

AREA 40 SPRING ASSEMBLY

Yogo Inn
Lewistown, Montana
April 14 -15, 2012

FRIDAY, April 13 - Sapphire Room

A.A. meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. *(This meeting is separate from the Assembly and is self-supporting; a 7th tradition basket will be passed)*

SATURDAY SESSION, April 14- Sapphire Room

7:30-8:00 GSR's and visitors sign in with their District's DCM

(DCM's please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary at 8:45 am as you leave for the committee meetings)

8:00-8:45 **Welcome** — Serenity Prayer, Traditions and Concepts, housekeeping
Roll Call, Passed Actions Fall 2011 Assembly — Area Secretary, Linda B.
Financial Highlights — Area Treasurer, Lori F.
Orientation to the Assembly — by the Delegate, Terry S.

8:45-11:00 **Standing Committee Meetings:**

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy Kendall Room
CPC/Trustees Room 150
Corrections/International Conventions Terrace Room
Finance Gypsum Room
Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC) Room 164
Literature Snowy
Public Information/Report and Charter & Website... Judith
Treatment Facilities/Agenda Moccasin

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

8:45-11:00 **Workshops** (Sapphire Room) - for those not attending committee meetings
(8:45) "Change — Essential to A.A.'s Growth" led by past delegate Andrew W.
(10:00) "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare" led by past delegate Mark S.

11:00-12:00 **DCM Reports¹ & Q&A for DCM's**

12:00-1:30 **Recess for Lunch**

1:30-2:30 **Standing Committee Meetings** (continued at same locations as morning)

Breakout (Sapphire Room) - "What is on your mind and heart" for those not attending committee meetings led by past delegates Andrew W. and Mark S.

2:30 - 3:00 **Delegate's Report** — Terry S.

3:00–3:15 **Questions & Answers** for Delegate and Ask-It-Basket

3:15-3:30 **Coffee Break**

¹ Reports: 3 minute time limit with email (or written) copies to the Area Secretary and Triangle Editor

- 3:30-5:00 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
CPC/Trustees – Libbie L.
Treatment Facilities/Agenda – Colby D.
Finance – Lori F.
Grapevine/Policy & Admissions – Gary E.
Public Information/Report – Paula H.
Archives/Structure – Joe H.
Literature – Mary M.
Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums – Terry H.
- 5:00-7:00 Recess for Dinner**
- 7:00-8:00 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (Continued)**
- 8:00-8:15 Questions & Answers – Ask-it-basket and questions from the microphone**
- 8:15-8:30 Coffee Break**
- 8:30-10:00 GSR Breakout – Led by Past Delegate (Mark S.): Ask-it-basket and sharing
DCM Breakout – Led by Past Delegate (Andrew W.): Ask-it-basket and
sharing**

SUNDAY SESSION – April 15

- 8:00-8:30 Roundup Reports¹: Fall 2011 Helena; Spring 2012 Kalispell; Fall 2012
Missoula
Intergroup Reports¹: South Central Intergroup; Park County Intergroup;
Mission Valley Intergroup; Flathead Valley Intergroup**
- 8:30-8:50 Past Delegate Sharing – Mark S., Panel 44**
- 8:50-9:10 Past Delegate Sharing – Andrew W., Panel 57**
- 9:10-9:45 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**

ADJOURN –PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

Please mark your calendars:

***2012 Fall Assembly, September 22 – 23, 2012;
2013 Spring Assembly, April 6 – 7, 2013;
2013 Fall Assembly, September 21 – 22, 2013***

The Yogo Inn is a non smoking facility, but they graciously place ashtrays/receptacles outside and ask that smoking be limited to the outside smoking area. Our thoughtful compliance and courtesies are appreciated.

Pages 3-10 contain the standing committee agenda items. In addition to reviewing Area 40 reports, there are seven Area 40 agenda items — five for the Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee and two for the Public Information Committee. Most of the committee agenda items come from the General Service Conference agenda which will be held April 22 – 28.

The Area 40 agenda items and background material were sent to their respective committee chairs for distribution to their committees. Copies are also being forwarded to each DCM with the preliminary agenda.

The General Service Conference Agenda and all background materials were sent to all DCM's and committee chairs to be passed on to committee members and GSR's for research, review and discussion. This process, hopefully, leads to a well-informed *conscience/decision*.

If your Group has any comments, questions, or concerns or would like copies of any background information, please contact the appropriate Area Committee Chair. The names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the Area Committee members are in *The Triangle* (the Area newsletter). Your DCM also has this contact information or you can email the committee chair through the Area's website www.aa-montana.org.

(NOTE: The process by which items come to the Assembly is detailed in the *Area 40 Committee System Policies & Procedures* manual which is available on the Area website or through your DCM).

The General Service Conference items on our agenda will not come to the floor of the Assembly as *recommendations (as motions made and seconded)*. Instead each committee will report an informed sense of the committee to the Assembly. We will then seek *an informed sense of the Area on the Assembly floor by discussion and a show of hands* to provide our Delegate with a sense of Area 40's informed group conscience. This "sense of the Area" will assist him in preparing for and participating in the General Service Conference.

A number of GSC committees have an item in their background materials for election of the conference committee chairperson and/or an "other items" designation, with no background, which appears to be an empty item to allow for any last minute additions. These items are not included in our Area Agenda because our delegate does not need a sense of the Area on them.

Review of Concepts I, II, III, X, XII and Tradition 2 can help us understand our process.

The following Committees/Committee agenda items are listed in order of presentation.

CPC/Trustees — Libbie L.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (CPC) - Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 CPC Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (CPC) – GSC

- A. "A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community" DVD:
1. Discuss report on replacing the current "A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community" DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material.
 2. Review draft product of replacement DVD.

- B. Consider adding the phrase “nonalcoholics may attend as observers” to the “Singleness of Purpose” statement in C.P.C. literature.
- C. Review contents of Cooperation With the Professional Community Kit and Workbook.

Trustees – GSC

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. West Central Regional Trustee.
 - 2. Western Canada Regional Trustee.
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- E. Review report from the trustees’ Nominating Committee on the “Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate.”

TREATMENT/AGENDA – Colby D.

Treatment – Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Treatment Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities – GSC

- A. Discuss trustees’ progress report on the review of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.
- B. Discuss a suggestion to develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.
- C. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Agenda – GSC

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2013 General Service Conference.
- B. Determine the inventory questions listed in the “INVENTORY PLAN,” which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C., that will be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences.
- C. Consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C.
- D. Review suggestions for presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2013 G.S.C.
- E. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

FINANCE – Lori F.

Finance – Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Treasurer Spring 2012 Assembly Report.
- B. Review the Area 40 Triangle Editor Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Finance – GSC

- A. Consider suggestion to increase the Conference delegate fee.
- B. Review the current \$3,000 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and one-time bequests.
- C. Review proposed Self-Support Kit.
- D. Review draft document of self-support/financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship.
- E. Review information concerning General Service Office/A.A.Grapevine Financial Projections for the years 2013 and 2014.
- F. Consider a review of continuing financial commitment to La Viña per the 2001 General Service Conference Advisory Action that “La Viña continue to be published by the A.A. Grapevine and supported by the General Services Board as a service to the Fellowship.”

GRAPEVINE/POLICY & ADMISSIONS (GSC) – Gary E.

Grapevine – Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Grapevine Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Grapevine – GSC

- A. Consider proposal for A.A. Grapevine’s Audio Strategy.
- B. Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2013 and later.
- C. Consider “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items.
- D. Consider incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position “Grapevine Representative” into the Service responsibilities and duties of the “General Service Representative.”
- E. Review Grapevine Workbook.

Policy/Admissions – GSC

- A. Approve request for two members from the General Service Board of India to attend the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.
- B. Review dates for the 2015 General Service Conference.
- C. Consider modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference.
- D. Review policy and guidelines regarding the use of personal electronic devices at the General Service Conference.

Motion from the General Service Board to the 62nd General Service Conference

- A. The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board 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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION /REPORT AND CHARTER & WEBSITE— Paula H.

Public Information (PI) – Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 PI Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.
- B. Review the operation of the Area 40 888 number.
 - 1. Area 40 888 number status.
 - 2. Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee Agenda Item E regarding PI responsibilities for phone directories.
- C. Review the Area Webmaster Spring 2012 Assembly Report.
- D. Consider all business pertaining to the Web site operated by Area 40 Inc.
 - 1. Consider use of the Area 40 website as secure repository for the collection of Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact (BTG) information from each district in Area 40. Each DCM or District designee would input the temporary contact information for their District. Each DCM or designee would be responsible for maintaining and updating current information. In order for the list to be complete and functional, it is suggested that each person signing up as a BTG contact would list their full name, mailing address, city, state, zip code, sober date, gender, age range, phone number and email. However, it would be up to each person signing up on the list whether or not to use his or her full name. First name and last initial are sufficient to make a contact. Since the website is a protected site, passwords for the functioning of editing, and viewing contact information will be restricted to the DCM, or district designee and the Area 40 web master.
 - 2. Consider forming an ad hoc committee, including the webmaster as a member, to consider ways to place Area background material and other material, such as contact information for Bridging the Gap and Temporary Contact participants, on our Area web site in secure locations.

Public Information (PI) – GSC

- A. Consider 2011 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- B. Review the final draft of the "Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey" pamphlet.
- C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
 - 1. Consider approving the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza."
 - 2. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2010 television P.S.A., "My World."

3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza," at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, as an addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
 4. Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.
 5. Consider production of new video P.S.A.s.
- D. Consider a suggestion that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public; this presence would serve as an informational resource only, with no interpersonal communication capabilities.
- E. Discuss requests related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven.
- F. Consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.
- G. Review contents of Public Information Kit and Workbook.

Report and Charter - GSC

- A. *The A.A. Service Manual, 2012-2013 Edition:*
1. Review revisions from the A.A. Grapevine Board.
 2. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.
 3. Review revisions from the General Service Board.
 4. Review list of editorial updates.
 5. Consider suggestion for revising text on "Conference Panels," on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term "panels."
 6. Consider suggestion to add a section on the "spirit of rotation."
 7. Consider suggestion to replace the "STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE" illustration on page S16 with a previous version.
- B. Review draft of text to add to Article 3 in the Current Conference Charter that includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal.
- C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).
- D. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

ARCHIVES/AREA 40 STRUCTURE & POLICY — Joe H.

Archives- Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Archives Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.
- B. Review the Area 40 Archivist Spring 2012 Assembly Report.
- C. Review the National AA Archives Workshop Committee Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Area 40 Structure & Policy

- A. Review the Area 40 Web site content, with particular attention to consistency between the Web site guidelines and Area 40 Policy and Procedures, suggesting changes to the web site guidelines as may be necessary for consistency with Policy and Procedures.

- B. Consider a method of replacing an Area Officer or Area Advisor who resigns or becomes unable to serve.**
- 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.**
- C. Consider that Area 40 form an ad hoc committee to revise the current Assembly Agenda process, in light of the comments and suggestions in the Fall 2011 Assembly Inventory, and present their proposed revisions to the Fall 2012 Assembly.**
- D. Consider removing inconsistencies in Area Secretary and Area Treasurer Guidelines and Qualifications. These inconsistencies were created as a result of the action passed at the Spring 2011 Assembly to include qualifications for Area service positions. Qualifications were accepted for these positions which require the Area Secretary to use GSO member database software (Q11.3 In addition to the computer requirements defined in the general section this position also requires the ability to use the GSO member database software) and the Area Treasurer to use electronic spreadsheets and financial software (Q12.4 In addition to the computer requirements defined in the general section this position also requires the ability to use electronic spreadsheets and financial software), but the ad hoc committee failed to delete conflicting language in the Guidelines stating that it is not a requirement to be computer literate or to use a computer for these positions. Statements to be removed:**
- G11.4 ... 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.**
- G12.4 ... 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.**

- E. 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.
- F. Review Area 40 Policy and Procedures updates which reflect past actions (Fall 2010, Spring 2011, and Fall 2011) since last update (September 2010).

Archives- GSC

- A. Review request for changes to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Archives.
- B. Review Archives Workbook.

LITERATURE – Mary M.

Literature - Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Literature Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Literature - GSC

- A. Discuss 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.
- B. Consider the draft of the revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.
- C. Consider the final draft of the revised Living Sober booklet.
- D. Discuss a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service."
- E. Discuss 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.
- F. Consider a request to add the A.A. Preamble to the front inside pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
- G. Consider a request to add the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to As Bill Sees It.

CORRECTIONS/INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS – Terry H.

Corrections - Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Corrections Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report.
- B. Review the Area 40 Pink Can Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

International Conventions/Regional Forums - Area 40

- A. Review the 2012 WCRAASC Committee Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

Corrections – GSC

- A. Review the draft revision of the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”
- B. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.”
- C. Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”
- D. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

International Conventions/Regional Forums - GSC

- A. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums.
- B. Review 2025 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.