

DISTRICT 12

My name is Daniel & I am an alcoholic representing District 12 & its groups from Laurel, Columbus, Absorakee, Joliet, Fromberg, Red Lodge, Harlowtown, Bridger, & Big Timber. I have had the opportunity to travel to most of the groups in my district, and AA is alive & well in District 12. We meet in Laurel Home Group on the third Sunday of the month at 4 pm & AA visitors are welcome to attend. Our Fireman's point campout was held August 17-19 with a 1st Annual Spam cookoff, wonderful BBQ from Dave R. from Columbus, Poker run & meeting by the river near Nye with Rodney M., and fellowship with some of the best people in my world. District 11 made us a wonderful breakfast Sunday morning & Terry followed with an insightful Delegates report. Our next event is the Midwinter Social in Febuary which is renowned to be the finest potluck in our District. Past socials have featured karaoke, silent auctions, speakers, and live music. It is an experience that must not be missed. Thanks for helping me stay sober!
Daniel M. DCM

DISTRICT 21

We celebrated our main event, Wild West Soberfest, in August. Featured guests were Lori F., who answered some very hard questions from the attendees. Libbie L. gave a wonderful and, at times, humorous presentation on CPC and Sharon S. spoke to us about service work. Terry S. took us by surprised when he showed up and gave his delegate's report.

We continue to visit the jail to share what AA can do for us, the alcoholic. I love the spirit of rotation. I leave my service position to allow another to perform the vital work of DCM. I have been greatly blessed to serve my district, to work with other DCM's and to work on the correction's committee. I leave my position with gratitude and an experience that hopefully will allow me to be useful to my home group, our next DCM, the Area and AA as whole. Laura S.

DISTRICT 23

Greetings All. District 23, serves the AA members in Richland, Dawson, McCone and Wibaux Counties and those that pass through Glendive, Sidney, Fairview and Circle. The District encompasses an area greater than the State of Connecticut or the States of Delaware, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia combined. Comparably to The Bahamas or the Countries of Liechtenstein. Cape Verde and Brunei combined. No wonder I haven't got to Circle yet.

Since the Spring Assembly, one District Meeting was held in Sidney on September 15th. Business was conducted and snacks were provided to the five folks, including myself and our secretary/treasurer, that were in attendance. Alas, we are supported by 7th Tradition funds received only from the Welcome Home Group, Life Again Group and the Monday Noon Group. Thank you to those groups for support.

As per the District Groups, we welcomed the 12 to Life group in Glendive to the registered group list, joining the Sidney Monday Noon; Sidney Welcome Home, and Glendive Life Again; we also have three unregistered groups/meetings: Fairview Big Book Study; Sidney 621 Smokers; and the Circle group. Also, a non-affiliated Sober Life Young Persons NA-AA Group-Sidney. If one gets in the car (or truck) and attends a meeting at different times of the day, one can make at least one meeting a day in the District.

Sidney AA members carry the message into the Richland County Detention Facility seeing both men and women inmates. The Welcome Home Group Correction Committee has developed training and guidelines for those that attend. Members in Glendive go into the AA meetings at Watch East.

Since the Spring Assembly, District 23 Group functions included several picnics at Quillings Park sponsored by Sidney's Welcome Home Group over the summer. I heard the LYS in August at

the Lions Youth Camp in Makoshika State Park was a success this year. I sent along my regrets as, unfortunately, I was unable to attend the event this year as my dog Rocky was impaired with a back injury and the vet advised limited mobility for a month.

Upcoming, on October 27th, at the Savage Community Hall in Savage, MT is our Fall Festival, Potluck, Halloween Party and meeting. Doors open at 3:15pm, followed by District Elections & Meeting, Potluck, Open AA Meeting and Jam Session w/ John E. and friends. Come join us for some ghoulish games, freaky fun, and potluck frightening food! Costumes are optional. For those interested, a flier is posted on the Area 40 website.

Lastly, I thank God and all in District 23 for allowing me to be of service and attend this Assembly. I remain and hope you are too. On The Beam In Recovery Today. Respectfully Submitted, J. Scott W., Area 40 DCM District 23

DISTRICT 31

The possibility of getting an "Alano Club" going in Lame Deer is the only new idea I have to report this time. Of course, it will be for ALL alcoholics; A person need NOT be a member of any "local" A.A. group. The meetings in District 31 are doing pretty good, with one exception: It seems like the Broadus Group has "not" been meeting regularly. Last time I checked, the lady who opens the meeting had a husband who was ill. I wonder if he has taken a turn for the worst. (I will investigate.)

The Ashland group still meetings on Tuesday night at 8:00 at the St. Labre Mission. The Busby group still meets at 8:00 at the Mennonite church. The Lame Deer "Rosebud Group" still meets every Monday night at 8:00 at the Baptist Church. The Lame Deer "Happy Hour Group" still meets at 8:00 every Wednesday night. And, the Recovery Center still has meetings at noon on Friday (also in Lame Deer). That same Group also has a "new" meeting on Saturday mornings, I am told.

Forsyth meetings are Tuesday Thursday, and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Colstrip meetings are Monday & Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., with a "Birthday Meeting" on the first Friday of the month, also at 7:30. Thank you. Corrina H.

DISTRICT 41

I would like to thank all the Area 40 committee chairs, our delegate, and past delegates for their service, no small task; we are grateful. District 41 has just about filled all committee chair positions. I for one am excited about the members that are stepping up to do the much needed work in our district. Thinking about the end of this rotation, I know that

I speak for all of us when I say congratulations to Andrew W., our new West Central Region Trustee. You will be in our prayers. What a terrific job Ken B. has done for us. Thank you, Ken.

We are strong in District 41 with good enthusiasm from our GSR's. We are looking forward to getting on with the business of service. I would like to thank everyone in our district for their service and support of me and their fellows. It's been a great group of members to serve with and I could not have asked for more. Thank you and God Bless. Yours in love and service, Casey L., DCM

DISTRICT 42

Hi everyone, my name is Duane C., and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 42. District 42 has been doing pretty good this summer. All groups are still doing O.K. Most group attendance is smaller during the summer, but will grow again in the fall and winter.

Valier had their roundup on July 27-29th. It was a lot of fun, even though, we did not have very many people there. On August 19th, we had two workshops put on by Libbie L., CPC chair and Paula H., PI chair. Both ladies did a real good job on their topics. Thank you, ladies. Shelby is planning to have a Christmas party just before the holiday. The Choteau group is planning to have their annual New Year's Eve party at the Stage Stop Inn Motel. We are still in the planning stages. Meetings at the prison in Shelby are doing well. Our corrections chair, Terry H., got us a case of Big Books for inmates about the 9th of September. Thank you. We can always use volunteers at the prison. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Duane C. here at the assembly or phone 406-466-5238(Home) or 406-229-0165(Cell). Thank you for letting me serve, Duane C., DCM., District 42

DISTRICT 51

Hello, my name is Leo and I am an alcoholic. As the rotation of officers comes to an end, I am both saddened and elated that I will be soon replaced as DCM. The last two years has been a great learning experience and I am looking forward to passing the torch. We are holding our elections in October and there are many people interested in filling the positions.

We had four Sobriety Campouts this summer in Beaver Creek County Park, one in each of the months of June, July, Aug and Sep. As a lot of AA functions, some were better attended than others. There is talk about weaning it down to only three. The Havre Mini Conference is going to be held at the end of the month at the HRDC building in Havre at the end of the month. It will be good to see and hear from Libbie as she helps out with the CPC workshop and Joe as he gives a presentation on Archives. Fliers are available at the table and it is also listed on the Area website.

District 51 has 15 groups with Approximately 35 meetings per week. Some meetings are doing very well while others are struggling to stay alive. And others still are breathing new life once again. As always, thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Yours in love of trusted service, Leo B. DCM District 51

DISTRICT 61

Greetings, Area 40. Work commitments are keeping me from being with you here this weekend but I am with you all in spirit and my able replacement, Karla B., who is also the incoming DCM, will do a great job. Our district is in five counties – Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson, Meagher and Powell. We have been blessed with a lot of service opportunities. We take meetings into the Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson County Jails. The Meagher County Jail does not have room enough for meetings, but does let certain inmates walk to the White Sulphur Springs meeting on Friday nights. We also take meetings into the Behavioral Health Unit at St. Peter's, Fort Harrison Hospital, Elkhorn Treatment Center, and Riverside Correctional Center. We've been providing panels for the local intensive outpatient treatment center and some of the high schools. District 61 recently held elections and filled all positions except the Archives and Workshops committees. The Last Chance Recovery Group will celebrate its birthday with a potluck and speaker meeting featuring Catherine J. of Bozeman on October 20 if anyone is up for a road trip. See Troy L. for details. The district will host the annual Attitude of Gratitude on November 17. It's an all-day affair with great speakers and a banquet! There are flyers on the back table. Our district has been working hard on Bridging the Gap, thanks to our Treatment committee. We recently met with the local organization providing intensive outpatient and we will be offering to Bridge the Gap with those folks. Thank you for letting me service, Anne B.

DISTRICT 71

Hi my name is Peg H. and I am an alcoholic. I am the outgoing DCM for District 71. We have not had elections for our new chairs as of yet. The new DCM will update later. We have not had a log going on in our district. We did have a workshop with Treatment, Corrections and Public Information. I want to thank Sharon S., Terry H., Colby D., and Libbie L. for being part of this workshop.

Our district consists of Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Wise River, Opportunity, Lima, Phillipsburg, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Whitehall and a new meeting in Melrose.

I would like to thank Betty P, my alternate DCM. She really knew how to get things done and it was great to work with her. In our district, I don't know about yours, but getting GSR's to just get to a district meeting is like pulling teeth. I as so happy that Virginia, Tom, Roger, and Roxy

made time to get here and do service work. We have meeting schedules on the back table. Thank you. Peggy H., DCM

DISTRICT 72

A BIG Thank you to Area 40 and District 72 for an extremely transformative experience. I appreciate the help that was always available throughout the rotation from Area chairs, District chairs and GSR's. An extra special thank you to Nate who stepped up when I was unable to attend due to professional reasons. Ray is the new incoming DCM for District 72 he is currently serving as GSR for the HOW Group. A few things about District 72, in August our Delegate's Share was hosted by the Happy Camper's Group in collaboration with District 72. Thank you Terry S. for the Annual Delegate Share it was informative and helpful for our members to hear about what is happening with AA at large. Thank you to Susan F. and Bill for all their very hard work coordinating volunteers and making this special event happen. We held successful elections in July and all positions were filled.

District travelled around this past summer. We held our elections in Belgrade in July. District had an eventful meeting in Ennis in August and Livingston treated us in September. We are all very much looking forward to Gardiner in October, some of us are even planning to hit the boiling river before the meeting!

Group Updates: Our annual HOW Group Speaker event is October 13th Pat Y. from Palm Desert, CA is the guest speaker. See flyer on the Area Calendar or for more information call Teresa G. 406-465-9010. Vennis Over the Hill has 5 meetings- 6:30 am Tuesday (not yet permanent- to be voted on), 7:00 pm Monday, 7:30 pm Wednesday Jeffers, 8:00 pm Friday Ennis, and 10:00 am Sunday Virginia City.

We have some new meetings in Bozeman- Itching Hour at 9:00 pm on Friday nights and Not So Candlelight 9:00 pm on Saturday night.

The Spring 2013 Round Up Friday April 12-14th the theme is "The Spiritual Life is Not a Theory We have to Live It".

Two committees have been established to work on the following items- GSR/Incoming Chair Service Workshop and a District 72 Guidelines Committee. The District has charged the committee to review and update the District 72 Guidelines with group consensus.

Non AA Announcement: It is with sadness that I share this last bit of news to you. Long time AA member W.W. passed away in the month of September. Feel free to send any condolences, memories and stories to district72dcm@gmail.com.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve. It has meant more to me than you know and has helped me grow in unexpected ways. In love and service, Catherine J. DCM

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 135 meetings held each week in this district by 45 AA groups. Our district meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Alano Club. Currently, all of our committee chairs are filled and about 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. District 81 just held elections and we are excited to welcome in our new rotation of trusted servants.

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

I think the biggest change we've experienced during my term as DCM has been that we went from having 7 to 10 AA meetings a day in our district—to about 20 meetings a day. We have a lot more groups than in years past. However, it is my observation that about the same number of people are filling key service positions as before, about the same number of people are putting dollars in the baskets. There are pros and cons to having 20 meetings a day. The obvious is that the suffering alcoholic has frequent access to a meeting and more people are being incorporated into the service structure. It has been really fun to work with new GSRs and watch them learn more about representing their group. At the same time, I have noticed that some groups are struggling because members and funds are spread thinner to cover more groups and more group expenses. On the whole, having 20 meetings a day in our district is a great thing—and I think we will continue to grow together and the groups will continue to strengthen.

We had a change in how the corrections department would allow us to take meetings into the jail. The requirements to gain admittance became. Initially, this was difficult but we have adapted and made arrangements that keep meetings and literature in the jails on a weekly basis.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall 2012 Round Up—to be held in Missoula on October 5th 6th and 7th. Yours In Service, Erin G.

DISTRICT 91

District 91 reaches from Eureka to Elmo and as far east as Coram. There are 18 active groups with 8-11 groups regularly attending our monthly district meeting. That is 108 meetings a week. The District business meeting is held at 3 PM the last Sunday of every month with a rotating meeting location where the host group representative volunteers there meeting hall for the upcoming meeting. Our last one, which was held in Larry P.'s Barn, who is the GSR for the Going to the Sun Group, was a great success with an outstanding 11 GSRs present. Paul L. will be District 91's contribution to the area as DCM for the next rotation and once and a while there are a few group members actually attend that are interested in General Service. It seems to work very well as it brings the district to the group. Out of all of the Groups that have GSRs, a majority is always represented at District. For this Assembly, a motion was passed assist in the funding of GSR's to the Area Assembly for Groups that cannot afford to send a Representative. In the last year, in the spirit of Cooperation, the Flathead Valley Intergroup and District 91 have been "Bridging the Gap." This has been a consistent point of interest for our region for years. Public Information has been the first step in a more effective relationship. Into Action Weekend in February Next year, will be on the 17th and the 18th. The Chair of the event is Brian S. who is our new, most active Alt. DCM and District Chair. The Speakers are Going to be Sam from Columbia Falls and Jim from Whitefish. It will be at the Creston Grange Hall which has turned out to be a dynamite venue for our area. The Spring 2012 roundup was a success with seed money given to Missoula and also splits to District and the Flathead Valley Intergroup as well. I cannot forget, Luke S., our Treatment Chair, and Colby put on the most breathtaking Bridging the Gap workshop at the New Hope Group location this summer. 90% of Attendees were not involved in AA Service up to that point. Awesomeness speaks for itself. The Flathead Valley Intergroup Campout at Emery bay on the Hungary Horse Reservoir had about 80 people at the Speakers meeting on Saturday Night and I even got to campout this year. The Serenity Group's Founders Day Campout at Talley Lake and the Whitefish Group's picnic were also big events. Also, I would like to say that being DCM in a district that has had the most active District Committees that I have participated in was indeed an honor. Thank you, Sam B.

DISTRICT 93

I am Jay and I am an Alcoholic, District 93 DCM,

For most of the summer the Bitterroot has been a warm one; really good for camping and being outdoors. The last month or two we have been covered in smoke.

We would like to thank Terry and his wife for coming out and joining us at the Painted Rocks Campout to give us the Delegates Report. When I heard it I realized how knowledgeable he is on what is going on in AA. Sorry to say that we may not be at Painted Rocks next year. The state decided to start charging to camp there so we are looking into other options. Norms Picnic

went well and our speaker Tom T. had 18 years. Norms Picnic will be in the same place next year. We have all our District Chairs in place for the next rotation. Kevin C. will be taking over as DCM, Mike M. as the Alt-DCM. Looking forward to where God sends me next. I want to thank District 93 for this great experience. Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Jay T.

ELECTION ORIENTATION/POSTING NOMINEES FOR DELEGATE

Carol B, Area Advisor, orientated the assembly on the process of elections. She reviewed the election procedure and who gets to vote in the elections. Our officers are elected by Third Legacy procedure and all others by simple majority. Carole had us break into small groups and think about what characteristics would make a good trusted servant. Here are words that would describe our candidates: have integrity ,be honest, willing, open-minded, knowledgeable, dedicated, compassionate, articulate, responsible, , selfless, plays well with others, compromising ,humble, informative, a diligent, sober (humanitood) servant. The nominees for Delegate are: Sharon S., Lori F., Libbie L., and Gerry R. Please visit with these people and ask questions. We will begin elections directly after lunch.

ELECTIONS

OFFICERS

Delegate: Sharon S. (Lori and Libbie were eliminated after the second ballot. Sharon's name was drawn from the hat after the fourth balloting was completed.)

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate: Gerry R. (Lori, Libbie, and Gerry were nominated. Lori's name was removed after the second ballot and Gerry was elected by 2/3 vote on the third ballot)

Treasurer: Libbie L. ran unopposed for the position and was elected by acclamation for the position.

Secretary: Mary M. was elected in the second ballot running against Catherine J.

Class B Trustee at Large.

We took a moment to also elect our nominee for the Class B Trustee at Large because it was also done by Third Legacy procedures. Scott W. was Area 40's elected nominee in the second ballot.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy: Kira A.was elected and ran against Margaret for the position

CPC/Trustees: Serena R. ran unopposed and was elected by acclamation.

Corrections: Lee G. was elected by simple majority. He ran against Jay T. and Peg H.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions: Sam B. was elected for this position. He ran against Leo B.

Literature: Bob T. was elected on the third ballot. He ran against Jim B., Keri A., and Roxie. Jim and Roxie were dropped from the ballot on the first and second ballots.

Public Information/Report & Charter: Peg H. was elected by simple majority and ran against Leo. B

Treatment: Brandon M. was after the second ballot running against Jay T. Casey L. and Nick D. were dropped after the first round of voting.

Triangle Editor: Erin G. elected by acclamation

Archivist: Earl F.

Paula H. nominated John A. There was lot of discussion about accepting a nomination from someone not present at the assembly. John had sent a letter addressing this. Colby made a motion to not accept a non-attending candidate for the position of archivist. It was seconded and motion passed by simple majority of 46-42. There was minority opinion that there is not written rule to says a person needs to be present. There is a danger of the saying, "We've always done it that way". We should for future elections, make it clear on whether a person must be present to stand for a position. This will hopefully come through the agenda proposal process. It was moved and seconded to reconsider. Motion failed. Earl was then elected by acclamation.

I would like to thank those who stood for a position but were not elected: Margaret, Jay T., Leo B., Roxie, Jim B., Casey L., and Nick D.

2013-2014 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

	<u>DCM</u>	<u>District Representative</u>
Public Information:	23-72	51-91
CPC	31-91	11-42
Grapevine	21-41	81-93
Archives	11-93	12-71
Corrections	61-71	23-72
Treatment	51-81	31-61
Literature	12	21-41-81
Finance	42	51

FLOOR ASSEMBLY/COMMITTEE REPORTS, MOTIONS, AND DISCUSSION

Archives/Structure- Joe H. Archives Committee Report Fall Assembly 2012

- A. Review the Area 40 Archives Chair Fall 2012 Assembly Report.

No report

- B. Review the Area 40 Archivist fall 2012 Assembly Report

Gerry asked to read his report

- C. Review the Area 40 Past Actions document and/or status

to be incorporated into the policy and procedures.

- D. Review the Area 40 Policy and Procedures (Spring 2012)

They are posted on the website.

- E. Review Area 40 Policy and Procedures for Archives.

Covered well already.

- F. Discuss the activities of the Archives Committee during 2011-12 rotation.

Joe digitized archives and has a power point and is willing to go anywhere needed to assist in understanding the process.

- G. Discuss information, orientation, and support for the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.

Joe is available anytime, anywhere, for anybody to answer questions and provide guidance.

Area 40 Structure & Policy

- A. Review the Ad hoc Committee for Non-election Assembly Agenda Framework report.

Report presented by Joe H.

- B. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the non-election assembly framework be modified to include a welcome and allow more time for standing committee work, and engage

all in attendance in the work of Area 40 per the attached documents. To be reviewed by the Archives Committee at the Fall 2014 Assembly.

Proposal to introduce a Friday evening session from 8-10 p.m. for incoming GSR's and DCM's – a question and answer period led by the Area Delegate – introduced by the ad-hoc committee.

A hearty discussion took place on the idea of format change to the Assembly. Many thought provoking questions were asked of the ad hoc committee and that committee was very helpful in providing insight into all that was discussed over the past summer. A suggestion was made to ease into the process of change or to “pilot” the format in future assemblies and then revisit this in committee further down the road at the Fall Assembly in 2014. Other benefits to the format change include giving an appropriate amount of time to compile, organize, and format presentations to the body. Discussion was ceased after modification was made to change the word “orientation” to “a welcome session”. Allow more time for standing committee work and engage all in attendance in the work of Area 40 per the attached documents.

Motion passes with vote in favor 66 with 4-opposed.

(Attached documents to support motion)

Committee Meeting & Reporting Format

Committee Meeting

1. At the committee meeting of the first assembly of the rotation, select a secretary from the committee members to provide these services throughout the rotation.
2. Start the meeting with the serenity prayer.
3. Identify the committee members and ask all others in attendance to introduce themselves.
4. Explain that only committee members vote, however all are encouraged to participate.

Discussing the agenda items in the following order:

1. Area 40 Business
 - a. Consider Items – if approved by the committee, these come to the floor as a made and seconded motion. Be prepared to answer questions regarding the committee's work and be confident of your good work.

- b. Review Items
- 2. General Service Conference (GSC) Agenda Items
 - a. Consider Items
 - b. Review Items
 - c. Discuss Items
- 3. How can this committee better serve Area 40 and reach the alcoholic who still suffers?

Reporting Committee

- 1. Committee Chair's and other pertinent reports
- 2. Area 40 Motions
- 3. Area 40 Review Items
- 4. GSC Consider Items
- 5. GSC Review Items
- 6. GSC Discuss items
- 7. Summary of discussion how to better serve Area 40 and reaching the alcoholic who still suffers.

STRUCTURE & POLICY FRAMEWORK

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

8:00-10:00 GSR and DCM Orientation and Questions & Answers led by the Delegate

GSR's sign in with your District's DCM

8:00-10:00 Area Standing Committee Chair Orientation and Questions and Answers led by the Area Chair

SATURDAY SESSION

8:00-9:00 Welcome — Serenity Prayer, Traditions and Concepts, housekeeping

Roll Call, Passed Actions of previous Assembly — Area Secretary

Financial Highlights — Area Treasurer

Abbreviated Orientation to the Assembly — Delegate

DCM Reports (hard stop at 9:00 am)

9:00-12:00 Standing Committee Meetings:

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

CPC/Trustees

Corrections/International Conventions Room

Finance

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC)

Literature

Public Information/Report and Charter & Website

Treatment Facilities/Agenda

(If your committee finished its business during this session, please notify the Area Chair)

Workshops for those not attending committee meetings – Past Delegates

12:00-1:00 Recess for Lunch

1:00-1:30 Entire Assembly Engaged Discussion - topic selected by the Area Chair

Suggested topics could include:

- The state of Area 40's effectiveness in carrying the message – led by Past Delegates
- Demonstration of the Area's Website – led by the Webmaster
- Archivist Presentation – led by the Archivist
- Traditions workshop – led by Past Delegates

1:30 - 2:00 Remaining DCM Reports

2:00–2:45 Delegate's Report with Questions and Answers

2:45-3:00 Coffee Break

3:00-5:00 Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

CPC/Trustees

Treatment Facilities/Agenda

Finance

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions

Public Information/Report

Archives/Structure

Literature

Corrections/International Conventions and Regional Forums

5:00-7:00 Recess for Dinner

7:00-8:45 Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (Continued)

8:45-9:00 Coffee Break

9:00-10:00 GSR Breakout — Led by Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket and sharing

DCM Breakout — Led by Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket and sharing

SUNDAY SESSION

8:00-8:30 Roundup Reports

Intergroup Reports

8:30-9:00 Past Delegate Sharing (15 minutes each)

9:00-9:45 Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (continued)

9:45-10:00 Coffee Break

10:00-12:00 Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (continued)

followed by general sharing as time allows.

C. Consider the proposal that the Area 40 chairperson will refrain from placing any agenda item, which they, themselves, have either authored, or co-authored, on any Area 40 Assembly agenda.

Joe read the Background information on this item and examples of how this has taken place over the last 10 years. Another riveting discussion took place and many helpful ideas were shared. A suggestion was made to look at what we are doing instead of who is doing what. It was mentioned to trust our trusted servants. Vote was taken to take no action and the vote was 4 to take no action 1 to take action.

A. Review the GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations' and No Action Taken on the Archives Agenda Items at the 2012 General Service Conference.

Joe talked about how important it is for us to take action to re-format the Archives Workbook to include what to do with the archive once you have the stuff.

Minutes taken by Kacie M.

Public Information/Report and Charter-Paula H.

Thanks to the committee members Corrina, Pam and Peggy and to everyone who came to the PI Committee meeting. One committee member was absent.

A Review the Area 40 PI Chair Fall 2012 Assembly Report. The Committee

Reviewed the report.

B. Review the operation and status of Area 40 888 number.

Phone bills have been mostly under \$250. Thank you for your support and for keeping the minutes down on the patch calls! Jeff from District 11 reported that Al-Anons are using the 888 number to get information on Al-Anon meetings. Debra, the General Manager of AnswerNet reports this is true. I asked her not to charge the hot-line for Al-Anon calls as they are a separate entity. I asked the respective districts she mentioned to contact Al-Anon in their districts about this issue. I also contacted the Al-Anon Delegate so that she could discuss the matter at the Al-Anon area meeting this weekend. District 42 is being careful in selecting people to answer the phone. Their concern is the effect of someone committing suicide while on the phone. It had actually happened to someone in the District. He said it was very traumatic. Please encourage phone volunteers to put the caller ID number of AnswerNet, 406-248-2337, in their phones so they know there is a still-suffering alcoholic who called and wants to talk.

C. Review the Area 40 Triangle Editor's Fall report.

Maintaining group contact lists so as to meet the minimum bulk rate numbers has been a great challenge. Please let the Area Triangle editor know of group address changes.

AREA 40 TRIANGLE NEWSLETTER EDITOR FALL 2012 REPORT

A hope that the updates for groups within each District, as passed out to each Area 40 DCM, would add and complete those Non-registered groups, Web only, and certainly to provide updates for the incorrect mailing information of the groups that could be receiving the Newsletter, but do not. This problem came to the forefront of attention when the number of groups participating went lower than the minimum requirement for bulk mailing status. Of course, it wasn't mentioned or noticed until a considerable time had lapsed, and the information contained with the newsletter became out dated. As an alternative, the Newsletters were dispersed with instructions on checking and updating any incorrect contact information. While we have enough groups within our Area to qualify, why would we want to tread this thin line? Because the Newsletter is one of the more expensive pursuits that our Area undertakes, it becomes increasingly important to make every effort to attempt to include every group. As it stands, the problem with less and less contact information means more than just a loss of unity throughout our fellowship. Dr. Bob once defined breaches in anonymity in two ways: 1) at the level of press, radio, and films, and 2) as not allowing other members within the fellowship the ability to know each other.

While some of the groups will have the ability to pick their Triangles up at a District meeting and other groups will be contacted personally. In all events, it is hoped that any differences or changes will be recorded on the cardstock forms provided. A copy or email is sent back. Much time was spent attempting to coordinate information between FNV (Fellowship New Vision) records, groups listed on the web, and the Triangle records. The forms do not have all of the updates that our Area Secretary may have worked on, however, Linda and I sat down at one point and realized that the task of consolidation would take more time than either of us could imagine, and that at our best efforts it would be a hit-and-miss proposition. We are at a loss without the intrinsic knowledge that each of the DCMs holds concerning the groups within the respective Districts, and we are, in many instances, merely guessing. The current records encompass the concern of Non-registered groups (green) and points out the groups that do not have contact mailing information (yellow).

There was discussion during our committee, and Alex and I have talked about an agenda item that would allow an on line web site dedicated for group contact update. Much like the BTG contact area this would allow for records upkeep in a safe anonymous area. This is an effort to centralize a method for keeping this information timely and up to date. It was recommended at the committee to get this into an agenda item for the Spring Assembly 2013.

In any event, it has been a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth, and I have been so lucky to be of service and look forward to the ongoing changes that will allow ongoing improvements to take place. Yours in Service, Lee T. Area 40 Triangle Newsletter Editor

- D. Review the Area Webmaster's Fall 2012 assembly report. The Committee

Reviewed the report.

Spring Assembly 2012 Webmaster Report

I am looking forward this weekend to see how I can be of service with the Bridging the Gap Agenda item presented to the PI committee. It is always exciting to see the prospect a new function that will help the still suffering alcoholic.

I would like to thank the folks around the state that volunteer their time and keep current the information we provide on the site. This is so important!! Without this information available to visitors and to Answernet, the site is just an empty shell.

Don't forget to send flyers for the upcoming summer months. I regularly receive emails asking for campouts and the like during this time of the year. Seems there are folks in recovery traveling through Montana during the summer months that depend on these flyers to plan their vacation.

If you have any suggestions on how to make the website better please share them with me or your PI committee. Thanks for letting me serve, it is a privilege and an honor, Alex M., Area Webmaster

- E. Consider all business pertaining to the web site operated by Area 40 Inc. Review the Ad Hoc Committee for additional Information on the web site report.

The ad hoc committee recommended that GSO background material not be posted on the Area 40 website. Consider recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee.

The PI committee agreed with the ad hoc committee, and made no recommendation.

Review the status of Spring 2012 action to use the Area 40 web site as a secure repository for the collection of BTG Temporary Contact

Information. The committee reviewed the status.

Discuss District 61's ad hoc committee proposal defining responsibilities for the maintenance, use, and coordination of BTG information on the Area 40 website.

The committee discussed the proposal.

- F. Review Area 40 Policy and Procedures for Public Information, Triangle and Web Master.

An ad hoc committee of web master, Alex and Triangle editor, Lee was formed to look into the feasibility of creating a secure repository of group addresses on the Area 40 web site.

G. Discuss information, orientation and support for the new PI Committee Chair and Triangle Editor for the next rotation.

Mentoring from previous chairs for the incoming chairs was paramount. Adequate hard and software to do the Triangle Editor's job would be helpful.

GSC

A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on PI/Report and Charter Agenda Items at the 2012 General Service Conference.

There are two surveys from Mary C at the PI Desk at the General Service Office. One is a survey about the A.A. Membership Survey, due October 15. The other is a survey about effectiveness of the wording of the short form of the Eleventh Tradition. Please fill these out and give them to me by the end of the Assembly and take them to your groups to get their feedback. You can mail them to the address at the bottom of each survey.

Thanks to Peggy for taking such wonderful minutes and to all who participated for lively and interesting discussion. Congratulations to Peggy, the incoming PI Chair. I look forward to working with her during the next rotation starting now! Yours In Love and Service, Paula H., , PI Chair, Area 40

Finance-Lori F

The Finance Committee was represented by Terry S., Area 40 Delegate, Sharon S., Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate, Daniel M., DCM-12 and Karla B., Alt. DCM/DR-61, and Lori F. Area 40 Treasurer. I would like to thank Jeanie S. for taking excellent notes. We had two additional members sit in on and participate in our meeting, Margaret L. and Susie J. The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by discussion of the agenda. We suspected that we would only have time for Agenda Item B: Consider the proposed Area 40 Budget for 2013, and we were right.

A. Review the Area 40 Treasurer Fall 2012 Assembly Report.

This report consisted of the Financial Highlights Power Point Presentation shown at the beginning of the Assembly and the Handout showing Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses to Date. We noted that contributions are up from the same period last year and that the groups are responding to the call that was put out in the spring.

B. Consider the proposed Area 40 Budget for 2013.

Following is an outline of notes I made while preparing the draft budget. I had sent this to the committee before we met, and we discussed these in the order written.

Draft Budget Notes

1. I brought this down by \$250 based on actual expenditures over the past several years.
2. I brought this down by \$250 based on actual expenditures over the past several years.
3. The WCRAASC is in Rapid City, SD. The figure I came up reflects expenses for two people to drive there. Because we don't yet know who the Delegate and Alternate Delegate will be, I took an average distance from several cities in Montana and multiplied by four (round trip). Includes registration, 3 nights hotel/each, mileage, gas and meals. Could save on gas and mileage with carpooling.

Discussion centered around whether driving is feasible considering distance and weather. Decided to leave as is and if flying was desired, we may go over budget on this item.

4. The Regional Forum is in Bloomington, MN. This figure includes average airfare, baggage fees, etc. for two people (Delegate and Alt. Delegate) to Minneapolis. Includes hotel for two people for two nights and meals. Possible savings if we only send the Delegate.
5. This figure includes gas, mileage, hotel and meals for Andrew W. to attend the Fall 2013 Assembly.
6. Delegate Expense
 - A. 2012 Conference Advisory Action raised minimum suggested contribution to \$1,600
 - B. Brought back down to \$500 based on several years of actual expenses.
 - C. Brought down by \$150 based on several years of actual expenses.
 - D. Round Ups are in Bozeman and Billings. This is a guess.
 - E. Raised to \$250 for copies, postage and supplies. Considered that this is a new rotation and supplies may be needed.
7. Lowered to \$500 based on several years of actual expenses.

Current Alt. Delegate thought this may be too low if District visits are done the way that is stated in the Policy and Procedures manual. Committee decided to raise to \$750.00

8. Archivist

- A. Must budget \$500 based on a past action passed by Area 40

Discussion about whether to change this amount which would effectively change a past action. While we could do this as a committee, it was decided that this would be better to have a group or District put something on the agenda in the future to change this if that was what was desired.

- B. Budgeted \$350/month which is what we are currently paying. The Archives will probably be moving (move funded by Archivist Account) but we don't know where or what the rent will be. This may need to be adjusted when we have more information.

- C. N/A

9. Literature Chair

- A. This is for literature for our display only – not service manuals for sale. We have always at least broken even on the service manuals we purchase for sale. \$150 is about average for spending over the years.

10. PI Chair

- A. We are committed as an Area to \$250/month. Many of the Districts are paying their full share of the monthly expense, not just the pro-rated amount over \$250. If all of the Districts did this, our monthly expense would be the base amount of \$55/month. I am tempted to leave this at \$250/month as that is our commitment per past action, even though it's a bit deceptive. It also affects our prudent reserve. Thoughts??

Committee decided to leave this at the \$250/month for now until Area develops a more complete history of actual costs. Perhaps we could move toward budgeting for this without billing the districts and asking for group contributions to cover it.

- B. I have adjusted the amount for directory listings to closer to actual.

- 11. Adjusted to \$160 for website costs. I will try to remember to check with Alex to see if this is enough and if he needs any supplies.

- 12. Adjusted slightly down based on recent publishing and mailing expenses.

It was decided to lower this budgeted amount to \$3,500.00 based on actual expenses prior to this rotation.

- 13. Adjusted slightly upward based on recent District workshop invitations to our chairs.

We were over budget this year but have been way under the budgeted amount in most recent past years. One year does not make a trend, although we hope that Districts continue to utilize the Area Committee Chairs. Left this at \$1,200.00

14. Even with the new rotation, I think that \$500 should cover supplies, postage, etc. We currently pay rent on three PO Boxes (Treasurer, Pink Can, Triangle). Could one of these be eliminated?

15. I put in \$150 for a Quickbooks software upgrade – we are currently using the 2009 version. I think we are up to date on everything else. I do not know of any hardware purchases needed.

16. No current ad-hoc committees. If one is formed, the new Treasurer should make sure to get the assembly to approve some funding.

If we are prudent, \$150 should be plenty for conference/phone calls.

AREA 40 Proposed Budget 2013					
Expenses	9/4/2012	2012 Budget	2013 Proposed	Notes	
1	Spring Assembly	\$4,357.71	\$5,000.00	\$4,750.00	
2	Fall Assembly	\$53.70	\$5,000.00	\$4,750.00	
3	Regional Service Conference	\$1,597.02	\$2,250.00	\$1,320.00	Rapid City, SD- March 1-3,2012, includes Del, Alt. Del
4	Regional Forum	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00	Bloomington, MN Sept 6-8, Includes Del, Alt. Del
5	Regional Trustee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$370.00	invited to Fall Assembly in odd year
6	Delegate Expense				
6A	Area 40 Share to GSO	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	GSO asks for a minimum of \$1,600
6B	Other Expenses to NYC	\$51.00	\$700.00	\$500.00	Add'l Hotel (2 nights) and Incidentals
6C	Travel Expenses	\$612.57	\$1,400.00	\$1,250.00	Travel in Area 40 - 14 Districts
6D	Roundups	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$400.00	Bozeman and Billings
6E	Other Expenses	\$198.00	\$150.00	\$250.00	Copies, postage, supplies
7	Area Chair Expenses	\$593.28	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	Area 40 trav, copies, postage supplies
8	Archivist			\$0.00	
8A	Archives Display & Travel	\$219.91	\$500.00	\$500.00	Per Fall 2009 Action
8B	Archives Storage	\$2,800.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	Month to Month, \$350.00 x 12
8C	Archives Training	\$0.00		\$0.00	
9	Literature Chair				
9A	Literature Purchases	\$289.82	\$760.00	\$150.00	all AAWS and Grapevine purchases
10	PI Chair				
10A	Area Toll-Free Hotline	\$1,605.50	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Spring assembly '10 voted \$250/month
10B	Phone Directory Listings	\$1,164.30	\$1,750.00	\$1,500.00	
11	Webmaster	\$155.88	\$170.00	\$160.00	
12	Triangle Newsletter	\$1,916.97	\$4,000.00	\$3,500.00	8 issues per year-publishing cost
13	Committee Chair Travel	\$1,462.06	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	CCs, Sec & Treas Travel
14	Committee Chair Postage/Supplies	\$455.88	\$500.00	\$500.00	CCs, Sec & Treas POBs, postage, supplies
15	Computer Hardware and Software	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	Del, Sec, Treas, Arch, Tri: Computers, Printers, Software & Upgrades
16	Ad-Hoc Committee Expenses	\$92.02		\$0.00	Phone, Travel
17	Phone and Conference Calls	\$117.59	\$200.00	\$150.00	
	Total Expenses	\$18,943.21	\$33,530.00	\$32,650.00	
	Prudent Reserve			\$10,883.33	4 months of budget

The committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposed budget of \$32,650.00.

For 75 Opposed 0 Motion Carries

The committee did not discuss items C and D. We briefly touched on Item E: Discuss information, orientation, and support for the new Area 40 Treasurer for the next rotation. I prepared a list of information for the new Treasurer and will meet with her and remain available to help when needed. Respectfully submitted, Lori F., Area 40 Treasurer

Fall 2012 Area 40 Assembly Area Chair/Alternate Delegate Report

First of all, thank you for trusting me to serve as Area Chair/Alternate Delegate these two years. It has been an experience that I have trouble finding words to describe, but I know it has been a great gift and my life is better for it. But that isn't it, either. I think it's gratitude in action; when I have that experience of expressing my gratitude in service, I am filled with awe and wonder!

There have been a couple of difficult things to do this year. One was my decision to make experimental changes to the agenda for the assembly without some floor action. I was frustrated that we took an inventory at the Fall Assembly, but had no process in place to recommend or implement changes. The framework for the agenda in the Policy & Procedures is "a suggested framework", so after discussion with several current and past trusted servants, I made some changes that I felt would help sustain the energy of Saturday morning, responding to what I perceived as a prevailing theme in the inventory. I also asked for written responses to an evaluation of the assembly. There was good participation in the evaluation and comments were generally positive. In addition, some issues were raised about accessibility. As a result, some committee meetings were assigned rooms on the first floor (by request, as we were not able to have all the meetings on the first floor); some districts will be seated near the entrance and microphones when needed; and some chairs will be saved at the front of the room to hopefully help people who have some trouble hearing.

The other difficulty is the Triangle. Only five of the eight issues were published last year. In hindsight, I realize that a hastily organized conference call to discuss this was not the best thing as many of the committee were blindsided by it. That difficult conversation might have been much easier if more information had been available. The editor asked for a second chance and the first four issues of 2012 were published. Now the two summer/fall issues have not been published and groups that depend on the Triangle for their copy of the agenda didn't get it. The Triangle is a key element of communication among the groups and districts and the Area committee and we are all disappointed. Hopefully, emails from the Delegate, Treasurer, and

committee chairs and information on the Area web site have kept the groups and AA members well informed. Alex made a change on the website and now calendar information will be on the web site earlier than the past and the Triangle won't be the only source for a calendar of Area activities beyond the current year.

All the rest is very positive! The ad hoc committees formed as a result of Spring Assembly actions came together well and had their work done in time for sending agenda items to the committee chairs in July. An ad hoc committee in District 61 submitted an agenda item suggesting further refinement of the Bridging the Gap process, and an item was submitted regarding the Area Chair responsibility regarding the authoring of agenda items.

I got to go to the Roundup in Kalispell and attend a few summer events (Lower Yellowstone Soberfest at Makoshika State Park, Fireman's Point Campout at Columbus, and the Wild West Soberfest at Fort Peck Dam). What fun to spend a little time with you in your home districts, having good fellowship and recovery together.

The next two assemblies have been scheduled (the next Area Chair will schedule 2014 and 2015):

- Spring 2013 Assembly April 6 – 7
- Fall 2013 Assembly September 21 – 22

The deadline for agenda items for the Spring Assembly is February 1. The suggested flow of information is outlined in the Policy & Procedures. Since this flow includes the group and the district, embarking on this process soon is a good idea. If you and/or your group have an idea about something we should do (or not do) to better carry the message to alcoholics, please bring that idea forward. If you would like some assistance preparing an agenda item, I would be happy to help.

I have a list of information to give our incoming chairperson, and hopefully will introduce them to the Yogo staff before we leave this weekend as one of the responsibilities of the chairperson is to coordinate meeting space, needs, and lodging requirements with the hotel.

Thank you for trusting me to serve you and thank you for your service. Your contribution of time and effort makes this a great Area and it has been a pleasure working with you.

Sharon s., Your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Treatment Facilities/Agenda-Colby Dinges

There were 12 representative members present at the Treatment Committee meeting and guest:

Members were:

Colby D.- Area Chair

Mary M.- GSR D23

Betty P. – Alt DCM D71

Brett H.- GSR D11

Joan C. – GSR D11

Vicky W. – GSR D42

Margaret B. – GSR D81

Brad C.- Trmt Chair D61

Casey L. – DCM D41

Leo B. – DCM D51

Hugh Mc. – GSR D41

Kris W. – GSR D61

Guest:

Alex M.- Area 40

Webmaster

Colby D. Presented his report to the committee for review and approval and it was accepted as presented.

The voting members were reviewed with the committee and all other members present were encouraged to participate in any discussions. The voting members present at the meeting were: Casey L. DCM D41, Bret H. GSR D11,, Leo B. DCM D51, Colby D. Treatment Chair

Alex M. discussed both the users and consumers of the BTG mini sites and the need to have DCM personnel monitor the 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.

Global access is not recommended and strongly suggested that only personnel designated by the DCM and the Area Treatment Chair should be in charge of the district maintenance.

The primary focus on the mini sites was to establish a quick access function to the local BTG or Treatment Chair personnel when they have contact cards.

Questions were raised concerning what information should be made available via the mini sites and the following was recommended:

First Name, Last Name or Initial, Home Town, Sobriety Date, Contact Tele. # 1, Contact Tele. # 2 and email address.

Motion was made by Casey L. seconded by Brett H. to authorize the items as listed to be the input fields. Motion passes with 83 For and 0 Against

The committee was in favor of this and felt the reference of the contacts age was not important and should be omitted from the volunteer sign-up sheet. The role of the contact is to introduce the newcomer with AA and other members in the AA community.

It was discussed how this list could be utilized by the Area Corrections Committee as well. Colby indicated he would follow up with Terry H. to see if there would be any objections to making this process available to both disciplines.

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

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 meetings be informal and conducted away from the place of business or contact.

I would like to thank Mary M. for providing and recording minutes of our meeting. The meeting was closed at 12:00 pm. Respectfully submitted, Colby D., Area 40, Treatment Chair

Literature-Mary M.

Hello everyone, My name is Mary M and I am an alcoholic. It has been a pleasure and another growth opportunity to serve as the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair this rotation. It has given me more knowledge of all the literature that is available to us in Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope that we all bring back to our home groups information on all the literature that is available to us and the Area has a beautiful display. Our literature is such a great way to get the message out to the still suffering Alcoholic. I want to thank everyone who attend these Assemblies and help keep Alcoholics Anonymous alive. I really want to thank the literature committee members: Joe Jim Jay and Bob for showing up and all their lively discussion and input.

It's been quiet as far as Area 40 Literature goes for me since our last assembly. Please encourage AA members to read and purchase AA conference approved literature in your home groups and districts. Since last Assembly, the revised pamphlets AA and the Armed Services and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" are now available.

We have been in the digital age for a while now. To quote New York AAWS: "Publication in this digital media format will give broader distribution and access to A.A.'s basic textbook, Alcoholics Anonymous, known popularly as the Big Book, which has helped millions of men and

women throughout the world, and in all walks of life, find a new and satisfying way of life without alcohol.

“We are thrilled at the prospect of reaching an even wider audience to offer A.A.’s message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic who may not have had access to our basic literature,” said Ward Ewing, nonalcoholic trustee and Chairperson of the General Service Board of A.A. “In addition, this eBook format will enhance the way members can read their favorite A.A. texts.”

I have ebook information on the literature table and of course you can go to aa.org for more information.

The “Big Book,” A.A. members’ fond name for the book Alcoholics Anonymous, is now designated by the Library of Congress as one of the 88 “Books That Shaped America,” and is included in the library’s new exhibition.

Literature 2012 Fall Assembly Committee Report

All committee members were present. Jim B DR 51, Joe L DR 42, Bob T DR 61, Jay T DCM 93. Thank you Susan from Billings for taking notes, and Dan and Bob for attending our committee break out.

A. Review the Area 40 Literature Chair Fall 2012 Assembly Report.

Committee reviewed my report and it will be submitted to minutes.

B. Discuss the role of AA literature in the Fellowship today, traditional publishing and e-formats.

The committee discussed the role of our literature and it comes down to being able to reach as many alcoholics as we can to educate, connect with different lifestyles of people. GSO states that digital format gives us that chance. One member stated they thought that pamphlets will always be around in paper format.

C. Review Area 40 Policy and Procedures for Literature.

After reviewing the Policy and Procedures for literature we thought that item G7.6 which states: ‘Literature Committee assists in placing AA literature in Treatment Facilities and Correctional Facilities.’ needed to be addressed. This is not something we did this past rotation. No Action was taken, but thought we would pass it on to the next rotation for review also.

D. Discuss information, orientation, and support for the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.

There were two nominees that came from the literature committee members. I discussed what my duties were as Chair. I can only hope that I can be as helpful as Lori F was for me coming into this position.

GSC (as time allows)

A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on Literature Agenda Items at the 2012 General Service Conference.

Conference Literature Committee– GSC

Advisory Actions:

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services” be approved.

The short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book As Bill Sees It.

The final revision of the Living Sober booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved with minor editorial changes.

The pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service” be revised, and requested that the trustees’ Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

Additional Considerations:

The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees’ Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee discussed a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the ‘Big Book,’ Alcoholics Anonymous, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and took no action.

Recommendations that did not result in conference advisory actions:

The committee considered a request to add the “A.A. Preamble” to the front inside pages of the ‘Big Book,’ Alcoholics Anonymous, and took no action.

That the trustees' Committee on Literature develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness, with a progress report to be provided to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature with suggestions for content of the pamphlet, including breadth and scope of the pamphlet. (Not approved)

That the pamphlet "A.A. and The Armed Services" include the subtitle "none left behind." (Not approved)

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 40 this past rotation. Mary M., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums-Terry H

Corrections Chair Report

Hello, my name is Terry Hankinson and I am an alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair.

It has been my privilege to serve and I look forward to helping with the transition of your next Area 40 Corrections chair person.

I attended a work shop in District 71 with some of our other Area Chairs. There was a lot of participation from the Correction Facilities in that district and the sharing was amazing. I was given a letter at the workshop from an inmate at the prison and I was able to contact him and send him literature and assure him that we were working hard to get meetings going at MSP

Meetings will start up again at the Men's prison in October. We are pleased about that but we still want a meeting with the warden. We wish to have more AA meetings and a more suitable relationship with the Prison. We have sent 7 letters with no response and have now made our final appeal and will contact the Department of Corrections. I must thank Lee G from district 72. His persistence has been inspiring. He has been our front man and contact with this effort.

August 10,11th and 12th myself and Teresa G from District 72 put on the first AA 12 step weekend at the women's prison. 26 women gave up all their weekend activities including visiting to commit to attend the weekend. It was very powerful. We included workshop evaluation sheets for the inmates and their input was very good. As a result we have been given the opportunity to bring in speaker/step meetings every other Friday, including our original weekly AA meetings. We now have a good working relationship with the Women's Prison.

I have been working compiling a list of Temporary contacts from around the area and our webmaster is forwarding emails to me for contacts.

I continue to send out requested literature from the Pink Can. Our current balance in the Pink Can Fund is \$1092.88. We have distributed \$2632.77 worth of literature. Our year to date contributions has been \$426.20. Obviously if our literature needs remain the same, next year we will not have the funds available to meet that need. Please go back to your groups or districts and talk about the Pink Can Fund. Reports are available at the back table.

Corrections Committee Meeting

All Committee members were present: Terry H. Chair, Chris R. Dist. 91, Nick D. Dist. 12, Brandon M. Dist. 11, & Laura S. Dist.23

Mike D. Dist. 11 was the secretary. Fourteen were present.

Area 40 Agenda Items

A. Reviewed and discussed the Correction's Chair report.

- Workshop in Dist. 71
- Word is that meetings begin again at MSP in October
- Lee G. continues to try to set up a meeting with the Warden
- Held a 12 step weekend at the Women's Prison in August.
- Continue to compile a list of BTG contacts

B. Reviewed and discussed the Pink Can Report

- Current balance \$1092.88
- Cost of literature distributed YTD is \$2632.77
- YTD contributions \$426.20
- If literature needs remain the same we will not be able to meet those needs with current contributions.

C. We discussed ways Area 40 can continue to carry the AA message in correctional facilities.

- Most agreed that educating staff could remove major road blocks to carrying the message though lack of volunteers in some districts is also a problem.

We can:

- Bring CPC/Corrections presentations to staff in correctional facilities.

- Offer AA information as in-service for continuing education credits for Officers.
- Have more workshops that include AA and Professional sharing in locations that are saturated with Correctional type facilities. Jails, pre-releases, prison, etc.

2012 PINK CAN REPORT	LIT. DONATIONS	CONTRIBUTIONS	BALANCE
			3355.45
PO BOX RENT	56		
ANACONDA GRP \$39.		39	
WATCH EAST (12x12's & BB'S)	274.4		
POLSON EARLY BIRDS \$55.			
MSLA WOMENS GRP \$10.50		65.5	
PINK CAN TOTALS	274.4	104.5	3129.55
DISTRICT 11 BB'S	285.6		
ANACONDA GRP \$30.		30	
PINK CAN TOTALS	560	134.5	2873.95
MSLA WOMENS GRP \$13.05		13.05	
PINK CAN TOTALS	560	147.55	2887
TRADITIONS \$1.02			
MSLA WOMENS GRP \$13.00			
ANACONDA GRP \$30.00		44.02	2931.02
WATCH WEST (BB'S)	285.6		
PINK CAN TOTALS	845.6	191.57	2645.42
MSLA WOMENS GROUP \$12.			
ANACONDA GROUP \$30.00		42	2687.42
PINK CAN TOTALS	845.6	233.57	2687.42
WATCH EAST (12x12's & BB'S)	274.4		
MT WOMENS PRISON-12 STEP WEEKEND	316.8		
BB/12X12/INMATE TO INMATE			
INMATE @ MSP	26.09		
GARY OTTESON	727.2		
PINK CAN TOTALS	2190.09	233.57	1342.93
ANACONDA GRP (JUNE CONTRIBUTION)		30	
ANACONDA GRP		30	
MSLA WOMENS GRP		20	
DISTRICT 42 BB'S	157.08		
PINK CAN TOTALS	2347.17	313.57	1265.85
DISTRICT 11 BB'S	285.6		980.25
ANACONDA GRP		30	
MSLA WOMENS GRP		22.63	
PINK CAN TOTALS	2632.77	366.2	1032.88
ANACONDA GROUP		60	1092.88

It is my pleasure to serve you. Thank you, Terry

CPC/Trustees-Libbie L.

Welcome all to the Fall Assembly. This rotation has been an incredible journey. Thanks to all who have shared it with me. It has been a privilege to serve with you all.

Life has been full since the last assembly. Here is a list of some of the activities.

- Mailings to 78 professional educators in Area 40 colleges and universities
- Sponsor your Professional campaign
- Workshops in Butte, Shelby, Fort Peck (Wild West Sober fest)
- Another trip to Haiti
- Upcoming Havre Mini Conference next weekend

I look forward to attending the Fall Round Up in Missoula, my home group's annual Fall Refresher next month. Plans are in place to facilitate follow up with the professional schools at the district level and to contact the DUI/Drug Courts in our Area.

Remember that we have displays, literature, and power point presentations available to share our message.

I look forward to mentoring and passing on the baton/file box to the next CPC committee chair in January.

From page 89 of Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter 7, Working with Others:

Perhaps you are not acquainted with any drinkers who want to recover. You can easily find some by asking a few doctors, ministers, priests, or hospitals. They will only be too glad to assist you. Don't start out as an evangelist or reformer. Unfortunately a lot of prejudice exists. You will be handicapped if you arouse it. Ministers and doctors are competent and you can learn much from them if you wish, but it happens that because of your own drinking experience, you can be uniquely useful to other alcoholics. So cooperate, never criticize. To be helpful is our only aim.

As we aim to be helpful, let us always remember our friends who can assist us in showing those who suffer from alcoholism that there is a way out.

2012 Area 40 Fall Assembly, 62nd General Service Conference Review

15 Members present, voting members present included:

Libbie Lapp-Chair, Erin G-DCM81, Catherine J-DCM72, Corey C-DR91, Roxie B-DR71

Thanks to Erin G. for taking notes.

AREA 40 BUSINESS

CPC

- A. Review the Area 40 CPC Fall 2012 Assembly Report

See Chair report as separate document.

- B. Discuss ways in which AA can continue to be a resource to professionals in Area 40.

Discussed continuing current projects. Questions discussed about who is responsible and how to work together with Treatment, PI and not duplicate efforts. Use your mentors. Also recommended how to make a committee with your group representatives.

- C. Review Area 40 Policy and Procedures for CPC.

Page 11 Area 40 Policy and Procedures manual, no changes recommended.

- D. Discuss the activities of the CPC Committee during the 2011-2012 Rotation.

See Chair report: Professional school mail outs, Sponsor your Professional, workshops, displays and power point presentations.

- E. Discuss information, orientation, and support for the new Committee Chair for the next rotation.

Keep up the momentum. Chair will orient/mentor new chair thoroughly.

Trustees

- A. Review the responsibilities for Trustee-at-Large.

S67 service manual

- B. Discuss the process for electing a Trustee-at-Large

S68 service manual

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE BUSINESS

- A. Review GSC Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and No Action Taken on CPC and Trustees Agenda Items at the 62nd General Service Conference.

CPC

A1. Discuss report on replacing the current AA CPC DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing print material.

Consensus of the Area 40 committee was that it would be a convenient way to get information to professionals. We already use a DVD in the information packet sent out currently. This would eliminate the need to send all the pamphlets with it. Information is also available on-line through the aa.org website.

A2. Review draft product of replacement DVD

Consensus of the Area 40 committee is that the committee will review the draft copy. The cost (\$1350) seems reasonable. Keep in mind the concerns of the trustees regarding limited material and technology changes.

The GSC committee discussed the report on replacing the current DVD with a new DVD and reviewed the draft product. The committee accepted the report and felt that a new compilation DVD was not needed. Reasons included, material already available, prefer to be more profession specific, and DVD format may not be appropriate in this ever- changing digital age.

The GSC committee also requested that the AAWS Web Site Redesign Committee consider dedicating a portion of the Web site to making AA resources easily accessible to targeted professional populations and CPC Committees.

(Additional Considerations page 56-57 of 62nd GSC Final Report)

B. Consider adding the phrase “nonalcoholics may attend as observers” to the Singleness of Purpose statement in CPC literature.

Area 40 Committee was split as to whether this was a necessary change. Most of our discussion involved recognizing the audience for these pamphlets and who will be using this information. Is the information we want to relay for the professionals themselves, non-alcoholics, or possible alcoholics?

It was recommended by the GSC Committee that the “Singleness of Purpose” statement be revised as follows: Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Non-alcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to AA and encouraged to attend AA meetings. Non-alcoholics may attend open AA meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed AA meetings. The text in “What AA Does Not Do” section in the CPC pamphlets “AA in Your Community”, “If You Are a

Professional,” and “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” to be replaced with the text in the section “What AA Does Not Do” in the “AA at a Glance” flyer. (Advisory Actions page 7-8, 62nd GSC Final Report)

C. Review contents of kit and workbook

Consensus of the Area 40 committee is that the changes seem appropriate and that any help or guidance is helpful. Our workbook should be up to date and accurate as well as full of ideas to spread the message of AA.

The GSC committee reviewed the contents of the CPC Kit and Workbook and made several suggestions.

- a) Sentence on page 15 changed to read “Open: Guests are welcome as observers....”
- b) Section on page 29 “What AA Does Not Do” also be revised to the same text as in the “AA at a Glance” flyer.

(Additional Considerations page 57, 62nd GSC Final Report)

Trustees

A. Review resumes of the candidates for and slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of AA Inc.

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

Consensus of the Area 40 committee is that Andrew W be the candidate selected as trustee for the West Central Region. We took some time discussing the number and role of Trustees and reviewed the election process.

The GSC committee agreed with us and selected Andrew W to be the next West Central Region Trustee. The also approved the entire slate of trustees.

- B. Review slate of directors of AA World Services Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine Inc.

Consensus of Area 40 committee is that the conference should act appropriately in their approval of the slate of directors. We discussed the all or nothing approach for approving slates and the pros and cons of that action.

A, B, &C

The Slates were all approved. There continues to be 2 vacancies in the AA Grapevine Board for a total of 7 members. Note: AA Grapevine Inc. bylaws state that its board shall consist of no less than 7, and no more than 10 members.

(Advisory Actions page 9, 62nd GSC Final Report)

D. Review report from the trustees Nominating Committee on the impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended State

Consensus of the Area 40 committee is that we would recommend that the GSC committee for Trustees would look for all potential methods to follow up on this issue. We need to take special care to uncover unexpected repercussions of our actions. We need to comply with laws and protect ourselves from ourselves. Remember that it is not Trustees vs. the Conference vs. the Grapevine vs. AAWS; it is AA carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We should not look for a quick fix because there was an issue with this process. We don't want the good to be the enemy of the best, and we don't want division in the branches of our leadership.

The GSC Committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating on the Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate noting that, as requested, the report solely addressed the admission of slates: the committee recognizes that the GSC has additional authority related to the General Service Board not commented upon in the report.

The GSC Committee strongly suggested that the practice of including the operating corporation board slates (AAWS and Grapevine) on the GSC agenda be continued.

(Additional Considerations page 60, 62nd GSC Final Report)

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions-Gary E.

Opened with the Serenity Prayer. Present: Gary D., Dee G. , Marty S., Carla T., Janet P., Duane C.

Gary attended the June Grapefest in Helena, it was small but spirited. Gary has been e-mailing the Grapevine News monthly reports to those who have signed up.

There is a Grapevine display with all of the new Grapevine books available on the back table. Extra old Grapevines are also available.

546 subscriptions in Montana so far this year. Financially Grapevine is in the black. There are books on e-book available now. More are being added all the time.

FLOOR ACTIONS:

Items will be "Sunseted".

Combining Grapevine and AWS has been tabled until next conference.

AGENDA

Discuss roles in the Fellowship today of Grapevine & LaVina: Grapevines are used in sponsorship. Grapevines displays are usually available at District AA functions. Subscriptions are raffled at AA functions. Groups buy subscriptions to give away and also use them as the basis of the meeting. Subscriptions are also purchased for new sponsees.

Discuss information, orientation and support for the new committee chair for the next rotation: All Gary got when he took over was a display. He will be handing information over to the new committee chair and suggest that not only e-mail addresses but physical addresses be obtained. It is up to the District to request the Area Grapevine chair show up for their functions to present Grapevine information. Gary received only 2 requests for this and both were for the Grapefest in Helena. Janet proposed that the Area chair have more communication with the District chairs. Phone calls, e-mails etc. to keep the lines of communication open. Marty wondered what the Area chair would do if requested to attend. Gary said he would present a history of Grapevine and what literature is available with a question and answer session afterwards. Helena actually has a Grapefest which also requests the Delegate to present his report on what went on with the Grapevine in New York. Carla suggested that the District Chair go to every meeting in their District throughout the year with old Grapevines and subscription forms.

WORKSHOPS-DCM/GSR BREAKOUTDCM Breakout

Chairman: Andrew W. opened with Serenity Prayer

Questions:

What is the hierarchy of leadership in your District? Does Alt DCM always become DCM?

1. What would be the best way to get all the Agenda Items and Background Info out to GSRs and Committee Chairs in our District? Issue of printing and distribution.

Email, Pass a copy around for shared use, Can be extremely expensive to make copies! Make copies of the on Disc, Google Docs, Put it on the Area website? This is an agenda item. Pick a couple things you're passionate about versus attempting to read/distribute the entire 500-plus

pages. Provide information on a secure website like the Delegate's get it Loading it as a pdf. on your personal computer

This is still progress from the way information was given to Delegate's in the past!

2. How do you deal with having a vital committee chair vacant for several months, then it is filled by someone who is resistant to support and chooses to pursue activities outside the scope of his/her position rather than the work in the position description.

DCM shares his own experience and explain the guidelines

DCM shares his experience and advocates one-on-one human contact. Person made amends and indicated she would change her behavior but resigned two months later.

Be open and honest with people

Our biggest responsibility is electing trusted servants and picking the best possible to serve

Better election process, have people know them.

Past-DCM shares his experience and so sometimes it just works itself out. As DCM you can just tell them what needs to be done and be a source of guidance. Sometimes even when it looks bleakest it might mean it gets better soon!

3. How are the relationships in Districts with Intergroup and do they play nice with one another?

Past-DCM shares that Intergroup used to come to his meetings and they had a good relationship.

DCM shares that they have a good relationship with Intergroup, they share a meeting space and the Intergroup Chair comes to most District meetings. They have good communication with one another.

DCM shares that he didn't feel welcome as a DCM at the intergroup meetings in his District. But, they have improved their relationship, have established communication, have an Intergroup Rep who attends the District meetings, and they are coordinating on the schedule upkeep.

Cooperation has increased to the point that it is hard for him to believe their relationship was ever negative!

Even though they may not be a "large, metropolitan area" Intergroup definitely provides a service in his District.

Alt-DCM indicates he was met with hostility when he would do group visits but when he showed them how he was trying to report accurate information and establish a relationship he was met with cooperation.

4. What is the hierarchy of leadership in your District? Does Alt DCM always become DCM?

DCM- "No". You never know what may happen.

District 61 Alt-DCM automatically becomes DCM.

One District saw the DCM become the Alt to help positions and support.

District 12—"I don't think we've ever had an alternate"!

This was the same for another DCM.

Alt-DCM has suggested having Alt-DCM rotate into DCM in her district because it provides good training for a big position.

DCM advocates for training and grooming of new leaders.

The pamphlet "The AA Group" speaks to rotation—not circulation. It brings fresh blood and fresh ideas.

Send newly elected GSR/DCM to Area rather than just throwing them in to their first Assembly.

Practice, study and ask people with experience for help

GSR School, DCM School and Mock Assemblies

5. Which Districts have voting members that are GSRs—and which Districts have GSRs and Committee Chairs as voting members?

Just GSRs: 2

GSRs and Committee Chairs: 7

Anybody Who Shows Up: 1

DCM-They have GSRs vote only. Saw a big dip in attendance, considered allowing Chairs to vote = hot button issue and shot down. But—attendance was up!

Contention = Attendance!

Discussion versus Vote: The vote you only have one. But, with discussion you can collect votes if people agree with your point-of-view.

Voting to reconsider and allowing the minority opinion to speak is helpful.

6. We have a chair person in our district who introduces himself as an addict. I see this as a problem when he identifies himself as an addict when representing AA at institutions. What should I do?

DCM-We've discussed this and determined it in contrast of our Traditions.

This DCM advocates asking him if he is an alcoholic.

Past-DCM- Love and tolerance is our code.

Also, 30-40 days ago they didn't know what they were. A treatment center gave them a label and they identify with that.

We can ask them off to the side what they identify as and have that discussion in private.

This isn't Feelings Anonymous—have the discussion.

As far as he can tell our literature doesn't say we must identify ourselves as alcoholics.

Have the discussion with the effort of not annihilating anyone.

Addict versus alcoholic versus over-eater

Find out the difference and pursue

Telling your district you have an addict chair person might increase attendance! (joking comment)

The Doctor's Opinion: "he was working this man and trying to fix his alcoholic addiction".

It's up to us not to abuse anyone at anytime.

They can die—we can direct them to where they need to be.

Is saying alcoholic/addict in a meeting a violation of 12th Tradition because it creates dis-unity?

Not every place, especially in rural areas, have meetings beyond AA: NA, etc.

Totally agrees alcohol is primary focus but in rural MT there may not be other choices.

Kids are using everything these days.

Guy takes meetings into the jail and doesn't care who shares about what because that's there only place for help.

Past-Delegate: One of the toughest things he had to do was talk to groups about adhering to the Traditions when they may be doing other stuff.

Just talk to them—share the importance of the Traditions. Cannot force anyone to do anything. This is a part of our job duties.

Focus on the steps and recovery elements.

If you don't have NA—addicts can start it.

GSR Breakout with Bob H.

Opened with the Serenity Prayer

1. What do I need to know? What's my job, my opportunity to serve?

You're not always going to be somebody's friend out of this deal. You're always going to have someone who disagrees with you. But this is one of the most important jobs out there. This can be kind of daunting, but there is a pamphlet that is very helpful called "The AA Group." It covers things such as the difference between a group conscience meeting and an informed group conscience meeting.

The Service Manual is a very eye opening piece of literature to define the job description. There is a pamphlet call GSR. In short, we are the conduit, the mouthpiece of our group to District. You get information and get educated and take that information back to your group. A GSR is active and always trying to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

A GSR is a trusted servant. We trust that person to serve. If you stay active and stay informed than you will be able to gain the sense of how your group might vote on items that you did not get to take back and discuss with them.

2. How do we get our group out of a deficit financially?

Bring the enthusiasm to the meetings and make it attractive to pitch in.

Read the green card about self-support. When passing the basket say, "Ask yourselves what you sobriety is worth."

Give a pay raise to AA. Put more than a dollar in the basket. Lead by example so that the newer person knows what to do.

Budget is a verb. If you are getting low on cash something may need to be cut.

We've been in the negative for a while but have a prudent reserve. The checkbook should reflect what we are actually operating on and not use the checkbook as a savior to cover every activity we want to do.

We started paying attention to what we were actually using. We used smaller cups and watched how much coffee we throw away.

When the basket gets passed an announcement gets made stating what those funds get used for.

There is a piece of literature called, "Supporting your Support System." This allowed for splits to be made with percentages and leave money left for the group.

3. How much power does a GSR have? How do I get my home group members to step up to service?

Just as much as they'll give you! ☺ If you want to get people interested in service, you've got to make service interesting. Have potlucks or bbq's and give them information. Attract them and make it fun. Throw 'em in the car and take them with you. Show them, don't tell them.

4. What is the relationship between being a GSR and being the chairperson of that group's group conscience/business meeting?

You could try to spread it out a little bit and get more people involved in service.

5. Group Inventory

That can be a growing experience. In the past we had it where the person conducting the meeting could not speak at all. We've also had a group conscience done via writing answers down on paper anonymously and compiled in a secure box. This allowed for the person who would not have usually spoken up and said something to voice their opinion and be heard.

We have had our different meetings answer different inventory questions and then we meet and discuss them.

Our group's Alt GSR is responsible for chairing an annual group inventory. They find the meeting place, make the fliers, organize the providing of food, and chair the actual inventory. If you provide food, they will come!!

The difference between a group and a meeting is: A group exists after the meeting is over. A group is involved in service.

You've got to protect the people in your meeting from predators, men and women. A meeting has to be a safe haven for the newcomer to get sober. We have a responsibility to step up to this and make sure that the group is aware that the new person is not to be preyed upon.

ROUNDUP REPORTS

Spring 2012 Kalispell

We had a total of 352 people register, 54 of whom were Al-Anon members. Special guest Terry Spear gave the first delegate's report following the Conference. Gerry Robinson was also present with a smashing Archives set up. We were a self-supporting Round Up with enough left over to contribute to Intergroup, District, Area, Al-Anon, and GSO. We look forward to attending the Missoula Round Up next month and passing the stool along with the seed money. I also look forward to seeing all of you at the 2015 Fall Round Up in Kalispell! (Register now and save \$5.00!) Yours in Service, Kacie Mc.

Fall 2012 Missoula

Andrew W. reports that all is ready for the fall roundup Oct 5-7 in Missoula. Hope to see many of you there.

Spring 2013 Bozeman

Gerry W. District 72 Spring 2013 Round Up Chair reports all is well on the Spring 2013 Roundup front! Dates are April 12-14 2013 at the Best Western Grantree Inn Hotel and Holiday Inn locations were secured to ensure we meet capacity and can welcome ALL who come from across the state. Contracts are signed; meals agreed upon, rates negotiated. Speakers have been chosen and are confirmed. Committee positions are all filled and we are meeting monthly. Registration flyers are about to be posted on the area website and distributed, stay tuned!

INTERGROUP REPORTS

Flathead Valley Intergroup Report

Our Flathead Valley Intergroup has a new home. Intergroup's first Business/Birthday meeting will be held January 28, 2012 at the United Methodist Church located at 117 2nd Street West in Columbia Falls.

Our Flathead Valley Intergroup meets the last Saturday of every month at 6:30pm to conduct our Business meeting, followed by our Birthday Meeting to celebrate Valley Wide Sobriety.

Currently all of our Intergroup Positions are filled with motivated, service oriented members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We had our annual Campout at Emery Bay in Hungry Horse in which there was a huge turnout. We have the following upcoming events in which Intergroup supports;

Thanksgiving Event November 24, 2012.

Alcathon: December 31, 2012 through January 1, 2013.

Intergroup is working diligently with District Chairs to eliminate any duplications of work.

In Service, Nikki T., Intergroup Chair

PAST DELEGATE SHARING

Both Maryann W. and Bob H. gave inspirational and amusing stories about "back when". We are so fortunate in Area 40 to have a wealth of past delegates that are present for many of the assemblies. There were seven present for this assembly. (Maryann, Bob, Mark, Earl, Scott, Andrew, and Carole) Ed M. was unable to attend as his health is poor. Please if any get a chance, stop in Valier and say "Thanks."

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Fall Assembly, Area 40: 2012 Delegate's General Service Conference Report

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada met at the Hilton Rye Town in Rye Brook, N.Y., April 22-28, 2012. 250 copies (in English) of the 2012 Confidential Final Report, 79 pages long, with a pretty blue cover containing a drawing of the front entry to the hotel, arrived on my front porch August 21, 2012. The Conference Advisory Actions appear at pages 6-9 of the Conference Report, and are discussed in this Delegate's Report in same numerical order as they appear in the Conference Report. Selected Additional Committee Considerations are also discussed in this Delegate's Report.

Area 40's Presence at the Conference

A member of our Fellowship from up in the Bitterroot, Mary D., moved to New York some years ago and is a member of the GSO staff. She serves on the Treatment Special Needs/Accessibilities Desk at the present time. That's where our Montana presence starts in New York.

Almost as soon as you elected me as Area 40's Panel 61 delegate two years ago, I started running into an old friend from the Fellowship, who I met in Helena when I first moved there in 1996. Her name is Angie E., and she was the DCM in District 61, Helena, here in Area 40, around 1994-95, when Mark S. was our Panel 44 Delegate. I'm also a former District 61, Helena, DCM, from 2005-2006, when Scott W. was our delegate. Then in 2012, at this year's Conference Angie and I ran into another Area 40 former DCM – Lynda R., the Panel 62 delegate from Kentucky, was DCM for District 11 around 1996-97, when Robbie S. was our Panel 46 delegate.

And for any of you who still haven't heard, Area 40, for the first time ever, has contributed one of our own people as a Trustee! Our West Central Regional Trustee, elected at the 2012 Conference, is Andrew W., Panel 57, Area 40 (2007-08), who led the voting on every ballot, but whose name ultimately was drawn from the hat, after no candidate obtained 2/3rds of the votes in the Third Legacy Proceeding. And that's not all. Carole B., our Panel 59 Delegate, has interviewed for and is awaiting word on whether she will be offered a spot as a non-trustee director of A.A. World Services, Inc. So, Powder River, let 'er buck, Montana is there at and below the Conference level in our inverted service triangle!

Conference Advisory Actions

Advisory Action #1: [Motion] The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

This is the final form of the "GSB Item," a motion from the General Service Board to the 62nd General Service Conference, submitted after the deadline for submission of agenda items, not assigned to any Conference Committee, and not including any background material. Area 40 hated this item and wanted it killed so it would have to go back through the regular process in 2013. It originally read as follows:

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's independent editorial voice. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., and address as well issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to

increase unity, better reach and connect the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

The plan for this item, communicated to the Delegates before the Conference, was that the item would be read to the Conference at the beginning of the week, and then would not be discussed and decided until after we had completed all of the Committee agenda items, near the end of the week. However, when this item was read to the Conference during our very first session, a motion from the floor was immediately made and seconded to refer it to a Conference Committee (no specific committee was named in the motion). Phyllis H., General Manager of G.S.O., and Ward Ewing, Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee and Chairman of the GSB, conferred away from the microphone. I wondered whether "they" (whoever "they" might be) were going to insist upon following "their" plan to defer discussion until the end of the week despite the motion from the floor. Instead, after Ward and Phyllis finished, the microphones were opened for discussion of the motion.

I begin at that point to feel that this would be a productive Conference, that we would find answers to the challenges we faced and that we would also find both substantial unanimity during the process and then unity thereafter (no matter how fiercely we might have disagreed about various agenda items), and that I would be able to come home and tell you even more emphatically than I did last year that A.A. is in very good hands. And I was right.

There was a great deal of discussion, about what Committee should consider this item and about what any Committee could do with the item (since it had no background material). During this discussion, Ward Ewing was asked why the GSB's point asked for our approval, since it seemed as if the "plan" was going to be developed whether the Conference approved or not. Ward told us that if the Conference did not approve the agenda item, the General Service Board would not go forward with development of a reorganization plan. The motion to refer the agenda item to a committee failed. I voted with the majority, against referring the item to any Committee. I could see no point to sending the item to a Committee, with no background material and no time to do any meaningful research, to a committee. Anything a Committee could do with the item, the Conference as a whole could do as well, and our GSB had asked for Conference approval. The agenda item was set aside until we had finished all of the recommendations and reports from all of our Committees.

Finally, on Friday, the General Service Conference considered the GSB item asking for our support to develop a plan to restructure the Grapevine. After lengthy discussion of it, including some unsuccessful efforts to amend it, a stand-up guy named Jim C., Panel 61 Delegate from Northeast Texas, suggested that if a plan was going to be developed to restructure our corporations, that plan should look at possible restructuring of both operating corporations,

A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and A.A. World Services, Inc. By now we had heard about the enormous losses projected for both corporations in the next couple of years. We knew about the financial challenges that might be coming. We knew how vital self-support had not become. Encouraging the GSB to develop a plan, which the 2013 Conference could approve, modify or reject, made a lot more sense if the plan addressed our entire operating corporations' structures. The amendment passed (I voted for it) and, as amended, the item was passed with substantial unanimity (I voted for it).

I voted in favor of the amendment, and in favor of the item as amended, based upon a number of points developed in the floor discussion:

- (a) No plan would be developed without Conference support – having a plan in case the finances are as bad as projected is a very good idea [projections showed A.A.G.V. and A.A.W.S. together losing over half a million dollars in 2013, and then losing \$1,153,000 in 2014];
- (b) Any plan will be brought to the Conference before any implementation of it;
- (c) Both corporations are going to be examined in developing any plan and
- (d) In developing any plan, Concept XI and the need either to comply with it or to bring us a proposal for changing it consistent with any proposed non-compliance will be kept in mind.

Of greatest importance, to me at least, was that the Trustees, our entire corporate boards, our General Service Office and the General Service Conference are all beginning to look at our future (the big picture) instead of just reacting to individual agenda items. Instead of focusing all of our attention and energy on what new literature we need, and what changes we need to existing literature, and who will have which responsibility during the next rotation, we are asking questions that I wonder if we have asked since Bill W. Died. Why are we not participating more? Why is our membership no longer growing? What do we need to do differently? What do we need to return to doing? This agenda item, as part of beginning to do some future planning, together with taking our own inventory over the next 3 years, together with the return to self-support we now have to undertake, all make sense now, and I believe it is in the best interests of A.A. as a whole, to assure A.A. will be there to help the still suffering alcoholic, that we encourage our trusted servants to develop a plan for our consideration, as part of our efforts to assure the continued vitality of our intact message of recovery.

Because we can no longer count on Big Book sales profits to cover expenses, the power of the purse has become revitalized, but in a very positive way. Our trusted servants have done and are doing an awesome job of cutting and controlling expenses. Our Areas and our Fellowship are contributing more money to GSO. Our purchases of Grapevine have put it back in the black. IF all these things continue, if we ALL continue to participate and contribute, Alcoholics

Anonymous can become stronger and more effective, and we can work harder to reach more still suffering alcoholics. As has so often been the case, our greatest challenges offer us our greatest opportunities for spiritual growth.

Changes in the A.A.W.S. eBooks and eReader Apps Project

Now before I go further I want to tell you about something very recent. Over the last several months A.A.W.S. has conducted an intensive review of our work on the eBooks project. It became clear that creating and maintaining A.A.W.S. eReader Apps was not going to be sustainable in the long run. We have encountered changes in technology, extensive development time, the continuing need to upgrade and match changes in the mobile devices and their technologies, and these very high costs to support these Apps are continuing and growing. Sustaining our efforts to provide free eReader Apps for mobile devices, to access our eBooks, will simply get bigger and require more expenses, additional staff and, overall, will divert far too much of our valuable resources away from carrying our message and into becoming a producer and supporter of Apps. A.A.W.S. concluded that continued development of eReader Apps is not a practical or a prudent use of G.S.O. resources. Exercising its right, as the legal entity involved in this project, A.A.W.S. decided to end production of an Android eReader App, cease efforts to develop any new Apps, but to maintain and support, for the time being, the Apple iPhone App already available (with an upgrade we had already completed being released). As you might imagine, this was not an easy decision by the Board. However, as A.A.W.S. gained a fuller understanding of the project, it became clear that additional funding for the creation of a new department would ultimately be required. This would result in G.S.O. (A.A.W.S.) going into the business of providing eBook technology instead of providing the valuable services that continue to help fulfill our Primary Purpose. A.A.W.S. made, I believe, the right decision in stopping with the Apps NOW, instead of moving trying to become, like Hazeldon, a participant in the recovery industry. That is not our gig.

A.A.W.S. has decided that the best way to make our eBooks widely and easily available is to utilize third-party eReader vendors to sell our eBooks, and is beginning working toward implementation of this distribution process, with a planned release of A.A.W.S. eBooks through such vendors following the 2013 General Service Conference. I've had a couple of telephone conversations with Phyllis H., GSO General Manager, about this situation. The A.A.W.S. Board met to discuss it just last week. The Board's decisions about how and when it will start providing the details to us will be in either the minutes of that meeting or in the A.A.W.S. Highlights, both of which, Phyllis told me during our second conversation, on Friday morning, September 21, 2012, should be coming out within a couple of weeks (translation to Spanish and French has to be done before all three versions go out to the Delegates and the Fellowship).

This is a wonderful example of courage, in my opinion. Admitting that going on with the project would be prohibitively expensive and draining for A.A., our corporation stepped up and bit the bullet now, instead of letting the losses mount until the Conference could look at this next April. But there are still some questions that I believe we will need to address.

A.A.W.S. had also exercised its corporate authority (with approval from GSB, I am sure) to go forward without asking Conference approval, with the entire eBook and Apps project. It was a business decision that did not require Conference approval. I agreed, then and now, that the corporation has the legal power to make that decision without asking for Conference approval, under Concept VII. I do not want us, the Fellowship, to get caught up in a "blame" approach to this setback, but I think it is very important that either before or at the 2013 Conference, the Fellowship receive a full report on the costs incurred in the effort to develop our own Apps for A.A.W.S. eBook sales, and the costs that we ultimately confirmed would have been involved in supporting and upgrading those Apps. The costs apparently have been substantial, and I believe we need to know the details of all of this.

I believed and still believe that we must make our literature available on mobile devices, and the survey A.A.W.S. took from the Fellowship indicated that a substantial majority of us favored the development of eBooks. I hope we will continue to support the production of eBooks. Nonetheless, there are going to be questions coming up regarding how we will "utilize eReader vendors to sell our eBooks," and those questions should be discussed by the Conference before we go forward in this new direction. Even though A.A.W.S. has the legal right to make that decision, too, without asking the Conference, I believe it would be a serious mistake to do so. More will, I hope, be disclosed about this in the Board minutes or A.A.W.S. highlights.

Advisory Action #2: [Floor Action] The limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Out of the 7 floor actions presented at the very end of the Conference, 1 was withdrawn, 5 more failed, and one passed, to increase how much a deceased member could contribute to A.A., by a one-time bequest in that member's will.

Exactly 23rds, 84 to 42.

I voted against it. This came out of Finance Committee agenda item B, to increase the limit on one-time bequests from \$3,000.00 to \$75,000.00, AND to increase the limit on annual contributions by members from \$3,000.00 to \$15,000.00. The Finance Committee recommended only increasing the limit on one-time bequests from \$3,000.00 to \$25,000.00, and to increase the limit on annual contributions by members from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00. The Conference took no action on either committee recommendation. ["Recommendations

that Did Not Result in Conference Advisory Actions,” Conf. Com. on Finance, first 2 bullet points.]

Advisory Action #3. [Agenda] The theme for the 2013 General Service Conference be: “The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action.” I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #4. [Agenda] The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a) The Triangle – More Than a Shape
- b) The General Service Conference Inventory – Why is it Necessary?
- c) Self-Support – What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
- d) Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message

I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #5. [Agenda] The following inventory questions listed in the “INVENTORY PLAN,” which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences: PP. 6-7 of the Final Conference Report (it runs to several pages). I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #6. [CPC] The current statement regarding “Singleness of Purpose” in C.P.C. literature which reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings”

be revised to read as follows:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as ‘substance abuse’ or ‘chemical dependency.’ Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.”

I voted against, because although this change accurately reflects the collective conscience of A.A. about “open” and “closed” meetings, we are talking to outsiders here, professionals, and we are not telling them that each group is autonomous, which means that each group can, and

many do, interpret our Traditions and apply them as they understand them. Not every A.A. group's meeting has to be either an "open" or a "closed" meeting in conformity with the definitions of those terms at GSO. Every A.A. group has the right to be wrong. There are men's groups, women's groups, young people's groups, gay-lesbian-bisexual-transsexual groups, groups where non-alcoholics in attendance are also allowed to share, groups that meet and transact their business meetings in languages other than English, groups that don't read the same portions of our literature every meeting, groups where participants are not urged, or required, to introduce themselves as alcoholics every time they share, groups that like to chant slogans or parts of the readings together, groups that actively discourage chanting (some may even not respond with "HI [SO & SO]" when a participant says, "I'm So & So, and I'm an alcoholic," etc. What's right and what's wrong? Each Group decides.

Now, for sure, when a group decides to re-write the steps to take God out of them, or when a group decides that every single attendee to its meetings must also belong to and participate in worship with the store-front church in which the group meets, its pretty likely that sooner or later, somebody in A.A. service – the DCM, the Delegate, an alcoholic at GSO on one of the service desks – somebody, is going to contact the Group and point out the Tradition violation and suggest that if the Group wants to offer recovery in that way, that's really up to them, but if they are not going to follow our Traditions, would these please stop calling themselves an A.A. Group? Or, if they truly aspire to be an A.A. Group, would they please stop their Tradition-breaking? There would likely be discussion of the exact nature of the Tradition break, and our reasons why that is so important to us.

But, aside from possible action to remove the Group from A.A. meeting lists, that's probably all we would do. We really do want to protect A.A. and preserve our message of recovery intact. But we do not punish people, and we do not govern people, even though sometimes we really want to. God and alcohol will sort them out. So we should not suggestion to professionals that all meetings can be characterized with our "open/closed" descriptions, in other words, that all meetings are the same and fit our categories.

Advisory Action #7. [CPC] The text in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section in the C.P.C. pamphlets "A.A. in Your Community", "If You Are A Professional" and "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" be replaced with the text in the section "What A.A. Does Not Do" in the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer and the entire section read as follows:

What A.A. Does Not Do

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover...solicit members...engage in or sponsor research...keep attendance records or case histories...join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them)...follow up

or try to control its members...make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses...provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment...offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats... engage in education about alcohol...provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services...provide domestic or vocational counseling...accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources...provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #8. [Corrections] The revised draft pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be approved. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #9. [Corrections] The pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" be revised with the following changes:

a) Replace the first paragraph under the section "Release and paroles" with the following paragraph:

One point which usually needs to be explained is why inmates have any need of A.A. while they are incarcerated. The answer is that the A.A. program is far more than staying away from alcohol. A.A. has been called a way of life, and its success for groups that meet while in custody shows that this program can help the alcoholic inmate live a sober and contented life, both while in custody and after release.

b) Change the title of the section currently called "Release and paroles" to "Re-entry and Parole."

c) The current statement regarding "Singleness of Purpose" in the last paragraph, which reads:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.

Be revised with wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" on page 13, to read as follows:

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #10. [Corrections] The trustees' Corrections Committee develop a draft replacement for the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" to be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Corrections. I voted for this. It was a hard decision, but the costs are minimal, and the changes sound like they would be worthwhile.

It's really true that we face an uncertain financial future. We were given financial projections at the Conference that were very, very grim.

The projections for 2013 and 2014, show us going in the red both years, and being around \$1,500,000 in the red at the end of 2014. I don't think those projections are realistic. Those projections starting with the assumptions (1) that we would see our expenses increase more than our income; (2) that there would be no digital income for either operating corporation; and (3) that both A.A.W.S. and G.V. corporations would just do business as usual, and take no steps to address the deficits. I don't believe any of those three assumptions are correct. But even though they seem way too pessimistic, there are clearly some uncertainties in our future.

The financial future is less than rosy because we are at the end of the literature profits from Big Book sales. In the publishing industry these days, there just aren't going to be those profits available. That means we will have to be self-supporting through our own contributions. The Fellowship has not consistently supported our service structure, literature profits have done that. The literature profits are disappearing. Now we must be self-supporting, or give up some of the services we are used to getting. I believe we will step up to the plate and be self-supporting, but if not, we may have to be a lot more stingy about what projects we undertake.

Advisory Action #11. [Finance] The annual delegate's contribution be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,600. Passed by substantial unanimity. I was one of two votes against.

Advisory Action #12: [Grapevine] AA Grapevine, Inc. move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on 3rd party recording technology.

- a) The stories will be subject to the same editorial process as print stories.
- b) The Audio endeavor will, at a minimum, break even financially.
- c) The committee requests that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time.
- d) The committee requests that a status and financial report be submitted to the 2013 Conference Committee on the Grapevine as background.

I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #13. [Grapevine] A.A. Grapevine, Inc., carry out the “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items. The “Sunset” proposal will phase out older or slow-moving Grapevine items, archive them digitally or make them available in another format. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #14. [Literature] The revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services” be approved. I voted in favor. It’s done, and it’s a good deal, and the expense of the revision is very minimal.

Advisory Action #15. [Literature] The short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be added to the book As Bill Sees It. I voted in favor. Again, it is a minimal cost, and lots of folks who do like to read the same stuff at every meeting would like to have it in this book when they hold a meeting using this book.

Advisory Action #16. [Literature] The final revision of the Living Sober booklet, with changes to outdated language or practices, be approved with minor editorial changes. THIS ONE IS FUN, TO ME, AND INSTRUCTIVE.

The committee provided copies of the final revision of the Living Sober booklet for members of the Conference to read, without the red colored print on the actual changes. Some Conference delegates (I was one) objected, because we couldn’t check out the changes.

Passed by substantial unanimity. I voted against.

After minority opinions regarding how important the booklet was to many members of the Fellowship, and how trust in the process could be eroded by not permitting the Conference to review the actual changes, a motion to reconsider was made and passed by simple majority. The committee chair conferred with her committee and proposed providing the text with the changes in red print. The conference voted to table to matter until the next day (Friday) so the copies with changes in red print could be made. On Friday afternoon, the copies were provided, the Conference reviewed the changes, the committee chair provided information about the old text compared to the new text (in the handful of changes that were not simply removal of words (“gullet” replaced with “throat”).

In two instances, motions were made to restore the old text, which did not pass. The committee also agreed to remove a quote on the inside title page (not the cover) attributed to the A.M.A. After a process that took, in total, several hours over two days, the recommendation of approval of the final revision.

Passed by substantial unanimity. I voted in favor.

Terry S’s notes: Conference chair Laura V. made a tough call that prolonged the Conference, but that allowed all of the Conference members (myself included) to examine every single change

to the text, and satisfied more than two-thirds of the members to verify that all of the changes were appropriate. She and her entire committee should be congratulated and thanked for acting in the spirit of the Conference even though it prolonged the process and they could have obtained the approval of the revision without their further efforts, but at the price of disagreement of a sizeable minority of delegates, who would have had to report to their Areas that they voted against the revision because they could not verify the propriety of the changes made to the original text.

Advisory Action #17. [Literature] The pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" be revised, and requested that the trustees' Committee on Literature prepare a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature. I voted against.

Advisory Action #18. [Policy/Admissions] Satander B. and Daler M. from the General Service Board of India be admitted to the 62nd General Service Conference as observers. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #19. [Policy/Admissions] Roger Bédard alternate delegate, Area 89, Northeast Quebec Canada, be seated as a Conference member at the 62nd General Service Conference because Estelle F., Panel 61 delegate for Area 89, is unable to attend. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #20. [Policy/Admissions] The 65th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2015 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #21. [Policy/Admissions] The use of electronic devices at the General Service Conference be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the Conference" as presented to the 2012 General Service Conference, superseding the 2004 Advisory Action regarding the use of personal computers at the Conference. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #22. [PI] The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display are updated to reflect the findings from the 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey with minor editorial changes. I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #23. [PI] The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with minor edits. I voted in favor. This is wonderful PSA, it meets a need, and we have already produced it.

Advisory Action #24. [PI] The video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered

from the process be forwarded to the 2013 Conference Public Information Committee for their review. I voted in favor. Without the distribution and tracking, we are wasting our money on these videos, because the producer does the distribution and tracking and gets us decent air time.

Advisory Action #25. [PI] The revised "Anonymity Wallet Card" be approved. I voted against. Hard for me to justify this expense, although it is not that great. Obviously, a lot of people disagreed.

Advisory Action #26. [Report and Charter] All changes to The A.A. Service Manual be noted by vertical margin change bars in the edition in which the change appears for the first time. As a way to identify changes, I liked this, and voted for it.

Advisory Action #27. [Report and Charter] The following term and definition be added to The A.A. Service Manual in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service in the section titled Glossary of General Service Terms: "Rotation – the spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership." I voted in favor.

Advisory Action #28. [Report and Charter] The current illustration on page S16 be modified in the following manner:

a) Replacing the bottom section of the illustration that deals with the General Service Board and its two operating corporations with the corresponding section from a previous version, minus the table-and-chair graphic.

b) Changing "District Committees" to "Districts."

I voted in favor, mainly because of the second change.

Advisory Action #29. [Trustees] The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2012: [Class A, non-alcoholic trustees identified by full names, Class B., alcoholic trustees only identified by first names] I voted in favor.

Class A Trustees Class B Trustees (continued)

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE Barbara K.

Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D. Roberta L.

Corliss Burke, B.Ed. J. Gary L.

Ward B. Ewing, D.D. George G. M.

The Honorable Rogelio R. Flores Don M.

John Fromson, M.D. Don M.

Michele Grinberg, J.D. Eleanor W. N.

Class B Trustees Pamela R.

Rod B. Clayton V.

Donald C. Andrew W.

Nancy H. Marty W.

Advisory Action #30. [Trustees] The appointment of the following officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012: I voted in favor.

Officers of the General Service Board

Chairperson Ward B. Ewing, D.D.

First vice-chairperson Pamela R,

Second vice-chairperson Michele Grinberg, J.D.

Treasurer Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE

Secretary El N.

Advisory Action #31. [Trustees] The January 2012 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2012: I voted in favor.

Assistant Treasurer Donald W. M.

Assistant Secretary Rick W.

This appointment process is in accordance with the 2007 General Service Board Bylaws.

Advisory Action #32. [Trustees] The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2012: I voted in favor.

Andrea G. B. J. Gary L. Phyllis A. H. Rod B. George M.
Rick W. Joe D. William N. Roberta L.

Advisory Action #33. [Trustees] The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2012: I voted in favor (the two empty spots are going to be filled and the last of this fight between the two corporations ended in the next year or two, I hope and believe).

Ami B. Nancy H.

Don M.

Donald C. Clayton V.

[vacancy]

Michele Grinberg, J.D.Albin Z.

[vacancy]

NOTE: The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Bylaws state that its board shall be comprised of “no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10) directors.”

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS/NO ACTION TAKENS:

There were 55 additional considerations, 6 Committee recommendations that did not result in Conference advisory actions, and 6 floor actions that did not result in Conference advisory actions. Here are the “high lights” of those matters, all of which appear in the 2012 Confidential Final Report at pp. 56-60.

FLOOR ACTION: GSC recommends that the General Service Board form a subcommittee comprised of “stakeholders” to develop a plan to address publication, distribution and finances of La Viña with the objective of self-support by 12/31/15. Motion to decline to consider failed. Vote: failed. I voted in favor. In its first 17 years of existence, La Viña has incurred losses of \$1,410,279. It was not created to be self-supporting and it has never been self-supporting. There’s currently a G.S.B. Ad Hoc Committee reevaluation of the Board’s commitment to continue production/support of La Viña. In January 2012, Grapevine, Inc.’s Board asked G.S.B. to reassess the cost incurred in continuing to provide La Viña as service literature. Can we afford “spiritual parity” for La Viña as a service to the Fellowship? If so, where will we get the money? This item will be back again.

CORRECTIONS: Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

The committee recommended that the 1987 video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be remade in order to accurately reflect current-day life in correctional facilities, while retaining the original message and intent consistent with A.A. Traditions, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000.00.

Recommendation failed. I voted against.

LITERATURE: The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the Trustees’ Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on

spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee forwarded to the Trustees' Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

Terry S.'s Notes: There were 23 draft stories submitted to the Conference Committee on Literature, which the committee apparently commented did not present as broad a range of spirituality as the committee would have liked to see. Without being able to provide the stories for the Area to review, this delegate can only report that the stories included a number of spiritual experiences in which individual members' Higher Powers might be characterized as being A.A. or the program (perhaps 8 stories or so), as "residing within" or being an "inner resource" or "inner compass" (perhaps 5 stories or so), with other stories being those of individuals seeking conscious contact through meditation, "oneness," awe and wonder, prayer, enlightenment or ideas (perhaps 7 stories, with no attempt to define or describe the Higher Power sought) and stories self-defined as being "agnostic" (perhaps 3 stories). None of the stories appeared to criticize or make negative comments about the spirituality of other members or about any religious orientations.

CHANGING TRADITION ELEVEN: Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the Long Form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the Conference several times, the committee requested the trustees' PI Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information.

A change to a Tradition by the General Service Conference cannot be made without first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world [this would include all A.A. groups known to the GSCs of the world] and getting written consent of at least 3/4ths of all groups responding. The AA Service Manual (2011-2012 Ed.), pp. 105-106, 5th paragraph "A RESOLUTION" by Bill W., adopted at the 20th Anniversary A.A. Convention, 1955.

PROPOSED CHANGE: "[Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of] all public media of communication [or such other language as the conference sees fit]," instead of "[. . .] press, radio and films."

FACEBOOK: The committee considered favorably the suggestion from the trustees' Public Information Committee that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing

information about A.A. to the public. Before proceeding, however, the committee requested that the General Service Board explore all aspects of this social media page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 Conference Committee on PI an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page, including sample content and estimates for implementation cost and maintenance. A.A. Internet Guidelines available at G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site – www.aa.org homepage – “For Groups and Members” tab – click on “Group Life”, click “+” on “PI” click on “A.A. Guidelines on the Internet”.

Terry S., Panel 61, Area 40 (Montana)

GENERAL SHARING

There were upcoming event announcements and thank you's before closing.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to close the assembly. Sharon asked us to close with the “Responsibility Statement”

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B., Secretary

2013 SPRING ASSEMBLY APRIL 6-7, 2013

2013 FALL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2013