

AREA 40 SPRING ASSEMBLY

APRIL 14-15, 2012

Sharon S. opened the assembly with the Serenity Prayer at 8 am on Saturday, April 14, 2012. Heidi from District 72 read the 12 Traditions and Virginia from District 71 read the 12 Concepts.

Roll call was taken by Linda B. There were 108 voting members and 32 visitors for a total of 140 in attendance at this assembly. All officers and standing committee chairs were present. District 12 Alt DCM Nick D. stood in for Sandy A. and District 72 Alt DCM Nick G. stood in for Catherine J.

Actions Passed at the Fall 2011 Assembly

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

Motion passes. For 77 Against 5

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

Motion passes. For 64 Against 18

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

The motion passed. For 67 Against 15

The Area 40 Finance Committee recommends the 2012 Budget.

Motion passes. The vote was 82 votes For with none opposed.

The updates for Fellowship New Vision and accurate information for each group in Area 40 has to be submitted no later than May 1st to the records department of the General Service Office. There are only 4 out of 14 districts that have submitted their updated paperwork to me. If your group has changes, please see your DCM and get that information recorded on the group update sheets that were mailed out to them early in February. All group information now will need to be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the records department. I have group update forms available. If you have your update sheets completed, I can take them this weekend and still get the information inputted into the Fellowship New Vision Database. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your area secretary. Linda B.

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate Report- Sharon S.

As a part of experimenting with some changes to the Agenda for the Assembly, I omitted presenting my report. I was reminded that it would be appropriate to submit a report in some form, so I am submitting this report for inclusion in the minutes. I am also emailing it to the Area Committee and will have it available at the Finance Committee, should they wish to review it.

In reviewing the detailed notes from the inventory taken at the Fall Assembly, I noticed that there were many comments about the agenda. Since we didn't include any plans to take action on the inventory, I visited with other committee members and past delegates and have made some changes in the agenda. The most significant change is moving the standing committee chair and non-voting member reports to their respective committees and the DCM reports to later in the morning. I am hoping this helps sustain some of the Saturday morning energy that you all bring to the meeting. I also provided a little more time during the day for questions and answers. Please take a few minutes and answer the questions on the evaluation form before you leave on Sunday. We want to know what worked and what didn't and any suggestions or comments you have.

Thank you for sending me to the West Central Region Service Conference and the preassemblies in Laurel and Boulder. Although I planned to attend the preassembly in Corvallis, road conditions around Bozeman were not good because of one of our famous spring storms. Reluctantly, I decided not to try to drive on the icy roads. I knew the preassembly was in good hands.

I think Terry S. is doing a commendable job as our Delegate. He is very well informed on the agenda items and has given us (AA members in Area 40) many opportunities to study, question, and discuss the General Service Conference agenda items. I am confident we will send him to the Conference with a well-informed sense of our Area. Also, Terry has done a really good job at communicating with me, as Alternate Delegate. He has also used the Audio Conference option to keep in touch with the Area Committee between assemblies. We had Audio Conferences in October and January. The Area Committee does not make decisions on these calls, which are an opportunity to maintain contact and communication in between Assemblies. We did discuss the Triangle and its status in the January calls. The Triangle Editor is responsible for publication of eight editions annually and because only 5 of the 8 issues were published in 2011, we had to have a difficult conversation. A plan was suggested, and 3 issues have been published this year, as scheduled. My goal is to submit an article for each of the remaining 5 issues and I know the Triangle Editor would appreciate articles from other members also.

The next 3 assemblies have been scheduled (the next Area Chair will schedule 2014 and 2015):

- Fall 2012 Assembly September 22 – 23
- Spring 2013 Assembly April 6 – 7
- Fall 2013 Assembly September 21 – 22

The deadline for agenda items for the Fall Assembly is July 1. If you plan to submit an agenda item for that assembly, I would be delighted to help your home group with the process of preparing an agenda

item. The suggested flow of information is outlined in the Policy & Procedures (page 22). Since this flow includes the group and the district, embarking on this process this month is a good idea. Also, the fall assembly is an election assembly and I encourage everyone to consider who will be serving your group, your district, our area. Please think about:

- your own strengths and abilities, family and work commitments and where you could make a commitment to serve AA;
- your current service position — look around you and encourage those who might be qualified to take over your service position; let them know what is required;
- our current trusted servants and what makes them successful and who among the fellowship might be able to follow;
- reading Concept IX and Bill W.'s "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need" article.

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. Sharon S., Your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS-LORI F.



Alcoholics Anonymous Seventh Tradition

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Speaking of the Seventh Tradition, a contribution basket has been placed on the back table near the coffee pots for personal expressions of gratitude and support.



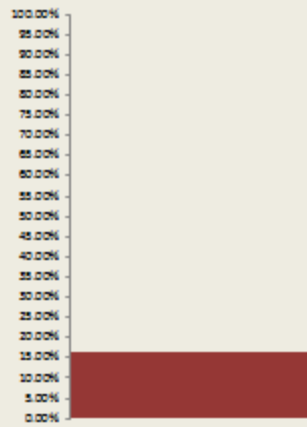
Thank you!!

**How is Area 40 doing
financially?**

Group Contributions as a Percentage of Budget

Month	Group Contributions
January	\$1,703.80
February	\$1,573.12
March	\$1,879.79
April	\$674.26
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
2012 Budget Goal	\$35,569.00
YTD Contributions	\$5,840.97
Percent of Goal	16.42%

2012 Budget Goal



Spending as a Percentage of Budget

Month	Area 40 Spending
January	\$1,317.01
February	\$1,586.46
March	\$3,266.56
April	\$1,003.16
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
2012 Budget Goal	\$35,569.00
YTD Expenses	\$7,773.59
Percent of Goal	21.87%

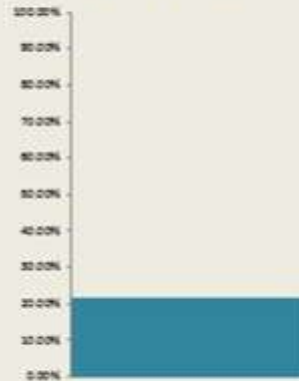
Percent of Goal



Spending as a Percentage of Budget

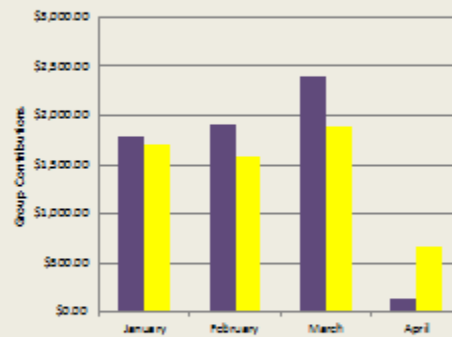
Month	Area 40 Spending
January	\$1,917.01
February	\$1,586.46
March	\$3,266.94
April	\$1,003.16
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
2012 Budget Goal	\$5,563.00
YTD Expenses	\$7,773.59
Percent of Goal	21.87%

Percent of Goal



Group Contributions 2011/2012 Comparison

Month	2011	2012
January	\$1,776.99	\$1,708.80
February	\$1,912.90	\$1,578.12
March	\$2,399.48	\$1,879.79
April	\$147.50	\$674.26
TOTAL	\$6,236.87	\$5,840.97



Group Contributions for 2012 are **DOWN** 6% from 2011.

Group Contributions for 2012 must increase 75% over 2011 contributions to meet our budgeted expenses and maintain our prudent reserve.

If contributions don't increase, we must either use our prudent reserve or cut expenditures.

Area 40 Committed Spending by Past Action

Two **Area Assemblies** per year, including:

- Travel, meals and lodging for Area Officers and Committee Chairs, and Triangle Editor (12)
- Travel, meals and lodging for Archivist, Area Advisor and Webmaster
- Travel, meals and lodging for two Past Delegates to attend each assembly
- Travel, meals and lodging for Regional Trustee to attend the Fall Assembly in non-election year.

Area 40 Committed Spending by Past Action

Area Delegate expenses, including:

- Visiting each District (14) once per rotation
- Attending Spring and Fall Roundups each year
- Attending the WCRAASC each year
- Annual contribution for the General Service Conference – minimum \$1,200.00. Currently we **must** budget \$3,239.00 per past action.

Area 40 Committed Spending by Past Action

Other committed spending includes:

- Archives storage rent (\$350/month)
- Archivist travel expenses to functions in the area. We **must** budget \$500 per past action.
- Area 40 website hosting (\$300 maximum)
- Provide computers and software for the Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer and Triangle Editor if needed.
- Expenses to print and mail the Area 40 Triangle newsletter to all groups 8 times per year (paid subscriptions to offset)
- Area 40 Hotline expenses up to \$250/month

Area 40 Budgeted Expenses Not Required by Past Action

- Delegate incidental expenses in New York (additional nights at hotel, taxis, etc.)
- Delegate expenses to Regional Forum in odd years
- Delegate visits (reports) to each district every year
- Area Chair expenses (other than to assemblies)
- Hotline Directory listings
- Officer and Committee Chair travel (other than to assemblies)
- Conference calls and other phone calls
- Literature purchases above and beyond one copy of each item available

“Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility – one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.”

~Bill W., *The Language of the Heart*, pg. 221

Where do we go from here?

What we know:

Group contributions are falling far short of what is needed to meet the 2012 budget.

What we don't know:

WHY?

Financial Reports

Budget vs. Actual by Committee/Project- Jan-April 2012

				Jan-Apr 12	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income				9857.51		
Expenses						
Spring Assembly				3,741.30	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fall Assembly				0.00	0.00	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	3,239.00	3,239.00
Other Expenses				0.00	700.00	700.00
Other Expenses NYC				0.00	75.00	150.00
Roundups				0.00	0.00	600.00
Travel expenses				44.64	0.00	1,400.00
Total Delegate Expenses				<u>1,244.64</u>	<u>4,014.00</u>	<u>6,089.00</u>
Area Chair Expenses				187.54	310.00	1,000.00
Archivist Account						
Archivist Display & Travel				0.00	0.00	500.00
Archives Storage				1,400.00	1,400.00	4,200.00
Total Archivist Account				<u>1,400.00</u>	<u>1,400.00</u>	<u>4,700.00</u>
Literature Chair						
General literature purchases				928.32	760.00	760.00
Total Literature Chair				<u>928.32</u>	<u>760.00</u>	<u>760.00</u>
Public Information Chair						
Area Hotline Expenses				710.50	1,000.00	3,000.00
Directory Listings				542.10	520.00	1,750.00
Total Public Information Chair				<u>1,252.60</u>	<u>1,520.00</u>	<u>4,750.00</u>
Website				155.88	170.00	170.00
Triangle				1,500.15	1,500.00	4,000.00
Committee Chair Post/Supplies				407.83	300.00	500.00
Committee Chair Travel				272.89	550.00	1,000.00
Computer Hardware/Software				0.00	150.00	150.00
Conference/Phone Calls				111.09	100.00	200.00
Total Program Services				<u>12,799.26</u>	<u>18,024.00</u>	<u>35,569.00</u>
TOTAL				<u>-2,941.75</u>	<u>-18,024.00</u>	<u>-35,569.00</u>

Budget by Actual by Line Item

	<u>Jan-Apr 12</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Individual Contributions	346.00		
Group Contributions	7,472.17		
District Contribution	366.28		
7th Tradition	654.56		
Triangle Subscriptions	380.00		
Sales of Service Manuals	<u>638.50</u>		
Total Income	<u>9,857.51</u>		
Expense			
Travel Expenses			
Gas	995.48	1,886.00	4,366.00
Mileage	293.47	462.00	1,147.00
Meals	683.76	1,270.00	2,425.00
Lodging	2,688.59	3,592.00	6,562.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	0.00	150.00	150.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>3,239.00</u>	<u>3,239.00</u>
Total Travel Expenses	<u>5,861.30</u>	<u>10,599.00</u>	<u>17,889.00</u>
Rent			
Archives storage	1,400.00	1,400.00	4,200.00
Meeting space	<u>947.32</u>	<u>1,170.00</u>	<u>2,350.00</u>
Total Rent	<u>2,347.32</u>	<u>2,570.00</u>	<u>6,550.00</u>
Literature Expenses			
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	325.22	760.00	760.00
Service manuals (for resale)	<u>603.10</u>		
Total Literature Expenses	<u>928.32</u>	<u>760.00</u>	<u>760.00</u>
Photocopies / printing	1,201.64	1,350.00	3,475.00
Dues, registration, fees	170.88	170.00	170.00
Postage	381.99	628.00	1,303.00
Supplies	519.12	177.00	322.00
Telephone			
Directory Listings	542.10	520.00	1,750.00
Phone and Conference Calls	111.09	100.00	200.00
800 Number	<u>710.50</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Telephone	<u>1,363.69</u>	<u>1,620.00</u>	<u>4,950.00</u>
Miscellaneous expense	<u>25.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>12,799.26</u>	<u>18,024.00</u>	<u>35,569.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(2,941.75)</u>	<u>(18,024.00)</u>	<u>(35,569.00)</u>

Net Income	<u><u>(2,941.75)</u></u>	<u><u>(18,024.00)</u></u>	<u><u>(35,569.00)</u></u>
Checkbook Balance 4-30-12	12,255.54		
Prudent Reserve	(11,856.33)		
Archivist Account	<u>(1,044.83)</u>		
Operating Balance	(645.62)		

ORIENTATION TO THE ASSEMBLY- TERRY S.

My name is Terry S. and I am an alcoholic. You have given me the gift of serving as your Panel 61, Area 40 Delegate to the General Service Conference, last year and this year, and I am very grateful.

Our Area Chair, Sharon S., has prepared the agenda for this assembly, and will chair the assembly. We loosely follow Robert's Rules of order, and Sharon is the final authority on any points of procedure. Everyone who is attending their first Area Assembly, please stand up? Thank you! Welcome! We've been waiting for you. A.A. survives and thrives on newcomers. That is every bit as true in service as it is in recovery. We ask that you do two things. First, please participate! Service is not a spectator sport. Second, keep coming back! There's work to be done, and we need your help. My job now is to give you a brief orientation to this assembly.

As soon as I finish this orientation, we are starting our committee meetings. Pages 3-10 of the Area 40 Spring Assembly Agenda list the agenda items each committee will consider. Here in Area 40 we use a committee system based on the committee system at the General Service Conference. Each of our standing service committees will meet in separate rooms. Feel free to attend any of the committee meetings. If you prefer, you can attend the Workshops that will be held in this room while the standing committees are meeting. The committee meetings are led by the Area Committee chairs except for the Finance Committee, which is led by the Area Treasurer. Each committee discusses the items on the agenda for that committee. Many of the items are the agenda items for the 62 General Service Conference, which will convene in Rye, New York, next weekend, and run through the following week. The rest of the agenda items are Area 40 specific items. Each committee will discuss their agenda items, for both Area 40 and the General Service Conference. Most of our Committees have secondary assignments, doubling up on categories of agenda items.

On each item, the voting members of the Committee will decide whether to recommend an action by our Assembly, make a comment about the item, or to take no action. Although only the actual committee members vote, anyone can attend the meeting and participate in the discussion of the agenda items. For those of us who are not in the committee meetings, two of our past delegates, Andrew Ware and Mark Sullivan will lead workshops here in this room. The times and topics are in your agendas, as are the rooms in which the various committees will meet.

Every Assembly we invite two of our past delegates to participate in the Assembly, in one or two workshops, in breakout sessions and in sharing. We are blessed in Area 40 to have a stellar group of past delegates who have retained their love of and enthusiasm for Alcoholics Anonymous. We can all always learn from them.

At 11:00 a.m. we will reconvene in this room for brief reports for our DCMs about what has been happening in their districts. At 12:00 we break for lunch, and at 1:30 the committee meetings resume in the same rooms, and there will be a "Breakout" session in this room, led by Mark and Andrew, on "What is on your mind and heart?" Again, you can attend any of the committee meetings or the breakout session.

I'll be giving the delegate's report at 2:30, in this room. Then, after a coffee break, at 3:30 we will convene a floor session, in this room, of the entire Assembly, to hear the reports of our committees, and any recommendations or comments they have on the agenda items. After discussion on any recommendations, we will probably vote on them. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum (two-thirds of the voting members present). By past action, a valid vote with two-thirds of the votes cast in favor of an action passes. There will also be time for minority opinions after a vote on a committee recommendation. Minority opinions help ensure that we have an open discussion on each issue and that no voice is squelched in the process.

For all of us, new or veteran, please participate. Take part in the discussions. If you are confused, then ask questions. Ask the people around you. Go to the microphones and ask. We are seeking clarity and consensus, but it takes a full discussion to get there. In the interest of saving time, if someone else has already expressed your view, it is not necessary to repeat it. If nobody has expressed your view, get up and go to a microphone and share it with us. An informed group conscience requires voicing of all views about the item.

After a coffee break, the curtain will divide this big room into two rooms, and there will be a G.S.R. breakout at one end, and a D.C.M. breakout at the other end, chaired by Andrew and Mark. You don't have to be a D.C.M. or G.S.R. to participate in one of the breakouts. It is a chance for everyone who wants to be there to ask questions, share in discussion and get answers about service-related topics.

We will resume on Sunday morning, and conclude our business, usually by noon. Finally, a reminder to get things started: please, GSRs, sign in with your DCM. DCMs, turn the completed sign in sheets to the Area Secretary, Linda B. This will enable us to determine how many voting members are present and to determine the number of votes required for a quorum, which is two-thirds of all voting members.

Thank you all for being here. Let's have fun and get the work of Area 40 done! This fall, we will be electing our new trusted servants for the next two year rotation. Please be thinking about whether it is time for you to stand for a position on the Area Committee. We need all of you to participate, and welcome your willingness to do so. Thank you for my sobriety, and for this opportunity to serve.

Terry S. Panel 61, Area 40

WORKSHOPS

Workshops were led by Andrew W. and Mark S. in the Sapphire Room at 8:45 and 10:00. The topics discussed were: "Change-Essential to A.A.'s Growth" and "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare".

DCM REPORTS

District 11- Brandon M. gave highlights about District 11, but didn't submit any written report.

District 12- Thank you to Nick D. for his service in stepping up as Alternate DCM for District 12 at the last minute.

District 12 has currently has 34 meetings in 8 towns and is financially sound and retains no debt. We continue have four committees, Grapevine Rep, Daniel M., PI & CPC, Steve O., Treatment & Corrections, Cheryl D., Literature, Nick G.

District 12's Annual Mid-Winter Social was held Feb. 18th in Joliet at their community center with the district providing ham and turkey, with attendees providing a delicious assortment of side dishes. Our speaker that evening was Area 40 delegate Terry S, who shared his experience, strength and hope. Our gratitude to the many that attended and continue to attend this successful and joyous event every year.

A pre-assembly was held in Laurel on March 25th with several of Area 40 committee chairs, Delegate Terry S., Chair/Alt Delegate, Sharon S., and several of the Area 40 Committee Chairs in attendance.

The upcoming Annual Fireman's Point Campout has been set for August 17-19, 2012 at Fireman's Point, one half mile south of Columbus on Hwy 78. The campout has evolved to 2 nights and 3 days. Friday night kicks off the event with a potluck and speaker to follow at 7 pm. The SOB (Sober Old Bikers) Poker run will happen on Saturday, August 18th with a meeting on the river at the half-way point, ending again at Fireman's Point. A BBQ Saturday night with Chef Dave R., grill master, will prepare the meat provided by the district. At 7 pm, Rodney M. will share his story of what life was like, what happened and what his life is like for him now. The evening will conclude with toasted marshmallows, tall tales and resentment burning. Tentative plans for Sunday include District 11 providing a delicious breakfast followed by Area 40 delegate report from Terry S. Camping is free, with no utility hookups. Flyers will be on the Area 40 website once details have been confirmed. Please put the date Aug 17th-19th, 2012 on your calendar for Great Food, Fishing, Sharing & Story Telling, Fellowship, Friendship plus So Much Fun - it may be Illegal! Grateful to be of service, Sandy A., District 12 DCM

District 21- Our district is perhaps the most challenged district in Area 40. A round trip drive from one group to next is two to four hours. Unfortunately, we see our fellow groups infrequently and our district meetings are poorly attended as a result.

Our summer event, Wild West Soberfest, is situated on the Missouri River as it flows into Fort Peck Lake (Montana's largest body of water) and is scheduled for August 24-26. We are honored to have Sharon S., Libbie L., and Lori F. joining us. Of course, we will have speakers and campfire meetings. Our featured event, as far as some of are concerned, will be a marshmallow roast and sing-a-long with the kids. We

are not a glum lot. All food is provided. If you haven't visited our neck of the woods, this is a great opportunity.

The Sheriff of Valley County has invited us to bring meetings into the jail, as 97% of the inmates have alcohol and/or drug related problems. Valley County's new jail, unlike the old jail, offers a safe place for visitors to meet with inmates. This is facilitated by a glass wall, where we meet in pods. We are not able to meet in the same area without being separated by the wall. It causes some frustration as an us-them atmosphere is set up.

The Glasgow group has ten meetings per week and they average between five to 15 members per meeting. Currently there are some newcomers. They are adding new interest among the "old timers" and we seem to have more treats than usual. Many of us have mysteriously gained weight over the past months.

Wolf Point, Poplar and Plentywood continue to struggle to stay vibrant. There are few newcomers and membership is down; however Plentywood has added a third meeting. In sum total our district has 17 meetings a week. In some ways we are encouraged by the number of weeks—we now have the highest number of meetings, to date. Laura S. DCM

District 23- District 23 DCM Report to Area 40 Spring Assembly 4-14-12

Greetings All. Since the fall assembly, my travels have taken me to meetings in Bismarck, ND and Billings and Laurel, MT including the most recent WCRAASC and the North Dakota Area Fall Round-up and Assembly in Bismarck. Not to mention, events at the Savage Community Center on Halloween, New Year's Eve and the most recent St. Patrick's Day Soberfest.

The WCRAASC was my first service conference and I am glad I attended. At the District level, we have had (2) District meetings, at the Halloween event and the most recent St. Patrick's Day Soberfest. At the later, among other business, we voted to pay the entire amount of the Area Hotline Invoice, rather than just our percentage above Area's share. Our District's bank account is historically low, but the expenditure was worth it.

It is my opinion that we must be conscience of what we spend our funds on and put it up to a scrutiny comparing how such expenditure will help us carry the message. I agree with Carole B., Area Advisor, when she talks about this subject and how important it is, especially in times of frugal budgets, to put any expenditure to this test.

I got my first call from Answer Net, while I was in Billings for the WCRAASC. I was eating dinner at Denny's on March 3 and my cell phone rang. Answer Net was displayed on the caller ID, along with their number. It took twice for them to connect, as the first time I answered I said hello but to no avail. Anyway, they called back right away, advised that the caller was looking for a meeting in Sidney and eventually patched him through. We spoke and I asked if I could call him back (so as not to rack up the Answer Net bill). He consented, I called him back. We talked about the meeting location in Sidney going on that night. He was at the right place, just looking at a different building of the Church. As we talked,

he found the place. Following up, he was welcomed into the meeting, has since come back to other meetings, done service work and made contacts/friends in the program. A success story!

Concerning groups/meetings, in addition to the three registered groups-Monday Noon-Sidney; Welcome Home-Sidney, Life Again-Glendive; we have three unregistered groups: 12 to Life-Glendive; Fairview Big Book Study-Fairview; and the Circle group. Also, a member in Sidney, has been holding a Monday 7pm meeting, smoker friendly, in his home since April 9th. More to be revealed here. Lastly, there is a non-affiliated Sober Life Young Persons NA-AA Group-Sidney. With all these meetings/groups, one may have to get in the car (or truck) and attend a meeting at different times of the day, but one can make at least one meeting a day in the District. All of the meetings are reported to have good attendance.

As far as my plans, I have taken recovery road trips to attend meetings throughout District 23, the State, in addition to Round-Ups and meetings around the State/Country. We have held roving District Meetings. I launched District 23 DCM Ramblings, my newsletter on April 11th. Still in the process are: filling all District Committees, registering the unregistered meetings and re-developing Workshops co-sponsored by District 21 and 23. By God's grace, I am still willing and able to do whatever else comes my way as I "trudge the road of happy destiny" in my recovery efforts, ever keeping in mind--Rule 62--"Don't Take Yourself So Damn Seriously"."

I thank my Higher Power and my District for allowing me to be of service. I remain and hope you all are too, on The Beam Of Recovery Today, J. Scott W., DCM-District 23

District 31- I am happy to report many new meetings in District 31. Actually, these meetings have been going on for many years, however, I was able to attend these meetings and witness the quality of these meetings first hand. Lane Deer has meetings at the "Recovery Center" at noon Monday -Friday. Lane Deer also has a meeting at the Baptist Church at 8:00 PM Monday. There is a meeting in Lane Deer at the Catholic Church at 8:00 PM on Wednesday. Lane Deer also has a new meeting at 2 PM on Sunday at the 3-Mile Marker Meeting which is 3 miles north of Lane Deer.

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending the Tuesday meeting in Ashland at 8 PM. The meeting is small, but still going strong. There is a meeting on Tuesday in Busby at 8 PM at the Mennonite Church. Colstrip is my home group and our meetings are on Monday and Wednesday at 7:30 PM at the Library. I had the opportunity to attend the meeting in Jordan a couple of weeks ago. That one is on Sunday evening at 7 PM. I felt privileged to attend the Wednesday night meeting in Baker. It seems to be doing well. It is held at 7:30 PM. The meetings in Forsyth are on Tuesday at 7 PM. Of course, our biggest meetings are still in Miles City, with meetings at the Convent and the V.A. Hospital. The fellowship is small in District 31, but strong. Few in numbers but the serenity is pure and the people sincere.

It has made me a better person to attend all these meetings. If nothing else, it has strengthened MY program. I thank my Higher Power for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. My Higher Power believed in me even when I doubted my abilities.

I also want to thank Neil and Lance for nominating me for this position of DCM. Just like my Higher Power, they must have believed in me when I wasn't so sure.

In closing, I would like to say that the Colstrip Group will be having a barbeque for all of AA's, friends, and families on Saturday, June 16th. Now I know that Colstrip is a lone way for some of you, but we would love to see you there. So much so, that we would like to rent the B & B in Colstrip. It is a beautiful house overlooking the lake. We wanted to have this barbeque on June 9th but the Park Pavillion was rented out already. I know we can't accommodate everyone's schedule, but we tried very hard to consider all the other A.A. events happening around Montana. So, please come! It would be a pleasure to show you our little town. I work at the Power Plant in Colstrip. There are four operating units to the plant. Two produce 750 megawatt and two produce 350 megawatts of power. Of course, all of this power comes from coal. I will be checking into getting a short tour of the plant if anyone is interested. We plan to have the Park Pavillion rented which means horseshoes, volleyball, tennis, and of course the public pool will be open. It is a good size and has two water slides. Bring your kids and there is a small kiddie pool, also for the tiny tots. That is my report. Thank You. Corrina H., DCM, District 31

District 41- Once again I want to take a moment to thank all the GSR's and committee chairs and fellow members of District 41 that were able and willing to make the spring assembly this weekend. Thank you for all that you do, for your service and support of the groups in our district. You give much to so many in our district and throughout Area 40.

I'm happy to announce that we have 80% of our district groups represented by their GSR as well as alternate GSR's in district meetings and many were able to make the assembly as well. There is an increasing awareness among the groups to be more diligent about their support of district, area, and GSO. I have to say this past year has been a journey that I had not expected. God is working through all of us and I know personally God put in some overtime with me and as what usually happens in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is that I have received far more than I was able to give. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as DCM and am looking forward to giving back as much as possible.

Area 40 committee chairs have been an example of the program in action. Our delegate, Terry S., has been a Sam Wa Fair; he's been everywhere and with unwavering enthusiasm! We've got a good trusted servant in our delegate. District 41 is not going to be as busy as we were in the last year, but we do have our Founder's Day picnic coming up in June and Sam Wa Fair will be there and a campout in Monarch at the end of June. I think I speak for many in that we are excited about getting out to the events and roundups around our area this year. I would like to take the opportunity to say good job, Billings, and to all those who put together a terrific West Central Regional Service Conference. Thank you and God Bless. Yours in Love and Service, Casey L., DCM

District 42- My name is Duane C. and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 42. The district is struggling a little right now. Attendance numbers are down somewhat in all groups. We have 9 groups in our district, but 2 are inactive and only about half the groups are active at the district level. All participating groups report doing OK but numbers are down.

Augusts started a meeting about a year ago and they want to become a registered group and join District 72. The meeting at the prison at Shelby is going pretty good. Inmate attendance at meetings has increased over the last couple of months from 2 to 12. Probably, the increase is because we now have 2 nice looking lady volunteers attending meetings. We don't care what brings them to meetings; maybe they will learn something about A.A.

Valier had their Lake Francis roundup and it was said to be a success. The next one is being planned for the last weekend in July. Shelby had their annual Christmas party and they had a real good turnout. Choteau had its' annual New Years' Eve party and we had a lot of good fun and fellowship. We already reserved the same banquet room for next year. Yours in Love and Service, Duane C., DCM

District 51- Good morning, My name is Leo. I'm alcoholic and district committee member from district 51 headquartered in Havre, Mt. In attendance, we have five voting members as well as two committee representatives. Currently we have 13 active groups and approximately 35 meetings throughout the week and we are working on opening more. We also have meetings at the Eagles Manor retirement home which is an assisted living facility. Our Sunrise Alano club hosts a monthly speaker feed every month except in the late spring and summer months. My home group, the Fireside Group which is said to be the oldest group in town and also hosts a monthly birthday speaker meeting a meeting has recently started in Big Sandy. We are currently working on getting a meeting back up at the jail as well as our treatment facility. One long standing meeting, the road to recovery group, which was meeting at the labor hall in Havre, is looking for a new place to hold meetings since they lost the use of the labor hall. District 51 recently purchased a recording device and CD copying tower so that we can record our speakers. Our annual mini conference is scheduled for September 28th through the 30th. We have 4 sobriety campouts scheduled throughout the summer as well. Flyers are available on the table. Personally I look forward to attending Founders Day in Akron Ohio in June. I am going to try to attend as many of the state functions as possible as well. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Leo B. DCM District 51

District 61 -Greetings from District 61! We are going strong with approximately 40 groups and approximately 70 meetings per week. You can find a meeting between the hours of 6:30 am and 10 pm in District 61, depending on the day. All of our committee chair positions are currently filled! We take meetings in to Riverside, Elkhorn, MCDC, the local short-term psychiatric center at the hospital, the VA Hospital, and the Broadwater, Jefferson, and Lewis & Clark County Jails. We provide speakers for the Intensive Outpatient and DUI classes provided by Boyd Andrews. We had a great time at the Roundup in October; thank you so much for your support of this great event. That was followed by the Attitude of Gratitude of November, which was also a lot of fun. We got together with Districts 41, 71 and 72 in Boulder to put on a Pre-Assembly in March that was well-attended. We left well informed and well fed. Terry S. will give his delegate report at the Grapefest on June 16; check the area website for flyers soon. Last Chance Group will host its annual campout June 23 & 24; that happens at the Vigilante campground. Come join us! Respectfully submitted, Anne B.r, DCM, District 61

District 71- Hello, my name is Peggy H. and I am an alcoholic. We have 68 meetings in our district which includes Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Whitehall, Wise River, Opportunity, Lima,

Phillipsburg, Sheridan, and Twin Bridges. There are schedules on the back table. Two of your chairs had to give up their positions due to jobs. We did fill the P.I./CPC. Chair by a new person back to Montana. Her name is Roxie B. She is also the GSR for the Twin Bridges meeting. Roxie has a number of years of sobriety and she will be a great addition to our district. She can be reached at 406-498-8166. The other chair is our corrections chair and it is yet to be filled. I will cover it until a replacement is found. We bring meetings into the Butte Jail, the Watch program, the Start program, CPC Connections Corrections, and Warm Springs. This past Wednesday at our district meeting, someone brought Bridging the Gap material. He wondered why we have to have it. He said that when they get out they should just call the Hot Line or AA number in their city. We did discuss it at district and I said I would bring it to the area. If we could discuss it, it would be great.

We are going to be having a treatment and corrections workshop coming up soon. Mike T. Corrections is going to let me know what date he can be available to sit on the panel and then we will set a date. I will get the flyers out after the date is set. Butte is now getting back into MCDC and we would like to thank all other districts that have been going in. Thanks for listening. Yours in Service, Peggy H. DCM

District 72- There is good participation with the average of 20-25 members in each group. There are 45 registered groups in the district. Aug 4th Happy Campers, July 21st, HoBo Barbeque. We will be hosting the Spring Roundup, April 12- 14th, 2013. The Pony AA meeting has started up again for the summer season. Thank You, Nick G., Alt. 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 115 meetings held each week in this district by 41 AA groups. Our district meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Alano Club (450 W. Broadway Street in Missoula) from 2-4 p.m. Currently, all of our committee chairs are filled and between 15 and 20 GSRs are usually in attendance. Since our district spans across such a large geographical area we see less attendance from some of the smaller towns, although we do have regular attendance from several GSRs who travel over an hour to reach us every month. Now that spring is upon us the alternate DCM and I will be expanding our group visits to include more rural areas.

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.

The Area 40 2012 Fall Roundup committee has been busy planning the festivities that will be held October 5-7 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. The committee meets monthly and will increase in frequency as October approaches. Daycare will be available at the Round-Up—so parents are welcome to bring their families. Right now—registration to the Round Up is available at a \$5 discount from the normal rate. Fliers are available on the back counter. Our next Round Up Pre Registration Event will be the Spring Fling Event—held April 21st from 5-10 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Missoula. This event includes a potluck and dance. All are welcome to attend! Following the Spring Fling our next District Event will be the Founder's Day celebration. This includes a BBQ and outdoor activities like

softball and volleyball. Several AA teams have entered the City League. This is a tradition that grows in popularity each spring.

District 81 has seen the addition of several new groups since our last Assembly. Over the past two years we have seen about 15 new groups enter our District and all of them remain active today. At one of our group visits, the Alternate DCM and I were fortunate enough to witness an election process that incorporated a group's first GSR into service. It has been exciting to watch new groups and new AAs join us at the District level and here at Area Assembly.

Our District dealt with changes at our correctional institutions and the future of AA meetings in our jails was unclear. Our Corrections Chair formed a committee, met with the new Sherriff and arranged a system that will allow us to continue taking meetings into the jails. This was not an attack on AA—rather, a new Sherriff was making changes to how many outside people are permitted in and out of the jails and he achieved his goal by setting a certain number of people who can enter each year. An orientation was held to train all community members—AAs, church people and all other visitors who would enter the facilities. Of the 50 people allowed in the jail for the year, AA was allocated 25 of the slots thanks to our Correction Chair's swift action. He did a great job of establishing a line of communication, gathering volunteers who met the specific requirements to enter the jail and organizing a system that will ensure AA meetings are in the jails and literature is available for inmates.

In the last few months I have received several calls from community organizations that are requesting AA literature and inquiring about having an AA meeting held at their treatment center. I think this is an exciting compliment to AA—indicating that we are attracting people by example and following the Traditions as they have been taught to us. Because of these calls and the work of a dedicated P.I. Chair, AA schedules and pamphlets have been distributed to many more areas of our District where a potential alcoholic-in-need may find them. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Erin G., DCM

District 91- District 91 still reaches from Eureka to Elmo. There are 17 active groups There are approximately 100 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 their meeting hall for the upcoming meeting. Once and a while there are a few group members actually attend that are interested in General Service or at least were asked to set up the room. It seems to work very well as it brings the district to the groups. We have had approximately half or more of all groups represented at district at any given meeting. A motion was passed assist in the funding of GSR's to the Area Assembly for Groups that can not afford to send a Representative with a written request. The last few months have being difficult for our district. We have had 3 voting positions open until recently our Archive Chair was filled by Kacie M. for the remainder the rotation. I have made numerous changes to the Meeting schedule on the Area site and have been meeting with the Public Information Secretary of the Flathead Valley Intergroup to assist in making Valley Meetings schedules more standardized. Our District's Into Action Weekend in February was outstanding. Our theme: Spiritual responsibility in a Digital Age made great discussion topics. Rosie from the Solution Group in Missoula and Sheldon from Las Vegas were most excellent speakers. Next year, The Chair of the event is Brent J. and already has speakers and venue picked. It will be February 15th and 16th of next year. Keep your

eye open for the flier. We have Delegate sharing scheduled for next month during the state Round-up in Kalispell. The Spring 2012 Spring roundup committee is now meeting weekly gearing up for what is going to be most enjoyable event of the year in our area. Also keep your eyes open for fliers for The Flathead Valley Intergroup Campout at Emery bay on the Hungary Horse Reservoir. The Serenity Group's Founders Day Campout at Talley Lake and Fall Refresher in October and also the Whitefish Group's Campout are also big events. Thanks for allowing me to Serve. Sam B., DCM 91

District 93- I am Ja,y District 93 DCM and I am an Alcoholic. We would like to thank everyone who was able to make it to the Pre-assembly and are sorry that a few could not make it due to bad road conditions. We had around 30 people there. Right after it was over we had to eat again. We had our Spring Fling which was well attended. There were 11 acts in the talent show this year. We had people playing and singing songs some of them had even written the music. There was a comedy act and even a Hula dancer. We are now getting ready for our Annual Bitterroot Pinic & Campout at Painted Rocks, June 22nd, 23rd & 24th. Terry S. will be there the morning of the 24th around 10:00 am to give the the West Fork, so come and join us. There are fliers on the back table. If they run out thanks to Alex you can find them this year on the web site. If you find yourself in the Bitterroot come join us around the tables with 16 groups and 28 meetings a week from Lolo to Conner we will be there. Meetings, times, and places are also online and updated. Gratefulful to be of service, Jay T., DCM

Questions and Answers

1. I have been told in A.A. that I get to choose a higher power of my own understanding. I wonder why throughout the Big Book, God is referred to as He. Could we change He and/or God to Higher Power?

By past action, we won't be changing any of the first 164 pages, the Realm of the Spirit is roomy, we should just read it as it is written, we all get to choose a higher power of our own understanding, don't change the Big Book to fit you-change yourself to fit the Big Book.

2. As a GSR, how do I get the information and/or decisions generated by each committee (as well as background information) back to my group and how much, if any, of this information is sent on to the General Service Office.

Of The usual process is that the background information is first passed from the Delegate to the DCM's, committee chairs and officers. It is the responsibility of the DCM to see that groups know that all information is available for their group and can be duplicated. The DCM is the link between the district and also between the groups and the area committee. The service manual also gives much information about how information flows between all entities.

3. Is it a good idea to have an NA. presence at an A.A. Roundup?

Use the literature and use the traditions to guide us. The General Service office Desk can be asked to give information on shared experiences, we should believe in separations of the two fellowships by

carrying our own message and don't convolute the two separate entities, this is a violation of our tradition of affiliation, keep them separate

Workshops

Andrew W. and Mark S. led workshops on 3 topics. "Change-Essential to A. A.'s Growth", "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare", and "What's on your hearts and minds?" Here are highlights on the workshops.

Topic #1: It was brought up at the preassembly that changing the 11th Tradition would require a 75% positive response from all the groups worldwide, but what would it take to change that rule and then change the Tradition?

- That rule is part of a resolution that was put forth by Bill W. and adopted by the General Service Conference in 1955. You can read this resolution on page S105 in the Service Manual. It is highly unlikely that will be changed.

Topic #2: What is the deal with anonymity for AA's on Facebook?

- Will Facebook (FB) allow AA to have a non-interactive page? If so, then I think that's okay.
- What about personal anonymity in and FB?
- What would be the impact on AA if I broke my own anonymity at the FB level?
- If I go out again, I can create a black-eye for AA. The people I work with need to know that I don't drink but not that I'm in AA (unless they ask). I don't represent AA.
- There is one committee position that requires breaking our anonymity: CPC chair. Makes me nervous as a teacher in a small community.
- Telling someone one-on-one is not breaking a Tradition. It's a personal choice who we tell we are in AA. It's only breaking a tradition if it is at the level of press, radio and films.
- I came into AA thinking I was keeping a secret (that I was in AA). Over time, people I work with and interact with have found out that who I am and that I'm in AA. It's no longer a secret.
- What about people posting pictures of fellow AA members at AA events on FB? We need to tell them it's not okay.
- I don't go out to break my anonymity, but I'll do it if it will help someone. In my work I overheard some medical professionals that they couldn't schedule someone after 9 AM because they would be drunk. I let them know I could be a resource as a sober AA member.

Topic #3: How do we encourage our groups, our sponsees, and our friends to be more self-supporting?

- How can we encourage participation? It's more than just money. I don't want someone to just drop money in the basket and leave. We used to use the circle and triangle. We would tell people that if you want all of recovery, you need all three sides of the triangle. The financial contribution is just part of it. If you drop a \$5 in the basket, don't crumple it up – let other people see it.
- We can bring up the 7th Tradition as a topic in our meetings.
- My experience with the 7th Tradition is that that it is one of the key ones that sold me on AA. They weren't looking for money from outsiders. They weren't trying to sell me into a program. The sacrifice is important. Am I making a sacrifice for AA?
- At our last preassembly in Corvallis, we asked what are the services that groups get from GSO for their contributions? Similarly, what do our groups get from district for their contributions? Should district PI folks be getting public service announcements (PSA's) and taking them to local TV stations?
- You can view the PSA's right online. They are really good.
- Are the PSA's being played in Missoula? I see Al-Anon spots but not AA ones.
- I complained to my sponsor that "so-and-so" wasn't putting anything in the basket. My sponsor suggested that I put contribute for "so-and-so."

Delegate Report- Terry S.

My name is Terry, and I'm an alcoholic. It's my pleasure and privilege to serve as your Area 40 Panel 61 delegate to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the U.S. and Canada. Since the 2011 Fall Assembly I have participated in the 2011 Fall Roundup in District 61 last October, the 2011 Attitude of Gratitude in District 61 last November, an Area Committee telephone conference in January of this year, District 12's Mid-Winter Social this February, the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference in District 11 and PreAssemblies in Districts 12 and 61 this March, and a PreAssembly in District 93 this month, plus a couple of group events in between. But what I want to share with you today is what's happening in A.A., across the USA and Canada, and here in Area 40.

Let's talk about numbers. I came to A.A. in 1995, and I was in very sorry shape. The members of my first home group, the West End Group in Billings, were faced with a whole bunch of us new guys and new gals in the Fall of 1995, and most of us were in very sorry shape. Those of us who made our meetings (and even shared in them), made coffee or washed cups and ashtrays, and started to take the steps, we stuck around. Others of us new guys and gals didn't do those things, and got struck drunk, and disappeared for a while, coming back in worse shape, or maybe never making it back at all. Overall, our group was growing a little bit. After I moved to Helena in March 1996, both my first Helena home group, the We Care Group, and my current Helena home group, the Free for Lunch Group, also were both growing a little bit. Overall, from 1995 through 2012, A.A. was growing a little bit in the United States and Canada, although there have been some increases and decreases instead of steady, slow growth.

In 1995, our membership was 1,251,148 in the USA and Canada. Estimating that 1 out of 10 people in the USA and Canada probably is alcoholic, there were, in 1995, 29,563,200 alcoholics in the USA and Canada, so there were slightly less than 24 active alcoholics (23.6) for every member of our Fellowship in the USA and Canada. We have grown a little bit since 1995, but by a little bit I mean that while we have more members in 2012 than we did in 1995, we aren't keeping up with the rate of growth in the total number of alcoholics in the USA and Canada. At the beginning of 2012, there were 1,423,468d members of A.A. in the United States and Canada. There were 34,747,321 active alcoholics in those two countries, for just more than 24 drunks still out there drinking and causing trouble, for themselves and others (24.4). So the folks in the USA and Canada are making new drunks faster than the existing drunks are dying.

The number of active alcohols is growing at a faster rate than the rate at which they come to A.A. and get sober and stay in our Fellowship. We are not going to run out of drunks anytime soon. So, how can we do better? Well, we can look carefully at how we are attracting new members. Are we letting them know, without becoming promoters, where to find us and what we do and don't do? Are we still taking panels into schools? Are we still taking meetings into correctional and treatment facilities? Is there a list of contacts for calls to our 866 number looking for someone to talk to in your town? Do the members of the Fellowship in your town go out on Twelfth Step calls when they get the chance? Are they actively seeking those chances? Are there contacts lists of members of the Fellowship in your community who are willing to go and meet the folks coming to your town out of correctional and treatment facilities all across our Area, and willing to take those new folks to a meeting the first day they are there? Are there AA literature racks around your community, in the hospitals and schools and cop shops as well as correctional and treatment facilities, and are they still filled with AA literature? Is your local or district meeting list on those racks, and in your meeting rooms, and maybe even in your local newspaper? How many open meetings and closed meetings do you have each week? How many people come to district each month? How many of your groups do splits? Do you greet the newcomers who show up at your meetings, and talk with them before and after meetings? Do you shake their hands, get their phone numbers, take them out for coffee? Do you offer to take them through the Book? When you do get the chance to take them through the Book, do you do it? Is it awesome for you? Does it improve your life and your attitude? I only ask because those things happen for me, and I sure hope they happen for you, too. Either our Fellowship grows, or we shrivel up and start dying. There is no middle way for that one. Are we making sure the hand of A.A. is always there when any drunk, anywhere in Area 40, reaches out for help with his other alcoholism?

Right now, folks, Area 40 shares a common problem with the GSO, AAWS and AA Grapevine. In Area 40, since at least 2004 or so, we have had a lot of money in our Area bank account, over and above our prudent reserve. That happened back at least four full rotations ago, because we had too little money in the Area bank account, and it looked like we might be headed back to the bad old days when we had to pass the hat at the end of each Area Assembly, to try and get enough money to pay the facilities and coffee charges for the Assembly. The word went out, across Area 40, that the Area needed more money, to do the things that we decided we wanted Area to do, by voting to do them and approving a budget for doing them. And the money came in! The old-timers, the elder statesmen, always tell us that every

time Area 40 has needed more money, to support our primary purpose, to make sure the hand of A.A. is there whenever any alcoholic anywhere in Area 40 reaches out for help with his or her alcoholism, when there is a genuine need, the groups in Area 40 send in the contributions to meet that need. They responded so well that in early 2005, we had more than \$26,000.00 in our bank account, more than double our prudent reserve, before a new Area Treasurer got out the word that we no longer needed the increased contributions requested..

Since then, we have not had to be self-supporting through our own contributions, because we had this cushion in the bank. Until now. As Lori F., our Treasurer, told you this morning, we have spent the last of that surplus. Unless our splits and individual contributions cover our budget of more than \$35,000.00 carrying our message, we won't be able to do all the things that we decided last Fall we were going to do in 2012. We're kinda out of practice at self-support here at the Area 40 level, because we haven't had to do that for quite a few years. We sometimes have done it, we weren't spending down that cushion every one of these years, but we've relied upon it enough that it is now gone.

Funny thing – the financial projections for both AA World Services, Inc. (“GSO”) and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. suggest that our operating corporations are looking at the same kind of a situation. For those of you who don't know (and there probably are some here today), down at the bottom of that inverted triangle, that starts at the top with the groups, and then moves down to the districts, and down to the Areas, and then down to the General Service Conference, and then down to three corporations. The first is the General Service Board, Inc., the corporation that has overall management responsibilities for all of the support activities for our service work and for all of our publications, Public Service Announcements and so forth. The GSB is responsible for carrying out our policies and moving our projects forward. And it is also responsible, overall, for our two operating corporations, AA World Services, Inc., and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. We have just under 100 employees working for those two corporations, in the General Service Office and the Grapevine Office, and most of those employees are members of the Fellowship. All three of our corporate boards have Trustees, both Class A non-alcoholic trustees who are “friends of Bill” recruited by A.A., and Class B alcoholic trustees, selected and approved by A.A. Each year slates of directors for all three corporations are selected (and currently approved by the General Service Conference). Those slates typically include non-Trustee positions, filled by long time members of our Fellowship who have both the A.A. service experience and the requisite additional experience and skills to do good jobs in those director positions. We also hire consultants, as needed, and use outside entities for various defined tasks. We bank our money, instead of keeping it in bags in the corporate offices, for one very easy example. We use delivery services, both the U.S. Mail and others, to get our correspondence and our literature delivered. In all these tasks, our Boards of Directors are responsible to our Conference and our Fellowship for keeping the operations on-task and successful. The day to day operations of our corporations are in the hands of their employees, under the direction of the General Manager of GSO, Phyllis H., and the Publisher/Executive Director of Grapevine, Amy B. For many years – not every year, but a majority of years, and most all of the recent years, the contributions received from our groups and our members have not covered all of our functional service expenses. We have made up that difference, which recently amounts to millions of dollars every year, with literature profits. So, for a very different reason, the service structure at and below the Conference has not had to rely entirely

upon the voluntary financial participation – in this instance, the contributions – of the members of this Fellowship. We've gotten out of practice being self-supporting here, too, just as we have in Area 40.

The draft projections for 2013 and 2014 show deficits in all of our literature. Grapevine was in the black in 2011 (at least from the unaudited results, which folks at Grapevine are telling me will stand up on audit), and is projected to be in the black again in 2012, and is running ahead of projections so far. But in 2013 and 2014, the draft projections show it back in the red, for \$178,000 in 2013 and \$320,000 in 2014. AAWS, which I believe has always, since before World War II, made money, is projecting a loss of \$265,000 in 2013 and a loss of \$721,000 in 2014. When we add our other magazine, La Viña, which is published as a service piece and always loses money, our net losses for 2013 are projected at \$552,200 and for 2014 at \$1,153,100.

We are NOT on the verge of bankruptcy. We are not in danger of going under. The projections for 2013 and 2014 do not include any projected revenue from ebooks and emagazines and such. These are based on "standing" past projections where expenses exceed revenues. These are "worst case" projections. Even with these worst case projections, we would still have better than 9 months of expenses covered with our remaining prudent reserve at the end of 2014.

We don't need to be selling pencils on street corners to keep our corporations in business. But we can be pretty sure that we are on the verge of being forced to be self-supporting through our own contributions. And we are out of practice at doing that, at the General Service level, just like at the Area 40 level. We can do it, if we step up to the plate and make larger contributions. And if we do that and are self-supporting at the General Service level, then we will no longer have to raise the prices of the Big Book to support our service expenses and keep our prudent reserve at the level we prefer. And that is a challenge, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. Here in Area 40, we are once again looking at how to use our web site to make more information available faster across the Area. We already do this to provide contact info for our toll free number answering service, so they can contact volunteer members of our Fellowship, and ask them to call (or to be patched in with and then call) someone who called in looking for an A.A. contact. We have two agenda items for our PI Committee to consider: First, should we expand the use of our Area 40 website with a secure repository for Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact (BTG) information from each district in Area 40? Each district would keep its own contact info current, and BTG coordinators would be able to access the information for all districts, to find contacts for folks coming out to our districts across from various facilities.

Second, should we form an ad hoc committee and look at what other kinds of secure information we can protect with passwords and make easily accessible as needed – like background material for our Assembly agenda items or Corrections Temporary Contact information? We'll see what Paula H.'s Area 40 Literature committee does with these items, in their web site oversight capacity.

We also have a new and different approach to replacing Area officers who resign or become unable to serve. Last year, we decided that any Area Officer might have to take over as Delegate if the Delegate and the Alternate were both injured in the same car crash and unavailable. We do sometimes travel together, you know! This year, an alternative proposal has a "worst case scenario" option for temporary

coverage selected through the let the Area Committee until the next Assembly, when we can all decide who should step up and serve.

We'll see what Joe H.'s Area 40 Archives committee thinks about that. Joe's committee also has to decide what to do about some inconsistencies in our current policies and procedures. We have Web Site oversight by both the Public Information Committee and the Delegate. One or the other might be better than both. We also have requirements for our secretary and our treasurer to be able to use computers (the secretary has to be able to use the GSO member database software, and the treasurer has to use electronic spreadsheets and financial software). Yet we also have, by past action, said that neither the secretary nor the treasurer has to use a computer if he or she doesn't want to. We can't have it both ways, folks.

We live in interesting times. Sometimes it's really hard for us to trust the process. The General Service Conference has a request from the General Service Board to give a "thumbs up" to the GSB developing a plan to restructure AAGV Inc. "corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's independent voice." There are no details about this plan, except that it might "address the separate corporate existence of AAGV Inc."

At last year's 61st GSC, we adopted an Advisory Action that the A.A. GV Board, in consultation with the A.A.W.S. Board and under the guidance of the GSB Chairman, continue to investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources, being mindful of Concept XI, while still maintaining editorial and corporate independence. 61st GSC 2011 Final Report, p. 7 ("Grapevine"), Advisory Action No. 8. If we are going to "address the separate corporate existence of AAGV Inc.," we better be mindful of Concept XI. The by-laws of the General Service Board, The AA Service Manual (2011-2012 Ed.), "Appendix E," p. S112, state, "The General Service Board shall be guided by the spirit of the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous"

AAGV Inc. appears to have ended up in the black in 2011, and is projected to be in the black in 2012. Why then are we receiving this very unusual request, which comes directly to the Conference without going through a Conference Committee, and has no background material? I'll want to know what your informed group conscience says about this item. We have a Finance Committee General Service Conference agenda item to increase the maximum member contribution per year from \$3,000.00 to \$15,000.00, and raise the maximum bequest in a member's will from \$3,000.00 to \$75,000.00. The background material is, to say the least, odd and unclear, but the only real problem here may be Bill's concern that "He who pays the piper calls the tune." Two individual \$15,000.00 contributions will match or exceed the 2010 contribution of our entire Area.

We have new literature in development, and a new Hispanic PSA, with distribution, tracking and evaluation proposed that will adding up to \$40,000.00 to the production costs of that video. Do we trust the Committee process? Do we trust it enough that if the Conference Literature Committee wants to go forward on the "broad range of spiritual experience including atheists and agnostics" pamphlet, are we okay with awaiting the draft pamphlet before deciding anew whether we approve of that inclusion, when the Conference will probably get to the read the stories included? Do we trust it enough to rely

upon the Conference PI Committee if it recommends going forward with “Tengo Esperanza” distribution, tracking and evaluation?

Just in case there is something to vote on at the Conference, I really need to know how Area 40 feels about these General Service Conference agenda items and the rest of the General Service Conference Agenda items, too. My Conference Committee assignment is Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities. I think that this Committee, kinda like Corrections, will be similar this year to how it was last year. We really like Treatment and Corrections work! We get lots of prospects from corrections and treatment programs out there in flat land. We don't fight as much about Treatment and Corrections, cuz it's all about those prospects, and helping them find us and try us out. If only we could agree as easily upon things more removed from direct work with other alcoholics, like pamphlets, videos, finance and AAGV!

I'll be flying out to New York on Saturday, April 21, and flying back on Sunday, April 29. Sharon S., our Area Chair, has the address, and I welcome your cards and letters. Your phone calls, text messages and emails are also welcome. I am participating in the General Service Conference as your delegate, so please keep in touch! When I return, I look forward to sharing with you about what happened at the conference.

Right now I have confirmed dates to present reports on the General Service Conference to all but 3 of our 14 districts, and will be visiting with the last 3 soon. My first Conference Delegate report will be at the Spring Roundup in Kalispell, on May 5, 2012. One more thing, Area 40 – if you ever get the chance to stand for delegate, do it. If your job permits it, your family is okay with it, your sponsor approves it, and you feel in your heart that you are ready, willing and able to do it, STAND UP FOR CONSIDERATION! It will stretch you, inspire you, scare you, infuriate you and show you things about yourself and about A.A. that will sometimes lift you up and other times break your heart. This service position is almost as amazing as working with another alcoholic. If you get the chance, you really must offer to take this ride.

Thank you, Area 40, from the bottom of my heart, for this opportunity to serve. I don't have to do this service work. I get to do this service. I try always to tell you that it is an honor and a privilege to be one of your trusted servants because that is the bottom line truth here. For a guy who came to A.A. from being a homeless rummy residing in the nut house, this is pretty good work if you can get it, and you gave it to me. Thank you so much, Area 40, for my life. Terry S., Panel 61 Area 40 (Montana)

Floor Assembly

CPC/Trustees- Libbie L.

Welcome to the Assembly. I am honored to be your Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Chair. Due to my active participation in AA, my life has been full.

I have some CPC Projects to share with everyone this spring. All DCM's and my committee members have been given copies of these. Please call with any questions.

Professional school mail-out Letters will be mailed BY ME to professional schools. You will get a copy of all who have received it in your district. Professional school follow-up letter-This is a sample of a letter YOUR DISTRICT could mail or hand deliver to those professional school educators that have received the first letter.

Sponsor your professional

An easy, effective way to get the word out to professionals what AA can do for their clients and what it has done for you. This project is perfect for DISTRICT AND GROUP LEVEL CPC'S.

Professional cold call letter/packet

Sample letter of information the DISTRICT CPC could send out to professionals in your district.

I will be sending an e-mail with some more specific information to all districts to explain these projects and their follow-up more fully. Once again, call or e-mail with any questions. Remember that there are Power Points available to use at workshops or luncheons. The first is geared toward professionals and the second is one that I made to use for AA's doing CPC work. Let me know if you'd like copies. They are titled: Let's Be Friendly with our Friends (GSO) & What is this PCP Committee Anyway? CPC Workbook Workshop (Area 40)

I have had a great time since last assembly attending the District 91 Into Action Weekend, WCRAASC in Billings, and the Corvallis Pre-Assembly. I will attend the Wild West Sober Fest, Spring Round Up, and a District 42 workshop with PI. And any other invitations to come. While putting these packets together I came across this quote. It comes from the pamphlet Alcoholics Anonymous in your Community: "The history of AA is studded with the names of nonalcoholics, professionals and others, who have interested themselves in the AA recovery program. Thousands of us owe our lives to these people, and our debt of gratitude knows no bounds."

As I continue in this second half of my rotation as CPC Chair, I hope to spread the message that non-alcoholic professionals have been an integral part of our history and that it is my responsibility to let them know what we can offer. Thanks for helping me and AA to do that. Libbie L.

Agenda- Spring Assembly Area 40-CPC

- A. Review the Area 40 CPC Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report Committee took about an hour discussing CPC in Area 40 and the projects being launched as well as reviewing the CPC Assembly report.

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 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. The sense of the Area is that they are in favor of this.

A2. Review draft product of replacement DVD

Consensus of the 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.

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

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?

C. Review contents of kit and workbook

Consensus of the 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.

General Service Conference -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 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. Nothing to be approved; the trustees will be elected at the General Service Conference.

B. Review slate of directors of AA World Services Inc.

C. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine Inc.

Consensus of 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.

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

Consensus of the committee is that we would recommend that the committee on 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.

TreatmentFacilities/Agenda- Coby D.

Good morning my name is Colby D. and I am an Alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to serve and report as your Area 40 Treatment Chair. It is good to see you all here; I hope since our last gathering together your lives, families and home groups have been filled with enthusiasm and His spirit of Love and Service.

Since the Fall Assembly I have been busy fielding requests for contact information to assist those leaving treatment facilities around Montana, Arizona and Idaho helping them to get in touch with A.A. in their home town. There has been a great deal of activity request for BTG coming from and to the Missoula, Butte and Helena areas. Thank you DCM's, BTG contact liaisons for taking my calls and accepting the opportunity to be of service to others. I was able to conduct a workshop regarding BTG at this past years "Attitude of Gratitude" in Helena, thank you Anne B. for making the invitation and facilitating such a great opportunity to foster communication and action to help gain a better understanding on being an effective treatment volunteer member in your local district when the calls, cards and requests come in for your service to others. Thank you for your ongoing active participation, keep up the good work. Please keep your BTG cards and contact information coming.

Most districts have updated BTG, and temporary contact information to be passed along to local maintaining the process and continuity as requests are made to have members available to talk area. This can only be supported by a host of volunteers willing to carry our message.

This year I have had opportunities to speak too many of you at our gatherings and inquired what could Area 40 be doing better in the area of treatment. Your comments provided an overwhelming response that the current BTG process needs our attention and support. As you are aware this is a large undertaking one I believe demands our attention and more importantly our action. In order to begin this process of understanding I believed it necessary to understand where we are in order to move in a direction that would serve the greatest good. One of my predecessors helped to get the BTG program moving in the right direction many years ago and I thank her for the foundation. There were many helpful comments, observations and examples resulting in narrowing the challenge and directing our focus. One of which was to utilize our current technology such as the web site to create a that could be accessed by DCM's and treatment chairs instantly to get the referred or prospective member in touch with an A.A. member in their local or surrounding community when leaving treatment and make those arrangements for contact now rather than relying on the contact mailing card which often arrives much later when the prospect has returned to their home community. This happens all too often resulting in bad or negative press that we receive when the treatment facilities get calls from former patients and

ask how the contact went and it is reported that no one contacted them. This response is all too common and continues to propagate those negative opinions surrounding our fellowship.

An action item was created and is on are Area 40 agenda for your consideration. We believe it is a step in the right direction but its final effectiveness still relies on us as individual members and trusted servants for implementation and effectiveness. Please join us during our assembly break out session for more information.

If you have any updated contact information or changes have occurred to your district positions please send any updates to jcolbydinges@aol.com so I can update those lists.

Respectfully submitted, Colby D., Treatment Chair Area 40

I would like to thank all of those who attended and participated in our Area Assembly – Treatment Committee meeting. A special thanks to Mary M. GSR/BTG Coordinator from District 23 for taking notes of our discussion and proceedings. Attending the meeting were 14 members of which 5 composed the committee body. (Attendance listed below)

The meeting was opened with introductions and delineating composition of the voting members of the committee. A brief overview of the voting process and use of “Roberts’ Rules of Order” was provided by the committee chair to be observed. The committee body was informed that Terry S., delegate for Area 40 is a sitting member at the General Service Conference – Committee on Treatment /Special Needs Accessibilities.

Member’s presents representing the voting body was:

1. Colby D. – Area 40 Treatment Chair
2. Leo B. – DCM Dist. 51
3. Casey L. – DCM Dist. 41
4. Jerry K. – GSR Dist. 31
5. Brett H. – GSR Dist. 11

Non-Voting Member’s present was:

1. Mary M. – Dist. 23 GSR/BTG, Glendive
2. Margaret B. – Dist. 81 GSR/Treatment Chair, Missoula
3. Kevin C. – Dist. 93 Treatment Chair, Florence

4. Richard L. – Dist. 61 GSR, Helena
5. Luke S. – Dist. 91 Treatment Chair, Kalispell
6. Todd M. – Dist. 23 Treasurer, Glendive
7. Jamie S. – Dist. 51 Treatment Chair/BTG, Havre
8. Bud W. – Dist. 42 Alt. Treatment Chair

A review of the activities concerning the Area 40 Treatment Chair was provided and discussed with the final report to be included as part of the presentation at the Assembly Floor .

Treatment Committee/ Special Needs/ Accessibilities – GSC

- A. Discuss trustees' progress report on the review of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous

Trustees reported in a letter dated 1/29/2012 that nothing in the script would limit the usefulness of the current video. It was also felt that the concerns over particular lines of script that when taken out of context might misrepresent our Traditions were fine when viewed in the context of the surrounding script. Those in attendance also concurred with the Trustees findings and recommendations.

Committee Findings/Recommendations/Discussions:

- B. Discuss a suggestion to develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.

The committee and those in attendance expressed concern about the creation of another pamphlet. It was expressed that perhaps those concerns for the creation of another pamphlet should be viewed as a review of the current material pamphlets by members of the fellowship whom are practicing physicians or psychiatrists, psychologists whom are more qualified in this medical issue and have them review the content for effectiveness. A practitioner in attendance at our meeting indicated that the current pamphlet "The AA Member- Medications and other drugs" in content and context adequately represent and communicate that members affected by mental illness should be and are directed to obtain medical advice by a licensed professional. It was also stated that as individual members we should be reminded that those in the medical professions are indispensable and our friends, and should be sought out accordingly by individuals on a personal basis and choice. The sense of the area is that we should not develop another new pamphlet.

- C. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.

Contents of the treatment committee Kit and workbook were not reviewed as these revisions or proposed changes are to be reviewed by the appropriate trustee's committee and implemented and may or may not be forwarded for further review and discussion during the GSC.

Some general changes include Treatment Committee Kit (previously treatment facilities) and "Treatment Committee Workbook"; kit content lists have been updated to reflect suggested language changes.

D. Review Contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Added to the kit in 2011 is the conference approved pamphlet "AA For the Alcoholic with Special Needs (P-83), currently this workbook is being printed in Spanish and French, left to the committee to determine in 2012 whether the Special Needs kit should also be printed in Spanish and French currently only in English.

No further discussion or recommendations were conducted with regard to the Treatment Committee – GSC.

Agenda – GSC

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2013 GSC.

The list of the suggested themes was distributed to the committee for review; the list included 53 theme suggestions. Those in attendance were asked to review the list and submit 3 as their choice.

Those selected by the members were as follows:

- 17. AA's Future
- 26. Faith Without Works is Dead
- 52. Spirituality of Service
- 10. AA Takes Its Inventory "Are We Growing"
- 25. Unity Brings Responsibility
- 49. Trusting our future to the principles of AA
- 24. Our Solution in Action – Walking the Walk (selected more than once)
- 30. Practicing the Principles (in all our Affairs) (selected more than once)
- 51. Twelve Steps, an Essential Way of Life for our Recovery
- 46. The A.A. Message in a Changing World
- 4. Being Responsible for the Newcomer in Our Home Group
- 18. Service and Participation
- 8. How We Recovered "Precisely"
- 21. First Things First
- 35. Importance of Rotation and Back up for A.A. Service Positions

53. Return to Basics

There was no recommendation or consensus. Of those suggestions submitted, suggestion 24 & 30 received multiple recommendations.

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 G.S.C.

The committee made no recommendations but to accept as presented, noting there are 44 questions for consideration for the inventory process. The General Service committee will disseminate, determine, and divide these questions for each of the three years for discussion. This is what we asked the committee to do. Look forward to the upcoming inventory process.

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.

The committee only commented in light our recent experience at the Area that devoting adequate time to the inventory process is important and that consideration to limit the number of presentations should be considered so as to maximize the time necessary to explore and discuss the inventory questions thoroughly.

D. Review suggestions for presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2013 G.S.C.

The committee was provided a list of the suggested presentation/discussion topics which totaled 69 suggested items. The Committee compiled the following list:

- 22. Let's be friendly with our friends
- 37. Service in and beyond our Home Group
- 52. Honesty is our Everyday Lives
- 30. Online Meetings
- 38. The Triangle more than just a shape
- 63. Getting Diverted From our Primary Purpose
- 10. The Minority opinion – Is there a time to let go?
- 33. Digital Books – Ease of communication or loss of Revenue
- 51. Respecting Each Other's Spiritual Paths
- 34. Where Would I Be if There was No A.A.?
- 21. Primary Purpose – Fulfilled? (selected more than once)

- 29. Self-Supporting – What Does it Mean?
- 57. Sponsorship
 - 7. How to Tune Into the Newcomer
- 13. Trusting Each Other
- 39. The Three Legacies – What is it?
- 17. “Pass It On” What Did Bill W Have in Mind
- 66. The Legacies; Our (Inheritance?) and My Responsibility

The committee reached no consensus of the Presentation/ Discussion items but noted that item 21 received multiple considerations.

E: Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Background material was shared with all members in attendance. The committee discussed briefly that the evaluation form is a useful tool for evaluating the overall effectiveness of any event and that useful and helpful comments are always welcomed to improve the experience or processes. The committee did notice that the form is quite lengthy, 11 pages, and suggested that may be an electronic version be made available which may help collate and capture comments more quickly.

Following the lunch recess the committee reconvened at 1:30 pm to openly discuss and develop actionable items that each on the committee could commit to improvement at their home group and district

The following helpful suggestions were discussed to improve the overall effectiveness of the BTG: can be done at all levels, (institutions, district, home group and sponsorship)

BTG volunteers should be well informed and familiar with AA, (suggested reading ‘What AA Is and Is not”);

BTG contact members should be introduced to facility staff and remain consistent and accountable to the process and facility. Should there be an occasion that an individual is unable to fulfill a commitment identifying and introducing the suitable replacement in advance is recommended, thereby reducing confusion, both to the facility and potential prospects.

Follow-up upon return with facility personnel from an absence.

Bring contact cards and meeting schedules to the facility on a regular basis;

Follow-up with both the contact and prospect when permissible to ensure the contact was made;

Maintain accurate and current contact information regarding contacts communicate often and make the changes when necessary;

Offer to do a presentation for staff only to familiarize them with both AA and the BTG program;

Build relations with professional providers and treatment facility staff, these go a long way in keeping us and our presence involved within the facility;

Focus your individual work on your experience with applying the 12 Steps of A.A. in your life first, then offer the pamphlets and other AA related literature to increase understanding and facilitate Q &A, build the relationship first around the importance of twelfth step work;

Finance- Lori F.

The Finance Committee was represented by Terry S., Area 40 Delegate, Sharon S., Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate, Nick D., A lt. DCM-12 and Karla B., Alt. DCM/DR-61, and Lori F. Area 40 Treasurer. I would like to thank Melinda W. for taking excellent notes. We had eight additional members sit in on and participate in our meeting, including our Triangle Editor, Lee T. The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by discussion of the agenda. Discussion began with the General Service Conference Agenda as follows:

A. Consider suggestion to increase the Conference Delegate fee.

- This item was submitted by a past Delegate and former Conference Finance Committee Chair from Area 26.
- The requested fee started at \$100 and had gone up at random intervals over the years, with the last increase being from \$800 to \$1,200 in 2005.
- 58 Areas sent in contributions above the minimum requested in 2011, the average additional contribution being \$2,275.

Discussion ranged from what the actual cost of the conference is (~\$5,800/delegate) to suggestions about ways to cut costs from the conference as opposed to asking for more money. A portion of group contributions goes to fund the conference (12-14%). Sending group contributions from Area to GSO seems to take away the power of the purse. It would be better to encourage groups to contribute more to GSO. The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed (5-0).

B. Review the current \$3,000 dollar limit on annual contribution and one-time bequests.

- Request from a GSR.
- Would like the annual contribution limit raised to \$15,000 and the one-time bequest limit raised to \$75,000.

We discussed the seemingly rambling letter from the GSR which was the total of the background material provided for this item. Of great concern was the last sentence included in the letter which stated that if AA somehow ended up with too much money, we could "donate" it. It was pointed out that in 2010 the groups of Area 40 gave just under \$30,000 to GSO. It would take only 2 people

donating the suggested maximum of \$15,000 to remove the poser of the purse from Area 40. There is no limit on the amount that a group can contribute and it was suggested that the group baskets may be the most appropriate venue to make large contributions that then can be sent on to other service entities. The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed (5-0) to raising the contribution limits at this time. Comments from the floor of the assembly were that it diminishes the "Power of the Purse", it's anonymous if it's in the basket, area consensus is opposed

C. Review proposed Self-Support Kit.

- This item is the result of a request from the Conference Finance Committee that the trustee's Finance Committee develop a draft Self-Support Kit to be brought to the 2012 Conference Finance Committee for review.

The committee had many questions regarding this kit – Who gets this kit? Registered Treasurers? By request? In GSR Kit? This will be much more expensive to mail than the smaller service piece, F-19. Was expense considered when choosing what to include? It was mentioned that AA wants to invest in educating groups about self support. Getting this Kit into the right hands will be a challenge. The sense of the committee was narrowly in favor (3-2) of production of the kit.

D. Review draft document of self-support/financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship.

- This item is also the result of a request from the Conference Finance Committee that the trustee's Finance Committee prepare a simple document of Self-Support/Financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship, made available on GSO's website, in the GSR and DCM Packets and in the Self-Support Kit.
- The resulting list consists of 15 Talking Points and 6 Additional Thoughts/Questions.

The Committee briefly discussed the list and where it would appear. All of the items seem worthy of discussion by the fellowship. No vote was taken, but the committee had no problem with the list of Talking Points.

E. Review information concerning General Service Office/A.A. Grapevine Financial Projections for the years 2013 and 2014.

- In 2011, both AAWS and Grapevine operated in the black; La Viña operated in the red.
- The 2012 budget projects AAWS and Grapevine to continue in the black and La Viña to continue in the red.
- Projections for 2013 and 2014 show all three entities in the red for a total of -\$552,200 in 2013 and -\$1,153,100 in 2014.
- The background stresses that these figures are basically worst case scenarios, based on very little growth and flat sales. They do not consider any sales from the recent conversions of literature and magazines to e-formats.

We discussed these figures in light of publishing on the whole (not just in AA) moving toward digital formats. While there likely always will be paper format books and magazines, we may not be able to rely on literature sales to make up the difference between group contributions and expenditures. We need to ask if we are far too dependent on literature sales. This was a review item so no sense of the committee was taken.

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.”

- La Viña has lost money since its inception in 1995 for a total of \$1,410,279 or about \$82,958/year. Peak subscriptions were 10,979 in 2007; last year they were 8,982.
- La Viña started as a five year experiment, at the end of which the Conference voted to continue it as a service to the fellowship. This was reaffirmed in 2010, and also recommended that La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the Grapevine, thus adding more costs to production.
- There is currently a GSB Ad Hoc Committee re-evaluating the commitment to continue publication.

The committee was dismayed at the losses being incurred by La Viña. It was mentioned that there is a Spanish language magazine produced in Mexico that is self supporting. Perhaps we could purchase this in here for use in Spanish language communities. Other suggestions were to put a Spanish Language story in the Grapevine as was done in the past. The sense of the committee was unanimously in favor (5-0) of discontinuing production of La Viña.

Time was allotted for the Triangle Editor, Lee T., to give his report to the committee (attached). It was decided that Lee would reduce the report to some highlights for Lori to read during the floor assembly.

AREA 40 SPRING 2012 ASSEMBLY REPORT

AREA 40 NEWSLETTER CHAIR 'TRIANGLE' EDITOR'S REPORT

April 14, 2012

Lee T

During the past month I have been working with as many as possible of the 14 DCM's for Area 40 to reconcile group contact information. This has also included correlating records with the New Vision and Area 40 AA Web site. Not only is it a requirement of the position to attempt to get all active groups throughout the Area 40 a copy of our newsletter, it provides another opportunity to help our Area Secretary and the DCM's to update and reconcile their District's group records. Last fall I started with an attempt to reconcile through information provided on our Web site. Without current New Vision records this was the approach I used. Our Area secretary, Linda and I sat down last fall with the updated New Vision records and began what turns out to be quite a task to get the information up to date. Without the help of each and every group, and the information collection efforts at each District level this becomes a nearly impossible task. Last fall I had three of the 14 Districts attempt to work with me on these efforts. During the past month I have had response from (as of last night) a total of five of the 14 Districts. There were two that have just received their information today because they did not participate in ~~one of the three~~ ^{two of the three} pre-assemblies organized during the past month. From the expense angle associated -with the Triangle these reconciliation efforts save money by not having related costs from the return of incorrect addressed newsletters. This is a bit more than the usual wrong address costs because it allows us to maintain anonymity protection. Just for the record, the cost of my efforts to attempt a one on one meeting to work the details and explain the efforts at each pre-assembly are not covered under the Area expenses. I showed up at ~~two~~ ^{two} of these events on my own dime and to one of them in conjunction with my home District, the rest of the in-town contacts and visits were in sync my company's work schedule. I had hoped to get a greater response, and certainly am in agreement with the Area Secretary to please return these forms to me with the yellow shaded areas completed by the end of this Assembly. If you are having trouble getting all the information about the groups just try to complete as much as possible, and we will continue to work on getting this information—progress not perfection, right!

Costs of each publication are running about \$370 to \$420. This breaks down to about two dollars per issue or \$16 per year for each group and individual. The efforts during these past six months have proved that there are quite a number of groups that could be receiving the Triangle, but they are not because of incorrect or changed group information. As GSRs rotate positions, move, or there are changes in the group a consideration for updating the Area (in particular the Triangle) should be observed. What is *your* group doing to keep Area informed? A contribution level was reached of about 8.3 percent of the potential groups in February (that was 25 groups that had offered the nominal \$10 per year). During this past month this level has

rose a few percentages because some DCMs have been contacting the groups in their Districts, updating the contact information,

and letting these groups know about this method of contributing to the Area fund in direct relation to a service that is provided: the Area 40 newsletter. What is going on in your District and home group concerning group information updates and Area contributions? What about group contributions to the Triangle, in particular? Obviously \$10 per year is a bargain.

Through past actions, and traditional fare the Triangle helps continue unity and provides some useful information concerning and throughout the State, Region, and General Service. The timeliness of these past few issues has perpetuated knowledge concerning the West Central AA Service Conference, pre-assemblies, Agenda items we are discussing this weekend, and awareness of other various upcoming events and contact information for all these levels. This ability mainly happens in the mailed edition. While there is an on line version, many efforts to protect anonymity diminish the ability of this resource to carry this information.

As part of the inventory process we started last fall there will be a time during this assembly to answer questions concerning the value of the Triangle especially as it relates to its reputation as one of the more costly services Area provides. How important is the Triangle to our Districts and groups? Is it a valuable tool providing unity throughout the Area, the West Central Region, and perhaps all of A. A.? Does it ultimately aid in our efforts to carry the message? If so, can this be accomplished with just an on-line edition?

There was a point last fall when the lack of group participation and my personal life obstacles distracted me from my primary objective: carrying the message through publication of the Triangle. For this I have editorially apologized, and would like to take this time to continue that apology to the fellowship and in particular this Area Assembly. You are the ones that trusted in me and voted me into the position. While the discussions about my ability to continue were conducted through teleconferences, emails, and telephone calls I realized that this was AA in action. Through the amazing concern and helpfulness of this panel of trusted servants I am thoroughly convinced that, one more time, ^{with @ success} my life was saved. Thanks to everyone involved, and especially my higher power I am even more committed to greater efforts towards maximum service to this position.

In reviewing the current Area financial bottom line, I don't know how we would have made it if the final issues in 2011 had been published. Certainly, this would have cut into our prudent reserve. I am sure that, along with the treasurer's request of contribution to the Area somewhere around a 75 percent increase during the upcoming months that the publication expenses for the Triangle are of paramount concern. It is in hopes that our inventory process puts us in a place to examine these costs and determine the real value of this newsletter to the fellowship.

Thank you for your continued trust and for allowing me to be a part of providing this service.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AREA 40 SPRING 2012 TRIANGLE EDITOR ASSEMBLY REPORT

FINANCE AGENDA ITEM B.

April 14, 2012

Lee T

1. Editor has been correlating records with the Mailing list, New Vision and Area 40 AA Web site in an attempt to get all active groups throughout the Area 40 a copy of our newsletter. What is *your* group doing to keep Area informed?
2. Please return these forms to me with the yellow shaded areas completed by the end of this Assembly. *group information*
3. Costs of each publication are running about \$370 to \$420. This breaks down to about two dollars per issue or \$16 per year for each group and individual.
4. A contribution level was reached of about 8.3 percent of the potential groups in March (that was 25 groups that had offered the nominal \$10 per year.
5. What is going on in *your* District and home group concerning group information updates and Area contributions? What about group contributions to the Triangle, in particular? Obviously \$10 per year is a bargain.
6. Triangle is one of the more costly services Area provides. How important is the Triangle to our Districts and groups? Is it a valuable tool providing unity throughout the Area, the West Central Region, and perhaps all of A. A.? Does it ultimately aid in our efforts to carry the message? If so, can this be accomplished with just an on-line edition?
7. Editor's Apology to the Area 40, this Assembly, in particular, for lack of service at the end of 2011. But through it all, and with the support of the Area Officers, is sure it saved his life. Thanks to everyone involved he is even more committed to greater efforts towards maximum service to this position.
8. Because of the shape of our budget didn't know how we would have afforded printing the final 2011 issues without *using some of* prudent reserve. He agrees that, along with the treasurer's request of 75 percent group contribution increase, *the publication expenses for the Triangle are of a paramount concern.*

The committee then reviewed the Treasurer's report, which consisted of the highlights shown at the beginning of the assembly and the handout which detailed the budgeted vs. actual expenditures to date. Lori has filed Form 990 online with the IRS, and also the annual report with the Montana Secretary of State. Monthly financial emails are being sent to the entire Area Committee, including non-voting officers; the Triangle contains the most recent financial statement released prior to publication; and the monthly statements now appear on the Area 40 Website (thanks to Alex M.). Concern was expressed that we are behind on group contributions at a time when we need an increase of 75% over last year to meet our budget and maintain prudent reserve. There are some line item amounts in the budget which are set by past action and cannot be changed without a vote of the assembly. All are encouraged to share travel and other expenses where possible. While we strongly encourage groups to support the requested services at the Area level, we also looked at ways to reduce spending. Respectfully submitted, Lori F., Area 40 Treasurer

The committee unanimously decided to bring the following recommendation to the floor of the assembly:

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

There was much floor discussion on this recommendation. Some comments are:

We need to do this and change it later or amend it. We need to be self-supporting in sending our delegate to the General Service Conference, trust the groups and send our current amount budgeted, there is a deeper ambivalence; what are DCM's doing with the information-seems we don't have a money problem; we have a membership problem. We sent more money when we as an area were monies over prudent reserve, now it isn't the case. Go home and talk to your groups, when there is a need for money, it usually is met, trust our treasurer and the state of our financial picture. Discussion ceased and the vote was called for. **Motion passes with 75-For and 15-Against**

Minority opinion: There wasn't a specific dollar amount, we haven't gone to our groups to discuss increase or decrease of our delegate fee, this looks like we are attacking our budget in the wrong place, we voted last fall to approve this amount, we aren't being self supporting, let's give our area a chance to show self support. After minority voice, recommendation stands.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions- Gary E.

My name is Gary E. your Alcoholic Area 40 Grapevine Chair. First, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve Area 40 as your Grapevine Chair I feel it a privilege. I remember when I was sitting out there as a newcomer thinking that those sitting up front were somebody special. Guess what, they are just another drunk doing what we all do as members of Alcoholics Anonymous do is being of service to our fellowship.

Back in December I got a call from Don B. asking me to set up a Grapevine display at the Regional Service Conference in Billings in March. I dug out the Grapevine stuff that I had and saw that we had very little

to display. So, I got out the order form and ordered one of each item that was available, knowing that I would be going way over what was budgeted for this year, and sent the order in. Today, we have an inventory of all the Grapevine items available. The WCRAASC was the beginning of some of those in a busy March. On March 18th we attended a pre assembly in Laurel, on the 24th in Boulder Hot Springs and on the 31st at Corvallis. What I got out of attending these pre assemblies was that we have fellowship in Area 40 something that is hard to put words to, the road trips with fellow AA's, the potlucks, the sharing of information and even running into some of those drunks that were sitting at the front of the room when I was a newcomer. Something you should not miss.

This weekend we have a few items on the agenda that we need to take a good hard look at that could have a profound effect on some of the services that we receive from GSO. We have an opportunity to have a say in what we as a fellowship feel about the changes and challenges that face Alcoholics Anonymous today. Looking forward to some lively discussion. Yours in loving service, Gary E.

Gary opened the meeting with an overview of his activities in the past six months; he was especially gratified to attend the Pre-Assemblies in Laurel, Boulder, and Corvallis.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Grapevine – Area 40 Gary gave an overview of his activities; he's working hard.

Grapevine - GSC

- A. Consider proposal of A.A. Grapevine's Audio Strategy.

Consider making it so people will be able to record stories over the phone. Stories would be edited and put out in audio and/or print. Okay to go and sense of area is in favor

- B. List of suggested GV book topics for 2013 and later

Gary read proposed list. The books are composed of stories published in the GV. Okay.

- C. "Sunset" proposal for GV items

Discontinue items which "no longer seem useful." Phase out all cassettes, most CDs, some books, and selected other products. Sunsetting products would be available in at least one format, so they are not really going away entirely. The committee was okay with this proposal. The sense of the area was unanimously in favor of putting to rest outdated material and that it would still have availability in one format or another.

- D. Consider incorporating service responsibilities and duties of the service positions "Grapevine Representative" into the Service responsibilities and duties of the GSR.

It's hard enough as it is to perform the duties of the GSR – harder still to get them to do more work." "This item seems to go with the other one which may be aimed at merging the two corporations." "Our group doesn't have a GVR – if it is formally included in the GSR's responsibilities, it might stand a better

chance of getting done.” “If we are supposed to promote the GV, how does that work with attraction rather than promotion?” “How can Area and District tell our group that we have to do this?” “What are we doing with the GV, why do we have to promote it anyway? Why this continual push of magazine sales? Is the GV for the fellowship and to carry the message or not?” “Our group doesn’t want to have too many service positions given to one person – more service jobs mean more opportunities to get involved, especially for newcomers.” NOT Okay.

E. Updating GV Workbook. Okay.

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. Good to go.

B. Review dates of the 2015 GSC. Okay.

C. Consider modifying procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference.

Place deadline at 10 days before the conference for submitting an appeal and related background materials, schedule them during the opening session, treat appeal as made and seconded motion. Conference then free to fashion an appropriate response. “There are other processes and this is for when those other processes are used and exhausted.” “This just puts a process in place if needed – this rarely comes up.” Okay

D. Read policy and guidelines regarding the use of personal electronic devices at the General Service Conference. It’s okay.

Motion from 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.

Gary read Concept XI – Bill was visionary and addressed the reasons why it would not serve the fellowship well if the GV were to be managed by GSB. Some speakers felt like this is premature. We projected loss in 2011 and then actually made a small profit. We need more information. Seems like the GV is making plans to cut items that aren’t making money and they have cut expenses. The GSB must be really busy with AA business – how are they going to find the time to do the GV stuff too? Not Okay.

There was lengthy discussion on the assembly floor. The consensus is that we should decline to consider this idea, it's in direct opposition to Concept 11, it circumvented the process committee system, there is no background information and this is not an idea that will promote unity of our fellowship, this seems to be another attack on the Grapevine, the Grapevine Board with consultation continues to rectify the inefficiencies within their separate corporation. This was not generated by the conference, more information, there are no bad guys here, we each love the fellowship, this is not a conspiracy, let's be open-minded and place principles before personalities. Let's keep all things transparent, sounds like the service board is operating on fear, let's use our conference inventory and put it into effectiveness, let's play together and don't over-react. We need to address problems and don't be afraid to talk about the tough issues

Carla T. read p. 231 of As Bill Sees It, which speaks to the fact that in the future, we will make mistakes. If we do, we have the ability to make corrections, too.

All decisions are unanimous. The consensus of the assembly is to not consider this proposal.

Public Information- Paula H.

Area 40 Spring 2012 Public Information Report

A big THANK YOU to Carole B, Lori F, and Terry S for pitching in for me while I was gone on vacation in January and February! And another for all the PI work that is done in Area 40! Also, thank you to all who hosted Pre-Assemblies. It was a great help to me to be able to be in Boulder and Corvallis!

Phone bills from AnswerNet have started coming again. Please ask your Districts to contribute the full amount of the phone bill instead of just the percentage above Area's share. \$3000 per year for the hot-line plus \$1750 for phone directory listings is a hefty amount. We are doing a better job of keeping the costs down this year by asking the caller if we can call them back on our personal phones and by keeping our volunteer lists up-to-date. Please remind phone volunteers to put the caller ID number of AnswerNet, 406-248-2337, in their phones so they know who is calling.

Contracts for phone books are being signed and forwarded on to Lori for payment as they come in. The Area Committee is in the process of researching how many phone book companies are in Montana so that we can better carry the message.

Thanks to Alex M, the Webmaster, for his continuous oversight and maintenance of the Area 40 Website (aamontana.org)

District 23 Had a report about a successful phone call experience that got someone to a meeting! Scott W has been a great help to me by asking many questions and keeping my nose to the grindstone.

District 61 Literature racks have been inventoried and stocked. New sites are St Peter's Hospital Behavioral Health Unit and the VA Regional Office at Fort Harrison. The committee of six has also started tracking schedule use to better forecast the number of schedules needed. Audio and video PI information has been ordered and distributed and new contacts established. They are also working

with other committees to support meetings and activities. Scott C is already working with his alternate so there will be a smooth transition next rotation.

District 71 has a new PI/CPC chair, Roxie. Welcome! District 72 PI and CPC work together in this District. They have committee meetings every month! They take panels into the high school, alternativeschool and MSU. Kelly sent out the GSO form letter addressing our anonymity policy to District media outlets. Districts 71, 81 send me their minutes. What an easy way for me to know what is going on.

District 81 Bill has resigned his position. Thank you for the excellent job! Bill stocks seventeen pamphlet racks and has a volunteer to email schedules to those agencies that prefer that.

District 91 has thirty-one phone volunteers! Literature racks are full. High school principals have been contacted about the possibility of bringing in panels, literature and/or DVDs. The District is also approaching motels and hotels about putting literature in their businesses.

Thank you to everyone who came to the committee meeting for both your attendance and your input. Thanks also to those who took notes. Please ask your districts to send in minutes to each area standing chair. The information is helpful.

I would love to be invited to your event! Yours in Love and Service, Paula H., Area 40 PI Chair.

Public Information (PI) – Area 40

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

The report was reviewed and discussed. Other ways of reaching the public were also discussed.

- B. Review the operation of the Area 40 888 number.
 - 1. Area 40 888 number status.

The 888 number status was reviewed and found to be working well.

- 2. Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee Agenda Item E regarding responsibilities for phone directories.

The item was reviewed. Concern about the cost of all phone directories in Montana having the 888 number in them. The Chair told the committee that that part would be removed.

- C. Review the Area Webmaster Spring 2012 Assembly Report.

The Webmaster reported that he had made only minor adjustments to the functionality of the website since the last Assembly, and that the website was functioning well.

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.

After discussion with the web master and among the committee, the 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.

Bridging the Gap needs more attention that can address issues with newcomers from falling between the cracks when coming to A.A. Will this have SSL protection?, the treatment center in Helena eliminated their Bridging the Gap because it's not effective; we need to figure out how to make it function effectively, the website is a great tool, let's us it. Let's help treatment centers get ahold of us. Now we need to do our part. After floor discussion the motion passes with 87-For and 10-Against.

Minority opinion: Didn't want to see addresses on the list, there was too much information on the contact list.

There was a vote to reconsider from Terry. It was seconded. The vote to reconsider failed and motion passes as is.

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.

After discussion with the webmaster and among the committee, the 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

Public Information (PI) – GSC

A. Consider 2011 annual report from the trustees' Public Information

Committee on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

There were a number of changes to the web site. Among them were a change in "How to Find AA Meetings," addition of a non-public section, and the ability to read the "Daily Reflections" on the web site. A request to add a free audio version of the Big Book and the 12 & 12 on the web site was changes and others, please refer to the background material. I will be happy to provide it or ask your DCM for it.

B. Review the final draft of the "Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey" pamphlet.

The draft was not available to our committee.

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

1. Consider approving the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza."

The video was not available to our committee.

2. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2010 television P.S.A., "My World."

The committee discussed the different aspects of the report.

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.

The committee did not agree to the expense at this time.

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

The committee had reviewed the PSAs individually prior to Assembly and found them to be relevant.

5. Consider production of new video P.S.A.s.

The committee did not agree to the expense at this time as the current PSAs are in need of revision.

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.

There was much discussion and concern about establishing a presence on Facebook. Issues such as anonymity and affiliation with advertisers were discussed. As there had been no communication with Facebook about the conditions of establishing a presence, more information needs to be forthcoming before our concerns can be addressed.. The committee referred to the "A.A. Guidelines" on the Internet.

There needs to be more exploration with Like & Join, Anonymity breaks. This is a social media site that reaches lots of people, put the PSA videos on the facebook page. The committee was not in favor of establishing a presence on Facebook at this time. The sense of the area was not in favor, also.

E. Discuss requests related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven.

The committee discussed the procedure and expense of changing a Tradition. It was thought that the procedure in "A Resolution," PP 105-106 of the AA Service Manual (2011-2012 Ed) needed to be changed to make a change in the Traditions feasible.

F. Consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.

The committee agreed to the update.

G. Review contents of Public Information Kit and Workbook.

Committee members reviewed the Kit and Workbook at home and could see no need for revisions or additions.

Report and Charter - GSC

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2012-2013 Edition:

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

There was no background information to review.

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

There was no background information to review.

3. Review revisions from the General Service Board.

There was no background information to review.

4. Review list of editorial updates.

The 2012-2013 was not available for comparison by the committee

5. Consider suggestion for revising text on "Conference Panels," on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term "panels."

The committee agreed that the changes are helpful.

6. Consider suggestion to add a section on the "spirit of rotation."

The committee agreed that a section about the "spirit of rotation" should be added.

7. Consider suggestion to replace the "STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE" illustration on page S16 with a previous version.

The committee likes the previous version better.

B. Review draft of text to add to Article 3 in the Current Conference Charter that includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal.

The committee agreed that text that includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal should be added.

C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).

The A.A. Directories were not available for review.

D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

There was no background material for this item.

Archives/Structure- Joe H.

In attendance: John A., District 81 at Large committee member, Paul L., District 91, J. Scott W., DCM District 23, Archives Committee member, Virginia C., Archives District 71, Dan W., Archives District 61, Sam C. B., DCM District 91, Joe H., Area Archives Chair, District 41, Erik E., District 11, rep on archives, Jerry R., Area Archivist, District 61, Connie R., Archives Assistant by Marriage, District 61

Archives-Area 40

- A. Review the Area 40 Archives Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report - no formal report given
- B. Review the Area 40 Archivist Spring 20102 Assembly Report-see Archivist report
- C. Review the National AA Archives Workshop Committee Spring 2012 Assembly Report-see final workshop 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.

Joe gave a brief history of the start of Area Website and guidelines for the website, oversight of website based on web guidelines delegate is in charge of oversight.

-Policy and Procedures, webmaster reports to PI committee

-States that oversight is delegates responsibility or designated substitute

-Find discrepancy is under delegate responsibility

-needs to be addressed to eliminate confusion

-suggested just to take statement of delegate oversight off as it is superseded by G 8.8 in Policy and Procedures

(unanimous decision by committee)

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

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.

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

For-83 Opposed-2 Motion Passes

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.

-Agenda is not the schedule, should we re-word to reflect the Assembly Schedule?

- one item from the Area Inventory had to do with spending too much time on GSC items that we really have nothing to do with, or no input on

- concern raised about time for Ad Hoc committee, and should not pass on unfinished business to the next Rotation and Area Committee.

-should we wait until next Assembly, or wait for the next rotation?

- change language to “consider revising assembly format” not to take action on it.

- concern not to change wording because we don’t know the intent

-Background does mention schedule of the Assembly, not the Agenda procedure; get committee work done right away

- clarified by looking at Policy and Procedures: The Suggested Agenda Framework for Area Assembly. (Non-Election Assemblies)

- Area Chair is a trusted servant and will select ad hoc committee members who have prior knowledge and experience

(committee voted 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Dissenting opinion was that this was too soon to move forward with changes to the Agenda)

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

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.

Very little discussion, committee generally favored this and felt that computer skills are important for these positions in today's world. (committee voted unanimously)

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

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. Item E Consider including language...

-concern raised about financial status of Area 40, this may be the first thing to go if funds go away

-making language consistent in Policy & Procedures with the responsibilities of the PI Chair & the Treasurer

-concern raised about the word "all" in item 1.

-multiple questions raised about various directories, costs, etc. Can Districts be made aware of the Directories and their costs? Can PI be in contact with DCM's re: these costs?

All parts of item E. as a motion has been withdrawn

F. Review Area 40 Policy and Procedures updates which reflect past actions (Fall 2010, Spring 2011, and Fall 2011) since last update (September 2010). The committee took no action.

-Changes made at end of second year of rotation

-Past actions are available and policy and procedure is updated

-some discussion as to when we update and reprint the Policy and Procedure manual

-clarified that Policy and Procedure does state that the Policy & Procedure manual does state

That:

G 2.7 "The Area Archives Committee shall, with the Archivist and Area Advisor,

maintain and update the Area 40 Past Actions document during the second year of each service rotation, making it available to the Area 40 website after each update."

G2.8 "The Archives committee shall update the Area 40 Policy and Procedure manual after each Assembly and make it available to the Area 40 website."

All of these updates have been done and are current. There is no statement as to when the manual gets reprinted and disseminated to the Area.

Based on the clarification, the committee took no action.

GSC items:

Reviewed items, no actions taken.

Literature- Mary M.

Hello everyone, My name is Mary M and I am an alcoholic. I have the opportunity to serve as the Area 40 Literature Committee Chair this 2011/2012 rotation.

I had the privilege of going to the WCRAASC and bring the Area 40 Literature display. A lot of service manuals were sold as well as a lot of pamphlets were taken. I attended the literature breakout which was an open discussion on ways our literature can help carry the message of alcoholics anonymous. It was great to see two other members of the literature committee there also.

The digital age is here and times are a changing. As Bill W. noted in an address at the annual dinner of the New York Intergroup Association on October 10, 1970, delivered by his wife, Lois, after his death, "A.A. must and will continue to change with the passing years. We cannot, nor should we, turn back the clock." And so, while A.A.'s message of hope and recovery never wavers, just how that message is delivered continues to evolve in today's digital world.

Revised AA and Medications pamphlet out, New Special Needs pamphlet is out. I have the new special needs workbook on display.

Go to AA.org, Literature, AA Guidelines and there is great suggestions for packages that help us carry the message. I have a few package ideas on the lit table.

There is a Daily Reflections page on the aa.org web site in all three languages. This page will update daily, so visitors can share in the reading for that calendar day.

Many are already aware that The Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are available in digital format on aa.org for \$6.00 each. Go to the A.A.W.S. Online Store at aa.org website and follow the steps. I have copies of frequently asked questions on ebooks available on table with the literature display.

Yours in service, Mary M., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

Literature 2012 Spring Assembly

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

A. Review the Area 40 Literature Chair Spring 2012 Assembly Report. Committee reviewed and made changes to add ebooks to the 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.

The committee reviewed and discussed the progress report.

200 stories were read by the subcommittee appointed by the Chair of 'the trustees' Committee on Literature. It was agreed that 46 stories would be re-read out the 200 and the subcommittee would try to indicate what they perceived the authors "spiritual orientation." Final reading resulted in 23 stories that met the general criteria.

23 unedited stories and draft introduction will be sent to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature. This is not to be considered a draft pamphlet.

B. Consider the draft of the revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.

The draft pamphlet is not available to the committee at the Area level. There was a new subtitle submitted by a retired Marine Sgt Major: "None Left Behind" instead of "We don't leave anybody behind" that will be considered at the 2012 Conference.

Our committee discussed and all agreed with the new subtitle consideration.

C. Consider the final draft of the revised Living Sober booklet.

The draft is not available to the committee at the Area level.

D. Discuss a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet "Circle of Love and Service.

Our Committee discussed and reviewed pamphlet and all agree that a revision is warranted to the pamphlet. Some changes noted:

-There is an asterisk to nowhere.

-Reference to page 5, to what?

-Take out or change Good GSR and Good DCM to Active GSR and Active DCM.

-change [www. Alcoholics-anonymous.org](http://www.Alcoholics-anonymous.org) to www.aa.org to reflect current address.

-update entire design to current pamphlets.

It was noted by our committee that everything in the pamphlet can be found in the service manual. What is the demand for this pamphlet?

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.

The committee thoughtfully discussed and concluded that this was not necessary. We did not feel that many people take notice of the dust jacket anyway and did not find the change in the Fourth Edition negative. All opposed.

F. Consider a request to add the A.A. Preamble to the front inside pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

We also had this agenda item at the Spring and Fall 2011 Assembly. It had gone before the 61st General Service Conference and did not receive 2/3 majority vote. The vote was 65 for/ 66 against. Area 29, Maryland feels the vote too close and should be re-considered:

-there would be no additional cost to the Big Book per publications department at GSO

-the Big Book is often the first literature a new comer reads and the Preamble state who and what we are.

-it would keep the AA preamble the way it was written and presented in the Grapevine 1947

-it would provide everything to conduct a meeting.

-may be the only piece of literature available to someone.

Area 43, New Hampshire stated that now that the Traditions and Concepts are included in appendices that the Big Book has become closer to a complete manual for AA.

The committee considered and discussed this at length. Our committee was split 2 for / 3 opposed. Those opposed stated that it is in a lot of other literature and already in the Big Book, the Forward to the First Addition. One committee member could go either way

G. Consider a request to add the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to As Bill Sees It. From Area 71, District 9

Bill W. references the concepts in the introduction of As Bill Sees it and refers to them on 13 pages within the book. They believe because the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions are in the back of the book, that would be the logical place for the 12 Concepts. Then all three of our legacies would be there.

The committee considered and thoughtfully discussed this agenda item. We were split 2 for / 3 opposed.

Comments: one of the opposed members of the committee was that because the concepts are mentioned in ABSI that maybe it would prompt people to look at other literature to research the concepts. One member wanted to consider stopping the agenda item. When were the steps and traditions put in? How many copies are still available before new printing

Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums-Terry H.

Hi, My name is TerryH., and I am an alcoholic. Gratefully serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair.

Thank you to my Standing committee, the district corrections chairs and other interested parties who attended our Corrections Committee meeting. I really appreciated everyone's lively participation.

Our first order of business was to review the Spring Assembly Corrections Report.

There are no AA meetings being held in MSP. There have been no meetings for almost 10 months. MSP requires an administrative sponsor and the CD counselor who sponsored AA resigned and has not been replaced. It has been a painfully slow process to get back in and to make contact with the new Warden. Many of us are very frustrated and both Lee G and I are getting your phone calls and agree that it is taking too long! Lee G. along with his sponsor, Tom. I. have been using what is called the Four step process for setting up or re-establishing meetings. So far there has been no response from the new

Warden. Our next communication will be much more direct. We want to be able to have a meeting with the Warden. What we are hoping for is more access, more meetings and less red tape. At the Women's Prison you have to go through orientation and once approved your name goes on a list. It doesn't matter who shows up to bring the meeting as long as they are on the approved list. There is no administrative sponsor and it works fine.

Next was the pink Can report and I appreciate the suggestion or directive to be referring facilities back to the district Corrections Chair or DCM to request literature from the Pink Can since that was Last Fall Assembly's decision. AA members are still referring Correctional or Treatment Centers to contact me for literature.

There are copies of the Pink Can Fund financial report back by the coffee.

We started the year with \$3355.45. We have had contributions of \$191.57. We have distributed \$845.60 worth of literature this year. Our current balance is \$2645.42

Under International Conventions/Regional Forums-Area 40

- A. We reviewed the 2012 WCRAASC Committee Spring Assembly Report.

Corrections-GSC

- A. We considered the revisions being made to the the pamphlet "It sure beats sitting In a Cell".

We did not have a copy of the revised draft to review. It was the sense of the committee that the pamphlet is very outdated and should be revised.

- B. We considered the revisions to the pamphlet "A message to Corrections Professionals".

It was the sense of the committee that these revisions should be made to this pamphlet.

- C. We considered the possible remake of the 1987 video "It sure beats sitting in a Cell.

It was the sense of the committee that a remake of the video is not a prudent use of AA's \$ or time. There are 998 members serving as committee chairs and 1534 active AA groups in correctional facilities. There were only 188 of these videos distributed in 2011 and about 1000 in the last 10 years. That is distribution, not even utilization. The cost involved would be \$60,000-\$75,000.

- D. The contents of the Corrections kit and workbook were reviewed.

International Conventions/ Regional Forums GSC

- A. We discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forum.

Suggestions were:

Charter buses and several districts could go together.ROAD TRIP!!!

Rent Houses to save on individual hotel expenses

Encourage enthusiastically through sponsorship

Announce and encourage at our Home groups

Always take someone with you!

B. We reviewed the 2025 International Convention Site Selection Procedures.

Our only suggestion was to take into consideration the safety of a city-the crime rate when accepting bids for the International Committee.

I would again like to thank everyone on my committee with a special thank you to Dawn B. GSR from Dist. 51 for taking notes.

GSR Breakout- Mark S.

No notes taken.

DCM Breakout-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 Intergroups 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.

Roundup Reports

There were verbal reports given on the Fall 2011 Roundup I Helena, the Spring 2012 Roundup in Kalispell, and the Fall 2012 Roundup in Missoula. No written reports were submitted.

Intergroup Reports

Flathead Valley Intergroup Report- Intergroup business meetings are held the last Saturday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church, 1172 2nd St W. Following the business meeting at 8 pm is a monthly birthday meeting hosted by Intergroup. This is a wonderful celebration of sobriety with coin exchange and cake to follow.

Intergroup has 13 chair positions which are filled and 2 open chairs for the Alcathon and Thanksgiving chair. We are fortunate to have chairpersons who are excited about service in sobriety.

On December 9, 2011 chairs and group reps met for an Intergroup Inventory at the Alano Club in Kalispell. Prior to the inventory, group reps were asked to take a list of questions to their individual group conscience meetings. Results were then reported at the inventory. This was extremely successful in regard to Intergroup's passion for reaching out to the newcomer and encouraging service through A.A.'s traditions and principles.

In May 2012, Flathead Valley Intergroup and District 91 will meet for a sharing session. The Intergroup is very excited to participate in discussing communication and relationship in order to improve service in A.A.

Intergroup prints A.A. meeting schedules for the Flathead Valley on a quarterly basis. Intergroup has a hotline: (406)257-7185 and a website: www.aa-kalispell.org. Our annual events are well attended and they include: Emery Bay at Hungry Horse Campout, a Thanksgiving Dinner, the Alcathon New Year's Eve thru New Year's Day event, and a Halloween Party. There are various cookouts, river floats, sledding days, dances, bowling events, and potlucks that are also planned.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Jeff C., Flathead Valley Intergroup Co-Chair

Webmaster Report-Alex M.

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 of 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., Webmaster.

Archivist Report-Gerry R.

As has been my custom for the last several years, I would like to extend a warm Assembly welcome to old friends, new friends, and soon to be friends. It's always a great feeling to be surrounded by so many people who are working so hard to carry AA's message to the still suffering alcoholic. I truly consider myself blessed to be counted among you.

Since my last report, I negotiated my way through a busy fall in Helena, which led to a much quieter winter. However, spring "service season" is now upon us and things, as they always do, will again pick up.

Last fall, Area 40 hosted the 15th National AA Archives Workshop, in Helena. I have a separate report on this event which I will give later. For now, however, I feel it important to mention two additions to the Area 40 Archives that came as a result of this event. Vicky B., a past delegate from Arizona, presented me with a picture of Past Area 40, Panel 14 Delegate, Judy M. sitting with Bill Wilson at the 1965 General Service Conference. I have included that picture in this weekend's display. I also received into the collection, a box of assorted records and memorabilia, dating back to the seventies, from Area 40 old-timer Marie H. currently from the Victor area.

A couple weeks after the NAAAW, I was asked to bring an archival display to the Area 40 Roundup in Helena. I enjoyed the event, the highlight of which, for me, was being able to share the display room with the Montana Al Anon Archivist, Jeanne H., and their archival display. I hope this begins a trend among Roundup committees. I believe that the shared history and the shared enthusiasm are tremendous additions to these events. Thank you to the committee for the invitation and the assistance in presenting the display.

I also had a display at the 57th Annual Attitude of Gratitude in Helena. (Is anyone else noticing a Helena theme here?) As always I appreciate the invitation and the chance to be of service at this event.

Unfortunately, due to financial considerations, I was not able to take a display to the 21st Native Americans in AA Convention in Las Vegas, as I indicated might be the case, in my report last fall.

Last month I presented a display at the WCRAASC in Billings. The display was very well received with several requests made for copies and additional information. This was a very exciting, busy event, and I'd like to thank Don, the committee, and especially Jack M. for all their help with the display.

I have received an invitation to bring a display to the spring Roundup in Kalispell next month, and look forward to seeing you all there.

I have also received and responded to requests for archival information and help from Districts 23 and 31.

My presenting this report in committee, instead of out on the Assembly floor, suggests that the C word, change, may once again be coming to the Area Assembly. It's been my experience in recovery that as much as I struggle with it, change can be, and often is, a very good thing. With that in mind, I would like to inform this committee, and the Assembly, that, at the Assembly next fall, I intend to resign from my position as Area 40 Archivist.

Change is good. As much as I still have great passion and enthusiasm for this work, I also feel that the Area 40 Repository would be better served by new blood, new enthusiasm, and a new skill set. When I assumed the position, I gave a five year commitment, and I have served six. Though I feel I have served you well, I am convinced that it is time for someone new to enter the picture and take things to another level.

During these next six months, I intend to make myself available to anyone who is interested in standing for the position, and to answer any questions they may have about it which might help in their decision and preparation to stand. I also intend to assist however I can with the transition.

With all sincerity friends, what a joy it is to be sober today, and what a privilege to be of service. Thank you for both. Gerry R.

2012 Spring NAAAW Report- The 15th National AA Archives Workshop was held in Helena, September 22nd through the 25th, 2011. In all regards but one, the event was a smashing success, and those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Several of the long-time participants remarked to me personally that it was one of the best they had ever attended.

Topics ranged from practical to the historical and everything in between, with a blend of presenters that included GSO Archivist Michelle Mirza, Stepping Stones Director Annah Perch, AA historians and Archivists from around the nation, along with a few of our home-grown Fellowship who capably proved that we could hang with the rest of them. One of the presenters, past West Central Region Trustee, Carl B. remarked to me on a few occasions how pleased he was with the turnout and with how well the entire region was being represented to the rest of the AA's from around the country.

Attendance ended up at 144, with 84 of those being travelers from out-of-state, leaving in-state participation at 60. As promised, the visitors came from every corner of the U.S. as well as a few from Canada. While we had hoped for more participation from the Area 40 Fellowship, those who came did a tremendous job of welcoming our visitors. We were able to pass on \$1,000.00 to the 16th NAAAW in Cocoa Beach this fall. This was \$500.00 less than what was passed on to us from Macon, Georgia. The Florida contingent was quite content to accept it however, and they assured us that their Area had already presented them with a significant amount of seed money for their event, and all was well.

During the event, I'm proud to announce, our Area Webmaster Alex M. was voted in as the official NAAAW Webmaster, and is currently involved in helping them develop a website they've always dreamed about. Congratulations Alex! And thank you again for all your hard work on our event.

I have submitted a more comprehensive report to the Area 40 newsletter, The Triangle, for publication there, and there have also been a report published in the AA Archives journal Markings, as well one, the first ever about the workshop, in Box 4-5-9. I have copies of those reports here this weekend for anyone interested in seeing them.

If you missed it you can hop a plane to Cocoa Beach this fall, or, after Florida, the event travels to Illinois in 2013. Somewhere along the line, you've got to get to one of these, they truly are an event you should not miss out on.

As always, and with great gratitude, thank you for allowing me to serve. Gerry R.

Past Sharing

Andrew W and Mark S shared briefly on their A.A. experiences and due to large amount of A.A. business still to go over, they kept their talks brief.

Closing

It was moved by Lee and seconded by Eric to close the Spring Assembly at noon on Sunday, April 15th, 2012. We closed with the "Responsibility Statement".

2012 Fall Assembly is September 22-23, 2012

2013 Spring Assembly is April 6-7, 2013

2013 Fall Assembly is September 21-21, 2013

Respectfully submitted, Linda B., Secretary