

SPRING AREA ASSEMBLY-APRIL 5-7, 2013

WELCOME SESSION FRIDAY NIGHT 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Our Delegate Sharon S led the GSR'S / DCM's welcome session from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Approximately 74 GRSs/7 DCMs attended.

Gerry R, Area Chair/Alt Delegate, led the welcome session for the Area Standing Committee Chairs. All chairs present except PI Chair. Also present were Area Webmaster, Area Advisor, Area Archivist, and three non-committee participants.

2013 SPRING ASSEMBLY

GSR AND DCM FRIDAY NIGHT WELCOMING SESSION AGENDA FORMAT

I. Open – Welcome and Serenity Prayer (8 pm)

Good evening! My name is Sharon Stevenson and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and responsibility to serve you as your Delegate to the 63rd General Service Conference. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our very first Friday night welcoming session for the Area Assembly. Let us open with the Serenity prayer.

Read the Traditions

Read the Short form of the Concepts

II. Introductions (8:15-8:45)

A. Welcome first time attendees

Recognize and welcome people here for their very first Area 40 Assembly. Are there any DCM's here for their first Area 40 Assembly? GSR's? Guests? Thank you for being here, to serve A.A. your group, your district, your area and the alcoholic who needs us. Your participation is vital.

B. Meet some of the members

1. Separate DCM's and GSR's; guests join one or the other

2. Break into groups of twos (DCM's or GSR's) by finding another (DCM or GSR) you don't know or don't know well to form your group

3. Find out the other person's name (first and last), district, home town, home group, how long they have been sober, what inspires (or makes) them to serve AA. – 5 minutes

4. Gather into 1 DCM group; (# of GSRs / 14 groups - count off). In the larger group, provide the information you have learned about the other person to your group.

III. What have we said yes to now? – Sharon

How many of you are very comfortable about the weekend, feel you are prepared, understand what is going to happen, what we'll be talking about and what it all means? Me either! Most of us are new in our service positions, and although we may be a bit more comfortable than we were 3 or 4 months ago, there is a lot we don't know. For people new to serving in the A.A. service structure, there may be questions about some of terms and acronyms and practices that we use. One of the reasons for having this welcoming session is to help introduce you to some of this and to introduce you to each other so you can talk to each other about these things, now and throughout your rotation. We'll start with the General Service Structure, then highlight the Area 40 Structure, the agenda for the weekend and some practices.

A. Overview of General Service Structure and Responsibilities

In July 1960, Bill W. wrote an article for the Grapevine, recognizing A.A. 25th anniversary. The article was titled “Let’s Keep It Simple — But How?”. In this article, he talked about the changes over the 25 years, from “coffee and cake” AA, meetings in homes to written principles (the 12 steps, 12 traditions, and, at that time, a conference charter - the concepts had not been approved yet), trustees and conferences. He was comfortable with the changes and believed that simplicity is found in our principles, practices, and services that insure widespread harmony and effectiveness; that without these we would experience irresponsibility, disharmony, ineffectiveness. There would be no guiding principles, literature, meeting schedules, sound public relations, local or world services, leadership. He said “We organize our principles merely so that they can be better understood, and we continue so to organize our services that AA’s life-blood can be transfused into those who must otherwise die. That is the all-in-all of AA’s ‘organization.’ There can never be any more than this.”

1. A.A. Groups

a. 1950 A.A. grown up; groups assume full responsibility and final authority for world services

b. Elects a General Service Representative (GSR)

2. Group G.S.R.

a. “may be the most important job in A.A.”

b. Link between group and A.A. as a whole: voice of the group down through the structure; voice of the conference, area, district up through the structure to your group

c. Group change form & list being passed around

3. Districts

a. Group are organized into districts, geographic and population considerations

b. Historical, Montana: original by zip code; more formed with growth

c. Provide services effective at this level (meeting schedules, coordinating meetings in treatment centers and correctional facilities, relationships with professionals, Bridging the Gap connections to A.A. members in District); doing together what we cannot do alone or more effectively together than alone

d. Another link between the groups and A.A. as a whole.

4. Area assembly

a. Districts grouped into Areas. 93 Areas in the US and Canada; Area 40: state of Montana

b. Originally, met once every two years to elect a delegate

c. More business was conducted, more assemblies; better information and communication, more opportunity to participate in conference process

d. Area 40 - two assemblies a year

e. Every two years, the Assembly elects a Delegate who represents the groups of the Area at the General Service Conference for the next two years

5. Delegates to the General Service Conference

a. Conference held once a year (April 20-27 this year) - considering matters important to the Fellowship as a whole; agenda items may be submitted through the structure (Group=>District=>Area)

b. Formed in 1951 as founders began to deal with their mortality and the need for the groups to take over.

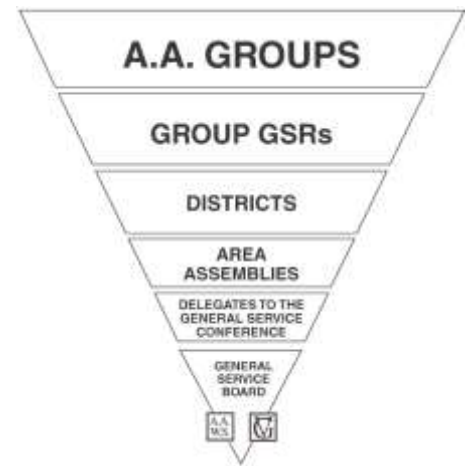
c. Delegate is a voting member of the conference

d. Delegates = 2/3 of conference; Others: trustees, directors of the A.A. World Services and Grapevine Boards and staff members of the General Service Office and the Grapevine

6. General Service Board – serves A.A. as a whole

a. “Service Arm of the Conference”

b. Responsible for the integrity of service provided through A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) and the Grapevine.



- 1) Direction = General Service Conference actions
- 2) Composition: 21 trustees [7 Class A (nonalcoholic); 14 Class B (alcoholic)]; 8 regional trustees (6 US, 2 Canada); 2 Trustees-at-Large; 4 general service trustee
 - c. A.A. World Services Inc (Corporate Board)
 - 1) Oversees General Service Office (GSO) and publishes A.A. books and pamphlets.
 - 2) 9 directors: 2 general service trustees; 2 regional or at-large trustees; 3 nontrustee directors, on paid staff member, GSO general manager (president of corporation)
 - 3) Meets 8 times a year
 - d. A.A. Grapevine, Inc (Corporate Board)
 - 1) Oversees the Grapevine office and publishes and distributes the A.A. Grapevine magazine
 - 2) 9 directors: 2 general service trustees; 2 regional trustees; 1 class A Trustee; 3 nontustee directors, and the executive editor (serves as president of the corporation)
 - 3) Meets quarterly, plus four meetings as a planning committee
- B. Overview of Assembly agenda and practices
 1. Agenda – the schedule and flow for what is going to happen, when.
 - a. First thing

In the morning, Mary M., our Secretary, will have placed District placards on the tables and sign in sheets. DCM's will be here between 7:30 and 8, GSR's and guests will sign in and the DCM's will turn the sheets in to Mary as soon as possible, but before noon for sure.

Gerry R. will chair the meeting. This is his first time, too, so he will be learning, just like the rest of us. However, he will follow the agenda and it has been our practice to be punctual, so sessions will start on time.

In the first session at 8 am there is some business to be taken care of and we'll hear from our DCM's. [DCM's if have not already emailed a copy of your report to Mary, please do so. If you have only a hard copy, please give her two copies.] In 2011, the Assembly took its inventory. One of the prevailing concerns was the length of time people were asked to sit, listening to reports from the entire Area Committee. As a result, most of the reports were moved to the standing committees, with only the DCM reports given during the first hour, to continue at 1:30 if we don't finish. Notice, we use a timer. By past action, committee reports will be held to 5 minutes.

- b. 9 am to noon

- 1) Committee system

The area committee is composed of the Area Officers (the Delegate, the Area Chair, the Secretary and Treasurer), the District Committee Members (DCM's), and standing committee chairs (Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Grapevine, Literature, Public Information, Treatment), and non-voting members (Archivist and the Web Master). The committees meet between 9 – 12; the meeting rooms are printed on the agenda and the agendas for these meetings are on pages 3- 6. Generally, the committees include 2 DCM's and 2 district representative. These assignments were made by lot (drawn out of the hat) at the 2012 Fall Assembly and last through this rotation (2013-2014). These are the people who have a vote at the committee meeting. The meetings are open to all assembly attendees and, as long as time allows, discussion includes all members attending.

2) Workshops

People not having a committee assignment have the option of attending workshops at 10 and 11 in this room. These will be led by past delegates.

3) After lunch 1:00 – 3:00

There will be a ½ hour workshop at 1 pm presented by our Area Webmaster; and we'll continue with DCM reports. I'll give a Delegate's report at 2 and we'll start into the floor assembly at 3 pm or when the other business is completed, whichever ever happens first. In this case, it will likely be earlier, because I don't believe my report will last anywhere near 45 minutes.

4) Floor assembly

Now the fun will begin. The committee chairs will be reporting back to us about what happened at their committee meetings and we will have an opportunity to ask questions, state our thoughts and feelings, and eventually vote or indicate our sense on some items.

Gerry will be chairing this process and has responsibility and authority to conduct the meeting in an effective manner, while allowing for thorough discussion. The assembly 'roughly' follows Robert's Rules of Order to facilitate orderly conduct through this portion of the meeting where all members have an opportunity to participate. I have attached a copy of the 'Summary of Conference Procedures' from the General Service Conference as it outlines some of the terms used.

5) Robert's Rules of Order (most commonly used) & procedure

a) Quorum: 2/3 of all the register voters. A quorum is required to conduct Assembly business

b) Substantial unanimity: All matter of policy require substantial unanimity, or 2/3 majority of members voting (number of members voting must be at least a quorum).

Potentially only two agenda items that will require a vote at this assembly; most of the agenda items are for the General Service Conference and we will only ask for a general sense of the assembly on these items.

c) Minority opinion: In the spirit of Concept V, after each vote, members who voted on the side that did not prevail are given an opportunity to speak.

Not all members may state a minority opinion, who can?

d) Reconsideration: a member who voted with the prevailing side may move to reconsider a vote (usually as a result of minority opinion).

- Only a simple majority is required.
- If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and con, is resumed (members are encouraged to limit discussion to new considerations)
- No action may be reconsidered twice.

Not all members may make a motion to reconsider, who can?

e) General guidelines:

- People wishing to speak line up at the microphones and the chair will call on them in order.
- Introduce yourself at the microphone (each time you speak): name, service position, district
- Each person may speak for 3 minutes (hard stop when the time goes off)
- Everyone who wishes to speak will have a turn before anyone may speak for a second time
- Full discussion should take place before the vote

- Everyone is entitled to, and should, express their opinion. However, if it has already been stated, it is not necessary to repeat it..
 - Everyone is asked to refrain from clapping when people share, pro and con, in order to NOT discourage those who may have a opposing opinions or facts
 - Voting is by a show of hands
 - Listen with an open mind, particularly to those who speak on the other side of an issue from you
 - Remember that the loud voice is not always right!
- f) Tabling a motion: postpones discussion to a later time during the assembly
- Must be made without comment
 - Requires a second
 - Not debatable
 - Only simple majority to pass
- 6) Evening
- a) Dinner and continue floor assembly until 8:45
- b) GSR and DCM Breakouts
- Ask-it-baskets

If your group is having problems or situations that you are uncertain about, this is a great way to hear the experience , strength and hope of your fellow GSR;s and DCM's.

- 7) Sunday morning
- a) More reports, sharing by our two guest past delegates and we will continue with the floor assembly until our work is finished or noon, whichever comes first.

IV. Breakout session – topic du jour

General Service Structure, Area Service Structure, Tradition Nine, Tradition Eleven, Concepts I & 2; Concept III, Concept IV – VIII; Concepts IX-XI

V. Final Comments and Close with Responsibility Statement

AREA STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS FRIDAY NIGHT WELCOMING SESSION

Area Chair/Alt Delgate, Gerry R., led this session. They utilized the Policy and Procedure manual and an open discussion format. Gerry handed out a booklet that he had prepared, with the P&P and other material that has been helpful to him in service work. He leaned toward the "we ought not be organized" angle on this session and it seemed to work well. It lasted the allotted 8pm to 10pm time.

Both sessions appeared to be well received.

SATURDAY SESSION

8:10 AM Gerry R. opened the assembly with Serenity prayer, Traditions were read, Concepts were read.

AREA CHAIR/ALT DELEGATE GERRY R

Greetings Area 40, and welcome to your 2013 Spring Assembly.

Here we are, three months into our new service rotation, and while everything seems new and different this weekend, your Area committee has been hard at work for quite some time now. I believe my own activity is a direct reflection of their hard work.

In January, Sharon S. came to Helena and shared with me about her experience, strength and hope with the Area Chair position. I'm very grateful to her for her service to Area 40 in this position and for her willingness to pass along some great advice and encouragement. Later in the month I participated in a successful audit of the Area finances in Bozeman with the incoming and outgoing Delegates and Treasurers. Everything checked out, as we found there no unnecessary trips taken to the Bahamas last rotation.

In February, things kicked off early with an Area Committee conference call. This call gave everyone a chance to check in with each other, and to gain a better sense of what was to transpire between then and now. There was a lot of great discussion and, I think, the call helped people feel better informed and a bit more comfortable about the process in front of them.

Also in February, I received the GSC Agenda from Sharon and used that, along with a couple of Area 40 items, to put together the agenda we will be using this weekend. I then sent copies of the agenda to all of the Area Committee, including the Triangle Editor and our Webmaster for inclusion in the Triangle and on the website. I must note that it has been tweaked a few times since then, so please make sure that you have a current copy from the front table.

March was ushered in by a trip to Rapid City, for the WCRAASC, where Area 40 was well represented by its officers, DCMs, past delegates, and members at large. This conference gave us all our first opportunity to dig into the GSC agenda and discuss each item. Chris W., DCM for District 41 will give us a report on this event later this weekend.

I feel brief mention must be made here of an incident that occurred after the conference, which in days past could have been called "Bad Turn at Belle Fourche," wherein I managed to get three-fourths of your Area 40 officers lost in a buffalo herd, somewhere in northwest corner of South Dakota, on our way home. After getting everyone safely to Alzada, MT, I then proceeded to drag them through a raging spring blizzard, complete with a wrecked semi-truck and near ditching of our car. Yes folks, we really do go to any lengths here in Area 40.

The rest of March was a blur, with preassemblies being held during three out of the four weekends. These events provide a vital link in our communication process between the General Service Office and the AA Groups, and it was very gratifying to see such a great turnout at each of these events. By my count there were over a hundred attendees, and twelve of Area 40's fourteen districts represented. Thank you to everyone who organized and participated in these very important events.

The next step is in that communication process occurs this weekend, where we will be discussing the GSC agenda and two Area 40 agenda items. My role will be to facilitate this process. Your job will be to share with us your comments, questions, and concerns.

While the pre-assemblies helped us become more informed on these agenda items, it is important that we discuss them all again this weekend. While we might only vote on a couple, we will take what is called a "sense of the area," on many of the rest. Sharon will then carry this sense of the area with her to the General Service Conference in New York, where she will use it to help her vote on many of these items.

I want to remind all of you that we encourage your participation this weekend. However, if someone has already expressed your thoughts on a topic, there is no need to share them again. If you have a point to make that has not been expressed, or if you have a question that has not been asked, then please, do go to the microphone and contribute to the discussion. It is very important that we all do our part to ensure a thorough discussion of these items.

As I mentioned, our Area Delegate, Sharon, will be attending the General Service Conference as our voice. She will be putting in very long days and I'm sure it will lift her spirits to hear from the alcoholics of Area 40 throughout the week. To help you with that, I have printed labels, with Sharon's address in New York, for you to use on a card or short letter to send to her. A word of advice, to ensure she gets it while she's there, you will want to send it sometime during the week of April 15th – before she actually leaves for the conference.

Lastly, I'd like to give just a short reminder that the best time to us to consider Area 40 related agenda items will be at our upcoming fall Assembly. The deadline for getting items to me for inclusion in that agenda is July 1st. If you are considering presenting an item, please do not put this off until the last minute. I will be glad to accept them at any time between now and then.

What a joy to be sober today. What a privilege to be of service. Thank you AA, and Area 40, for both.

SECRETARY/AREA REGISTRAR MARY M

ROLL CALL, PASSED ACTIONS FALL ASSEMBLY 2012

Hello everyone and welcome. It's nice to be at Area Assembly and I look forward to working with all of you this rotation.

DCM's: Your attendance sheets that are on your tables need to be back to me no later than noon today. I use the count from these sheets to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCM's or their alternate, GSR's or their alternate, and most Area Committee Chairs and Officers. You will have up to 5 minutes to give your reports on the floor today. Please be mindful when the timer goes off.

Remember, all reports this assembly must be sent to me and I would prefer e-mail. If you need to submit your report in hard copy, I will need two copies, one is for the Triangle editor. In addition, I will need copies of the minutes from all the committee meetings and breakout sessions. If there is a motion coming out of committees, I will need a copy of those before they are presented to the floor.

I have been busy updating Area 40's group information and district chairs at GSO through our database, Fellowship New Vision. Thank you to those DCMs that have already sent me your group and districts updates. It is very important that we get Area 40 updated with GSO. Not only for the Directories but also so GSO can contact you. Erin G, our Triangle Editor needs accurate data for mailing out our Area 40 Triangle Newsletter. The absolute deadline to get the forms to me is April 26th. I have group change forms here with me and you can also download them from our Area 40 website. Please see me this weekend and I can help answer any questions you may have.

There are Ask It baskets in the back for submitting questions and topics to be covered in the GSR and DCM breakout sessions tonight. Participation is the key.

Here are the motions passed at the Fall 2012 assembly:

- Area 40 Structure & Policy: The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the non-election assembly framework be modified to include a welcome and allow more time for standing committee work, and engage all in attendance in the work of Area 40 per the attached documents. To be reviewed by the Archives Committee at the Fall 2014 Assembly. Motion passes with vote 66 FOR with 4-opposed

•The Finance committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposed 2013 budget of \$32,650.00.

Motion Carries 75 FOR 0 Opposed

•The Treatment committee agreed that information to be made available via the website BTG mini-sites would be: First name, Last name or initial, Home town, Sobriety date, Contact telephone #1, Contact telephone #2 and email address. Motion was made by Casey L. seconded by Brett H. to authorize the items as listed to be the input fields. Motion carries with 83 FOR and 0 Opposed

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M, Secretary

ROLL CALL

| AREA 40 OFFICERS | | Attendance | Voting Members | Non Voting Members |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Delegate | Sharon S | x | 1 | |
| Area Chair/Alt Delegate | Gerry R | x | 1 | |
| Secretary | Mary M | x | 1 | |
| Treasurer | Libbie L | x | 1 | |
| Archives | Kira A | x | 1 | |
| CPC | Serena R | x | 1 | |
| Corrections | Lee G | x | 1 | |
| Grapevine | Sam B | x | 1 | |
| Literature | Bob T | x | 1 | |
| Public Information | Peggy H | Terry S Stood in | 1 | |
| Treatment | Brandon M | x | 1 | |
| Triangle Editor | Erin G | x | 1 | |
| DCM's | | | | |
| 11 | Mike D | x | 9 | 0 |
| 12 | Daniel M | x | 3 | 1 |
| 21 | Joe G | Not Present | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Mary C-M | x | 3 | 1 |
| 31 | Martin D | x | 5 | 1 |
| 41 | Chris W | Lee T Stood in | 8 | 1 |
| 42 | Beth Z | x | 4 | 1 |
| 51 | Dan F | x | 6 | 1 |
| 61 | Karla B | x | 15 | 4 |
| 71 | Betty P | x | 3 | 1 |
| 72 | Ray M | x | 9 | 6 |
| 81 | Sherry C | x | 9 | 2 |
| 91 | Paul L | x | 10 | 4 |
| 93 | Kevin C | x | 8 | 3 |
| Non-Voting Officers | | | | |
| Advisor | Terry S | x | 0 | |
| Archivist | Earl F | x | 0 | |
| Webmaster | Alex M | x | 0 | |
| TOTAL | | | 104 Voting | 26 Visitor |
| Quorum=70 | | | | |

ORIENTATION DELEGATE SHARON S

Good morning! My name is Sharon S and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and responsibility to serve you as your Delegate to the 63rd General Service Conference my pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 Spring Area Assembly

I would like to recognize and welcome people here for their very first Area 40 Assembly. If this is your first Area 40 Assembly, please raise your hands? Thank you for being here, to serve A.A. your group, your district, your area and the alcoholic who needs us. Your participation is vital.

We are here this weekend to share and make decisions about Area 40 business and to give me a sense of the area for the General Service Conference. Gerry R. will chair the meeting; he will follow the agenda and it has been our practice to be punctual, so sessions will start on time.

We had a great welcoming session last night, and covered some basics about the A.A. Service and communications structure and the agenda and assembly practices. We won't repeat that this morning, but will briefly review the agenda and some of the practices.

We'll conduct a little business this morning, briefly highlighting our finances and DCM reports. As a result of our 2011 inventory, we've changed the early Saturday morning flow to avoid hours of sitting listening to reports. The DCM reports will end sharply at 9 am and continue in the afternoon; and the committees will meet from 9 to 12. The committee members were drawn from the hat at the fall assembly, to serve for this rotation (2013-2014) and generally include the chairperson, 2 DCM's and 2 district representatives. These are the voting members of the committee. The meetings are open and, generally, all persons attending have an opportunity to participate in discussion. We have invited two of our past delegates, Loren B. and Scott W. to lead workshops at 10 am and 11 am, so there are lots of options for everyone between 9 and 12. We also have other past delegates with us this weekend (introduce Loren, Scott, Earl, Mark, Terry).

We'll reconvene at 1 pm with a presentation of the Area web site by our Web master Alex M. We'll bet to see features of the web site that we may not know about! Then we'll finish the DCM reports and I'll give my delegate report. The delegate report and questions is given 45 minutes on the agenda; I do not expect to take that long, so the 3 PM floor assembly may start a little earlier than planned.

The floor assembly is where the fun begins: everyone has an opportunity to share and discuss items presented by the committee chairs. It's Gerry's responsibility to see that the meeting flows smoothly and effectively. He'll be 'loosely' and lovingly using Robert's Rules of Order to do that. We used a handout last night that included the Summary of Conference Procedures. There were some left over, so if you would like to have a copy, please see me. It is a nice, one page summary.

In addition, here are some general guidelines:

Here are some practices we use:

- People wishing to speak line up at the microphones and the chair will call on them in order.
- Introduce yourself at the microphone (each time you speak): name, service position, district
- Each person may speak for 3 minutes (hard stop when the time goes off)
- Everyone who wishes to speak will have a turn before anyone may speak for a second time
Full discussion should take place before the vote
- Everyone is entitled to, and should, express their opinion. However, if it has already been stated, it is not necessary to repeat it...
- Everyone is asked to refrain from clapping when people share, pro and con, in order to NOT discourage those who may have opposing opinions or facts
- Voting is by a show of hands
- Listen with an open mind, particularly to those who speak on the other side of an issue from you
- Remember that the loud voice is not always right!

The floor assembly will continue after dinner until 8:45 when we'll take a break and come back to GSR and DCM breakouts, some my favorite sessions of the weekend. The discussions will come from questions placed in the ask-it baskets in the back of the room, so please contribute your questions

We'll resume at 8 AM Sunday morning with some more reports, sharing by our two past delegate guests, and the remainder of the floor assembly until we're done or noon, whichever comes first.

Thanks for allowing me to serve, now let's get on with our business.

Your delegate,

Sharon S

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS LIBBIE L

Area 40, Inc. Budget vs Actual march 2013 Spring

| | Jan - Mar 13 | YTD Budget | Annual Budget |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Group Contributions | 6,982.53 | | |
| Triangle Subscriptions | 20.00 | | |
| Other Income (recouped from) | | | |
| Service Manuals | 106.55 | | |
| Total Other Income (recouped from) | 106.55 | | |
| Total Income | 7,109.08 | | |
| Expense | | | |
| Travel Expenses | | | |
| Gas | 456.80 | 751.25 | 4,000.00 |
| Mileage | 130.45 | 217.25 | 2,046.00 |
| Meals | 228.19 | 531.25 | 3,720.00 |
| Lodging | 365.36 | 481.25 | 4,850.00 |
| Air/Train/Taxi fare | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Area 40 contribution to GSC | 1,600.00 | 1,600.00 | 1,600.00 |
| Travel Expenses - Other | 39.00 | | |
| Total Travel Expenses | 2,819.80 | 3,581.00 | 17,316.00 |
| Rent | | | |
| Archives storage | 1,400.00 | 1,050.00 | 4,200.00 |
| Meeting space | 0.00 | 0.00 | 800.00 |
| Total Rent | 1,400.00 | 1,050.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Literature Expenses | | | |
| Lit purchases (not svc manuals) | 0.00 | 75.00 | 150.00 |
| Service manuals (for resale) | 171.60 | | |
| Total Literature Expenses | 171.60 | 75.00 | 150.00 |
| Photocopies / printing | | | |
| Background information | 49.00 | 225.00 | 425.00 |
| Photocopies / printing - Other | 725.70 | 542.50 | 2,490.00 |
| Total Photocopies / printing | 774.70 | 767.50 | 2,915.00 |
| Dues, registration, fees | 27.00 | 24.00 | 24.00 |
| Postage | 366.36 | 477.50 | 1,880.00 |
| Supplies | 260.77 | 195.00 | 405.00 |
| Telephone | | | |
| Directory Listings | 159.60 | 375.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Phone and Conference Calls | 54.11 | 50.00 | 150.00 |
| 800 Number | 252.00 | 750.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Total Telephone | 465.71 | 1,175.00 | 4,650.00 |
| Miscellaneous expense | 285.88 | 160.00 | 310.00 |
| Total Expense | 6,571.82 | 7,505.00 | 32,650.00 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 537.26 | (7,505.00) | (32,650.00) |
| Net Income | 537.26 | (7,505.00) | (32,650.00) |
| Check book balance (3/31/2013) | \$20,380.18 | | |
| Prudent Reserve | \$10,883.33 | | |
| Archivist Account | \$1,321.86 | | |
| Operating Balance | \$8,174.99 | | |

Area 40 Inc. Profit and Loss Spring 2013

| | | Jan - Mar 13 |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income | | |
| | Group Contributions | 6,982.53 |
| | Triangle Subscriptions | 20.00 |
| | Other Income (recouped from) | |
| | Service Manuals | 106.55 |
| | Total Other Income (recouped from) | 106.55 |
| | Total Income | 7,109.08 |
| Expense | | |
| | Travel Expenses | |
| | Gas | 456.80 |
| | Mileage | 130.45 |
| | Meals | 228.19 |
| | Lodging | 365.36 |
| | Area 40 contribution to GSC | 1,600.00 |
| | Travel Expenses - Other | 39.00 |
| | Total Travel Expenses | 2,819.80 |
| | Rent | |
| | Archives storage | 1,400.00 |
| | Total Rent | 1,400.00 |
| | Literature Expenses | |
| | Service manuals (for resale) | 171.60 |
| | Total Literature Expenses | 171.60 |
| | Photocopies / printing | |
| | Background information | 49.00 |
| | Photocopies / printing - Other | 725.70 |
| | Total Photocopies / printing | 774.70 |
| | Dues, registration, fees | 27.00 |
| | Postage | 366.36 |
| | Supplies | 260.77 |
| | Telephone | |
| | Directory Listings | 159.60 |
| | Phone and Conference Calls | 54.11 |
| | 800 Number | 252.00 |
| | Total Telephone | 465.71 |
| | Miscellaneous expense | 285.88 |
| | Total Expense | 6,571.82 |
| | Net Ordinary Income | 537.26 |
| | Net Income | 537.26 |

Slide 1

Area 40 2013 Spring Assembly

Financial Report

Slide 2

Where Money And Spirituality

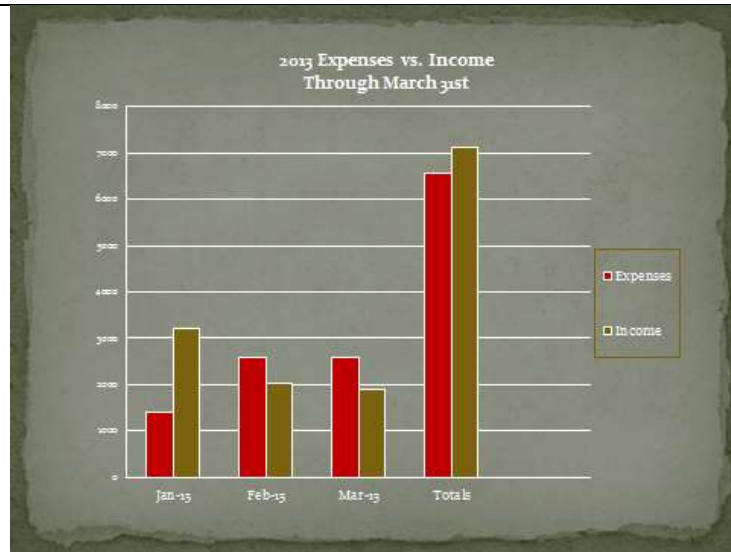


Slide 3

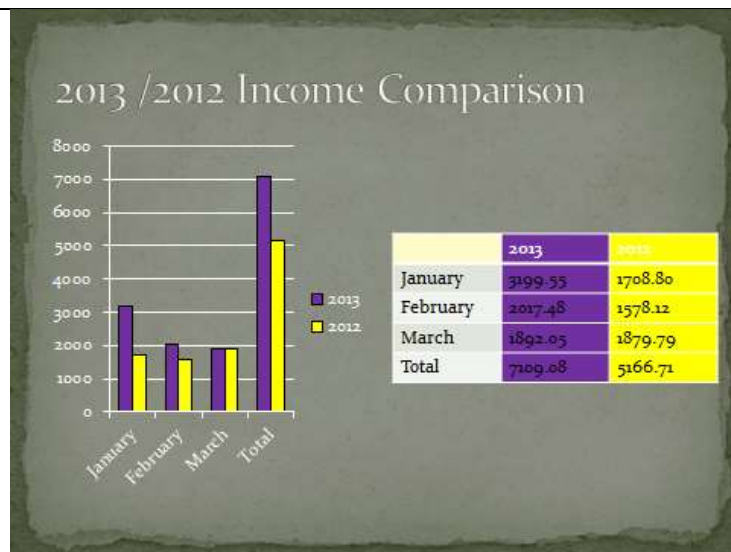
MIX



Slide 4



Slide 5



5

Slide 6



5

Slide 7



5

Slide 8

Because we do have Expenses

“But we do have expenses...”

When you “put money in the basket” you support your group and AA, worldwide. You help make sure that:

- AA gets meeting space
- Phones get answered
- Presenters get the books
- Professionals get correct answers
- Lower AAs get letters
- Newcomers get literature and meeting books
- Patients get meetings
- Your voice is heard!
- AAs around the globe share experience, strength and hope



Empty, empty world
I want the hand of AA always to be there ...

Meeting room rent, coffee, etc...

Slide 9

Remember the 7th Tradition



Baskets will be passed

5

Slide 10

Language of the Heart, pg. 134 Nov. 1951

• *Above all, let's change our old attitudes about money. Collectively, AA members earn an enormous income because of their sobriety; it's a one-half a billion-dollar bonanza each year. Can we not wisely, gratefully, and humbly reinvest a tiny fraction of this vast sum in those vital services that make AA tick? I think we can, and I think we shall. For in our own lives we have seen sobriety produce money, and in our AA services we have seen a little money produce incalculable spiritual dividends Let's think this all through again.*

— Bill W.

Slide 11



Thank you

DCM REPORTS

(DCM District's 11, 12, 23 gave reports starting at 8:45 – 9:00am)

DISTRICT 11 MIKE D. DCM

District 11 is active, and growing in participation. We serve 25 groups across 6 cities in South-Eastern Montana: Billings, Lockwood, Huntley, Roundup, Hardin, and Crow Agency. So far for the first quarter of this year we have averaged attendance of 25-30 at our monthly business meeting, 12-15 of which being GSR's. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00am 2931 Colton Blvd Billings, MT.

We kicked off this rotation with a Trusted Servants Workshop in January, which was very well attended, and tons of fun! Our current Delegate Sharon S. came down, along with past Delegate Carole B. to help facilitate a workshop on the 12 Traditions, which we used to conduct a District Inventory/Action Plan. It was a very unique experience rooted in our 1st Tradition of Unity.

In February our Corrections Chair Rose H. brought her committee with her to Roundup per request of the Roundup Serenity Seekers Group in support of them starting a jail meeting at the Musselshell County Detention Facility. They are very excited and eager at the opportunity to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic behind those walls.

We have also created a new committee for Bridging The Gap. Dave O. is the BTG Chair, and has been very busy establishing a communications system of group liaisons to help generate local contacts to participate in BTG. So far we have had a dozen BTG community contact requests from the Watch East program in Glendive. We are eager to see where this 12 Step work will be taking us! There has been a lot of interest in our AA Community.

In March we hosted a Pre-Assembly in Billings. Sharon, Gerry, Terry, Kira, & Brandon were there to represent the Area Committee. There were 8 local GSR's present, a handful of local members, and guests participating from District's 21, 23, 31, & 51. We had a great time helping each other become well informed for the Area Assembly, so that we could all be the best servants possibly for our groups!

Last weekend we had our local Founder's Day mini-conference hosted by South Central Montana Intergroup. It was a blast, we had great speakers, amazing workshops, well over 200 in attendance! Earl F. came down and brought an Archives Display, and joined Mindi D. in presenting the History of AA in Area 40 & The Billings Story.

We have much more action in the works! Our Archives Chair Mindi D. will be having an Archives workshop in May. Our CPC Committee has begun to prepare plans for a PI/CPC presentation for professionals in the community per the request of the local treatment court judges. We will be hosting a Unity Day Celebration June 8th which will consist of a Delegate's Report from Sharon, workshops on BTG/CPC Work/& Carrying The Message Into Institutions, a BBQ Potluck, our Regional Trustee Andrew W. will be speaking also! Al-Anon will be participating in this event, they will also have a Delegate's Report, workshops, and an evening speaker! Later in August we will be getting together with District 12 for the annual Fireman's Point Campout! And in October we are hosting the Area 40 Fall Roundup at the Crown Plaza in Billings!

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service, and to participate in this amazing life with you all!!

Mike D

DCM District 11

DISTRICT 12 DANIEL M. DCM

My name is Daniel and I am an alcoholic,

I am the DCM for district 12 which includes Absorakee, Bridger, Big Timber, Columbus, Fromberg, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, & Red Lodge. We meet the third Sunday of each month at Laurel Home Group at 4pm, and welcome AA visitors to join us. All of our service positions were filled through a pizza party /district election strategy, and this remains our best turnout for a district meeting yet. We added a new position for archives to our district, and our first item that was presented was a Big Book that had belonged to the late founder of Laurel AA, Perry R. The book contains notes and signatures of many in our fellowship that Perry met in his travels as delegate. We had a well-attended Mid-winter Social in Joliet in February with AA speakers Fritz from Gillette, WY, Lee from Fromberg, & Alanon speaker Jim H. from Laurel. The potluck was delicious, and there were many beautiful items donated for the silent auction. Our next event will be the Fireman's Point Campout outside of Columbus on August 9th-11th. This event features a Poker run & meeting by the river, fireside speaker meeting & resentment burning, 2nd annual Spam cook-off, potluck & BBQ, & camping & fellowship with the best people in my world. There is also a delegates report & awesome breakfast provided by district 11 to wrap up the weekend. Thank you to all who participate in making our district a great place to be sober.

DISTRICT 21 JOE GARCIA DCM - NOT PRESENT - NO REPORT SUBMITTED

DISTRICT 23 MARY C-M DCM

District 23 is alive and well; having survived the long winter. We have the following active meetings listed on Area 40 website:

Glendive 6, Sidney 5

Culbertson, Circle. Crane, Fairview, Savage &, Wibaux - have 1 meeting a week that are unregistered and struggling to survive. Sidney has a smoker's meeting on Monday evenings.

Attendance at Glendive & Sidney meetings are steady.

Attendance in our struggling groups is sporadic.

Sidney has hosted 2 pot lucks this year; New Year's Eve & St Patrick's Day corned beef dinner. Those in attendance had a great time.

Glendive is still planning on hosting Lower Yellowstone Soberfest; more details to follow.

Sidney will begin hosting Spring / Summer weekend picnics in the park as the weather warms up.

Sidney continues to host meetings in Richland Co. Jail. Both men & women meetings have a steady presence.

Glendive is looking into bringing in a meeting to the Dawson Co Jail to supplement the AA meeting run by the jail.

Bridging the Gap is going well at Watch East in Glendive. Both Glendive & Sidney support the outside AA meetings at Watch East.

In addition to our AA meetings we are happy to announce that both Glendive & Sidney host Al-Anon Meetings.

In Service and Sobriety

Mary M.

Hard stop at 9 am

Workshops

(For those not attending committee meetings)

9:00 – 10:00 “AA-Beyond your Home Group walls.”

Led by Past Delegate Scott W.

Scott told story of a trip to Cook Islands and his experience hooking up with AA there. The group then shared about their experiences in AA when they travel and when they do service work. Some of the comments and themes that came up are listed below:

-Some opportunities to take AA outside home group walls:

Jail meetings

Watch Program

MCDC

Bridging the Gap

Teen Treatment programs

S.T.A.R.T. program

-how to inspire other AA members to do service work?

“Come along with me – see if you like it!”

“inspiration by showing up – we make ourselves available”

“attraction, not promotion”

“focus on doing things we love; caring”

-benefits of doing service work; of going outside comfort zone of home group

-sense of gratitude

-feelings of joy, peace, serenity

-importance of service work as a tool of the program – a way to stay connected in AA, keep sober

-some other thoughts

“obligation is my gratitude put into action”

“paying it forward”

“staying connected to AA”

10:00 -11:00 “Autonomy and Unity: How’s that work?”

Led by Past Delegate Loren B.

An interactive workshop with participants breaking off into groups and discussing the questions below.

1. A group has a closed meeting. Their meeting format states that at the start of the meeting they go around the room and everyone has to introduce themselves. If anyone introduces himself as not being an alcoholic, that person is escorted from the meeting.

Can they do that? Does that affect other groups or AA as a whole?

2. Our group has a man who was harassing the women in the group, both at the meetings and outside of meetings. The group held a group conscience meeting and decided to ban this man from their meeting for 90 days. If, during that time, he didn’t harass the women then the group would hold another group conscience and decide if they would let him come back.

Can they do that? Does their action affect other groups or AA as a whole?

3. A group has trouble meeting its expenses. Even when it asks group members to contribute more, almost no one does. So, in order to raise more money they decide to have a garage sale. Since its open to the whole town, they will be taking in money from non-alcoholics.

Can they do that? Does that affect other groups or AA as a whole?

4. A group does not start their meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Instead, the chairperson reads a prayer that starts, “Dear Jesus, bless this meeting.” And ends with, “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

Can they do that? Does that affect other groups or AA as a whole?

5. A group doesn't send money to District, Area, or GSO. They think it's all politics. As a result, it periodically has an excess of funds. When the excess reaches a certain amount the group takes the money and goes out for a pizza party. Other AA members attend their meeting so this group is spending 7th Tradition money on pizza that these other AA members assumed would be spent on AA-coffee, rent, Big Books, etc.

Can they do that? Does that affect other groups or AA as a whole?

Demonstration of Area 40 Website – Area 40 Webmaster Alex M. (1:00-1:40)

Very informative workshop on what is new to the Area 40 website and how to get around on the site.

DISTRICT 31-MARTIN D - DCM

Greetings and Salutations from District 31. It is with a great sense of humility that I have been granted the honor of representing the District 31. My agenda, while I am serving District 31 is going to be in the field of communications between the towns, the groups, and the individual members Alcoholics Anonymous. I will be panning on attending several out of my hometown meetings, each month, and carrying as many people as I can fit into tone vehicle, along with me, if they should so voluntarily decide to travel along.

There is one meeting a week over in Terry, where there are now three alcoholics in attendance each Monday evening, the unusual part about this group over in Terry is, that it is a satellite off of one of the groups in Miles City. They liked the one Miles City group so well that they wanted to carry that over to their town, and so it e is become a part of the Miles City group, and the vehicle that travels over to their weekly meeting usually has a full load.

I will be trying to bring news, announcements, and any relevant information to the groups visited and then bringing information that I am informed of back in, then, back out to the other groups, carrying the message of Alcoholic Anonymous will be of the utmost importance.

There is a car that travels from Miles City to Glendive on either of the weekend nights and some weeks for a couple of the weekend nights evening meetings. The purpose of these journeys is to go to the meetings of the Watch East Program, and has had quite a success in filling a car to make that trip.

We have a new Treatment Chair person in Miles City that has been doing an outstanding job in getting people to sign up for the Watch East contact list and then getting that contact information to the responsible person that gets it transferred over to the aa-montana.org website. If anyone wants to get signed up for a “contact person” for any of the treatment facilities, then please get ahold of your Treatment chairperson of your district and have them get your name and contact information on to that list.

This is one of the facilities that there just does not seem to be enough outside contact information for those graduating from this program. I heard about the people at Watch East tell the inmates that they will be contacted by AA in the community to which they are returning. Then I hear AA’s in the community say that they gave their name and number to Watch East and that when someone comes out they’ll get a call and that maybe take them to a meeting or something. I have had my name on that list for several years and I had received a couple of calls at the first, then it seemed like I had not got any calls for a very long time, several years, and then here comes this last bit of information, but it seems that somehow my name had gotten removed from the list and so I returned a new form with my information and so it should be there once more again. I had never heard of having to contact anyone graduating from the program and so I think I had better get some more information on that.

Another thing that one of the groups in Miles City is doing is a literature meeting each week, by picking out a pamphlet or some other AA Conference Approved literature, and then, reading and discussing as we read along, one paragraph at a time. I attend these literature meetings and at first I thought, oh how boing this is going to be, but, to my surprise this meeting is a meeting that I have come to like and really enjoy. I had never read much literature, especially the pamphlets, and so I was quite surprised how much information that there is in these simple little pieces of literature to discuss and enjoy. I never had any idea at all, so if one of your groups is looking for new venue for meeting topics, pick up on of those pamphlets and start reading, it will bring to light a lot of things you always just wondered about.

Well I want to thank you and I will do my best to keeping everyone informed of what is going on within my district. Martin D, DCM District 31

DISTRICT 41 CHRIS W - DCM

Hello everyone,

My name is Chris W and I am the DCM for District 41. Lee T is our Alternant DCM and graciously stepped up to help me out as I am unable to attend this assembly as a result of my current studies.

District 41 has meetings from right here in Lewistown to Great Falls and out to Fort Benton. We have at least 7 meetings a day in Great Falls during the week with at least 5 meetings on both Saturday and Sunday. We have had two new meetings which have been up and going for close to 8 months now. We have many new members to our district committee and they all are enthused about being of service. For the first time in a long time we have every district chair position filled with solid participation from many groups. Our district meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. We have a very strong and active BTG Chair who is helping carry the message to the still suffering.

Our district will be holding our first annual Founders Day Mini Conference this year on June 8th and 9th. There will food, fellowship, and great speakers all at Ryan's Dam the great falls of Great Falls. Awesome location and great time for all, hope to see you there.

This summer our fellowship will host the annual Unity Campout in the Beautiful Belt Mountains near Monarch, MT. This is one excellent weekend with loads of fun in sobriety.

I would like to take this time to thank my friends and fellowship members who are here in Lewistown being responsible and ensuring that we stick with our primary purpose and continue to fight and reach out for that still suffering alcoholic.

In service,

Chris W District 41 DCM

DISTRICT 42 BETH Z. – DCM

My name is Beth; I am an Alcoholic and the DCM for district 42. We have been busy in District 42 with housekeeping since January. Just making sure the meetings are updated with Area and GSO. Thank you Mary for all your help with my questions.

I have now visited all the meetings in the district and am very happy to see the enthusiasm the groups have in district 42.

We have decided to have District Meetings move from group to group every month and have them hosted by each group. We have 3 new meetings in the district and many of our existing meetings are growing.

We have started a monthly newsletter with our district minutes and picking a topic each month to focus on. This month is finance and group contributions. We use AA approved literature on these topics. We print all the events that are on the area website and flyers that we have received from our district and others. It seems to be working well to get the flow of information out to all our groups.

We have new members exited and getting into service work. The district hopes to do some workshops and host some speaker meetings.

It was decided to print meeting lists for public places such as motels and travel centers to invite traveling AA members that vacation in our area. We will also be putting them in local public buildings such as the Court Houses, Libraries, Jails, and Hospitals and Dr. Offices to help our local residences that want to reach out for help.

We just finished a prison orientation workshop and got 4 new members approved to carry the message at the Shelby Prison.

One of our goals this year is to get into the local jails in some form whether it is meeting lists, Grapevines, Big Books and our ultimate goal to be able to do 12 step calls and meetings in the jail. This we will keep working on.

Thank you Beth Z

DISTRICT 51 DAN F – DCM NO REPORT SUBMITTED

DISTRICT 61 KARLA B. - DCM

District 61 is comprised of towns from Boulder to Lincoln and Wolf Creek and from Elliston to White Sulpher Springs with over 100 meetings available per week.

March was a busy month for us as District 61 was the home of the Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm mini-conference and hosted a Pre-Assembly at Boulder Hot Springs, along with Districts 41, 71 and 72. Both events were well attended. If you missed them, we encourage and invite you to join us next year!

This summer, District 61 will be hosting the Grapefest on June 22 at the Wilson House where Sharon S will be giving her Delegate Report. We will also be hosting a Treatment-Corrections Workshop on June 8. This is open to professionals who want to learn more about AA, as well as open to AA members who would like to learn more about 12 step opportunities in these areas. The Last Chance Group will be having their annual campout at Vigilante Campground on June 21-23 and all are invited. There are flyers for these events on the area website for more information (aamontana.org).

If you are in the Helena area any day or night of the week, please join us for a meeting. Our schedule can be found on the area website. If you need a ride, call the hotline and someone would be happy to pick you up. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Karla B Dist 61 DCM

DISTRICT 71 BETTY P - DCM

District 71 – We have 25 groups and approximately 65 meetings each week. All of our committee chair positions are filled except for PI/CPC. We take meetings to MT State Hospital, WATCH, START, MCDC and the Butte Silver Bow jail. We will be hosting the Spring Roundup May 2-4, 2014. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Betty P

DISTRICT 72 RAY M - DCM

Things in District 72 are a hopping. The Round Up is next weekend, and we have several speakers from out of state lined up. The activities for the Round Up will be split between the Grand Tree and Holiday Inn on North 7th Avenue. We also have a pool party, a dance, a young people's panel and some good eats planned for you all. Don't forget to stop by the hospitality room and say hi to some of our volunteers or if you need directions to the events they are there to help you find them. We still need registrations to be completed, you can go to www.bozemanroundup.com and payments are made through PayPal. It would help out a lot if you can get this done before Friday next week.

We are looking forward to a great summer and the Hobo picnic that is usually held in June, lots of good food, and games for the little ones and live music to be enjoyed by all. We usually have a meeting around 9 pm to close out this event.

Our attendance is going good in most of our meetings; one or two could surely use a hand as the opener is the only one there, Monday nights at 7 pm at the Pilgrim Congregational Church for example. Our meetings into the county jail are going great as we have four meetings on Monday and Tuesday nights and the guys who are in there are thirsty for the program and are begging for sponsors. We need more men to attend these meetings and help these guys work the steps. We have a lot of new GSRs in attendance here today and are looking forward to carrying the message from District 72 here to the Assembly to assure that Alcoholics Anonymous stays alive and well in the state of Montana. We also have new meetings going in Bozeman; a step study on Wednesday night, and a new Women's meeting on Wednesday night.

A big thank you, to our Area Delegate, Sharron S. for attending our last District Meeting to go over and help us understand the Agenda for this Area Meeting. Don't forget to stop by any meeting and tell us hi when you are out and about this summer, and look for announcements of more upcoming events on the Area Website for District 72.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Ray M., DCM District 72

DISTRICT 81 SHERRY C. - DCM

District 81 includes the area from Missoula to Polson to Thompson Falls. We have a lot of groups and even more meetings. I'm very fortunate to be the DCM of a very active District with 20-25 GSR's attending District meetings. I found out at the WCRSC that in more populated areas, some Districts only have 8 GSR's attending District.

Most groups in our District are thriving with only a couple needing support: the Phoenix Group meeting Tuesday night at 6:30 at the Salvation Army on Broadway and the Alberton Group meeting Tuesday night at 7pm at the Methodist Church at 802 Railroad St. in Alberton. If you're in the area on a Tuesday evening, please help support these meetings.

All our District Chair positions are filled by enthusiastic AA'ers. I can't wait to see what they do. Last month a Bridging the Gap District chair position was created and filled. So far we've had a Valentine's Dance, A GSR school, and a Grapevine writing party with 4 stories submitted to the Grapevine and more to come.

My favorite District meeting experience was when the District chairs presented the GSC agenda items from their respective committees and we discussed them. The discussion was lively.

Upcoming events include a Founder's Day celebration on June 15th with a morning presentation by our Area Delegate, Sharon S., a noon potluck and the annual newcomers versus oldtimers softball game. Come join us if you can. We'll put a flyer on the area website when we have more details.

My goals as DCM include visiting all the groups in our District as well as eliminating those groups that are inactive from GSO lists. This is an easy way to increase the District's percentage of groups contributing to GSO. This summer I hope to have District meetings in towns other than Missoula at least a couple of times. I have a theory that taking the District meeting on the road encourages people in those towns to attend District and find out what's going on.

There's a new inpatient treatment center opening in Missoula- The Recovery Center of Missoula. We'll be taking in AA meetings as a part of their treatment program. It's good to have someplace in town to send folks for treatment.

Yours in love and Service,

Sherry C, DCM District 81

DISTRICT 91 PAUL. - DCM

I am an alcoholic and my name is Paul.

I would first like to express my gratitude to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous for their program of recovery that has given me a new life and hope. I would also like to thank the fellowship of District 91 for entrusting me as their DCM.

Like the other Districts in our Area we cover a large territory. From the Canadian border to halfway down Flathead Lake and from Glacier Park heading west halfway to Libby.

We have 19 active groups of which 12 have GSR's and are active in the District. These Groups host 108 meetings a week. (I had the good fortune of having a new hip installed in December and I had a lot of time off. I was able to attend a meeting at every group but one as well as attending their monthly Group Conscience meetings. It was a great experience going to 14 or 15 different meetings a week. AA is alive and well in District 91). The monthly District Business meeting is held on the last Sunday of the month from 3 to 4:30. The location changes monthly and is hosted by different groups. We average over 25 people at our District meetings, with usually 10 to 12 GSR's present. Our CPC chair is currently open and is being covered by the previous chair. Our District supports meetings to the Wilderness and Pathways Treatment facilities and we are in the process of revitalizing the meetings in our jails.

We are developing a written set of guidelines for our District based on the memory of those who have served in the past, the AA Service manual and an outline developed by Robbie S. In the past this information was passed on in an oral tradition. With the diversification of the District Committee and the increased presence of new GSR's we felt that some written explanation of how we do our business in District 91 would be helpful.

We are continuing the work started by Sam and Libbie, the previous DCM's, of promoting unity between the District and the Flathead Valley Intergroup. There is a history of these groups not playing well together, we are in the process of changing that. Gerry helped initiate this with a sharing session between members of Intergroup and the District at last years Spring Round-Up in Kalispell and we had a potluck together in late summer. We are now cooperating with a district/intergroup liaison.

We held the Into Action weekend in February featuring speakers and workshops on service. It was attended by 85 people.

We also hosted the Pre-Assembly for our District and Districts 81 and 93. There were about 35 people in attendance with 7 Area Committee members helping out. More than half the people there were attending their first Pre-Assembly event. We engaged in a unique and hopefully successful format to share information that will be discussed at this Assembly. I suppose its success will be measured after this assembly.

There have been other events held by the Groups of the District such as the Sober Ski, Bowling nights, Valentine's Day & St. Patrick's Day potlucks and other winter activities. We absolutely insist on enjoying life.

The District will be hosting a CPC/PI Workshop with Area Chairs Peggy and Serena helping out. This will be on May 4 at 2:30. If you want to spend Cinco-De-Mayo weekend in Kalispell learning about Public Information and how to cooperate with the Professional Community then come check this out.

For information about all of our upcoming events dial up the Area website or the www.aa-kalispell website.

Yours in service, Paul L. DCM District 91

DISTRICT 93 KEVIN C. - DCM

Hello everybody,

4/6/13

My name is Kevin C. and I am an alcoholic. I would like to welcome everybody to the 2013 Area 40 Spring Assembly. District 93 has 16 groups and 29 meetings stretching from Lolo to Conner each week. I am entering my fourth month as DCM for district 93 and I am surprised how time consuming this position is. Last year before I accepted the position of DCM we were having problems with the lack of participation and I challenged the GSR's and committee members that if we do not find more help we might have to merge with District 81. Lo and behold the next month we doubled in size and we were able to staff all committees. Last month I attended District 91 pre-assembly in Somers, Montana. I was grateful to get a ride from Sherry C. our District 81 DCM. There was a great turn out for the pre-assembly, I learned a lot and met many great new friends of Bill W. On the weekend of June 21-23, 2013, we will be having our Annual Bitterroot Picnic & Campout at Lake Como in the Bitterroot National Forest which is just 12 miles south of Hamilton, Montana. There will be potlucks Friday & Saturday nights and the district will be supplying hamburgers & hot dogs. On Saturday night, the district will be auctioning off many awesome and amazing items with all proceeds going to District 93. Also, on Saturday night there will be an AA meeting under the stars, next to a campfire and God will be throwing in a full moon for a bonus. Sunday morning the district will be serving up eggs, sausage & potatoes for breakfast. Breakfast will be served at 0800 hours and Sharon S. will be giving here delegate presentation around 0930 hours. I have a few flyers with me and you can always get a copy online at <http://www.aa-montana.org> I hope to see many new and old friends at our campout. If you are in the Bitterroot Valley and need a meeting or just someone to talk to "we are here for you".

Yours in Service,
Kevin C.

DELEGATE'S REPORT (2:05-2:15)

My name is Sharon S. and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and responsibility to serve as your delegate to the 63rd General Service Conference. I am a Panel 63 delegate (the panel number is assigned the first year of the rotation and follow the conference year).

I have experienced a full range of emotions since the election in September. I think I was pretty numb for a while, then I was happy intermixed with apprehension and anxiety. There have been a few times when I experienced elation and great gratitude that I get to this and have the resources to be able to do it!! And, there have been some moments of terror and anxiety, and I'm not even in New York, yet. Thank goodness for my sponsor who just keeps reminding me to go to meetings, work the steps, work with others and that there had better be a God! We don't want me running the show!

My delegate duties started pretty gradually, meeting casually with our past delegate, Terry. He kept very good communication with me when I was Alternate Delegate, so our transition was pretty easy. We met a few times over the months to discuss the transition, answer my questions, and visit about things I was worried about. I've had the opportunity to visit with many of our past delegates for their advice, also. Most of them have suggested that I should have fun and that this experience will change my life! Hmm! I was pretty happy with my life before this, what is goin' to happen now??

Andrew, Area 40 Delegate Panel 57 and currently serving as the West Central Regional Trustee, had 2 conference calls and has shared the minutes from the General Service Board meetings. I think he will continue to do that after every board meeting, discussing with the WCR delegates what happened at the meeting and answering questions we may have. I felt like I was still trying to understand what was going on, so didn't contribute much to the calls, but am hopeful that will change for future calls and I will have some good questions. I was grateful on these calls when others piped up with questions that had only fleetingly come to my mind.

My Delegates' Communication Kit was waiting for me when I came home from my Christmas vacation. The General Service Office does a great job at preparing us, with lots of suggestions about what to do to prepare for the conference. There were reading suggestions, so I got out my highlighter and reread the service manual and other A.A. literature. It has all taken on new meaning! The kit also included my conference committee assignment. I will be serving on the Agenda Committee. We will have fun reviewing and discussing suggestions for the theme and presentation/discussion topics for the 2014 Conference. In addition, I get to participate in taking the Conference Inventory, which we will continue next year. A few weeks later I got a call from Eva at GSO asking me if I would be able to accept a secondary assignment on the International Conventions and Regional Forums Committee. One of the delegates on the committee is from an Area that is submitting a bid for the 2025 International, so had to step down and, once again, my name was drawn from the hat. I am quite excited to serve on the site selection committee and to hear presentations from the five cities: Denver, Minneapolis, Montreal, St. Louis, Vancouver.

We had an Area Committee (this includes the Area Delegate, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, standing committee chairs, Archivist, Web Master and DCM's) conference call in January and will probably have another when I return from the Conference. We don't make any decisions on these calls, but it is a good opportunity for the committee to stay in contact in between assemblies and to discuss things that may be on our minds. I have been trying to write a brief article for the Triangle each month. I really appreciate that we have so many ways to communicate with each other. I think it unifies our Area!

One of the best parts of being delegate is the opportunity to spend time with you! We kicked off the new year with an Area 40 audit. The incoming and outgoing delegates, area chairs, and treasurers met to review the treasury and address any transition questions we had. We looked through the Treasurer's files: check book, bank statements, and receipts and found all in excellent order. We had a good visit, asked and answered a few questions, and agreed the Area has been in good hands the last two years and we will try to do the same.

Next, I got to participate in a great workshop in Billings hosted by District 11. The workshop was very fun, productive and well attended. A few people new to service were very excited to be there and to find there is way more to A.A. than they thought!

GSO uses a resource called the dashboard that allows delegates to access all confidential conference material online. The 2013 General Service Conference dashboard was launched in January, so I had some time to practice using it before the agenda and background material were available.

I got to participate in District 72's GSR/Committee Chair workshop in February. Again, we had a lot of fun and a great turnout of past and current trusted servants to share their experience, strength and hope. Best of all, District 72 A.A. members turned out and filled the room beyond expectations!

Then, the information started coming. Mid February, the final conference agenda and background material were available. I got them off the dashboard, a very easy process, and got copies off to the DCM's and committee chairs the same day. The dashboard is a great tool and I am hoping that someday Area 40 will be able to provide a similar tool to distribute confidential information to the Area Committee and perhaps all A.A. members. Then I started reading, trying to get ready for the West Central Regional Service Conference in Rapid City the first weekend in March where I got to meet current and past delegates from our region and receive some much needed experience, strength and hope from them; I also got a dress rehearsal of presenting my 2 minute Area Highlights for the conference; Mike D. (DCM District 11) and Sherry C. (DCM District 81) gave presentations on "Self Support – What does it mean to the Fellowship?"; we had our first opportunity to discuss the General Service Conference agenda. There was some laughter and prayer on the trip. Connie, Libbie and I are still at a loss as to how, with 3 of the best back seat drivers in the world in the car, Gerry managed to miss the turn in Belle Fouche SD. Talk to Gerry if you want to hear the rest of that very exciting story! Gerry got us all home safely, in spite of a nasty blizzard and very bad driving conditions. I do not recall a time in my life where I was grateful to be a rider and not the driver. If you need to go through a blizzard, get in the car with Gerry, he did a great job.

The rest of March was very busy, with preassemblies in Billings, Somers, and Boulder. Although the dynamics and organization of each was different, they all went well and we got through all the agenda items at all the meetings. I am looking forward to the floor assembly and what the groups in the Area are thinking about the conference agenda items. The Trustees' Committee agenda item on the structure of the AAWS and GV board has generated a lot of lively conversation and I am interested in hearing more. I am doing my best to be open-minded and prayerful until I have the sense of the Area and the additional information I will receive at the conference. This will be exciting and I'm sure there will be lots of information at the conference. Your sense and the God within will help me, I am certain.

I will fly out to New York City on Thursday April 18, a day early. My daughter will meet me there and we'll spend Friday in the city. Stacy suffered greatly from having an alcoholic mother and loves Alcoholics Anonymous for giving her a sober mother and we love spending time together and what an honor to get to show off A.A. by taking her as my guest to the opening dinner on Sunday night. I got rid of all my big girl clothes when I retired, so she and Santa took care of my wardrobe for the trip and gave me a rolling bag to carry my computer, books and notebook. Thinking fondly about our past delegate Robbie S., I have tried to spend less time worrying about what I am going to wear than what I am supposed to be studying and preparing for!

For me, the conference starts 8 A.M. Saturday with the International Conventions/Regional forums site selection committee and the presenting cities. I hope I will be able to attend the pre-conference activities Saturday afternoon which include a special Hospitality Room to meet the other delegates and staff and board members and the 1728 Meeting (12 x 12 x 12) where Class A trustees and other interested non-alcoholics learn more about A.A. There is a remote communities meeting also and a Delegates only meeting in the evening.

The conference officially starts at 10 am Sunday morning. In addition to the agenda items we'll be discussing in a few minutes, it will be honor to present Scott W., another of our past delegates, to the West Central Region delegates as a candidate for Trustee-at-Large. If he is selected, I will get to present him to the conference. Later, I will get to vote to accept the slate of nontrustee directors for the A.A. W.S. Board. This slate includes Area 40 Panel 59 delegate, and my good friend, Carole B.

Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to write to me while at the conference, my address will be:

Sharon S.
Crown Plaza Times Square Hotel
1605 Broadway (at 49th)
New York, NY 10019

I'll have my electronics. I won't be using them during meetings, but I will check as often as possible — I would love to hear from you: cards, letters, texts, emails, voice mails! Other delegates have reported that these communications from Area 40 members were invaluable, so I would appreciate hearing from you. If I can't be with you, hearing from you will remind me who and what I am and what you have asked me to do!!

I will be back in Bozeman late April 28 and will be travelling to the districts to give delegate reports. I've scheduled a few and hope to get more on the calendar this weekend:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| May 18 (tentative) – District 31 | June 23 – District 93 |
| June 8 – District 11 | June 30 – District 91 |
| June 9 – District 41 (tentative) | August 11 – District 12 (tentative) |
| June 15 – District 81 | August 17 – District 23 (Tentative) |
| June 22 – District 61 | |

I am amazed at God's work on the wreck that came to you in July of 1985; as a result of showing up in A.A., I have a fabulous life. Thank you for trusting me to serve.

Yours in Love and Service,

Sharon S. Panel 63 Delegate, Area 40 Montana

FLOOR ASSEMBLY/COMMITTEE REPORTS, MOTIONS, AND DISCUSSION

Corrections/International Conventions Regional Forums – Lee G (2:30-2:50)

Committee members – Karla, District 61 DCM; Betty, District 71 DCM; Jessica, District 72 District Representative; Peter, District 23 District Representative

Corrections Report: Lee gave his Area Corrections report (see report). He mentioned that there are no meetings currently at Riverside, state juvenile female facility in Boulder. Jessica says that efforts are being made in Districts 72 & 61 to get those meetings going again. Lee still has a question about the status of meetings at Dawson Regional Prison. Someone mentioned that there are no meetings currently at Pine Hills, juvenile facility for boys. Duane says meetings at Crossroads Facility in Shelby are going well. Lee will update the active facility meeting list with Erin and Mary.

Area Corrections Chair Report

I'm still in the process of acquainting myself with and contacting all of the statewide facilities and also getting a list of the AA contacts are for these meetings. From my understanding, weekly (at least) meetings are being held at most facilities (MSP, Women's prison, MASC-Missoula, Crossroads Correctional-Shelby, START-Anaconda, WATCH West-Warm Springs, WATCH East-Glendive, Cascade County Regional Prison-Great Falls, Elkhorn-Boulder, but not Riverside, not sure about Dawson County Regional Prison.

MSP – Meetings started back last December. Meetings rotate between Districts 61/71 - 1st, 72 – 2nd, 93 – 3rd, 81 – 4th, 40 volunteers currently on the list. We have meetings on both the Low Security side of the prison and out at the Work Dorm, 5:15-6:15 on Saturday evening. We have been able to provide a meeting every Saturday. Meetings have 6-14 members in attendance.

Orientation – January 19th, 6 new AA volunteers, future orientations are scheduled for May 25th and September 21st (assembly weekend). These are on the Area 40 website calendar with an introductory letter and applications with directions.

Trying to finalize the District Corrections Chair map – have 4 districts to add to the list.

Working with Erin and Mary to clarify and update how many active/registered groups we have within correctional facilities and who the contact persons are based on the FNV list. At MSP, there were two inactive groups listed and the contact person has been gone from the facility for at least 10 years. I'm still trying to confirm a couple of facilities and contact information. There were 7 groups on that list.

I attended pre-assemblies in Kalispell and Boulder and the District Corrections meeting in Kalispell after being invited by DCM Paul L.

Pink Can – (see attached report) I have received some question over how the money can be spent (jails/local institutions or just statewide facilities?) and what pieces of literature can be bought. I'm hoping the committee will discuss this.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Lee G, Area Corrections Chair

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Montana State Prison: The next orientation for volunteers in May 25th, applications are available on the website and need to be turned in 4-6 weeks in advance. They can be submitted directly to the prison. Someone asked about the requirements for getting into the prison. Lee shared the policy which is: no felonies for 5 years, no violent misdemeanors for 3 years. There is no sobriety requirement currently. Another policy is that volunteers cannot correspond with inmates, so no letter writing or sponsoring through the mail for volunteers. Lee will check with our prison contact to see if there are special considerations that might allow for mail sponsorship. Lee shared that if a volunteer has not made a meeting in a year, they will be considered inactive and will need to attend the orientation again. Women are permitted to go into MSP. Lee will also talk to the prison about the potential for re-starting the semi-annual mini conferences and for conducting a weekend Big Book/Step Study like they did at the Women's Prison last fall.

Area Agenda: We reviewed proposed changes to the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals." Changes include taking out references to a survey that was conducted in 1974, taking out most statistical references to increase the shelf life of the pamphlet and rearranging certain sections. The committee agreed with all the changes recommended. It was also recommended that the entire pamphlet be reviewed which was also acceptable to the committee.

Review the Corrections Kit and Workbook: Lee shared that districts can buy a kit and/or workbook for their district chairs. It's a great resource to have available.

Discuss how to engage AAs in corrections service: Duane announces the need for volunteers and keeps an eye on orientations. Jessica says District 72 has created a flyer that is read at meetings about corrections opportunities. They also had a Service Workshop where AAs were able to meet with District and Area servants to find out more about corrections work. Justin shared that District 61 has district 'mega-committee' made up of the Corrections, Treatment, PI and CPC chairs. They put on a luncheon every year and invite local and statewide professionals in various fields to come. AAs and the professional share about their experience of having AA in facilities. Donna said that this type of service is best encouraged through sponsorship. Karla shared that in White Sulphur Springs the jail actually lets the inmates go to the local AA meeting and then

return to the facility. Dale said that getting a district corrections committee going and active was very important. Scott says District 23 gets approval from the PO and sheriff to do trainings for more volunteers. Lee will mail Correctional Facility Fact Sheet to the district chairs to try to collect all the information statewide about local corrections work. Clark talked about the jail orientation in District 91 and the rotation of volunteers based on a set schedule. He will ask the district to purchase a Corrections Workbook. Pete said that WATCH East has about 45 people in attendance at meetings. He would like to develop a monthly speaker meeting. They need to be sure the local Bridging the Gap coordinator is working with the facility. Lee suggested including Corrections workshops as part of each Roundup to expose AAs to that type of service and to encourage participation. Area and district corrections chairs should be available to conduct workshops. Scott in District 23 has developed some criteria for facilities work. Lee mentioned the Corrections Correspondence program as a way for people to get involved who can't go into a facility or have schedules that don't allow attending meetings there.

International Conventions: Lee shared that there are 5 cities in the running for the 2025 International Convention: Denver, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Montreal, and Vancouver BC. Each city will have a delegation that will give a presentation at the General Service Conference. The committee will then decide on the top three candidates to move forward. This is particularly important for Area 40 because Sharon, our delegate, is serving on that committee. We discussed the difficulties of US AAs getting into Canada in 2005 and that should be considered when making a decision.

Non-AA attendees at 2015 Convention: Lee shared that there is a proposal to pay for up to 23 non-AAs to participate in the 2015 Convention in Atlanta. This is a standard practice and we have always had non-AAs from the areas of Corrections, Mental Health, Justice, Treatment, clergy, etc., participate in these events. The committee has budgeted \$1500-2500/person to attend.

Encouraging participation in Regional/Special Forums: Lee reviewed the past ways that these events have been publicized. Again, sponsorship and local publicity were deemed the best ways to gain participation.

Pink Can: (see report). Starting balance - \$2695.86. Literature ordered - \$1275. Current balance - \$1556.52 with some recent contributions. Lee has received some questions about which entities are eligible for Pink Can funds and what literature can be purchased. Is it just for state facilities or can funds be used to buy literature for local jails or should each district be responsible for supporting local facilities. Should we buy Big Books and 12 X12s or any AA literature?

| Pink Can Report | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pink Can Contributions | | | | |
| Date given | Date deposited | | Source | Amount |
| 12/13/2012 | 2/8/2013 | | District 91 | \$2,000 |
| 12/27/2012 | 2/8/2013 | | Transfer from Pink Can balance | \$625 |
| 1/4/2013 | 2/8/2013 | | Anaconda Traditions Group | \$31.10 |
| 1/4/2013 | 2/8/2013 | | Missoula Women's Group | \$39.44 |
| | | | | \$2,695.86 |
| Pink Can Expenditures | | | | |
| Date Ordered | Order | | Facility | Amount |
| 3/14/2013 | 1 case - Big Books, 12x12, Daily Reflections | | Montana State Prison | \$429.40 |
| 3/14/2013 | 1 case - Big Books, 12x12 | | WATCh East | \$274.40 |
| 3/14/2013 | 2 cases - Big Books | | District 11 | \$285.60 |
| 3/14/2013 | 2 cases - Big Books | | District 71 | \$285.60 |
| | | | | \$1,275.00 |
| | | | | \$1,420.86 |
| Pink Can Contributions | | | | |
| Date given | Date deposited | | Source | Amount |
| 2/19/2013 | 4/1/2013 | | Anaconda Traditions Group | \$50.00 |
| 3/1/2013 | 4/1/2013 | | Tuesdays @ 8 - Bozeman | \$85.66 |
| | | | | \$135.66 |
| | | | | \$1,556.52 |

Lee has researched past motions and spoken to past delegates to see if anyone has any guidance. The original motion speaks of geographical limitations to within Area 40 and for people who are incarcerated but no other guidance. Lee has purchased literature and had it sent directly to facilities and to district corrections chairs to distribute statewide and local facilities.

Duane says District 42 brings books directly to the Crossroads Prison and puts a sticker in them that they are donated by District 42.

We also discussed how the flow of Pink Can funds should work. Do groups contribute to the district Pink Can to be used locally and then District send remaining funds to the Area or do funds go directly to the Area from groups or districts. Lee has received contributions from both districts and groups. It was decided that each group and district is autonomous. They can make Pink Can donations to whatever entity they choose.

Lee was asked to provide Pink Can labels to district corrections chairs

Bridging the Gap: The committee discussed the current functioning of the BTG program in the state. Folks shared whether they had a BTG chair or who coordinates these activities at the district level. Is it being used for both treatment and correctional facilities? Are we collecting accurate contact information in a timely fashion? Are district folks accessing local AA contacts and are they receiving referrals from people coming out of the facilities. Lee said he would follow up with Brandon, the Area Treatment chair, to make sure things were working well for people coming out of correctional facilities.

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities/Agenda – Brandon M (3:05-3:35)

Area 40 Treatment Chair - Spring Assembly 2013 Report

Chair Report:

Greetings Area 40, my name is Brandon M. and I am an alcoholic. I currently have the privilege and the honor to serve as your Area 40 Treatment chair. So, what have I been doing since rotating into this position? My rotation started in January, and I had the pleasure of working with Colby D. the outgoing Treatment chair over some coffee. Colby filled me in on what he had been working on, specifically with the new online Bridging - the-Gap program. For those who may not know or understand exactly what the new online program is/does, let me see if I can help explain. The online program is being used to help our fellows coming out of a treatment or corrections facility get in touch with a contact in A.A. to help them get to their first meeting. Each district that is participating in the program has a secure sign-in to the website which allows them to enter in A.A. members information who have said they were willing to be a contact for the Bridging-the-Gap program. Along with having the ability to enter information, the person responsible also has the ability to see contact information from around Area 40 to help assist in getting someone in touch with a member of A.A. That is the simple version, as I understand it.

In March, I was able to attend two of the three pre-assemblies that were held in Area 40. The first one I attended was in Billings. This obviously was my first pre-assembly as Treatment chair, and to be honest I was a bit nervous about having to get in up front of the crowd and speak. I want to thank District 11 for putting this on - great job!

I was unable to attend the pre-assembly in Somers, that is quite a long trip from Billings and I thought it may not be a prudent use of area funds to travel all that distance (gas, hotel, etc) so I elected to stay home.

The last pre-assembly was in Boulder at Boulder Hot Springs. Not being a native of Montana, I got Boulder and Big Timber turned around in my head and was planning on giving myself about an hour or so drive. My wife was so kind to point out that Boulder is a LOT farther than Big Timber, and perhaps I should give myself a few more hours travel time - winter/spring in Montana can be unpredictable. I made it to Boulder in plenty of time - what a pretty part of Montana. I know that this pre-assembly was put on by multiple districts, and I want to thank each of them for that. FYI - speaking was much easier this time after getting some practice in Billings.

This brings us to this weekend in Lewistown! It has been a pleasure serving thus far, and I look forward to meeting new friends along this journey. Thank you to everyone in Area 40 for my sobriety, and for allowing me to serve you.

In Service, Brandon M.

First off, I want to thank Carly from District 61 for doing a wonderful job taking notes! We opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. I gave the committee my report and we quickly moved onto discussing the agenda items:

Treatment Agenda Items

A. We reviewed the report on the Spanish and French translations of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*. During the translation of the video, there were both a French and Spanish interpreter present to assist with the translation. It was suggested that going forward, any translations be directly quoted from the French or Spanish Big Book.

B. We reviewed the report on the pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs". There will be audio versions of this pamphlet in French, Spanish, and English along with a video in ASL (American Sign Language). They will present the final versions at the 2013 GSC. It was noted that the person doing the ASL video went above and beyond by being the only person signing in the video - normally there a few signers available as most need a break after about an hour.

C. Reviewed the Treatment Kit / Workbook - only change is one being made to the Bridging-the-Gap contact card.

D. We were unable to review the contents of the Special Needs/Accessibilities kit/workbook as we did not have a copy.

E. We had a lively discussion regarding how a Special Needs committee could communicate the different ways of making meeting places accessible to all alcoholics. We talked about some of the areas that groups may not even realize could be issues for those with special needs (elevators, ramps, handicapped parking, bathrooms easily accessible by those with a disability) . Perhaps districts may want to consider having a special needs committee to help address these items with groups. Michael N from Area 75 prepared a self-evaluation document that outlines some things group may want to consider in order to ensure that anyone that needs A.A. has the ability to get to, and enter a meeting. This document can be found on the web at <http://www.area75.org/forms/area.pdf>

F. Discussion regarding helping groups prepare in advance for the arrival of deaf/hard of hearing members. Some ideas brought up were having an outside agency provide an ASL (American Sign Language) interpreter to the group - such agencies have Code of Conduct / Ethics rules that align with our anonymity statement. In Great Falls there is a school for the deaf that may be able to assist groups with such requests. They also have training available for those who wish to learn ASL.

This also brought up our Area 800 number, and whether or not someone with a hearing problem would be able to use the 800 number. One of the committee members has a friend who uses the TTY system; she was able to call the 800 number and use the services provided just fine with her TTY device.

Agenda Committee Items

A. Reviewed the suggestions for the theme of the 2014 General Service Conference. There were 40 suggested themes in the background material. The committee reviewed each one, and decided that we were OK with most of them. We were against any that specifically mentioned God, as well as those that we deemed insulting to members.

B. Discuss presentation topic ideas for the 2014 General Service Conference. There were 90 topic ideas presented in the background material.

C. Review the conference evaluation form. No one on the committee has been to the General Service Conference, so the form really didn't mean anything to us. We were pretty positive that if the members attending the conference decided to change or accept the form, more power to them.

We had plenty of time left over after discussing the agenda items, so I opened to floor up for general discussion. Most of what followed pertained to the Bridging the gap online program. There were quite a few questions about how the online process works, and who as access to the information.

We adjourned the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

I want to personally thank each person that was involved with the committee. We had 15 people attend the meeting. Here are the attendees (in no particular order) - bolded names are voting members of the committee:

Dave O. District 11, Jamey C. District 61, Mary M. District 23, **Fred D. District 61**, Don O. District 72, **Bob B. District 31**, Carly G. District 61 – Secretary, Bob K. District 11, **Dan F. District 51**, Tricia S. District 93, Dan D. District 31, Hugh M. District 41, Donna S. District 41, Randy M. District 91, **Sherry C. District 81**

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees – Serena R (3:35-4:05)

2013 Spring CPC Chair Report

I'm Serena R., alcoholic. Welcome to the Assembly! I am honored to be your Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Chair/Trustees as a secondary assignment. Due to my active participation in AA, my life has been extremely full.

The Area 40 CPC Committee is made up of 5 members: Myself as Chair, DCM's from Districts 91 (Paul L.) and 31 (Martin D.) and two District Representatives from Districts 42 (Willy) and 11 (Katie). These 5 people are the voting members in the Area Committee Structure.

I met with the outgoing CPC Chair Libby L. in early January and got "The Box". Thanks Libby! I attended a Service Workshop in District 72 towards the end of January with Libby and we provided a table at this workshop to explain our committee, what we had done with professionals in the past and what some of our thoughts are. There were 3 people in attendance all very interested in CPC service. One was the incoming CPC Chair in District 72. I also attended the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Alliance meeting last month with the District 72 CPC Chair (Hannah W.) to introduce the clergy to Alcoholics Anonymous. There is a presentation to clergy in District 72 in the works.

There is a PI/CPC Workshop planned for May 4th in District 91, in Kalispell.

There is also a Unity Day planned for June 8th in District 11, in Billings, MT. I will provide a CPC workshop at both of these events. I would like to visit as many Districts as possible and look forward to meeting many new friends while spreading the message.

I will continue to work with my committee and the CPC District Chairs to further outline our plan to get more professionals information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

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 Libby 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)

As I continue in 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 AA and I to do that.

In loving service,

Serena R. Area 40 CPC Chair

2013 SPRING AREA ASSEMBLY CPC COMMITTEE MEETING AREA CPC CHAIR: SERENA R.

ROLL CALL:

| Name | District | Service Position |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Serena R.* | 72 | Area 40 CPC Chair |
| Hannah W. | 72 | District 72 CPC Chair |
| Charles H. | 11 | District 11 CPC Chair |
| Eric G. | 61 | District 61 CPC Chair |
| Paul L.* | 91 | DCM |
| Dave R. | 12 | District 12 CPC Chair |
| Andrew W. | | WCRT |
| Katie C.* | 11 | GSR |
| Claire W. | 11 | GSR |
| Cindy D. | 41 | District 41 CPC Chair |
| Willy P.* | 42 | Alt CPC/Alt DCM |
| Gretchen G. | 51 | District 51 CPC Chair |
| Tracey D. | 61 | GSR |
| Martin D. | 31 | DCM |

*Voting committee member

MEETING MINUTES

SERENA'S REPORT:

Serena has been working with Libby L. (previous area 40 CPC Chair) to learn about her position.

Upcoming events Serena will attend – Kalispell workshop on May 4th, and Billings Unity Day workshop on June 8th.

Plans to work closely with her committee.

Talked about different PowerPoint's available – one geared towards professionals, and one geared towards alcoholics working with professionals.

AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Add website to pamphlet.

- Katie: take out “we will” language, or reword it
- Charles: add something saying we're autonomous. Allows for clarification that groups might do or interpret things differently. It is the responsibility of the individual, not the groups, to keep track of their slips. But should we be increasing our accountability in line with the legal system's increased formality? Are we working well with the agency if we are being leisurely?
- Eric: doing more is beyond the scope of our responsibility.
- Willy: the onus of our honesty is on the individual, and doing more threatens anonymity.
- Gretchen: we can't discuss someone's sobriety specifically with drug court, etc. We must respect anonymity.

Unanimous agreement about these proposed changes.

B. Use of technology.

- Serena: Pamphlets on AA.org are hard to read and send out in user-friendly formatting.
- After much discussion group determined that formatting depends very much on the computer program document is opened in.
- Andrew: using PowerPoint can be very effective

- Paul: Libby L. put on workshop in District 91, it was well-attended, and Libby recognized their time was important and presented a very efficient presentation
- Andrew: suggests Fall Area Assembly agenda to talk about online formats (to give time for more investigation)

C. Getting more people in involved in CPC work.

- Serena: happy to see so many people in the room!
- Tracy: in Helena, setting up a mega-committee to do bi CPC event. Her experience is that big events stimulate interest in service.
- Hannah: asked if all District CPC Chairs in attendance had active committees – most did.
- Cindy: wants to put on 2 or 3 larger and more targeted events. Her district has district meetings and separate Chair meetings.
- Martin: sharing at meetings about how service has helped our sobriety is an important way to encourage people to get involved.
- There was also much discussion about the importance of being sponsored into service.

D. No discussion.

TRUSTEES

A. No resumes to review.

B. No discussion.

C. Review the General Service Board’s proposed plan regarding the slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board.

- Paul: thought it was a GREAT idea, now thinks it is a GOOD idea, after hearing some cons. The problem between the two boards has been a lack of communication, etc. But Bill W. did warn about consolidation of boards in section 8 of service book.
 - Martin: why did Bill W. warn about this?
 - Andrew: two boards have very different purposes, and putting them together might change how they operate. Bill W. didn’t like concentrating power.
 - Tracey: asks about opening the pool of who can be appointed committee members to include non-alcoholics.
 - Andrew: right now they have to be alcoholic. The idea is to broaden the pool for potential class A (nonalcoholic) trustees. We also have no idea how often this will happen. And the issue isn’t that we aren’t getting excellent appointments aright now, this would just be to broaden the pool.
 - Someone noted that this plan is NOT irreversible.
 - We want to make sure we improve communication no matter what happens.
 - Andrew: any concerns can always be shared with him or Sharon (Area 40 Delegate). Anything board does should always be reviewed by the fellowship.
 - Willy: concerned that this “solution” might not be addressing the actual “problem”
 - Andrew: problem is financial, structural, and personalities. Much of it has to do with communication. Initiatives are best practice and boards will go forward with those no matter what. Andrew suggests the committee votes in 2 parts:
 - Are there specific initiatives committee has problems with?
 - Re-structuring of boards?
- Andrew also notes that by combining the boards, each board member will still have the same amount of power (because boards are bigger, each votes will actually be worth less)
- Grapevine does not accept contributions and AAWS does

- Bill W. wanted Grapevine separate so it could have editorial freedom. This was very important in the restructuring conversation,
- Paul: thinks it's worth a go!
- Serena asks for a vote
 - Vote on restructuring: 3 in favor, 2 against
 - After minority opinion and revote: 3 in favor, 2 against
 - Vote on initiatives: 4 in favor, 1 against (minority opinion declined)

Public Information and Report and Charter:
Report out of Area 40 P.I. Committee to Floor of the Assembly
Saturday, April 6, 2013 (4:05-5:00 dinner break 7:04-8:17)

Terry S., Area Advisor, for Peggy H., Area 40 P.I. Standing Committee Chair

The Public Information Committee met with 15 people in attendance, including the 5 voting Committee members: Area Advisor Terry S., acting for the P.I. Standing Committee Chair; Todd M., acting for the D.C.M., District 23; Ray M., D.C.M., District 72; Jody T., District Rep. District 51 (and Committee Secretary); and Luke S., District Rep., District 91.

Public Information / Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair

The Area Standing PI Committee's Chair, Peggy H., because of her injury, did not submit a report in advance of the Assembly.

B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster.

The Committee reviewed and accepted with gratitude Webmaster Alex. M.'s assembly report. The confidential Bridging the Gap contact info has been provided by 8 of our 14 Districts. There are currently 137 volunteers listed, in total. 10 of our 14 Districts have requested and received login information to put contacts on the confidential sites. The redesign of the Area 40 website is up and running. Our Triangle editor will also have a new page. For events you want posted on the website, email your fliers to the webmaster (address on the website). Area 40 has been blessed with a capable, enthusiastic Webmaster, who continues to do an outstanding job and is entitled to our thanks. He will be very hard to replace, when he decides to step down.

Spring Assembly 2013 Webmaster Report

This is a report on the Bridging the Gap online effort by the numbers. The system went live November 13.

As of Friday, there are 8 Districts that have entered a total of 137 volunteers into the database.

The following ten Districts have been issued login information: 11, 12, 23, 31, 41, 61, 71, 72, 81 and 91.

Since the last assembly there have been a few other changes. I have redesigned the calendar page and Erin, our Triangle editor, is working on creating a new page on the website dedicated to our newsletter. It will have a direct link from the top menu.

As usual I like taking the time to thank the folks in each District that volunteer their time and keep current the information we provide on the site.

I encourage District and Groups to send flyers so I can add them to the Calendar of Events. As it turns out, this is the second most used feature of our site.

Thanks for letting me serve, it is a privilege and an honor,

Alex M., Area Webmaster

Public Information / GSC

A. Review 2012 annual report from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Website.

GSO is in the process of redesigning its website. This process is far larger than Alex redesigning the Area 40 website, since there is far more info on the A.A. website, which has info for members, service structure participants all the way down the inverted triangle, professionals and other “friends for Bill W.,” member of the public generally, and prospective A.A. members who might have problems with alcohol. In 2011, our A.A. website for the USA and Canada had 4,102,550 visitors in 2011, and 4,756,623 visitors in 2012. Currently, the web redesign is on hold until the 2013 budget is finalized.

There is a Daily Reflections page active on the website. A project to provide the complete text to the book online, with an attendant e-subscription service has not been implemented. No cost effect solution for putting the complete text online has been found, but options are still being explored as part of the overall redesign.

A request to create and to maintain a searchable A.A. meeting locator covering the USA and Canada has been considered, and the Trustees, Committee on Public Information noted that at least at this time providing accurate information is best handled locally. [Terry's Note: This is consistent with the decision not to publish the Regional Directories, also because providing accurate local information is best handled locally.]

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

1. Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed the report. In addition to the recommendations on the following specific items 2 and 3, the Trustees, P.I. Committee also revised the matrix used to evaluate current video P.S.A.'s for relevance and usefulness, and suggested that (a) Every effort be made to insure that video P.S.A.'s carry the message to diverse populations, being both sensitive and appropriate; (b) The Comprehensive Media Plan be considered in planning future video P.S.A.s; (c) The message in that Plan, “If alcohol is a problem for you, contact A.A. it works,” be used as the tag line in future P.S.A.'s; and (d) Future P.S.A.'s include the same “blue people” graphic that is on AA.org, which communicates diversity more effectively than the “blue people” graphic used in “My World,” “I Thought” and “Force of Nature.” All current A.A. P.S.A. videos can be viewed on aa.org. On the home page, select the “For the Media” tab and then click on “Public Service Announcements.”

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

The Trustees' P.I. Committee recommended that the video P.S.A.'s “My World,” “I Thought,” “Force of Nature,” “Testimonials” and “We Know What It's Like” remain relevant and useful for the time being and that “Living in Chaos” be retired.

The sense of the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information is that this is a good idea. “Living in Chaos” is out of date and has reached the end of its relevance and usefulness.

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

The Trustees' P.I. Committee recommended that one or more video P.S.A.'s be produced in calendar year 2013, using the current “Young People's Videos.”

The sense of the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information is that this is a good idea. The Young People's Videos are awesome, and producing more than one video P.S.A. this year from them will maximize both our use of these excellent videos and our cost effectiveness in developing new video P.S.A.'s.

4. Review interim report on the centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the video P.S.A. for the Spanish speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza.”

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed the report. A.A. uses this process of centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of our P.S.A.’s for at least two main reasons. First, using a vendor in the business of placing videos with public media does a great job of supplementing the work of our local P.I. committees and members in getting the videos on the air. Second, the videos placed by the vendor contain computer chips that accurately report how often and when the videos were on the air, data that allows our vendor to report accurately back to us how much air time we got and how many viewers there were. For “Tengo Esperanza,” in the first two months of tracking, through the end of January 2013, the new Spanish language video P.S.A. had over 3,100 airings, in which it was seen by over 12 million viewers. This exposure is in addition to the exposure it got through the efforts of our local P.I. committees and members (which we can’t quantify as easily, since there are no computer chips in the CDs we use). The cost of getting the exposure that our vendor obtained for us through its distribution during the first two months of tracking, if we were paying for a commercial advertisement given the same exposure, would have been around half a million dollars (about \$490,000.00). Our cost for the entire process of centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation (not just for the first two months of the process) is not going to exceed \$40,000.00 in total.

C. Discuss Fellowship sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed the 45 pages reciting the sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, as well as the memo from the secretary of the Trustees’ P.I. Committee on the sharing, and the rest of the background material. The background material noted that this issue of changing the short form of the Eleventh Tradition to fit changing technologies first appeared at the General Service Conference in 1974 (Advisory Action that the wording remain as is and not include “TV” with “press, radio and films”).

To summarize the memo, it was impossible to determine how many A.A. members were involved in gathering the sharing, and impossible to categorize or score the thoughtful sharing received, other than by the sources of the sharing. Sources included 22 areas, 17 districts, an intergroup, 37 groups and 29 individuals. Sharing was by widely varied methods, including sharing sessions, “forums” in different parts of areas, and surveys, to name just a few methods. Responses also varied widely, with many compilations of sharing, some reports of senses of a particular entity (area, district, group) or results from votes on changing or not changing the wording of the short form of Tradition Eleven. Some sharing addressed the effectiveness of the short form of the Eleventh Tradition while other sharing discussed whether changing the wording would result in increased effectiveness. Some responses contained suggestions for revised wording of Tradition Eleven. Other responses stated that they felt that clarifying the language of Tradition Eleven was not “changing the Tradition.” Some responses focused on a particular aspect of anonymity in the online realm, such as social networking. Any attempt to categorize responses would require a degree of interpretation and speculation that may not accurately capture the broad expanse of sharing. It is safe to say that no clear direction emerged from this sharing, but the responses all demonstrate the commitment of those responding to our Tradition of anonymity at the public level.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information also noted that the background material included documentation of the 1955 Resolution (included in both the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter) that neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.] These groups have to be suitably notified of any proposal for change and allowed no less than six months to consider the proposed change(s). Before our General Service Conference can adopt any such proposed change(s), it must first receive in writing, within the time allotted, the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to the proposed change(s). A.A. Service Manual, pp. S105-06 (2012-2013 Edition). The background material noted that as of Jan. 1, 2012, G.S.O. estimates that there are 114,070 groups world-wide, with A.A. having a presence in over 170 countries, including 62 autonomous general service offices in countries outside of Canada and the USA.

After much discussion and deliberation, the unanimous sense of the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information was that no change should be made to the short form of the Eleventh Tradition at this time. Given the broad range of the background material, the Committee went on to talk further about various possible changes, if any change were appropriate. The sense of the Committee was against shortening the short form to read “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the public level” [to fit all present and future technologies, and avoid the need to keep making changes to add newer technologies as they develop]. The sense of the Committee was unanimously against changing the short form to read “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and internet” [which might open the door to a practice of changing it to name newer technologies as they came along] to fit all present and future technologies, and avoid the need to keep making changes to add newer technologies as they develop]. The sense of

The Committee was unanimously against replacing the short form with the long form to read “Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us” [1 of 15 participants liked this idea].

D. Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed and discussed the background material and, in particular, the report of the Trustees' Public Information Committee's “Social Media Page Subcommittee report of October 12, 2012, which specifically reported, “While it remains imperative, today perhaps more than ever, that A.A. utilize every appropriate media platform to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic and share accurate information about Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A.'s Traditions continue to guide the Fellowship's Public Information endeavors. The subcommittee is unanimous in its belief that A.A. World Services, the General Service Office, and the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña cannot establish a presence on Facebook in accordance A.A. Traditions.” After much discussion and deliberation, the sense of the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information is that we cannot at this time establish a presence on Facebook, although we wish it were not so.

E. Consider a request from A.A.W.S. for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed and discussed the background of this item, which began its evolution in 2009 with A.A.W.S. entering into a contract with Amazon.com to make the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve available for sale on Kindle Readers. Further examination after the 2009 General Service Conference, A.A.W.S. discovered that the contract did not allow for us to maintain control over consistent pricing of our product, that advertising surrounding the completion of a purchase could give the impression that we were affiliated with other titles and authors, advertisements and referrals, and that the functionality built into the Kindle website did not allow for any adjustments to meet our requirements. The contract was cancelled by A.A.W.S., which began to develop its own applications for our literature on both Apple and Android operating system hand-held devices. Budgeting \$411,000 over two years, A.A.W.S. began this project, notifying the General Service Conference that it was underway, but not seeking approval, since A.A.W.S. considered this a business decision that did not require General Service Conference approval.

Our Apple app was released in December 2011. It worked, but was “less than ideal.” Many users found it inferior to eReaders such as iBooks, Kindle and Nook. Meanwhile, new technological challenges arose with Android, because of new technologies, diverse platforms running on devices with multiple manufacturers and multiple versions of multiple platforms within Android devices. Costs skyrocketed and development time expanded alarmingly. Over the course of 2011 and 2012, A.A.W.S. spent almost \$250,000.00 of the budgeted \$411,000, with a “less than ideal” Apple app and no Android app (apps, actually) yet running. Total sales income for both the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve totaled around \$58,000. In the summer of 2012, A.A.W.S. decided that continued development of eReader apps was not a practical or a prudent use of G.S.O. resources. A.A.W.S. ended production of the Android app(s) and committed to maintain what had already been created (Apple app) with resources already committed. A.A.W.S. recognized that the cost and effort to maintain eReader apps were much greater than originally budgeted would not be recouped by eBook sales and would drain other G.S.O. resources.

A.A.W.S. knew that the 2011 General Service Conference had passed an Advisory Action giving A.A. Grapevine permission to use third-party vendors to sell its material, and that several Grapevines were being sold this way. A.A.W.S. understood that third-party vendors, using currently standard practices in the publishing industry, would let customers know what other people who bought an A.A. book also purchased, would include reader comments about the book on the page, and would vary pricing according to each third-party vendor’s contracting. These were many of the same issues that lead A.A.W.S., in 2009, to cancel the Kindle eBook contract because it appeared to violate A.A. Traditions. [Terry’s note: I told the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information during our discussion that back in 2009, I was not convinced that the Kindle eBook contract actually would violate A.A. Traditions, but before we resumed that discussion across the USA and Canada, A.A.W.S. cancelled the contract.] A.A.W.S., in 2013, concluded that these issues did not now manifest violation of A.A. Traditions and that A.A.W.S. could maintain the digital rights management necessary to protect copyrights. Because of the previously unsuccessful attempt to sell through third-party vendors in 2009, A.A.W.S. presented to the General Service Conference this request for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed the background and the questions and concerns involved. We felt that A.A. is missing out on carrying the message to a considerable number of prospects by not having digital books available. A.A. Grapevine is selling eBooks. Our basic literature is not yet available in eBooks from us, except through the “less than ideal” Apple app. The sense of the Committee

was divided. 9 of the participants felt we should go forward and give A.A.W.S. permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature. The other 6 participants were not ready to do this without better assurances of conformity with our A.A. Traditions. There was no substantial unanimity.

F. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

The revised kit was only sent to Conference Committee members. The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed the limited expense typically involved in these kinds of changes, and felt comfortable awaiting word from the Conference about the changes and the revised contents of the Kit and Workbook.

Report & Charter / GSC

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2013 2014 Edition:

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

The revisions presented from the A.A.W.S. Board were only sent to Conference Committee members.

2. Review suggested text describing the duties of the chairperson of the General Service Board.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed the brief text describing the duties of the chair of the General Service Board, and saw no problems with it.

3. Review list of editorial updates.

The editorial updates were only sent to Conference Committee members.

4. Consider adding “Advisory Action” and “Additional Committee Consideration” to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information considered the definitions of “Advisory Action” and “Additional Committee Consideration,” and felt the definitions were accurate and appropriate for inclusion in the Glossary.

5. Consider suggested text from Publishing Department on the “spirit of rotation.”

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information considered the text on rotation, taken (with minor revisions) from the Conference-approved pamphlet, “The A.A. Group,” and felt the text was accurate and appropriate for inclusion in the Service Manual.

6. Consider request that “the definition and Composition of an Area Assembly be modified for consistency and clarity in Chapter Four.”

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information considered the request to change the definition of “assembly” in two places (on pp. S36 and S37, and agree that the changes would conform better to the definition of “Area Committee” in Chapter Five, p. S44 (which is closer to our own practice, too).

7. Consider request to revise the description of “Director (nontrustee)” in the Glossary of General Service Terms on page S19.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information considered the request to revise the description of “Director (nontrustee)” and noted that currently there is no definition of a “Director” who is a trustee. The changes would better define “director,” and identify trustee directors, nontrustee directors, and staff members as the members of the directorate.

8. Consider request to update information about suggested qualifications for area registrars on page S45.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information considered the request to update the suggested qualifications for area registrars, and agreed that the suggested qualifications are, indeed, essential for doing the area registrar job.

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

This precise item was proposed in a 2011 Conference Advisory Action. In a 2012 Additional Committee Consideration, the Conference R&C Committee rejected the General Service Board's suggested language, because that language did not address the specifics (inclusion of the principles of participation, petition and appeal) proposed in the 2011 Conference Advisory Action. The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information considered the revised draft text in light of the last two Conferences' treatment of this item, being mindful of concerns about undue haste raised by a respected Area 40 past delegate at one of our preassemblies. The sense of the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information is that the proposed language covers all the specifics proposed by the 2011 Conference Advisory Action and is appropriate and acceptable.

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

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed the decision of G.S.O. not to publish the Confidential Regional A.A. Directories, and agreed that local resources are best for local contact information.

D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report and consider request regarding editing Area Highlights.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed the request to edit Area Highlights for brevity without compromising substance, and had no problems with the request.

Final Discussion: How can we do better in PI?

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed ways in which we might do a better job of carrying the A.A. message of recovery to the public generally. Meeting lists are huge, and there are an endless list of places for them, after supplying our groups and district with enough copies B schools, hotels, hospitals, offices of health care professionals, Professional and Occupational Licensing Boards, public buildings of all kinds (including Corrections facilities, courthouses, etc.), and on and on. Meetings in newspapers are useful.

We can contact our local media about our P.S.A.s.

Anywhere professionals deal with their clients/patients/customers/supervisees, etc., we can offer to bring in or help support an A.A. meeting OR an informational meeting about what A.A. is and isn't. As P.I. Committee members, we can cooperate and coordinate with other committees B Corrections, Treatment and C.P.C. come to mind B so that while they are providing info to their target audiences, we are available to provide info to ours B the public generally. Some kinds of facilities (like schools) are naturals for P.I., because the students are the public, and therefore our audience.

Hot lines and other kinds of answering services are naturals for P.I. also B are we keeping our contact info current? Are we keeping the public informed about how to call us? Are we ready to offer rides, information, 12th Step calls, whatever it may be that relates to the caller's immediate need in relation to her or his problem with alcohol? Is our meeting info available on the answering service, too?

A.A. online resources, like our websites, are also often part of PI. Are we using these resources to provide info to the public as well as to provide info to our members and secure contact info for various other kinds of A.A. service? Are our meeting lists on line, too?

Do we use PI to explain anonymity, raising our own awareness of the importance and scope of this Tradition, letting our newcomers and prospects hear about it, too?

Do we use PI to get the word out about our literature, on paper, on audio books, on eBooks and eMags, and how to get our literature?

What's your district and group up to in PI? Do you need help? We had a lively 15 people in our committee meeting, and some of us probably live in your district, or the one next door. Let us be of service!

Terry S. will be following up with Peggy H., to see if he can help with Hot Line communications about bills from AnswerNet.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks and kudos to the 4 voting members of Peggy's committee, to the 10 additional members of the Fellowship who joined us, and with our thoughts and prayers on Peggy and her speedy recovery, special thanks to Jody T. for her excellent minutes, and my own thanks for the chance to be of service,

Terry S.

Literature – Bob T (8:20-8:45pm Saturday-9:00-9:25am Sunday)

Committee Members: Daniel Dist. 12, Sue Dist. 81, Janet Dist. 41

Committee report given by Bob.

Hi Everyone, my name is Bob and I'm an alcoholic. It will be a pleasure and an honor serving as your Area 40 Literature chair. This position will give me more knowledge of the Literature available to us in Alcoholics Anonymous. The Area has a beautiful Literature display and I hope that everyone gets a chance to look at it and take back to our home groups the possibilities of ordering Literature other than the "Big Book". Our Literature is a great way to get the message out to the still suffering alcoholic. I'd like to take this time to thank everyone who has attended this assembly, this helps keep A.A. alive. I really look forward to working with my new committee members: Sue, Dan, Laura and John.

It is exciting looking at the new agenda items coming up before the Literature committee this assembly. The Pamphlets coming up for revision are:

- Circles of love and service, a new pamphlet for spirituality
- A change in the language in the Big Book dust jacket
- Change our primary purpose card
- Possibly add an index to the big book
- Request to add the phrase "none left behind" to our newly revised pamphlet "AA and the Armed services"

We are in the digital age now and to quote "publication in this digital media format will give broader distribution and access to A.A.'s basic textbook, Alcoholics Anonymous, known popularly as the Big Book, which has helped millions and millions of alcoholics throughout the world.

I have E-Book information on the Literature table, and of course as always you can go to AA.org for even more information.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Bob T.

Literature – GSC

A. Review the revised draft pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service.”

This pamphlet is scheduled to be changed with regard to color and wording.

- The “little dude” on the back is to be removed.
- 3rd paragraph to be changed to be less daunting.
- Changing www.alcoholics- anonymous.org to www.aa.org
- 4th paragraph on the 1st paragraph: taking “good GSR” out.
- Colors to be changed just before publication with decision to be made by the graphic designer printing the pamphlet.

Questions/Comments:

None

B. Review final report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality, along with the draft pamphlet.

New pamphlet to incorporate all walks of life based on multiple beliefs including, but not limited to, Muslim, Jewish, Native American, Atheist, Agnostics, etc. Started with 200 stories and reduced to 23. The committee is recommending the draft pamphlet to come to the floor of the conference.

This pamphlet has been a “long time in the making.” The reason because there are many in the program that believe without “God” in your program, the program is diluted. Others disagree and therefore the pamphlet is moving forward.

Direct your feelings regarding to this pamphlet to Sharon so she is armed with the necessary information to vote properly on our behalf.

Suggested titles:

- “A Power Greater than Ourselves: Spiritual Experiences of our Members” or;
- A.A.: Spiritual but not Religious” – Overwhelmingly the majority choice.
 - Keeping it simple.
 - Not long like the alternate choice.

C. Consider a request to replace language in the second paragraph of the dust jacket of the 4th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 1995, the General Service Conference approved the recommendation: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, ‘Alcoholics Anonymous,’ the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remains as is.

With the following language:

“At the time of the third edition, in March 1976, the worldwide membership of A.A. was estimated at 1,000,000 or more. Copies of “Alcoholics Anonymous” in circulation exceeded 1,450,000. The basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged. This is the A.A. message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the book that gave the young fellowship its name.

We also request that this change extend to the e-book version(s) of *Alcoholics Anonymous* as well.

Per email in July 2012: “Committee took no action regarding the request to add language to the dust jacket of *Alcoholics Anonymous* at this time.”

Questions/Comments:

- 3 in favor, 1 opposed.
- Cost will be minimal; original lithograph will be used.

(Started with Agenda Item D. Sunday morning 9am)

D. Consider a suggestion to add “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.

“...We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism.”

Proposed to add to the end: “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.”

Questions/Comments:

- Clarifies continuity & consistency.
- It’s not personal, principles before personalities.
- 4 out of 4 approve.

Nurses attended meetings as a requirement of their classes as an observer. It was expressed that the individual doesn’t have to identify themselves as observers.

Shared that a group chose not to use “observer” as a label but that it was more of a group conscience.

The purpose of this item is for consistency of material, it doesn’t necessarily mean that every group in the country is going to abide by this because proof is shown that the groups appear to take their group conscience.

E. Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Request from Dist. 17, Area 71 (Virginia) on 12-10-2012.

Back in 1970 a previous request for this was made and it was shut down.

“The committee strongly suggested that no index be included in the Fourth Edition Big Book.”

Questions/Comments:

4 out of 4 opposed:

- Leads people to “skip” 164 pages & leads to reading other stories along the way.
- Can already be purchased, redundant.
- Will they be “bounded” in the book? Will they be numbered?
- It was shot down in 1999, did not make it out of committee room.
- Is already available electronically.
- Is not cost effective.

F. Consider a request to add the subtitle “None Left Behind” to the newly revised “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet.

Questions/Comments:

4 out of 4 opposed:

- Marines – “Leave no man behind.” Reference: Former vet/bad connotations attached, people were left behind.
- Recently revised, why brought up now?
- Does not add “punch” to the title.
- How does it carry the message – It doesn’t! Small % of us make it.

How can Area 40 better serve the still suffering alcoholic?

- Bridging the Gap: district positions being created & working well.

How can I better serve in respect to Literature?

- Sponsors and sponsees carry literature with them.
- Provide displays
- Contact District Literature Chair or Area 40 Literature Chair for events.
- Order bulk purchases for group studies – Helps introduce literature to newcomers, encourages oldtimers to share experience in reading them.
- Groups ordering books directed to the District Chair.
- Add a pocketsize Big Book to the “Starter Kit” encouraging “Pay It Forward.”

GSR BREAKOUT (9:00-10:00pm)

2013 Spring Assembly

Loren B., Moderator

Questions submitted in the GSR ask-it-basket.

1. My group allows family and non-AA's to speak in Open meetings. Do other groups allow this? In my group I have seen this mostly with family members of an AA there to support or celebrate.
 - *our meeting format allows for this very same thing.
 - *read the open meeting card (blue card) take a group conscience
 - * read the AA Group pamphlet. The open meeting description.
 - *each group is autonomous. Some may ask family to share.
 - *each group has the right to be wrong.
2. Why doesn't Area 40 stager it's rotation of DCM's, GSR's and Committee Chairs like the West Central Region does its Delegates?
 - *these are two unrelated entities. Positions can't be staggered easily.
 - *leave it alone, keep autonomous
 - * All positions of the Area committee rotate at the same time.
 - *One groups alternate GSR was serving because their GSR was in jail.
3. As a new meeting how do we get more people to attend?
 - *take flyers and announcements to other meetings.
 - *word of mouth – get in the car, come with me.
 - *scope out the competition, don't start a meeting in conflict with a neighboring town or group
 - *be thoughtful.
4. Our Group has a man who is stalking the newer women at our meetings. There have been orders of restraint and the group has banned him from meetings for three months. Upon return, he behaves for a while but then the old actions start again. What can we do?
 - *the First Tradition – remove the threat
 - *Make meetings and groups safe
 - *Get a no trespassing order- follow rules of society
 - *chase them off. What some people call parking lot therapy
 - * contact Scott W. for procedure that his group uses.
 - *physically remove them
 - * go to all women's meetings if possible
 - *Don't make him another group's problem
 - * identify the predator and tell other groups about them
 - *legal restraining order
 - * have their or your sponsor to tell them to stay away.
 - * We don't get here for being well

5. Can I feel comfortable being the GSR for three and one-half years or do I need to step down now? No one steps up, why? Where is the spirit of rotation?
 - *force someone to step up
 - * If no one is willing to serve, the group will die
 - *sponsorship – explain the spirit of rotation
 - *rotate the opening and set-up and clean-up positions at your group.
 - * have the secretary twist arms.
 - *every individual has the right to be wrong.
 - *some are required by their sponsor to attend all meetings.
 - *announce and encourage others to participate.
 - *opposite problem – some won't step down.
 - * celebrate people's service to the group, recognize their sacrifice.

6. We have our meeting in a church, would it be appropriate to list our closed meeting in their church bulletin and Web site?

Tradition 6 refers to implied affiliation as well as actual; we think this action would violate that tradition. Please make sure to contact and tell the clergy or pastor of the church and offer yourself as a contact or reference for future members who might be counsel by them. CPC work.

7. I need information on Bridging the Gap at the District and Area level?
 - *please talk to the Area Treatment Chair.

8. Please tell us about the "Pink Can" at the District and Area level?
 - *Please talk to the Area Corrections Chair.

9. What do groups do for "newcomer" packets?
 - *please talk to the Area Literature Chair.

10. Our group is having difficulty determining who should vote on financial matters. Historically, only the elected officers have been allowed to vote. We had a steering committee for a while, but it dissolved. Should anyone attending the group conscience be allowed to vote on general matters but only the officer's vote on financial issues?
 - *each group is autonomous to determine its own policies regarding voting or anything else
 - *the well informed conscience should determine the voting policies.
 - *determine who the group members are and allow them to vote on everything.

11. My group had a group conscience and decided to develop guidelines specifically to list all of the responsibilities for each service position in our group. Is this alright?
 - *sure it is, each group is autonomous to determine its own path.
 - * letting people know what is expected of them in service, what a good idea.
 - *this would help new people become better servants.

DCM BREAKOUT (9:00-10:00pm)

2013 Spring Assembly

Scott W., Moderator

NO REPORT FROM MINUTES SUBMITTED

Sunday Session

Roundup Reports Bozeman Spring 2013, Billings Fall 2013, Butte Spring 2014 **No reports submitted**

Intergroup Reports

Flathead Valley Intergroup's Business meet is held the last Saturday of every month at 6:30pm at the United Methodist Church at 117 2nd Street West Columbia Falls, Montana. After the Business meeting Intergroup hosts the monthly Birthday Meeting at 8:00pm followed by cake and fellowship.

Intergroup has 14 Chair positions which are filled. All current Chairs are very passionate, dedicated and active people in sobriety within the Flathead Valley willing to serve Intergroup.

Chair: Nikki T.

Co-Chair: Peggie

Trustees: Del G., Fred H., and Alida W.

Archivist: Fred H.

Hotline Chair: Alida W.

Secretary: Jamie

Treasurer: Ralph.

Web Chair: Larry P.

Entertainment Chair: Mike

Entertainment Co-Chair: Daniel

Schedule Chair: Victor

Campout Chair: Jamie and Daniel.

Thanksgiving Chair:

Thanksgiving Co-Chair:

Alcathon Chair:

On July 30, 2011 all Intergroup Chairs gathered to amend our Bylaws so that they reflected current Intergroup activity. We also met with members of District 91 after the Spring Round-Up of 2012 to help promote unity between Intergroup and the District. That meeting is starting to bear fruit with more communication and cooperation. At the business meeting in March we amended the PI Chair position to make it the Schedule Chair.

Intergroup prints the AA meeting schedule 4 times a year for the entire Flathead Valley covering as far north to Eureka and all the way south to Elmo Montana. Our Toll-Free Hotline is (888) 607-2000 and averages 40 to 50 calls a month. We host an Annual Halloween Event, a Thanksgiving Event in which anywhere from 100-200 people are in attendance, an annual 24 hour Alcathon for New Year's Eve, and a summer Campout at Emery Bay in Hungry Horse. These are just a few of the highlights of the events we organize and support. Intergroup also has a website which is www.aa-kalispell.org we would invite you to check it out to find out about the many sober activities going on in our neck of the woods.

We are alive, strong and continue to serve alcoholics in need.

Nikki T.

Intergroup Chair District 91

WCRAASC REPORT – CHRIS W. - DCM DISTRICT 41

I would like to start this out by giving a quick apology for not being here in person. I was really hoping to get this weekend free from graduate school, but was unable to do so. In my absence I have asked my good friend and alternate DCM Lee Thompson to read my report to all.

Hi my name is Chris and I am an alcoholic.

WOW! This was an amazing experience for me. As this was my first experience at this level of service. It was a spiritual experience in which I will never forget. Please if you ever get a chance to participate at this level of service you will not regret it.

This year the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) was held in Rapid City, SD. It was held the first weekend of March. As this was also my first time to Rapid City and the surrounding area I was able to take a few hours on Friday to see some sites. I was able to go and hang out with a few of our past presidents at Mount Rushmore. This was an amazing experience and was happy to not be in the peak of tourist season.

In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy ; that though the conference may acts for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which serves, the Conference itself will always democratic in thought and action.

-General Warranties of the Conference

Concept XII, Twelve Concepts for World Services

This year the General Service Conference was conducting an inventory. As a result there were four breakout sessions to incorporate the inventory questions. As we all know there is one agenda item that sticks out to us all. One set of questions presented in the inventory breakout encompassed this topic. Three questions in this set included:

- Is the current makeup of the board (numbers and proportions) still the most effective? If not, what changes should we consider?
- How could we improve the methods used to solicit trustees and directors to get the most appropriate people interested in the positions?
- What more could be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting?

The third question sparked my interest the most so I will share the comments which came from that question.

- Eliminate “For Your Eyes Only” DOC—in Background
- More thorough minutes
- Add minutes to the Box 459
- Trust our “Trusted Servants” more. If we can’t trust them , it will be more difficult to be transparent

The reason for “Your Eyes Only” is that these are in drafts. They don’t want it to get out there. We need to Trust our trusted servant’s. It appears that a lot of Agenda Items come from Staff Members and never get to the trustees. Believe that all Agenda Items should come to Committee. Maybe we should have a non-biased committee take our inventory.

As a result of the inventory, the other breakout sessions were combined to create adequate time to conduct the inventory. As a new DCM I went to the DCM/GSR/Area Committee breakout. These were great sessions with many questions and explanations of past experience and what works in other Areas, Districts, and groups. The major topics seemed to be on: *Group Outreach; Who Has the Right to Vote at District Meetings?; (and) Transition of Bleeding Deacons into Elder Statesman.*

Group Outreach was one that I found the most helpful. Here are just a few of the suggestions offered during this session. Most all shared, that free food will help bring attendance up. Visit every group, include the small groups, and invest in your districts. Some suggestions were to have a traveling district meeting with potlucks. My favorite, and it worked well for me, was: "*Back to the Basics; Sponsor Your Sponsee's Into Service*". My experience and drive to be of service was done in that same manor. My good friend and service sponsor paved the way for me. Service is just one piece of the Three AA Legacies. This brings me to one of the most interesting parts of the General Service Conference, which were the general shares by different areas throughout our region.

The general share that that intrigued me the most, which I found to be most spiritual in nature for me, was when the floor of the Conference shared their personal experiences and understanding of the Triangle or "Three Legacies". Over the past few years I have learned many things in recovery but the piece that I hits home the hardest is the about the Three legacies. I believe that we need an equal dose of each side. What I do for myself in recovery is to grow my spiritual connection with God. Unity for me means that I need all of you to help me continue to grow this connection. Finally, AA Service is one thing that allows this growth of spiritual connection with God to be put into practice. Many folks will have different views of what service is and that is what makes it such a vital part of our foundations. No matter if you are the greeter at a meeting or a Service Board Trustee, or any position in between, your attendance and commitment is service at all levels. You see the triangle to me means stable recovery if I am actively engaged in all three sides.

In closing I would like to leave you with the greatest thanks. You have allowed me to reflect upon this experience of attending a General Service Conference, and I am hooked, reliving that spiritual greatness which blessed my heart and soul in this experience. Most importantly I see a bigger picture than when I first stepped into these rooms and you all opened your arms and I finally felt I was home.

Thank you and God Bless, Chris W DCM D41

Past Delegate Sharing (8:25-9:00)

Loren B. Panel 51 Delegate (2000-2002 served 3 years due to rotation adjustment)

Loren shared about giving back to Alcoholics Anonymous, financially and with service:

He is a 20 year subscriber to the GV gives Birthday Envelopes to sponsees)

Traditions: Become familiar with them. They are what kept us going thus far and they're what will keep us around. "Traditions protect the fellowship of AA from the membership of AA".

We have 3 Voting Members out of 135 from Area 40: Sharon S - Delegate, Andrew W - Regional Trustee and Carole B - Non-Trustee Director AA World Services.

"We're (the delegates) there to serve AA. To work til 9 pm is great. To work til midnight is even better."

Delegate Job Description, Chapter 6, Service Manual

Ask Loren about the Ice Cream Story and the "right of decision"

Scott W.

Panel 55 Delegate (2005-2006)

1991 was my first assembly. This is my 40 +/- assembly. It's time now to start training your replacements. (Even though we're in the beginning of our terms.)

"My sponsor asked me to do a few things every day. As a result I have a consistent life today. I wake up in the same place, know where I'm at. There's a lot of serenity that comes from that". Consistency and Communication = Serenity.

Money and spirituality make financial commitment. Be consistent in contributions

You're not a bad member if you have a difference of opinion. Your opinion is valued here. Go the mic and share. Give Sharon a sense of the Area to take with her to GSC. Participate, our lives depend upon it.

Bob T finished up Literature (9:00-9:25)

Grapevine/GSC Policy & Admissions – Sam B (9:30-10:00)

Present: Marilyn D., Dist 81, Marty Dist 93, Lee T, Dist 41., Jim Dist 91, Carla Dist 61.

Sam read his report.

Much Greetings,

Did you know that the past along of the Grapevine is 212,750 and La Vina is 22,750 monthly. This is the starting point of one of my biggest goals for the next two years. A Grapevine Grab to start. To Solicit members for there old Grapevines and redistribute them to newcomers. Of course we have to make sure and get there phone number and to make sure that there is a subscription form embedded in the middle of the Grapevines. Out with the old and in with the new. This could be done at the area level as well as District. Then Disburse to local group GVRs. One of the tools that I have seen at some of the groups in my home area is that they order bulk packs of past issues to hand out to people. Have only heard from 5 District GVRs so far. We need to get everyone from the District Committees involved in Passing Grapevines and Grapevine information. If there is Groups that do not have a GVR, GSRs, its your turn to learn about the Grapevine.

Being a GVR is a rewarding activity. It is one of those service positions that you can be as busy as you want to be and you can get creative too. The first step is to Register with GSO so then a new GVR will receive a packet containing information to assist them in passing along the Grapevine material and news to their local fellowship.

Some of the things going on in terms of this area's involvement in Grapevine. I have set up a separate email so I can build a database of GVR contacts that I will be sending out the Monthly reports and whatever else I deem fit. Ya Ya, I will also send hard copies to those who request. Sometimes there are even weekly News bulletins that are sent to me as well. Some of the financial news, Grapevine Inc. made money last year while La Vina was at a significant loss. These numbers can be found on page 62 Exhibit B of the Final Report. Will LaVina have to have Financial parity as well as Spiritual parity? There should be much discussion about this.

I have sent back a report of the focus group to evaluate the website agrapevine.org. I believe they are looking at revamping it. I have a copy if anyone is interested in it and could also email it to you. Right now, I think that the site is amazing.

I attended the pre-assembly in Boulder. With much going on, I was forced to utilize the area adviser days before and it was great. 1 ½ hours on the phone with Terry to review all of the items in Grapevine and Policies and Admissions. Do not be afraid to use us. That is why we are in the positions that we are in to serve the Fellowship. We are going to discuss the Grapevine audio Strategy, Extending the Deadline of submission of Agenda items for the General Service Conference, and Combining the Conference Agenda Committees with the Conference Policies and Admissions Committees and what that means to the Fellowship.

Again leaving all of the distractions aside, this is about selling subscriptions, print and electronic. Books, CDs, and Misc. material. We must do our part.

Gratitude to Serve,

Sam B.

Area 40 Grapevine & Policies and Admissions

406-270-9430

1434 Tamarack Ln.

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Sam has built a database to e-mail Grapevine GSO info to the GVR's. Grapevine has made money last year, LaVina lost money but combined they still made money.

Grapevine – GSC

A. Review Audio Strategy Report:

Monthly charge for this service is only 12 dollars per month. The biggest charge will be for editing the stories that are chosen to be put on CD or Print.

B. LaVina Magazine

1) Review the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine.

In 2011, approximately \$21,000 was spent to change it to this format. Circulation went up in 2012 by 8.56%

2. Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound).

The committee had some discussion on this and the 8.56% increase in sales would indicate that the perfect bound version is working. The committee would like to keep LaVina as it is and see where the trends go.

- C. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2014 and later.
Making Amend, How I found My Higher Power, and Steps 4 & 5. Committee thought that all should be printed. There will be a limited printing of 10K run on all of the Books.
- D. Review the Grapevine Workbook.
Grapevine is no longer sending out a hard copy. You can print it or look at it on AAGrapevine.org.

Policy & Admissions

- A. Review dates for the 2016 General Service Conference.
The committee chose 4/17-4/23
- B. Consider suggestion that delegates who are elected to be alternate chairperson of a primary Conference committee would not be eligible to serve as chairperson of a secondary Conference committee.
The Committee Voted for this
- C. Review suggestion to revise the “Guidelines for Electronic Device Users at the General Service Conference.”
The Committee Agreed with this
- D. Review report from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference regarding the role of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in granting admission to international observers at the General Service Conference.
After much discussion, it was thought that the requests should come earlier so the Conference Committee isn’t just rubberstamping it. The Conference approval is the spiritual oversight of the Trustees.
- E. Consider changing the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items from January 15th to December 15th.
The Committee Thought it was a Good idea.
- F. Consider request to revise the timetable for the election of one of the four delegates in Ontario to allow for two odd and two even panels in that province.
The Committee agreed.
- G. Discuss the concept of combining the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy/Admissions Committees.
The Group thought that they should be kept separate due to conflict of interest. It would also reduce the number of service positions in U.S. and Canada.
- Grapevine Discussion: 1) Create a mini Grapevine Display for a group to set up at their meetings.
2) Present copies of stories written by Montana AA members
3) Have a statement read at the beginning of the meeting to the effect of, “If you can’t attend a meeting, check out our meeting in print.

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy – Kira A 10:15-11:25)

Archives – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair

Archives Report for Spring Assembly 2013

I'm Kira and I'm an alcoholic. I also have the honor and privilege to be your Area 40 Archives chair.

Up to this point I have attended two of the pre-assemblies and have been invited to participate in an archives workshop next month in Billings. The prior archives chair, Joe H., and I have made contact and will be going over the various aspects of my job for Area 40. He has a thumb drive full of relevant information—I'm going to see that drive even if it means I'll have to break into his house and steal it. Thankfully, I'm sure he'll be happy to show it to me so I can avert some of the legal consequences of burglary.

My experience at the pre-assemblies followed what generally happens to me at Area. I study up on Agenda items that I think are important and gloss over the ones that I assume are no-brainers—the ones that I can't fathom there even being any discussion on. It's these items that always turn out to be less innocuous than I thought and have complex issues just under the surface.

Hopefully, as I settle into my position of Structure & Policy, I'll get to be the one pointing out the technicalities and fine print in other people's agenda items.

In trying to learn more about my agenda items and my position in general, I've realized that I can't just Google it and call it done. I have to plan ahead and ask others for help, which is a new experience for an antsy less-than-social alcoholic like myself.

I haven't asked for much help, though. I've demanded it. I've bombarded people with so many emails that they could file a claim of harassment against me. I've latched on to people after meetings and barred their exit until they've explained everything they know about my agenda items—generally making me more confused. I'm pretty sure my email address has been put on GSO's blocked senders list. Gerry has definitely been one of my victims, so in two years when I'm ready to change my behavior, I will make amends.

My goal is to find out what has already been done and tackle some of what hasn't. This is where I need all of the groups' help the most:

- You know who your old-timers are
- You know if there's something interesting in your group's or district's past
- You have all the fliers and various archival material

I'm your trusted servant so you tell me what you want and how I can be helpful.

Someone clever in my committee suggested that I can be most useful by buying lunch for everyone. I searched and searched the Policy & Procedures manual to see if that was in my job description. It is not. However, I did find an obscure item, Q17.62S, which simply states: "Charge it to the Area."

Thanks for letting me be of service,

Kira A.

B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist

Area 40 Archivist Report

2013 Spring Assembly

Good Morning everyone. My name is Earl F. and I am an alcoholic serving as your Area 40 Archivist. Welcome to General Service in AA and Area 40. As with the beginning of any new rotation, there is an element of excitement, fear, and always the question: "What did I get myself into??" I have felt all of those things and asked that question many times since last fall, but as with any time that I reach out and do the best that I can to be of service to others, the results are left up to my Higher Power and things seem to work out the way that they are supposed to.

I have done a little work in the Archives, trying to get there at least once a month since January. I am becoming more familiar with the collection and even recently I have been able to find things to provide information to questions that were asked at a Pre-Assembly. I want to thank Gerry for all of the help and assistance that he has given and for answering the calls when I was asking "What have I gotten myself into?" He has been a big help in more ways than one and I am sure that I will continue to need help from time to time and he will be there. When I have been able to work at the repository, I spend a lot of time looking, searching and trying to get a grasp of the volume of information and history. I enjoy the time that I get to spend there and am getting the hang of the filing system and storage processes that are currently in use.

Obviously, one agenda Item that I am particularly interested in is that request to move the collection to a location closer to my residence so that I don't have to drive two hours one way to work on it. This item is up for consideration in the Archives Committee, and hopefully will come out of committee. I do have some additional information and would be happy to answer any questions that any one might have about the facility as best as I can. I looked at several different vacant buildings and offices in downtown Ennis and wasn't happy with any because of price, condition or size. What I have found is a climate controlled storage facility with a one-half bath, hard floors (concrete), and minimal windows. It is approximately 700 sq. ft. and can be partitioned. I would want to partition a small part of it and could get that accomplished fairly easy. I know a fair carpenter in the program who will work for a fairly reasonable rate. Work will proceed with approval from the Assembly.

I was able to get away and attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Rapid City. I had a great time going over the Agenda Items and watching Andrew W. Moderate the proceedings; these are great activities to get your batteries recharged. I got to see a lot of old friends and make new ones. I hooked up with the Archivists from South Dakota and Southern Minnesota and spoke to a Past Delegate that I served with from Nebraska and learned that another Past Delegate who I served with the prior year is their new Archivist. It truly is a small world. I have been invited to and attended a few activities this spring, and the calendar is currently open but hopefully filling up quickly. I would be happy to attend any district activities or roundups, just get in touch with me to schedule things. I also want to remind everyone that while I do have a budgeted travel allowance, I will encourage your District or Round-up to be self-supporting. We can talk the details while scheduling. Last weekend I attended the District 11 and 12 "Founders Day Celebration" which was hosted by the Billings Intergroup. This weekend I am here at the Area Assembly, and next weekend I will be at the Area 40 Round-up in Bozeman with a display. While these displays may not be professional yet, they will get better as time goes on. The collection belongs to you, the members of Area 40, so make the most of it. Please appreciate the items with care and consideration for the people who haven't seen them yet. If you would like to

see something specific in any books or items ask me for assistance. I will be here most of the time during breaks and early and late. I would be happy to assist you or just visit. Some of the items are old and fragile and the oils on fingers can be detrimental to the items. Please ask for assistance, I am here to serve.

I want to encourage the Area Officers, Area Committee Chairs, the DCM's and District Archives Chairs to get in contact with me and make sure that I get copies of your District meeting minutes, correspondence, activity flyers, or anything that you think will contribute to the on-going history of Area 40. You are the present history of AA in Area 40 and I want to record and preserve that for the people who will follow you in two or four or ten years from now. Our experience is invaluable to those yet to come, please help me save it for them. If you need any information from the past, that is part of the Archives, please ask and be patient. I love doing research but I tend to get sidetracked easily. I will do the best that I can as quickly as possible to get what you ask for if we have it or I will try to find it for you.

Again, welcome to General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous. As Robbie S. said in her Past Delegate Sharing, "This is your inheritance." Make the most of it and have fun.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Earl F., Area 40 Archivist

Area 40 Structure & Policy

A. Consider the request to revise article G7.6 of the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual.

- Policy & Procedures manual: "The Literature Committee will *assist in placing A.A. literature* in Treatment Facilities and Correctional Facilities
- Original edit: "The Literature Committee will order and provide the A.A. literature requested by Area Committees for placement in Treatment Facilities and Correctional Facilities with the cost of that literature charged to the budgets of the requesting Area Committee."
- Most districts supply correctional and treatment facilities with A.A. literature. This is not primarily an Area task.
- Districts that are lacking the funds to give books to inmates in correctional facilities can contact the Area Corrections Chair requesting literature—paid for through the Pink Can fund. The Pink Can is not in the Area Corrections Chair's committee budget, it is an outside source of money donated by A.A. members and does not come from 7th Tradition money.
- The Area Literature Chair is not responsible for ordering other committees' books.
- Motion that came out from the committee: The Archives Committee recommends that G7.6 in the Area 40 Policy & Procedures manual be revised to read as: "The Literature Committee will provide contacts and/or resources on how to order A.A. literature requested by Area Committees."
- Committee unanimously in favor.

Motion passes 89 For 2 Sustained 0 Opposed

B. Consider the request to move the Area 40 archives repository from its current location in Helena, to The Valley Trades Center, Highway 287 North, Ennis, MT 59729.

- The new location would be closer to the Area Archivist which would make his job much easier and more cost effective.
- Discussion on sprinkler systems and various methods of fire containment.

- Archivist plans on building a wall in front of the rolling door in the room in order to prevent dust, insects and mice from sneaking in.
- Alarm systems were discussed in the possibility of a break-in.
- Original motion was amended to reflect a more specific address for the repository.
- Motion that came out from the committee: The Archives Committee recommends that the Area 40 archives repository be moved from its current location in Helena, MT, to 107 Mountain View, Ennis, MT 59729.
- Committee unanimously in favor.

Motion passes 89 For 0 Opposed

Archives—GSC

A. Consider a proposal to revise the video *Markings on the Journey*.

- 20 updates will be done, such as enhancing picture quality, adding subtitles where audio is unclear, matching appropriate photographs to the time period being discussed and adding credits at the end—a general clean-up.
- Total cost is \$7,100 and will include French and Spanish subtitles.
- The substantial majority of the people present were in favor.
- Minority opinion: money should be considered.

B. Consider a proposal to publish a commemorative “75th Anniversary Edition” of the First Edition, First Printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 2014.

- This book is to be as close a replica of the original Big Book as possible.
- Same cardstock (thick, creamy paper), ink, binding and fabrics will be used.
- Book is in English only so no extra costs for French and Spanish.
- AAWS directors expect strong sales.
- The committee had concern that this book would end up being a souvenir from International.
- Would the book be considered more of a trinket or a blessing for individuals.
- The book will bring money—split views on this. Are we only going for money and thus losing focus of our primary purpose or would that money filter into GSO and be used to help the still suffering alcoholic.
- This book would serve as a tangible link between our past and present. The past of Alcoholics Anonymous is where our present sobriety comes from.
- Everyone agreed that they would buy the book if it was published, regardless of their views on whether or not it should be produced.
- Split in final votes: 5 in favor, 3 against and 4 abstaining.

C. Consider a request to post selected archival audio recordings on G.S.O.’s AA Web site.

- The committee expressed that care must be taken to assure copyrights are followed.
- This would allow all members of AA, and the outside world, to listen to and enjoy rare recordings, including those of our founding members.
- It may help the still suffering alcoholic to find stories that he/she identifies with.
- The unanimous opinion of those present was in favor.

D. Review Archives Workbook

- Replaces “see page number__” with the correct page number.
- Substituted the word “my” with “the” in “I attend our General Assembly twice a year and catch up and get to talk to my committee.”
- The unanimous opinion of those present was in favor.

Finance – Libbie L (11:26-11:43)

10 people in attendance.

Voting members present: Libbie L. chair, Sharon S. Delegate, Gerry R. Area Chair, Beth Z. DCM 42, Jerry T. DR 51. Thanks to Dave D. for taking notes.

Finance – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Libbie L. read her report to the committee and answered all questions from them. See full report below.

2013 Spring Assembly Finance Report

As you heard earlier, finances are in good order for the first quarter of this new rotation. The audit of the past rotation went smoothly and everything was in perfect order. I have been receiving and spending money as required. Remember to use the new address for all correspondence. The check book balances. Generating reports from Quick books has been the harder project for me. I have copies of the balance sheets and budget vs. Actual reports. I have made several copies for all to have.

The Rotation started at a District 72 GSR and Committee kick-off work shop in Bozeman on February 2nd. I enjoyed attending the WCRAASC in Rapid City, SD in March. It was informative as always. It was also a chance to meet up with old friends while learning the scoop on the agenda items. I was especially excited to see Curt K. who is the fellow who set up our current accounting system. I had lots of questions for him, and I finally got the budget entered after he showed me a few things.

I was also able to attend two pre-assemblies: Somers and Boulder Hot Springs. Once again, it was a great way to see old friends and become familiar with the agenda items. Buffalo, blizzards, deer and elk aren't going to keep me away.

I have made a display that is in the back of the room that explains some of our programs and reminds us of all the services we have asked for that our contributions must fund. It also displays information on ways to contribute to GSO. I have given each district a packet with envelopes, address labels, Area 40 Contribution info and finance reports.

As chair of the finance committee, I have many responsibilities. Of course in the role of treasurer, I will be paying the bills, depositing contributions, and balancing the check book. As I gain more confidence in the content of my reports, I will be sending them out and will have our webmaster post them on the website.

I am responsible for the Finance Committee meeting and I am grateful to all who are in attendance today. The GSC Agenda Items will take up a lot of our time. But I want to remember throughout this rotation that I am also the steward of the *money traditions*, (6, 7, & 8.) It is my responsibility to be their guardian and to share them with all of you. I plan to be active in that role and hope to keep everyone else as active participants.

From the last paragraph on page 134 Language of the Heart, Bill W. writes:

By our twelve steps we have recovered, by our twelve traditions we have unified, and through our Third Legacy-Service- we shall carry the AA message down through all the corridors of time to come. Of this I am happily confident.

I am confident that we will continue carrying the AA message by funding Area 40's vital services, and with that, we will feel the spiritual joy that comes with being self-supporting.

B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Triangle Chair

Erin G. read her triangle report to the committee and answered all questions. See full report below.

Triangle Report—Spring 2013 Area Assembly

The Triangle has sent out three issues since I started my rotation. There are about 300 Triangles that are mailed. Triangle subscriptions are \$10 for 8 issues sent out in a calendar year. (By past action groups who do not pay the subscription fee will still receive the Triangle—in the interest of getting the information to as many people as possible.) All AAs are invited to submit articles for the Triangle and I'd be happy to discuss this with you further.

Positive Things That Have Happened Thus Far In My Rotation:

--We identified which groups on the mailing list are prison groups. We worked with a prison employee to make Triangles the way they'd like them. These modifications include not sending them directly to an inmate, even if the inmate is a GSR, and instead sending them to a specific prison employee who distributes them, not having any staples in the issues, and sending in anonymity-protected versions of the Triangle. Last month the prison employee requested we double the number of Triangles sent in so they can be distributed to more incarcerated AAs.

--People in Area 40 have been wonderful about helping submit articles for the Triangle as well as for lending support to help me learn my position.

--I am working with the Archivist to include some fun historical pieces in the Triangle including articles from the Lodger Ledgers (written years ago by inmates) and a history of the oldest groups registered with GSO.

--I am working with the Area Webmaster to make a Triangle resource page on the Area 40 AA webpage. This will include a digital subscription form where GSRs can update their contact information, as well as other Triangle-related information.

--After every Triangle mailing I am going to start emailing DCMs a list of the groups whose Triangles were returned-to-sender. Perhaps the DCM has their current contact information or knows if the group has shut down. A Triangle with the wrong address costs Area between .92 and \$1.32—for each Triangle. Helping to cut down on Triangles that were returned-to-sender not only saves money—it also helps us get the information to more groups.

Obstacles Thus Far In My Rotation:

-- I was unable to get the mailing list that was used during the previous rotation. Instead, I have built one from FNV updates, the Area Committee contact list and from subscription forms as they are sent in. This means I might not have all the groups and personal subscriptions from 2012. I did research some people who held personal subscriptions in 2010 and sent the ones I could find a complimentary issue with the new Triangle contact information.

--Multiple groups have contacted me wondering if their check cleared the bank. I only have records dating back to January 2013. If your check didn't clear the bank from before that it likely will not at this point. It would be best to resubmit a check to the Triangle PO Box. Your subscription date will start for the month it is received.

--There are a lot of Triangles that are returned-to-sender due to having the wrong address. While I can only work with the addresses you provide, it does appear that the amount of return-to-sender Triangles is higher right now than in the past. So, if you move, your group changes GSRs or your contact information changes please update your contract information with a Triangle subscription form, or, by submitting a Group Change Form to our Area Secretary.

--I will be getting some information from the previous rotation during this assembly.

Thank you for letting me be of service, Erin G.—Triangle Editor

Finance – GSC

A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about funding the Conference.

Consensus was that the conference is a budgeted expense. Suggested Area contributions to support their delegate started in 1969 with an increase to \$1600 last year. If the fellowship was self-supporting, we would get all funding from groups and members and GSO wouldn't have to ask for this. We have gratitude for what our conference does. We benefit and have a voice because our delegate attends. We are in agreement with sending the minimum contribution of \$1600.

B. Review Self-Support Packet.

The committee reviewed the contents of the self-support packet.

Discussion amongst the committee and visitors concentrated on the good information that we have available in the packets. The fellowship has to be informed that the packets are available and that we be able to get them if requested.

C. Review report on self-support from the trustees' Finance Committee.

The committee reviewed the report from the Finance Committee's subcommittee on self-support.

We reviewed the report which discusses how we can improve and survive as a fellowship. It contains 8 points or suggestions to stimulate discussions and solutions to our age-old problem of non-self-support. Some of these points are; using the International convention in 2015 as a platform, adding to the sponsorship pamphlet and hiring a consultant. We are in agreement that this is not a hot topic agenda item, but the survival of our fellowship does depend on solutions.

GENERAL SHARING (11:45-12:00)

There were upcoming event announcements.

ADJOURN 12:00

Gerry asked us to close with the "Responsibility Statement"

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M., Secretary

2013 FALL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013

SEE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEMS OUR DELEGATE SHARON S. ASKED FOR SENSE OF AREA AND WERE DISCUSSED ON THE FLOOR

GSC Agenda Items Sharon S, Our Area 40 Delegate, asked for a Sense of the Area on:

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities/Agenda

E. Discuss how Special Needs-Accessibilities Committees can communicate the various ways to make meeting places accessible to all alcoholics.

No sense of the Area taken but lots of discussion on the floor: Brandon tested and TTY worked with Area 40 Hotline. Smoke away from the doors. Talk facing hard of hearing people, they likely read lips. Are any meeting schedules in brail? What about interpreters that are non AA? (each group can be autonomous) Montana Talk & Service Library in Helena has Big Books recorded. Can Area 40 website be audible? "Jaws" works with websites to be read.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees (CPC) – Serena R

E. Review the General Service Board's proposed plan regarding the slate of directors for the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board. (Area opposed at this time)

From the committee: Paul: thought it was a GREAT idea, now thinks it is a GOOD idea, after hearing some cons. The problem between the two boards has been a lack of communication, etc. But Bill W. did warn about consolidation of boards in section 8 of service book.

Martin: why did Bill W. warn about this?

Andrew: two boards have very different purposes, and putting them together might change how they operate. Bill W. didn't like concentrating power.

Tracey: asks about opening the pool of who can be appointed committee members to include non-alcoholics.

Andrew: right now they have to be alcoholic. The idea is to broaden the pool for potential class A (nonalcoholic) trustees. We also have no idea how often this will happen. And the issue isn't that we aren't getting excellent appointments aright now, this would just be to broaden the pool. Someone noted that this plan is NOT irreversible.

We want to make sure we improve communication no matter what happens.

Andrew: any concerns can always be shared with him or Sharon (Area 40 Delegate). Anything board does should always be reviewed by the fellowship.

Willy: concerned that this "solution" might not be addressing the actual "problem"

Andrew: problem is financial, structural, and personalities. Much of it has to do with communication. Initiatives are best practice and boards will go forward with those no matter what. Andrew suggests the committee votes in 2 parts: Are there specific initiatives committee has problems with? Re-structuring of boards? Andrew also notes that by combining the boards, each board member will still have the same amount of power (because boards are bigger, each votes will actually be worth less) Grapevine does not accept contributions and AAWS does Bill W. wanted Grapevine separate so it could have editorial freedom. This was very important in the restructuring conversation,

Paul: thinks it's worth a go!

Serena asks for a vote

Vote on restructuring: 3 in favor, 2 against

After minority opinion and revote: 3 in favor, 2 against

Vote on initiatives: 4 in favor, 1 against (minority opinion declined)

Discussion on floor of assembly: Would cause more work for our trusted servants. Andrew W. WCR Trustee would need to be wearing 3-hats. Not a paid position and can we do a good enough job. Might be too much to ask from the people that stood for positions before a merge would take place. Would animosity be resolved? There have been communication problems. They have never shared minutes before. Give the 14 Initiatives a try. (Area 40 was opposed to this merge)

Public Information (PI) Terry S standing in for Peggy H

C. Discuss Fellowship sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven.

(Area 40 was opposed to changing Tradition 11. See long form of Tradition 11.)

D. Review report from trustees' P.I. Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page.

(Area opposed to this at this time)

From the Committee: The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed and discussed the background material and, in particular, the report of the Trustees= Public Information Committee=s ASocial Media Page Subcommittee report of October 12, 2012, which specifically reported, AWhile it remains imperative, today perhaps more than ever, that A.A. utilize every appropriate media platform to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic and share accurate information about Alcoholics Anonymous, A.A.=s Traditions continue to guide the Fellowship=s Public Information endeavors. The subcommittee is unanimous in its belief that A.A. World Services, the General Service Office, and the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña cannot establish a presence on Facebook in accordance A.A. Traditions.@ After much discussion and deliberation, the sense of the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information is that we cannot at this time establish a presence on Facebook, although we wish it were not so.

Lots of discussion from the floor: Stay anonymous, how on facebook. Keep discussion going because will be prevalent in years to come. One alcoholic sharing with another, not mass media. Are we going to start marketing AA. Young people communicate thru it. Do we want someone else to produce an AA page? There are people addicted to Facebook!.

E. Consider a request from A.A.W.S. for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature. (Area 40 was split on this)

From the committee: The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information reviewed and discussed the background of this item, which began its evolution in 2009 with A.A.W.S. entering into a contract with Amazon.com to make the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve available for sale on Kindle Readers. Further examination after the 2009 General Service Conference, A.A.W.S. discovered that the contract did not allow for us to maintain control over consistent pricing of our product, that advertising surrounding the completion of a purchase could give the impression that we were affiliated with other titles and authors, advertisements and referrals, and that the functionality built into the Kindle website did not allow for any adjustments to meet our requirements. The contract was cancelled by A.A.W.S., which began to develop its own applications for our literature on both Apple and Android operating system hand-held devices. Budgeting \$411,000 over two years, A.A.W.S. began this project, notifying the General Service Conference that it was underway, but not seeking approval, since A.A.W.S. considered this a business decision that did not require General Service Conference approval.

Our Apple app was released in December 2011. It worked, but was less than ideal. Many users found it inferior to eReaders such as iBooks, Kindle and Nook. Meanwhile, new technological challenges arose with Android, because of new technologies, diverse platforms running on devices with multiple manufacturers and multiple versions of multiple platforms within Android devices. Costs skyrocketed and development time expanded alarmingly. Over the course of 2011 and 2012, A.A.W.S. spent almost \$250,000.00 of the budgeted \$411,000, with a less than ideal Apple app and no Android app (apps, actually) yet running. Total sales income for both the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve totaled around \$58,000. In the summer of 2012, A.A.W.S. decided that continued development of eReader apps was not a practical or a prudent use of G.S.O. resources. A.A.W.S. ended production of the Android app(s) and committed to maintain what had already been created (Apple app) with resources already committed. A.A.W.S. recognized that the cost and effort to maintain eReader apps were much greater than originally budgeted, would not be recouped by eBook sales and would drain other G.S.O. resources.

A.A.W.S. knew that the 2011 General Service Conference had passed an Advisory Action giving A.A. Grapevine permission to use third-party vendors to sell its material, and that several Grapevines were being sold this way. A.A.W.S. understood that third-party vendors, using currently standard practices in the publishing industry, would let customers know what other people who bought an A.A. book also purchased, would include reader comments about the book on the page, and would vary pricing according to each third-party vendor's contracting. These were many of the same issues that led A.A.W.S., in 2009, to cancel the Kindle eBook contract because it appeared to violate A.A. Traditions. [Terry's note: I told the Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information during our discussion that back in 2009, I was not convinced that the Kindle eBook contract actually would violate A.A. Traditions, but before we resumed that discussion across the USA and Canada, A.A.W.S. cancelled the contract.] A.A.W.S., in 2013, concluded that these issues did not now manifest violation of A.A. Traditions and that A.A.W.S. could maintain the digital rights management necessary to protect copyrights. Because of the previously unsuccessful attempt to sell through third-party vendors in 2009, A.A.W.S. presented to the General Service Conference this request for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature.

The Area 40 Standing Committee on Public Information discussed the background and the questions and concerns involved. We felt that A.A. is missing out on carrying the message to a considerable number of prospects by not having digital books available. A.A. Grapevine is selling eBooks. Our basic literature is not yet available in eBooks from us, except through the less than ideal Apple app. The sense of the Committee was divided. 9 of the participants felt we should go forward and give A.A.W.S. permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature. The other 6 participants were not ready to do this without better assurances of conformity with our A.A. Traditions. There was no substantial unanimity.

Discussion from the floor of the assembly: would it be violating our traditions to sell to outside vendors? Affiliation?

Under Report & Charter

C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.). (Area 40 would like to see directories printed)

Literature – Bob T

B. Review final report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality, along with the draft pamphlet. (Sense of Area was that “A Power Greater than Ourselves: Spiritual Experiences of our Members” was the best title)

From the committee: New pamphlet to incorporate all walks of life based on multiple beliefs including, but not limited to, Muslim, Jewish, Native American, Atheist, Agnostics, etc. Started with 200 stories and reduced to 23. The committee is recommending the draft pamphlet to come to the floor of the conference.

This pamphlet has been a “long time in the making.” The reason because there are many in the program that believe without “God” in your program, the program is diluted. Others disagree and therefore the pamphlet is moving forward.

Direct your feelings regarding to this pamphlet to Sharon so she is armed with the necessary information to vote properly on our behalf.

Suggested titles:

- “A Power Greater than Ourselves: Spiritual Experiences of our Members” or;
- A.A.: Spiritual but not Religious” – Overwhelmingly the majority choice.
- Keeping it simple.
- Not long like the alternate choice.

C. Consider a request to replace language in the second paragraph of the dust jacket of the 4th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. (Area 40 is fine with the proposed change)

From the committee: In 1995, the General Service Conference approved the recommendation: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, ‘Alcoholics Anonymous,’ the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remains as is.

With the following language:

“At the time of the third edition, in March 1976, the worldwide membership of A.A. was estimated at 1,000,000 or more. Copies of “Alcoholics Anonymous” in circulation exceeded 1,450,000. The basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged. This is the A.A. message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 edition of Alcoholics Anonymous, the book that gave the young fellowship its name.

We also request that this change extend to the e-book version(s) of Alcoholics Anonymous as well.

Per email in July 2012: “Committee took no action regarding the request to add language to the dust jacket of Alcoholics Anonymous at this time.”

Questions/Comments:

- 3 in favor, 1 opposed.
- Cost will be minimal; original lithograph will be used.

D. Consider a suggestion to add “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card. (Area in favor of this to keep literature consistent)

From the committee: “...We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism.”

Proposed to add to the end: “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.”

Questions/Comments:

- Clarifies continuity & consistency.
- It's not personal, principles before personalities.
- 4 out of 4 approve.

Nurses attended meetings as a requirement of their classes as an observer. It was expressed that the individual doesn't have to identify themselves as observers.

Shared that a group chose not to use "observer" as a label but that it was more of a group conscience.

The purpose of this item is for consistency of material, it doesn't necessarily mean that every group in the country is going to abide by this because proof is shown that the groups appear to take their group conscience.

E. Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. (Area 40 was opposed to this)

From the committee: Request from Dist. 17, Area 71 (Virginia) on 12-10-2012.

Back in 1970 a previous request for this was made and it was shut down.

"The committee strongly suggested that no index be included in the Fourth Edition Big Book."

Questions/Comments:

4 out of 4 opposed:

- Leads people to "skip" 164 pages & leads to reading other stories along the way.
- Can already be purchased, redundant.
- Will they be "bounded" in the book? Will they be numbered?
- It was shot down in 1999, did not make it out of committee room.
- Is already available electronically.
- Is not cost effective.

Same discussion came from the floor of the Assembly

F. Consider a request to add the subtitle 'None Left Behind' to the newly revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet. (Area 40 did not like adding the subtitle)

From the committee: 4 out of 4 opposed:

- Marines – "Leave no man behind." Reference: Former vet/bad connotations attached, people were left behind.
- Recently revised, why brought up now?
- Does not add "punch" to the title.
- How does it carry the message – It doesn't! Small % of us make it.

One person came to the mic and was very passionate that we did leave people behind in the war and did not like the reference.

Grapevine - Sam B

B. La Viña magazine:

1. Review the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine.

From Committee: In 2011, approximately \$21,000 was spent to change it to this format. Circulation went up in 2012 by 8.56%

2. Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound). (Area was opposed to discontinuing)

From Committee: The committee had some discussion on this and the 8.56% increase in sales would indicate that the perfect bound version is working. The committee would like to keep LaVina as it is and see where the trends go.

Discussion from the floor of the assembly: (These two items above were combined) Why go backwards and not be able to take to prisons. The purpose of this is to give more flexibility to the editorial dept at G.V. and necessarily change too much

Under Policy & Admissions

B. Consider suggestion that delegates who are elected to be alternate chairperson of a primary Conference committee would not be eligible to serve as chairperson of a secondary Conference committee. (Sense of the Area was against this)

The Committee voted for this.

G. Discuss the concept of combining the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy/Admissions Committees. (Area was opposed to this)

From the Committee: The Group thought that they should be kept separate due to conflict of interest. It would also reduce the number of service positions in U.S. and Canada.

Grapevine Discussion: 1) Create a mini Grapevine Display for a group to set up at their meetings.

2) Present copies of stories written by Montana AA members

3) Have a statement read at the beginning of the meeting to the effect of, "If you can't attend a meeting, check out our meeting in print.

Discussion from the floor of the assembly: Earl F., Terry S., and Andrew W. helped explain this: If we combine these things, we reduce the input Delegates have.

Archives - Kira A

Area 40 Motions

A. Consider a proposal to revise the video Markings on the Journey (Area was in favor of this)

From the Committee:

- 20 updates will be done, such as enhancing picture quality, adding subtitles where audio is unclear, matching appropriate photographs to the time period being discussed and adding credits at the end—a general clean-up.
- Total cost is \$7,100 and will include French and Spanish subtitles.
- The substantial majority of the people present were in favor.
- Minority opinion: money should be considered.

B. Consider a proposal to publish a commemorative “75th Anniversary Edition” of the First Edition, First Printing of Alcoholics Anonymous in April 2014. (Area was for this)

From the Committee:

- This book is to be as close a replica of the original Big Book as possible.
- Same cardstock (thick, creamy paper), ink, binding and fabrics will be used.
- Book is in English only so no extra costs for French and Spanish.
- AAWS directors expect strong sales.
- The committee had concern that this book would end up being a souvenir from International.
- Would the book be considered more of a trinket or a blessing for individuals.
- The book will bring money—split views on this. Are we only going for money and thus losing focus of our primary purpose or would that money filter into GSO and be used to help the still suffering alcoholic.
- This book would serve as a tangible link between our past and present. The past of Alcoholics Anonymous is where our present sobriety comes from.
- Everyone agreed that they would buy the book if it was published, regardless of their views on whether or not it should be produced.
- Split in final votes: 5 in favor, 3 against and 4 abstaining.

Discussion from the floor: What is the cost? Sense was that a lot of members would buy one. How does it help the newcomer?

C. Consider a request to post selected archival audio recordings on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site. (Area in favor of this)

- The committee expressed that care must be taken to assure copyrights are followed.
- This would allow all members of AA, and the outside world, to listen to and enjoy rare recordings, including those of our founding members.
- It may help the still suffering alcoholic to find stories that he/she identifies with.
- The unanimous opinion of those present was in favor.

No floor discussion for Corrections /International Conventions Regional Forums – Lee G

No floor discussion for Finance – Libbie L