

Area 40 Spring Assembly Minutes

Lewistown, MT

April 6-8, 2018

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Area Committee and DCM Meeting

Friday, April 6, 2018

Attendance:

Paul L.	Area 40 Chair	Steve S.	Dist. 23 DCM
Melinda W.	Area 40 Secretary	Dawn B.	Dist. 41 DCM
Julie R.	Area 40 Treasurer	Bryan F.	Dist. 51 DCM
Raymona K.	Archives	Carol W.	Dist. 61 DCM
Luke S.	CPC	Daniel H.	Dist. 71 DCM
Hugh M.	Corrections	Robert E.	Dist. 72 DCM
Lance W.	Literature	Kacie N.	Dist. 93 DCM
Tim K.	Public Information	Libbie L.	Area 40 Advisor
James W.	Treatment	Earl F.	Area Archivist
Rebecca S.	Triangle Editor	Brandon M.	Area 40 Webmaster
Gennifer Y.	Dist. 12 DCM	Jessica E.	BTG Ad-Hoc

Welcome and introductions.

- Libbie L. sitting in for Jake H. - Area 40 Grapevine Chair
- Email is preference for communication
- Reviewed Summary of Conference Procedures
- Bridging the Gap Ad Hoc Committee—Archives will come with a motion
- Dashboard-District reps now have access. DCMs can use discretion about who gets what information
- Fall 2018 Assembly will be in Great Falls
- Suggested review of job descriptions (Policies & Procedures on dashboard)
- Area Archivist will update Policies & Procedures every 2 years.

Welcome: Paul L.

Traditons: Buffy from District 23

Concepts: Ryan from District 71

2018 Spring Assembly Orientation-Gerry R.

Good morning everyone, my name is Gerry and I'm an alcoholic. As always, it's a privilege to be standing here, addressing this body, as your Area 40 Delegate. Our first year together was a pretty interesting ride, and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to seeing what happens during our second even though it will ultimately bring this rotation to a close.

Will all the new GSR's and those who are attending their first Area Assembly please stand. Welcome! Welcome to the Area 40 Assembly and welcome to the middle of AA, one of the most rewarding and invigorating places that I have ever found. Thank you for your willingness to serve, and thank you for being willing to begin your service in the middle of a rotation. That can be a somewhat intimidating thing to do. The good news is, in service, just like in recovery, you are not alone. I'll have proof of that in just a second. Listen up

Will each DCM please stand? Thank you all, again for your willingness to take your service work to another level, and for the example that you all set in your respective districts that working in General Service is not a do-it-once-and-your-done deal. I'd also like everyone to welcome Dan H., the new DCM for D71. Thank you, Dan, for stepping into your new position in the middle of the rotation and for being such a great example of service and willingness.

Will all the past delegates present please stand? These folks have, over the years, provided, and continue to provide, an invaluable service to Area 40, Alcoholics Anonymous and the still suffering alcoholic. They are a wealth of information and experience

I'd like to remind everyone, whether you're a GSR, an alternate GSR, District Rep, or just a visitor, if you haven't already done so, please find your DCM, at the break, and get registered on the Assembly sign-in sheet. It's important that you do that this morning. I'll explain why in a bit. DCM's please make sure you have these sheets to our Secretary, Melinda, by no later than noon today. Roughly put, we are here to establish the informed group conscience of Area 40 pertaining to the matters that are found on our Agenda for this weekend. Our Area Chair, Paul, will facilitate our deliberations on these matters according to a loose interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order, an interpretation that he will explain as he goes, and, when it comes to making the final call on how we navigate through an issue, his is the final voice.

Some of the matters that we discuss and decide upon will pertain specifically to Area 40. On those matters, Paul may ask for a vote, and this is where those sign-in sheets come into play. Melinda will take these sheets and tally up the number of eligible voters who are present this weekend. This helps us to establish our quorum, which is two-thirds of the eligible voters registered on those sheets. With very few exceptions, everything we vote on here is decided by what we call "substantial unanimity." What that means is that, as long as we have a quorum, (two-thirds of the registered voters) any item we vote on must receive two-thirds of the counted vote in order to pass. The reason for this is best expressed in Warranty Four of Concept Twelve, where it says;

"That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity." This Warranty is, on the one hand, "a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision."

Please listen carefully; you are eligible to vote on the floor this weekend only if: you are a GSR, a DCM, an Area Standing Committee Chair, or an Area Officer. Some of you may be District Reps who are a voting member of a committee, but, unless you also hold one of the positions I just named, you do not have a vote out here on the floor. Alternate GSR's vote only if their GSR is not present at the time of the vote, otherwise, they do not have a vote. The same goes for Alternate DCM's. If you have any questions about whether or not you have a vote, please see Melinda or your DCM.

Area 40 operates on a committee system that closely mirrors that of the General Service Conference. The majority of the items on our agenda are from the GSC Agenda. On these items we will take no votes, however, after we have had a good discussion about them, I will ask Paul to collect a sense of how our Area feels about some of them, to help me decide how I might vote when they are deliberated at the General Service Conference. When we are asking for the sense of the Area on any item, everyone in the room is allowed to indicate their support, or nonsupport, of an item by a show of hands. This is all part of establishing and gathering our Informed Group Conscience.

At times, things will get quite exciting, while at other times it will seem like we are engaged in a pretty tedious process, but, let me remind you it is important that we practice the principles of patience, kindness, tolerance and love in all our deliberations here because our decisions touch the lives and the recoveries of every newcomer that walks through our doors. We often have a great deal of fun here, but the bottom line is, this is serious work, with a serious purpose.

The agenda in front of you was prepared by our Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Paul, and it presents the order in which we will conduct our business this weekend. After I finish this orientation, we will hear reports from several folks including the DCM's. We will hear as many of them as we can before we take a break at 9:00. We'll resume these reports later in the day, but after the break, the committees will meet to go over the items on their respective agendas. That material they'll be discussing can be found on the back pages of the agenda, behind the schedule. The committees will meet until noon, and again afterward, if necessary, to complete their business.

For those who are not planning on attending a committee, there will be some great workshops presented by our past delegates Mark S. and Earl F., here in the Sapphire room. In addition to serving in his capacity as one of our past delegates this weekend, Earl also serves Area 40 as our non-rotating Area Archivist.

After lunch, at 1:00, we will all meet back here for a presentation from the Bridging the Gap Ad Hoc Committee, after which we will finish with the remainder of the DCM reports. Once the DCM reports are completed I'll give my Delegate's report, and afterward, we will begin conducting business here on the main floor.

During these reports, each committee chair will come to the microphone and present what their committee thought about each GSC item on their committee's agenda. Each item will be open for discussion by this body and, as I mentioned, I'll ask Paul to request a sense of the area on some of them. Some of the chairs may also present recommendations on any of the Area 40 items that they considered. On these items, Paul will treat any recommendation made by a committee as a made and seconded motion, and will, after a thorough discussion by this body, take that item to a vote. Again, very important, everyone can discuss these items, but only the eligible voters I mentioned earlier can vote.

If you choose to comment on any of the items, we will ask that you go to the microphone so everyone can hear. You will not be recognized if you attempt to speak from your chair. (Actually you will be recognized by everyone shouting, "Go to the mic!") Now, if you do go to the microphone, you will have three minutes to make your point. It is important that I warn you, Melinda has a cow bell as well as ... I'll just call them... certain methods, of quieting people, which may, or may not, have something to do with all these mysterious vacancies in the middle of a rotation. Just saying, be aware of the time.

Also, if someone has already made the point that you want to make at the mic, and you feel a burning desire to repeat it – please, don't. We have a large agenda and you will have a chance, later, to express either your support or disapproval of an item by a show of hands. There is really no point in our considering an item from only one perspective, over and over again. However, if you have a viewpoint that has not yet been expressed, please, do share that with us. It is vitally important that we consider each item from as many different perspectives as we can, so we understand it as best we can. We will continue with committee reports through the afternoon and break for dinner at 5:00, after which, at 7:00, we will resume business.

At 8:45 we will end business for the day and conduct a GSR breakout on one side of the room and a DCM breakout on the other at 9:00. These will be facilitated by past delegates Mark S. and Earl F. These are valuable opportunities for you to discuss with your peers, any matter concerning you about service work, your Home Group, your District, really, any service-related issue you wish to discuss. At 9:30 there will be an ice cream social, somewhere in the Gypsum Room. For everyone attending the breakouts, the ice cream will last until you're done, so don't worry.

Tomorrow morning we will begin with a series of reports from past and upcoming Area Roundups, Area Inter-groups, and a report on the recent WSRAASC in Des Moines IA. After that we will get to hear reports from our past delegates Mark and Earl. We will then finish any business that we have left to conduct and, if time allows, Paul will open the microphones for General Sharing.

I encourage you all to jump in and participate this weekend. You're among friends who welcome and encourage you to give yourself and the still-suffering alcoholic the very best gift you can, that is your active participation in, and service to, a program that can, has and will continue to, save millions of lives. Thank you.
Gerry R.—Area 40 Delegate

ROLL CALL SPRING 2018 ASSEMBLY

AREA 40 OFFICERS		Attendance	Voting Members	Non Voting Members
Delegate	Gerry R.	x		
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	Paul L.	x		
Secretary	Melinda W.	x		
Treasurer	Julie R.	x		
Archives	Raymona K.	x		
CPC	Luke S.	x		
Corrections	Hugh M.	x		
Grapevine	Jake H. (Libbie)	x		
Literature	Lance W.	x		
Public Information	Tim K.	x		
Treatment	James W.	x		
Triangle Editor	Rebecca S.	x		
DCM's		12		
11	Robert K.	x	8	2
12	Gennifer Y.	x	2	
21	Maryann A.			
23	Steve S.	x	3	
31	Ralph S.	x	3	1
41	Dawn B.	x	8	5
42	Kurt K.			
51	Bryan F.	x	3	
61	Carol W.	x	10	6
71	Daniel H.	x	6	
72	Robert E.	x	10	
81	Ashley J.	x	8	
91	Kacie N.	x	7	4
93	Nance G.	x	9	
Non-Voting Officers				
Area Advisor	Libbie Lapp	x		
Area Archivist	Earl Fink	x		
Area Webmaster	Brandon Murch	x		
	TOTALS	12	77	

QUORUM= 59

Secretary's Report

Good morning! Welcome to the Spring 2018 Assembly! My name is Melinda and I'm alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

Each DCM has a folder which includes your district's attendance sheet, which needs to be back to me this morning by the first break. The attendance sheets are used to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCMs or their alternate, GSRs or their alternate, and the Area Committee. Please sign in with your DCM if you are here as a voter or a visitor.

I'd like to thank all the Chairs and DCMs who have already e-mailed their reports to me and remind those who have not to please e-mail them or provide 2 hard copies to me before the end of the Assembly. I also ask that each committee meeting, workshop and breakout session leader please appoint a recorder to provide me with the notes or minutes taken during that meeting. I would also ask that you list your voting members at your committee meetings in your reports. If your committee brings a recommendation to the floor, please give me a written copy prior to presenting the motion. Reports are limited to 5 minutes and floor comments limited to 3 minutes. When the timer rings, (ring the timer) please close your sharing...or you will get the cow bell! (ring the bell)

On the tables in the back are two plastic "ask it baskets." Please use these for any questions you have or want discussed tonight during the DCM and GSR break-out sessions. Then tomorrow, please drop off your name badges in the box so we can reuse them next spring which saves expenses. Thank you!

Lastly, here are the motions passed at the 2017 Fall Assembly:

Floor Assembly

Motions

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

1. Update items in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures to reflect current practices. 71 for / 2 against
3. Spring 2018 Assembly be held in Lewistown and the 2018 Fall Assembly be held in Great 69 for / 13 against
4. The dashboard be accessible to standing committee chairs, DCMs, GSRs, Area officers and DRs. 75 for / 0 against

Treatment /Accessibilities

3. Area 40 Treatment committee recommends that the Area 40 Chair create an Ad Hoc committee charged with developing a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair and Committee. This Ad Hoc committee would be asked to report back with their plan and recommendations to the Area 40 Archives Committee for the 2018 Spring Assembly. 80 for / 0 against

Finance 2. Approve 2018 Area 40 Budget. 80 for / 0 against

Melinda W., Area 40 Secretary

MOTIONS:

Archives and Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee;

Agenda Item A MOTION: The Archives Committee recommends the creation of non-voting, non-rotating Bridging the Gap chair and alternate chair positions that will serve as part of the Treatment Committee, and that the Area 40 Policy and Procedures will be adjusted to reflect these proposed structural changes. The Bridging the Gap chair will be elected at the Fall 2018 Assembly. Passed: 71 for / 1 against

Archives and Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee;

Agenda Item B: "Review GSC Agenda items to decide on 2-3 Agenda Items to discuss by their respective Area 40 committees, utilizing the rest of the Committee time on Area 40 business". The Committee took *No Action*.

Archives and Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee; Agenda Item C MOTION: The Archives Committee recommends that the commonly used practices for Area 40 communication be formalized in the Area 40 Policies and Procedures. Passed: 59 for / 2 against

Archives and Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee;

Agenda Item D MOTION: The Archives Committee recommends that Area 40 implements a policy allowing districts to house their **Archives** in the Area 40 repository. The area assumes no responsibility for the District collections and may, at the discretion of the Area Archivist exclude any collection or parts of a collection because of harmful conditions.

Passed 64 for / 5 abstain

WCRAASC Bids. **The Corrections Committee** recommends Helena or Billings. Bid reports from Carol -- District. 61 (Helena) and Terry—District 11 (Billings) **The whole Assembly votes. 51=Billings 30=Helena Substantial Unanimity would be 53 votes so it was decided that the vote goes to the hat = Billings came out of the hat!!!**

Finance Committee Area 40 Agenda Item B MOTION: to amend section G12.5 in Area 40 Policy and Procedures "In the rare occurrence that an Area Committee member is unable to pay his/her preapproved travel expenses for later reimbursement by the Area, the Area Treasurer may issue a check to the member in advance for the payment of airfare and/or hotel room. All excess funds, along with all receipts for monies spent, must be submitted back to the Ar-

Archives and Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee

MOTION: The committee recommends that the words "in Lewistown" be removed from section 2.3 in the Policy and Procedures Manual. **Passed** 67 for / 2 against / 7 abstain

Archives and Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee

MOTION: The Archives Committee recommends that the Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Fall 2020 Assemblies be held at a Great Falls venue and that an ad-hoc committee be created to explore further venue locations. This committee should report to the Archives committee by Fall 2019. **Passed** 48 for / 23 against



Area 40

Spring Assembly 2018

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Good morning My name is Julie R. I'm an alcoholic and your Area Treasurer. It's my privilege to present some financial highlights this morning reflecting our current self-support and the costs for the services we've asked Area 40 to provide.

WHERE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX



Our 7th Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

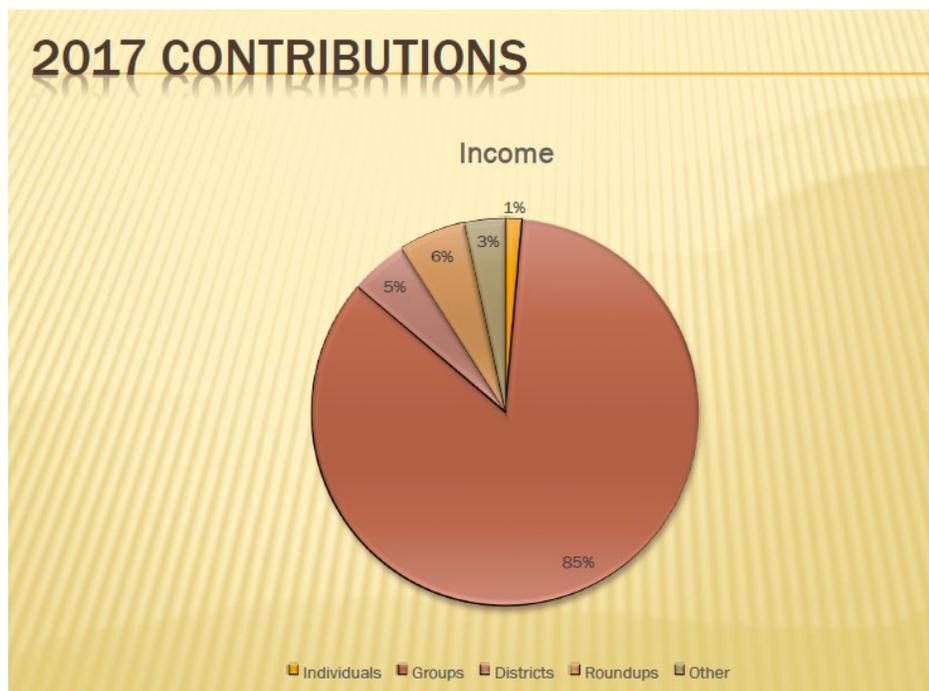
"While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the 7th Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their groups, but also their local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose-to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world." From the green card found in the Self-Support Packet.

COMPARISON HIGHLIGHTS 2017 - 2016

	2017	2016
Budget	\$34,930	\$31,710
Total Income	32,736	32,724
Total Expenses	35,712	31,479
Net	-2,976	1,245
Travel Expenses	18,902	14,888
Rent (Archives and Meeting Space)	8,167	7,033
Copying/printing	1,513	2,652
Telephone (Directories and 800 Number)	5,405	5,630

Here are a few highlights of this past year compared to 2016. 1) This first line shows the budgeted amount for 2017 was \$3,220 more than 2016. \$2,300 of that was for the Regional Forum and Regional Trustee visit which only happen in odd numbered years. 2) The contributions were almost identical – an increase of \$12 over the previous year. 3) But our total expenses increased over \$4,000 leaving us in the negative as expenses outpaced income. 4) That was mostly due to increased travel costs of the Officers and Area Chairs. \$850 of that can be accounted for by the Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, but we didn't have any Regional Trustee expenses last fall so that leaves a \$3,150 increase. 5) There was a \$1,000 increase in meeting space costs due to the Fall Assembly being held in Great Falls. 6) But then the copying/printing costs were down by about the same amount. 7) Lastly, the telephone hotline expenses were very close to the previous year.

2017 CONTRIBUTIONS



We looked at last year's expenses, how about contributions? Overwhelmingly, the Area's contributions come from the groups – that's 85%. Thank you to all your groups for considering Area 40 in your splits. The other 15% comes from Roundups, Districts, individuals, Assembly 7th Tradition baskets and Triangle subscriptions.

HOW AREA 40 GROUPS SUPPORT SERVICES

- ✘ Area 40 2018 Budget = \$35,280
- ✘ Registered Groups in Area 40 = 268

THEN

- ✘ $\$35,280/268$ groups = \$131.64 cost per group
- ✘ Cost per member ~ \$6.54

59 groups have contributed so far in 2018

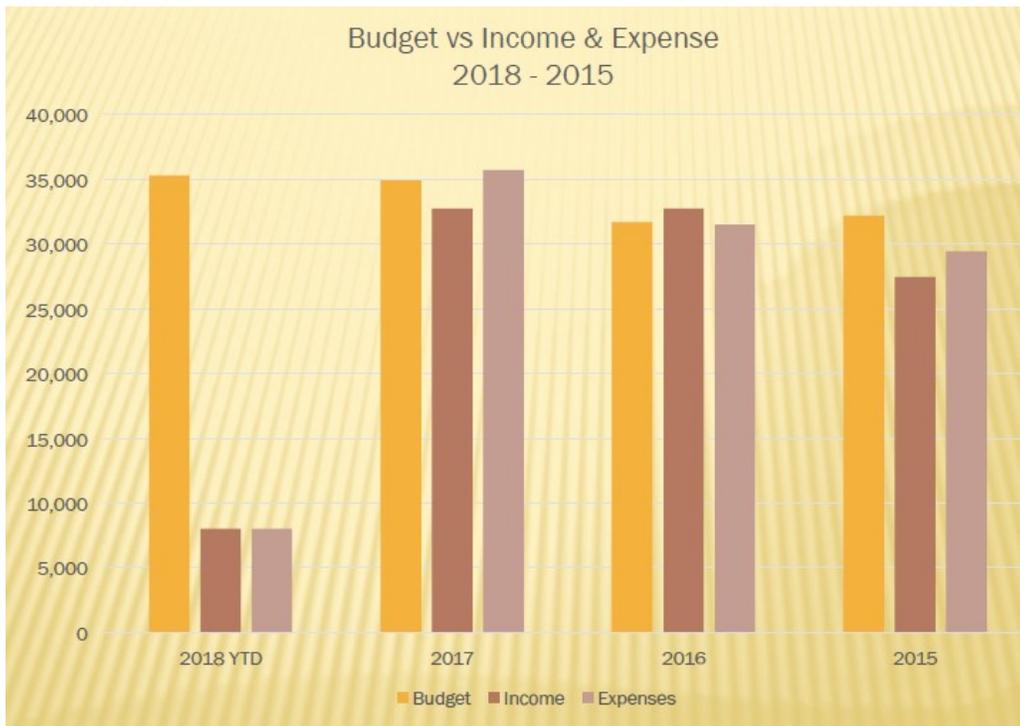
So how are Area 40 groups supporting services? Our budget for 2018 is \$35,280; we currently have 268 registered groups, which breaks down to a cost of \$131.64 per group or approx. \$6.54 per member. So far, 59 groups have contributed in 2018.

FIRST QUARTER COMPARISONS

- ✘ # of Groups contributing 2018: $59/268 = 22\%$
- ✘ \$ amount contributed in 1st Quarter: \$7,994
 - ✘ $\$7,994 \times 4$ Quarters = \$31,976
- ✘ Area 40 2018 Budget = \$35,280



That means that 22% of Area 40 groups are contributing. The Area has received \$7,994 since January 1st (96% coming groups). If we project that figure out to the end of the year, we'll have \$31,976 in contributions to meet a budget of \$35,280.



How does this compare with previous years? The Area 40 budget is the yellow line which is usually higher in odd numbered years but is showing an upward trend. Income is the brown middle line which has averaged about \$31K per year over the last 3 years. The third line for each year is expenses which indicates a steady upward trend averaging a little over \$32K per year. So far this year income and expenses are almost even.



I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Today you will hear reports from our trusted servants detailing their activities, the services the area provides and the ways these help reach the “still suffering alcoholic.” Most of these require time and many miles of travel around Big Sky Country and beyond. When you go back home after this weekend, I hope you will communicate to your groups and districts how their dollars in the basket support these Area services. And, please convey a big “Thank You” for their generous contributions so that the hand of A.A. is always there.

Thanks you.

Triangle Editor report

In December 2017, Gerry R. reached out to me because Mike D. needed to step down as Triangle Editor. After a round of emails around the Assembly Committee, I was voted in to finish Mike's rotation.

To date, two issues have been sent out on my watch, the Winter 2018 and the March 2018 editions. The next will come out after this Assembly.

Please consider sending me a short article about your journey in recovery, service and life. I am always looking for material for the Triangle. Also, if you have any suggestions of what you think should be in the Triangle, please talk to me this weekend.

Thank-you to Jake H and Gerry R for proofreading.

That's all folks! Thanks for letting me serve!

In love and service, Rebecca S.

Area 40 Chair Report

It is an honor and a privilege to stand here as the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate for Area 40. The Agenda for this Assembly went together much easier than the last ones. I was able to spend more time looking into the Agenda Items for the General Service Conference in greater detail.

Some of the things I have done since the Fall Assembly:

I attended the Fall Roundup at Fairmont Hot Springs, and even got to get out to attend a Griz home game. It was well attended, as was the Round Up which was well organized and had some very good speakers. The Hot Springs were also a hit.

I was also able to participate in a workshop/discussion with members from District 23 in Sydney along with Earl and Gerry. We talked about what is necessary to hold a service workshop for their professional community. We later had a meal with members of the A.A. and Al-Anon fellowship. After spending the evening in Sydney we traveled up to Glasgow, Montana in District 21. There was a potluck and we hosted a sharing session about what can be done to enhance and improve their level of activity in service work in District 21 and in Area 40. Some members in that District were interested in becoming involved in service work through Area 52 in North Dakota in District 1 out of Williston because it is so much closer to where they live.

In March I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. It was an interesting and thought provoking event. It was my sixth Regional Service Conference. I was able to attend the pre-conference Delegate meeting chaired by our West Central Trustee, Tom A. (He will be attending our Fall Assembly in Great Falls). It really helped me get my thoughts organized about the conference process. On Sunday morning I was able to meet with some of the Area Chairs in the West Central Region for breakfast and it was very informative.

I asked about the process used to pick the site for the 2019 West Central Regional Service Conference. I was told that the Area Delegate that was rotating on had made the decision, I thought, "Wow, how easy."

In preparation for this assembly I attended the Pre-Assemblies in Billings, Victor and Boulder Hot Springs. About 30 plus hours of driving time. There was some good visiting with Luke and Raymona and I also listened to some great A.A. speakers. The Pre-Assemblies were well attended, there were nearly 90 people between the three of them. It was well worth the effort to help keep the fellowship informed.

My second year has started out well and I am looking forward to this Assembly.

Thank You..... Paul L.

DCM Reports

DISTRICT 11 REPORT, Spring 2018

Greetings from District 11. The largest city in District 11 is Billings. We cover an area from Highway 200 in the north down to the Wyoming state line. On the west District 11 is bounded by Highway 3 and on the east by Interstate 90. We cover an area of 7,000 square miles.

There are approximately 25 groups and over 100 meetings per week.

Meeting times range from Brown Baggers at 6:30 a.m. to the 10 p.m. meeting at 510 Cook.

District meetings are well attended. We meet once a month on the second Saturday. On average, 20 to 25 persons attend to include GSRs, Committee Chairs, Al Anon and visitors. GSRs from 10 groups consistently attend District meetings.

Our District Committee Officers are Bob K. DCM, Jerry D. Treasurer and Nicole E. Secretary. All of our District Committee Chairs are filled.

We had a pre-assembly on March 10 which was well attended. Paul L., Gerry R. and James W. drove to Billings to participate.

District 11 had several social events over the winter including our annual Christmas party in December and more recently Founder's Day. In summary,

DISTRICT 12

My Name is Gennifer Y. and I am the DCM for district 12, it has been and continues to be a pleasure to serve my district.

District 12 covers an area from Harlowton to Red Lodge, Big Timber to Laurel. There are approximately 30 meetings weekly. Our District meets the third Sunday of the month.

Over the last year we have been working together to attract more members to the service side of AA and what it has to offer not only on an individual level, but more importantly on a collective helpful level . It is by attraction rather than promotion that we hope to show others the rewards of service work. It is my belief that with the help and interactions of the current active members that we will continue to breathe new life into the interest and participation in local and arear level service commitments. The LHG, and those who attend their meetings have been pivotal in starting conversations about those in sobriety involved in all aspects of service, by showing them that this too can be a fun experience in AA.

District 12 has two events yearly the Mid-Winter Social and Fireman's Point Campout:

The Mid-Winter Social was held in Joliet Mt. February 17th and was supported by Districts 11 & 12, as it is every year; this year we held our first ever Sponsorship workshop, and it was a success, and we plan on having more workshops in the future. As usual we had our famous BBQ and Potluck Dinner, Speakers Gerry R from Helena & Cris S. from Billings did a Fantastic job sharing their experience, strength, and hope to a full house.

Coming up in August is our Fireman's Point Campout, fun for the whole family. On Friday Night the Great Spam Cook-off for all the Spam Lovers; One of our speakers will be Hugh M. from Great Falls (remember Hugh? Lol), On Saturday Sober Old Biker Poker Run and meeting along the Stillwater River., BBQ and Pot luck Dinner to follow with a Fireside Speaker Meeting Ala-Non speaker to be announced , and Closing the day with a Resentment Burning. Sunday Morning the entire weekend is topped off with an AWESOME breakfast provided and prepared by District 11, never to disappoint.

I love being of service to my district and will continue to do so as long as I am allowed. Thank you all for participating in my sobriety.

Thank You,

Gennifer Y.

DCM District 12

District 23

Hello and my name is Steve S. I am an alcoholic and DCM for District 23. The district currently has two meeting places in Glendive two meeting places in Sidney all with several meetings a week the meeting at Fairview has been shut down for the time being due to lack of attendance the same goes for Savage there is still a meeting at circle Montana.

The district has held two meetings since spring assembly. First one in October and the second one in March.

The October meeting conducted business with the DCM expenses for fall assembly, committee reports were given and discussed then we moved to GSR reports from those in attendance and then moved on to new business. Discussion was held about the CPC workshop to be held later in October with our area chair and area delegate coming to visit.

On October 21 our CPC workshop met at the Elks club in Sidney. Paul L our area chair Gerry R our area delegate and Earl F our area archives came to visit. Several from the surrounding area attended with no professional people attending that were invited. After a steak supper we decided to have our delegate and area chair share a little bit about their experiences with CPC to educate those of us there. In addition our area archives gave a presentation about his works with the archives and about his story. Even though it was disappointing to not have the professional people in attendance we actually had a very good meeting and everyone left with a better idea about carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

November and December were quiet months but I was able to visit some groups with one being the Sidney welcome home group. January and February seem to be months that I did not do a lot of traveling for the district as with the bitter cold it seemed appropriate to stay close to the fire and just attend my regular meetings.

March 17th the Sidney welcome home group held their annual St Patricks day party with best corn beef and cabbage around, it was a packed house this year being held at the senior citizens center again. April 14th the Sidney Monday noon group invites you to their 3rd annual First Ever Event. Flyers are available.

Our March district meeting was held in Sidney with representatives from Sidney groups representation from the Fairview group but again no representation from Glendive. It began with the meeting that seem to have some doom and gloom as we had not put together a budget for the 2018 year, the past 2017 year contributions were about a third of the projections that we were looking at to be able to function so there was a question as whether the district either wanted to fold or to try and continue to look for solutions to this problem. It was decided almost immediately that the district needed to continue for various reasons and that we would look for solutions and somehow we would make the budget work. It was also decided to eliminate several areas of expense, continue to send the DCM to assemblies, and make certain that there was seed money available at least in the amount that this rotation began with so that the next rotation would be able to continue on. It was also decided that the GSR's that were in attendance would take this message back to the groups and indicate to them how important it is to continue to support not only the district but the area and GSO through the seventh tradition. It was also indicated to them to share with their groups that there may be a special sort of pass the hat if needed until expenses could be met during the year.

This was a meeting that I was not really looking forward to as the DCM for district 23, and yet when the problems were presented those in attendance came together and answered the call. I left the meeting with such a sense of gratitude of those in attendance of how they value the program of alcoholics anonymous and in their desire to continue to carry the message. Our events committee chair had indicated that she no longer wanted to plan anything as a result of no help. Within the next few moments a campout barbecue had been planned with several offering help to the committee chair, now she will report back at the next meeting of her findings. There was also a basket that came out for seventh tradition during the meeting and I received a text message on my way home from our district treasure that we had received over \$94 in contributions just from one idea.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 22 at which time I will give my assembly report to the district along with the budget proposals from the area. At that time we will also decide as a district on a budget, have a report from our events committee chair, and several other orders of business that were presented at the previous meeting.

On January 31 Hugh M our corrections chair and Dan CPC chair from Great Falls district came to Glendive and conducted a bridging the gap meeting at watch East. For those of you that are not familiar with the program at watch, there are three recovery groups other than Alcoholics Anonymous. Part of our mission of watch that we wanted to accomplish with bridging the gap was to reach all those groups and not just alcoholics anonymous, so watch is conducting the bridging the gap meetings during the day and have an all the groups assemble as one in the gymnasium where they can be presented to. Hugh gave his presentation then took a variety of questions from the family members. The next morning the three of us returned to watch and were able to set in on the morning activities where Hugh and Dan and myself each shared a little of our stories. Then we broke out and we were able to attend some of the phase meetings that these family members go through as part of the watch program. Since that time I've had 13 family members fill out contact forms to be assigned contacts on the outside.

At the pre-assembly at Billings I was able to visit with Gerry R our delegate about how to further build the relationships between contacts and family members long before they are released from the watch program. I have recently had conversations with security at watch on their policies about communication the family members have on the outside. We will start implementing the bridging the gap to the family members and encouraging them to get their contact forms filled out soon after they are admitted so that we can assigned contacts to them. From there the family member will be assigned a contact on the outside, then it becomes the responsibility of the community contact to write the family member at watch and give them their contact information including mailing address phone numbers etc. From there it is our hope that the communication will develop between the family member and the community contact so when the family member is released back into their community the relationship is already established and continues on. Please share this information with your GSR's with your groups and please update your community contacts within your groups and if they have any questions they can reach out to me about it.

Last Friday night I was asked by a family member to bring it to the assembly that is doing a proposal to watch about starting a speaker meeting once a month and to see if there would be people interested in participating. This could be a former family member that is back out in society that is living a sober life and could come in and share what it was like what's happened and what it's like now. It could also be somebody that has the opportunity to travel and share their story. I have spoke again with security and being that this would be a one-time visit they would not have to go through the PREA training. This is all in the making yet but it sounds like watch already has given a thumbs up for it we just have to work out more of the details so if there's interest in this please contact me on this too.

In addition I have a little story of an occurrence at our last district meeting. We had a visitor who I'd never seen before but could tell that he was with one of the GSR's. During introductions he introduced himself as Dan and that he was a visitor. Later on we discovered that Dan was only a few weeks sober. The first thing that Dan had commented on was how the seven tradition was such an important factor of the survival of Alcoholics Anonymous and now he had such a better understanding of where his contributions were going and that his contributions without a doubt would increase. Later on in discussions of the hotline, and here is where our hotline area rep Tim K will have some good news is that Dan had indicated that's the number that I called. That's how I found out about all this, when asked who he had reached he'd pointed to another person sitting in the room, and said, that's the person that called me back.

Respectively Submitted In Service
Steve S. District 23 DCM

DISTRICT 31

My name is Ralph and I am the GSR of Closing Candlelight Group in Hysham. District 31 covers Hysham, Forsyth, Colstrip, Lame Deer, Baker, Ashland, Broadus, and Miles City. There are 12 meetings a week. In Miles City there are 5 day meetings and 2 night meetings. It's been quiet in District 31. The last District meeting was in Miles City last April 2017.

Yours in service, Ralph

DISTRICT 41

I want to thank everyone in District 41 for allowing me to be of service. It has been a honor and privilege to be of service to AA.

We have 3 chairs open at this time:

Corrections, PI, and Literature

I was able to travel to Des Moines Iowa for the West Central Regional Service Conference. This was a great adventure and was less stressful then my 1st one, last year. I loved it! So many different ideas, thoughts and ways to provide help to the still suffering Alcoholic! I was able to meet and spend time getting to know more about the other DCM in Area 40, as well as Gerry and Paul. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the group!

At this time District 41 has 65 meetings during the week; at lease 4 each day!

District 41 was well represented for the pre assembly, in Boulder Montana, on March 25^h. Thank you to Carol and District 61 for doing a great job hosting this event. Also, thanks to the Area Chairs who showed up and shared their information with us all.

District 41 hosted a CPC/BTG/CORRECTIONS WORK Shop in February; over 80 people attended. There were people from all over the state who came to support this event, as well as several professionals, in different fields. It was very informative and gave AA in District 41 an idea of what the community is in need of. There will be a follow up workshop in August to inform the community what it is that AA can and can not do.

Some of the things going on in the coming months are;

12 Step Study April 28th with Debbie D

Spring Roundup will be held May 4th-6th-2018

Founder's Day, in June on the 16th and 17th.

The Unity Camp out will be held June 22nd-24th 2018

Fellowship of the Falls, hosted by the Singleness of Purpose Group , will be held on September 7th and 8th 2018

I am looking forward to seeing what the next 6 months will bring

Yours in Service:

Dawn B.

DISTRICT 51

I'm Bryan, I'm an alcoholic and DCM for district 51. District 51 covers most of the area in North Central Montana. Our Business meeting is the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2:30 pm at the Alano Club in Havre. Myself and two others were able to attend Pre Assembly in Boulder and we gained some knowledge about the current agenda items.

District 51 was fortunate to fill the vacant positions of Treatment/BTG and Archives so we now have all our positions filled. Corrections has been taking meetings to the Hill County Correctional Facility for almost a year and got their first felon into a meeting just last month. We also hosted a corrections workshop hosted by our area archives chair Hugh. Our CPC chair made a lot of progress in the last year and is moving to district 11. She's pretty awesome and we are going to miss her.

District 51 held a New Year's Eve Sobriety Party at the Lutheran Church in Havre that was enjoyed by members and their families. District 51 will be hosting 2 sobriety Campouts this summer and a Fall Mini Conference in October. Anyway, that's all I got. Thanks for letting me serve. BRYAN F.

DISTRICT 61

District 61 continues to be very active in service and carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. District 61's main city is Helena with meeting out to Augusta, White Sulfer Springs, Elliston and Boulder. We are blessed to have 30 groups with 90+ meetings throughout the district. We can always use more people to go into the prisons, jails and treatment centers but we do have a great core group of people that are dedicated to carry the message in those venues. I have enjoyed getting out to the groups in our district and focus on continuing this throughout my rotation as DCM.

All our district committee chairs are in place and busy with the responsibilities of their position. We voted and affirmed our annual budget which ended up being a few hundred less than the previous years. Our district meetings are well attended with good discussions depending on the topic.

Currently we have at least three district committees working hard putting events together in the near and far future this year. That includes the Mega Committee putting together a Corrections Conference, May 19th. Next is the Grapefest in June followed by the Fall Round Up October 12-14th in Helena at the Radisson Inn. We hope to see some of you at these events. Additionally we have had individual groups hosting various events such as Common Ground, Pockets of Enthusiasm with a great corn beef and cabbage dinner on St Patrick's day, and other activities to come.

I attended the WCRAASC with several of the Area 40 DCMs, Paul, our area chair and Gerry R. our delegate. The discussion was interesting and passionately stated by many members. The breakout sessions were well attended with some excellent discussions. It was great to hear many different opinions on each item presented. It was a wonderful time to share Alcoholics Anonymous in the rooms and over a meal.

District 61 hosted the Pre-Assembly in Boulder Hotsprings. The facility was very accommodating and we were well fed, to say the least, thanks to everyone for bringing food for the potluck lunch. Our Area chair led the discussion of the background information presented by each of the area chairs. Much good discussion was held which gave us all a better understanding of the workings of GSO and the business of AA at the national level.

Over all, District 61 continues with strong AA focusing on individual sobriety through having a home group, a sponsor, a Big Book and a desire to help the still suffering Alcoholic.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and thank you for my sobriety. CAROL W.

District 71

Hello my name is Daniel H. , I am an alcoholic. On March 14, 2018 Virginia C. resigned as DCM for District 71. As Alternate DCM, I was appointed to serve as DCM for the remainder of this service rotation. District 71 thanks Virginia for her service. I am excited to represent District 71 as DCM and look forward to this opportunity.

District 71 consists of 25 groups and approximately 85 meetings held per week. We have meetings attended in such towns as Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Philipsburg, Melrose, Sheridan, Wise River during the summer months, and Twin bridges. We stretch across southwest Montana.

I would like to share with you the many ways we as a district have come together to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our Corrections Chair, Ryan K. worked diligently to reach out to the Anaconda Jail in hopes of bringing AA meetings into the inmates. After much effort he was granted permission to bring an AA meeting in weekly. Ryan along with volunteer AA members bring a meeting in every Wednesday at 6:30.

Our Treatment / Bridging the Gap Chair, Ed M. carries the AA message ...

- MCDC

- Watch Program

District committee members and volunteer AA members bring meetings into

MCDC every Tuesday and Wednesday night at 6:30.

A meeting is brought into the residents of Connections Corrections program (C.C.P.) every Thursday evening @ 7:00. CCP residents regularly attend the Friday night Newcomers 123 Men's meeting.

Our 8 o'clock Galena Street Group welcomes the regular attendance of the men and women of the Butte Pre Release Center

Our CPC / PI Chair Laura H. has sent letters, AA literature and meeting schedules to the medical clinics and our medical providers within District 71 as well as to all high schools, junior high schools and to the Montana Tech Nursing and Medical Assistant Programs.

In October 2017 a new meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous was started in District 71, Women in the Solution. This is a Big Book Study for women held every Wednesday night at 6:30 at The Springs in Butte.

We have also come together with the spirit of rotation and importance of service work in mind to host a service workshop, "Service Rocks".

This workshop will be held April 28th at the St. Ann's Parish Hall from 1:30-3:30.

We invite you all to join us in the spirit of service for fellowship, fun, food, musical skits and a presentation from our Area advisor and past delegate, Libbie L.

District 71 is in the process of planning a sponsorship workshop for October 2018 to be held at the Castle in Opportunity.

I am truly blessed to be of service today, Thank you for allowing me to be of service...

Daniel H.

District 71 DCM

DISTRICT 72

Dist. 72 is most of Park county, Gallatin county, and a large portion of Madison county. We 88 scheduled meetings, 48 registered groups. Our dist. meeting is the last Sat. of the month at the Fellowship Hall 2165 Durston in Bozeman, our dist. committee chairs are full with a couple newly replaced. CPC committee will host a luncheon this fall (date to be determined) for retirement homes, and nursing homes. We rotate our summer meetings to outlying towns to better the message. We have four special events per year one being our delegates report. We update our meeting schedules monthly. Corrections committee takes meetings to the women's prison, Riverside in Boulder, Gallatin county Jail. We bring a meeting to MCDC the first Sat. of each month. Mar 2-4, I attended the WCRAASC in West Des Moines Ia.

Yours in Service, Robert E. Dist 72 D.C.M.

District 81

We are located in Western Montana with Idaho bordering us on the west, Highway 2 to the north, Highway 83 to the west, and Highway 12 to the south. This means we have meetings as far west as Trout Creek, north to Polson, east to Seeley Lake, and south to our largest city Missoula with a population of around 70,000 (according to Wikipedia). We have 57 groups, with 101 meetings each week. We recently added a new meeting in Pablo on Tuesdays at 7:00pm, so check it out if you are passing through.

Our district meetings are the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Fourth D Alano Club at 2:00 pm. All our district positions are currently filled and everyone is getting settled into this rotation.

We have about 15 GSRs who consistently attend our district meetings and I am currently in the process of organizing a GSR workshop for some time at the beginning of May. We would love to have more participation from more of our groups and hope that as I travel and connect with more of them we will see that happen.

I was able to attend the West Central Regional Conference in Cheyenne and enjoyed the amazing opportunity to learn not only about our agenda items, but also about service and specifically what I am supposed to be doing! I am also so grateful that I was able connect with so many wonderful individuals from our area while I was there.

Kalispell hosted a great preassembly for our corner of Montana and we had a good turn out from District 81. The next planned event for our district is Founders Day on Saturday June 10th and will include a panel at 10:00am with the topic "Controversy in AA". This will be followed by the delegate's report, and finally a BBQ at 12:00 at Franklin Park. We hope to see some of you there.

Thank you for letting me be of service!

ASHLEY J.

DISTRICT 91

One of the duties listed under the DCM job description in the AA Service Manual is to “Make a regular practice of talking to groups (new and old) on the responsibilities of general service work.” I’ve been taught that being a GSR, a DCM, Delegate, or Trustee means being a conduit of information, by listening and sharing information objectively, between one group of AA’s and another. In order to do that it means I have to venture out of the comfort zone of attending my regular two home group meetings a week and get out to the other groups in my District so I can listen to them and share with them. While it is a challenge to break away from the comforts of binge watching Netflix with my super awesome husband or stay motivated after 8 or 9 hours at my super awesome job... awesomeness afforded to me by this super awesome program... it has been one of the most rewarding pieces of this service rotation. Since the Fall Assembly last year I’ve been invited to moderate group inventories at the Whitefish Group, the Tobacco Valley Group, and the New Hope group in Kalispell. I’ve been able to visit the Chief Cliff Group in Elmo, the Bigfork By the Bay Group, the Somers/Lakeside Group, and the Going to the Sun Group in Coram. Our monthly District Business Meeting rotates among home groups in our area and the last one was hosted by the Canyon Group in Columbia Falls. These groups, and several others, make up District 91 in the Northwest corner of Montana.

The Flathead Valley Serenity Group hosted the Fall Refresher in September. The Tobacco Valley group hosted the best Christmas Party ever in December. The Whitefish Group hosted another successful Sober Ski in March. And on the final Saturday of every month the Flathead Valley Intergroup hosts a birthday meeting after their business meeting in Columbia Falls. I’m sure Steve will be filling you in on all of the fun stuff they’ve been up to!

The message of recovery is carried to Pathways Treatment Center, Flathead County Jail, Wilderness Treatment Center, and the Summit Preparatory School by dedicated AA’s across District 91.

I am grateful to be part of an AA community that supports my attendance to events like the Regional Forum and the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference. This year’s WCRAASC was held in Des Moines, Iowa and I was thrilled that two GSR’s, Brendan and Sheila, were also able to make the 1,388 mile trek to attend. Some of the highlights were delicious meals with Area 40 homies, a late night Perkins run, and a 72,000 mile walk to the local mall. (OK, I might be exaggerating just a little bit on how long the walk was...we were rewarding with Zombie food. So, it was worth it for sure!)

District 91 is a community of AA’s that absolutely insist on enjoying life and would never fall under the classification of a “glum lot.” It would be impossible to list every amazing thing going on in our neck of the woods. So, I guess you’ll just have to come and visit to see for yourself!

In Love and Service,
Kacie N.
District 91 DCM

DISTRICT 93

Greetings from the Bitterroot Valley! Winter was not too bad and we saw some increased numbers of attendee's at the Conner meeting. We had 9 souls for one meeting in the middle of winter! Gearing up now for summer. June is speeding toward us and the Lake Como campout hosted by Dist 93 is scheduled for June 8-10 with our own Gerry R giving us his Delegate report on Sunday. Norm's Picnic will be in mid July on the Rivah south of Darby (date TBD).We will get dates out on the website calendar. Come south to visit us in our habitat!

NANCE G.

Bridging the Gap Ad Hoc Committee

Co-Chairs

Lee Gault (District 72) Present – Past: Area 40 Corrections and Treatment Chair, served as liaison for BTG and past BTG work at district level. Served on both Treatment and Corrections District Committees.

Jessica Ennist (District 91) Present – Past: Area 40 Treatment Chair. BTG Chair for District 72. Treatment Chair for 72. Past BTG work at district level. Served on both Treatment and Corrections District Committees.

Voting Committee Members

Tara McNabb (District 12) BTG work in district 12

Patricia H (District 61) BTG Chair for district 61. BTG work at district level.

Gennifer Young (District 12) BTG work in district level.

Teresa (District 91) BTG work at district level.

Buffy (District 23) BTG work at district level.

Ad Hoc Committee Task Provided From Spring 2018 Area 40 Assembly

Task: “Area 40 Treatment Committee recommends that the Area 40 Chair create an ad hoc committee charged with developing a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap chair and committee. This ad hoc committee would be asked to report back with their plan and recommendations to the Area 40 Archives Committee for the 2018 Area 40 Spring Assembly.”

This committee met the following to dates for conference calls to address our assigned task.

11/19/2017 1/7/2018 2/4/2018 2/11/2018 3/4/2018 3/18/2018

The rest of the committee correspondence was done through email and telephone.

We are providing all discussion notes to provide the Archives Committee, Area Assembly, and all members of Alcoholics Anonymous a detailed, transparent discussion of all of the challenges, needs, and impacts that we have thoughtfully considered before proposing the recommendations that are followed.

Discussion:

1. Bridging the Gap Chair. The Ad Hoc committee discussed and developed a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap chair and committee.

We discussed how important it would be to have a chair that would specifically focus on bridging the gap work for Area 40. We recognized the autonomy of the districts to participate with the facilities in their corresponding BTG work and the responsibility of updating the BTG database for their own districts. The bridging the gap chair would serve as a servant for all districts. This chair could act as a support to the already established chairs and or committees for each district. In the absence of a BTG chair for any district this committee chair could act as a support to the district committee. The BTG chair could help maintain the database, update lists, provide workshops and information to that district.

2. Freestanding Committee vs. Embedded Chair in Treatment or Corrections Committee.

The General Service Office does not have a Bridging the Gap Chair Desk. The General Service Conference does not have a full committee load/agenda for a full Bridging the Gap standing committee. At our Area level a bridging the gap chair still would have the autonomy to lead a bridging the gap committee of members across Montana who are interested in Bridging the Gap work. Also, by not having a full committee assignment which would consist of hat drawn members of DCMs or district committee chairs, this would also relieve responsibility from the districts that already struggle to send members to area to participate in the committees that are already established. Not all districts in Montana have district BTG chairs to be assigned.

We discussed that this chair can sit on the Treatment Committee for Area 40. This chair can also provide reports just like the archivists and the webmaster. It would be a responsibility to provide accountability to the Districts, their Bridging the Gap Committee, Treatment, and to the floor of the Area Assembly at the discretion of the Area Chair. Following these considerations and discussion, this committee unanimously recommended that a BTG chair position would be proposed. We recommend that this chair would not have an assigned committee, but have the ability to form its own committee from members across the state that will be interested in BTG work.

3. Length of term.

This committee recognized the importance of consistency for this position and discussed why. We discussed the importance of having a liaison that is consistent. There was discussion that our facilities, whether Treatment or Corrections (or both), do not rotate their administration as we do in Alcoholics Anonymous. We felt that this position should have a longer rotating length of time than our other traditional area chairs or not rotate at all. Facilities do not have to conform to the AA spirit of rotation and often are frustrated by having to work with a new AA representative every 2 years or less. Since consistency with the facilities is vital to the success of our BTG work, we thought it best to recommend a longer term rotation or a more informal rotation cycle as is used with the archivist and webmaster.

We discussed that both the archivist and the webmaster are non-rotating positions. There is precedence in our policy and procedure for structure for these positions which are long term non-rotating. This approach would also provide a consistent contact person for the general service office and all other areas, and if not most important, any alcoholic coming out of a treatment or correctional facility in the time of need when they are most vulnerable for recidivism. We discussed why the length of time could intimidate potential servants from stepping up into serving in this capacity but felt the positives outweighed the negatives in recommending this length of term.

4. Having an Alternate Bridging the Gap Chair.

Spoke about the importance of consistency. Having this independent chair would enable a chair to provide mentorship to an incoming alternate. The alternate would serve as support for all responsibilities of the BTG chair. This position would have a person who is already in place and familiar with the needs and services in place if the BTG chair would ever be in a place where they could no longer complete their responsibilities for whatever reason. An alternate position would provide consistency during a transition if the bridging the gap chair could no longer fulfill their duties. This would enable a continual outreach to our already established connections in the community which we all work so hard to initiate. Following this discussion, the committee agreed and proposed that there should be an alternate position for this chair.

After further discussion of having a chair, the committee agreed having an alternate chair provides mentorship for the entering BTG alternate chair and provides support to the bridging the gap chair. Again, we all agreed that consistency with the facilities is vital to the success of our BTG work. We thought it best to recommend an alternate position as is used with the webmaster.

5. Responsibilities and Duties

We discussed the responsibilities that we could foresee this chair having. We discussed that their responsibilities would include: 1. Provide leadership to Bridging the Gap chairs across Area 40. 2. Provide leadership to Bridging the Gap volunteers. 3. Provide materials and assistance in ways that will serve all districts.

We discussed that the chair would be able to focus on the Treatment/Correction BTG database. Provide coordination for contacts. Provide workshops that provide information and support leadership. This chair would also provide updated contact list of all BTG chairs across Montana, but also provide all districts with updated resources that would enable and support their Bridging the Gap chairs to be the most constructive in their positions.

We support that this chair should have direct accountability to not just the Area 40 Treatment Committee that it sits on but should also be accountable to the floor and therefore all of Area 40. Providing semi-annual reports (at least) to the floor, the districts, and therefore all members would provide the accountability to the districts. This was not discussed in the spirit of authority, but in the vision that we believe that it will keep the fire ablaze for the BTG work that is being done in the Area and provide the encouragement to continuously expand it.

Following the continued discussion this committee has had about the responsibilities and duties we developed and recommend the adaptation of the listed Responsibilities and Duties in the Policy and Procedure which is listed in the following section. Although we have included recommended duties, we also discussed to keep this area broad which we have provided. This would allow this chair autonomy and the ability to adapt for area future needs

Development of Policy and procedure.

The policy and procedure was developed from the responsibilities and duties of past bridging the gap chairs in different districts, the area responsibilities, and the Area 40 Bridging the gap workbook (available online on our Area 40 website).

The structure was proportionally modeled from the webmaster and alternate webmaster chair. This structure was then adapted with the responsibilities and duties for the bridging the gap chair and alternate chair. Again as stated previously, we have included recommended duties which provide guidelines but are also broad. This would allow this chair autonomy and the ability to adapt for Area 40's future needs.

BTG CHAIR

{Duties}:

- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson attends Area 40 assemblies
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson provides Area Treatment and Corrections Committees with updated BTG reports on efforts and materials.
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson monitors and assists districts in maintaining updated BTG contact lists
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson reviews/updates BTG Chair duties after every election assembly
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson Selects Alternate Area BTG Chairperson and provides the candidate for Area 40 Treatment Committee review
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson provides mentorship/training for the Alternate BTG Chairperson
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson invites Alternate Area BTG Chairperson to attend an Area Assembly(with Area Chair approval).
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson maintains current BTG Chairpersons contact lists
- o The Bridging the Gap Chairperson is available to conduct BTG workshops, training and provide updated materials for local districts and Area 40

The suggested qualifications specific for the position are:

Q: An interest in working with the Area 40 Corrections and Treatment Chairs to help coordinate area BTG efforts and to help carry AA's message to the still suffering alcoholic; Working to ensure that everyone has access to meetings after leaving any treatment or a correctional facility.

Q: Knowledge of or the willingness to learn about creating and maintaining BTG call lists at Area and District levels.

Q: Knowledge of maintaining updated contact information for BTG databases such as volunteers and facilities contact lists.

Q: Term duration: It is believed that this position and that of the alternate be a non-rotating position that will be embedded in the Treatment Committee, working also with Corrections Committee Chairs.

Alternate Area 40 BTG

{Duties}

- o The Bridging the Gap Alternate Chairperson attends Area Assemblies if BTG Chairperson is unable to attend
- o The Bridging the Gap Alternate Chairperson acquires familiarity with BTG Chairperson duties to implement them as needed acquire familiarity with BTG Chairperson duties to implement them as needed
- o In the event that the BTG Chairperson resigns or becomes unable to serve, the Alternate will serve in that capacity until the next Area Assembly when a new BTG Chairperson will be elected
- o Perform technical tasks and other work as assigned by the BTG Chairperson
- o The Bridging the Gap Alternate Chairperson performs technical tasks and other work as shared with the BTG Chairperson
- o Term limits/duration: It is believed that this position be a non-alternating position that will be embedded in the Treatment Committee, much like the BTG Chairperson position.
- o Attend Area Assemblies at the BTG Chairperson's invitation, with approval of the Area Chair (expenses paid), otherwise may, but is not required to attend at his or her own expense.

The suggested qualifications specific for this Position:

o Familiarity with Area 40 Policy and Procedure

Selection:

o Chosen by BTG Chairperson, usually after elections at the Fall Election Assembly, selection subject to Treatment Committee approval (by substantial unanimity) before end of the third month after the election.

Budget

The proposed impact on Area 40 annual budget was considered and discussed. This committee considered that the impact would be on travel and area assembly attendance. We considered our experience and previous budgeted allowance for this record. This representative budget includes the expense of having one more chair added to travel budget and the chairs’ stay for two Area 40 assemblies. There was discussion for what the annual impact on the general travel fund that a BTG chair who was active in providing workshops across the state would cost. We recognize as a committee that this this would need a few years’ experience with having this position to provide a true impact on Area 40's budget. This is just provided for consideration. We see this as a vital service that Alcoholics Anonymous provides. We believe this service is a way we directly carry the message of hope in Alcoholics Anonymous- our primary purpose- and therefore this service needs to be supported if we as a whole want our efforts to be successful.

Area 40, Inc.

Budget vs. Actual by Committee / Project

Line Item	Current	Impact from Additional Chair	Notes
Spring Assembly	-5,200.00	-400	Both spring/fall assembly costs are reported as a total
Fall Assembly	-5,200.00	-400	2 nights+ 5 meal + gas/mileage
Regional Service Conference	-1,500.00		
Regional Forum	-1,500.00		
Regional Trustee	-800.00		
Delegate Expenses			
Area 40 share to GSC	--1,600.00		
Other Expenses	-200.00		
Other Expenses NYC	-400.00		
Roundups	-600.00		
Travel expenses	-1,500.00		
Total Delegate Expenses	-4,300.00		
Area Chair Expenses	-300.00		
Archivist Account			
Total Archivist Account			
Archivist Display & Travel	-1,650.00		
Archives Storage	-3,850.00		
Total	-5,500.00		
Literature Chair			
General literature purchases	-200.00		
Total Literature Chair	-200.00		
Public Information Chair			
Area Hotline Expenses	-3,000.00		

Directory Listings	-2,200.00		
Total Public Information Chair	-5,200.00		
Website	-210.00		
Triangle	-2,500.00		
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	-350.00	-200	
Committee Chair Travel	-2,000.00	-500 to 1000 est. Won't know until after a few years of experience	Total combined again with other chairs. Anticipated additional travel for treatment to focus on facilities and BTG workshops ect.
Computer Hardware/Software	-150.00		
Total Program Services	-34,910.00	-36410 to 36910	
Management and General	-20.00		
TOTAL	-34,930.00	-36430 to 36930	

This committee recognizes that we only have our combined experience. We know only a little. But we trust that God will reveal to Area 40 adjustments to this position through continued experience.

The Ad Hoc committee discussed and developed a plan to establish and operate an Area 40 Bridging the Gap chair and committee.

These are our recommendations:

1. The Ad Hoc committee recommends a creation of a Bridging the Gap chair and Alternate Chair that will serve as part of the Treatment Committee. We recommend adapting the Area 40 Policy and Procedures with the proposed structure changes provided by the Ad Hoc committee.
2. The Ad Hoc committee recommends that the BTG Chair is elected at the 2018 Fall election assembly.

This committee is grateful that we had the opportunity to work on this Ad Hoc committee. We all feel passionately about Bridging the Gap work we have the opportunity to perform in all of our communities. We still all believe this is a vital part of our program and felt so thankful to help serve Area 40 continue in these efforts.

Thank you for allowing us all to serve in this capacity.

In Love and Service,

Your Co-chairs, Jessica Ennist (91) and Lee Gault(72), and all committee members Patricia H(61), Tara McNabb(12), Gennifer Young (12), Teresa (91), and Buffy (23).

These are the Archives Committee recommendations:

Motion: The Archives Committee recommends the creation of non-voting, non-rotating Bridging the Gap chair and alternate chair positions that will serve as part of the Treatment Committee, and that the Area 40 Policy and Procedures will be adjusted to reflect these proposed structural changes. The Bridging the Gap chair will be elected at the Fall 2018 Assembly.

Unanimously passed in the Archives Committee

AREA CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Hello Area 40,

Wow, hard to believe we are more than half way through this rotation. I am so grateful to Alcoholics Anonymous for my sobriety and the life I have today. I want to thank all of you for helping me stay sober and allowing me to serve. I attended the Pre-Assembly in Boulder Hot Springs 2 weeks ago.

This last 6 months since our last Assembly, I have been mostly busy with the Hotline stuff. I have been communicating back and forth with the local manager of the Billings office and have built a relationship with her. Her name is Phasia. She and I have been trying to be sure when calls come in they start in the city the caller is from going through the volunteer list, and then continuing until they run out of volunteers in that city and then going to next list of next closest city and continuing until someone is reached, they used to only call 3 people and then stop. Unfortunately, a few time this has resulted in up to 39 calls as you will see if you read my Hotline reports each month. To me this is unacceptable. We must be sure the information we supply in the volunteer lists are accurate and up to date. I ask that each District have a answering service or hotline rep position, that the job of that person is to communicate with the groups in their district and with me to ensure we have up to date lists. If you go to aa-monatan.org, click the menu button and click documents in the drop down, scroll down under forms and there is a hotline sign up form. Print several off, hand them out to GSR's to send around the groups in your districts, tell them be sure accurate times available are put on their etc. don't just put anytime if you are not going to answer at 3 am. Then you can get an access link, username, and password from Brandon M our Area 40 Webmaster...Brandon will you raise your hand so everyone can see who you are please...then you can access the volunteer list in your cities in your District that Answer Net uses when a call comes in. I will be happy to help in any way possible, call or email me anytime with questions or comments etc. Let s update this stuff right now! I get call logs that show members that I personally know went back out a few years ago and they were still on the call list.

Also, if you want to be a volunteer please put the number 406-248-2337 into your contact list on your phone as AA Hotline so when they call it pops up on your caller ID and you can answer or get right back to them!

Today our Committee had 5 voting members present, and a total of 13 members including myself attending the Committee breakout. Thanks to my Committee for the discussions and feedback. I will bring up Committee thoughts and discussions as we go down the list of Agenda items.

If you have any other questions or need help in your location with any PI related or Hotline related items call me anytime! 406-570-6772. I do screen my calls as I use that phone for business, so if you have an out of town number leave a message and I will call you right back!

Thanks for allowing me to serve!

Tim K

Area 40 PI

Area 40 PI Committee Report from PI Committee meeting 4/7/2018

Hello Area 40,

The PI Committee met for Committee Breakout session at 9:15 a.m. in the Snowy Room at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown Mt.

Present were: myself, Eleanor W Dist. 72 PI, Dan D GSR Dist 31, Brandon M. Webmaster, Ken S GSR , Serena R. GSR Dist 72, Steven R GSR Dist 72, Gerry W GSR Dist 72, Miles F. GSR Dist 71 and Answering Chair, Nancy G DCM Dist 93, Kacie N DCM Dist 91, Alex M Visitor, Melinda W Area 40 Secretary. I want to thank the 12 participants for showing up and coming to the Committee.

After Introductions, Brandon M Gave his Webmaster Report. See his report for details.

Then Tim K. Gave his report, See his report for details.

Then the committee went down the list of GSC items 1 at a time and discussed the background of each one and took a consensus on consider items if we were opposed or for. The committee was for all agenda items unanimously except item H: Review the 2018 trustees' PI Committee Report on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants to carry the AA message. Not a actual consider item, but the majority of the Committee strongly opposed anything to do with Google AdWords and Google Grants..felt like a huge violation of traditions of self support accepting outside moneys or contributions and affiliation. We took a 15 minute coffee/restroom break and reconvened at 10:30.

The committee went through the Agenda items for the Report and Charter the Committee read background information and approved of all the condiserations unanimously.

We ended with prayer at 11:15 and went to lunch early!

Thanks for allowing me to serve Area 40 and to participate with such great people!

Tim K

LITERATURE REPORT

Hello area 40 My name is Lance W. and I'm a alcoholic. Also serving as your area 40 literature chair. Since I been in this position I am learning more n more about the importance of literature as to carrying the message. Just hearing story's told about bringing a big book to the most assorted spots like deep north into Canada or Listening to our past trustee...I believe Billy N share a story at the fall assembly about sending literature into some parts of Europe to a solider. Listening to the story's always brings me great hope and utilizing the literature like the pamphlets to bring about recovery. Since our last assembly I did not do much as your literature chair. But I did get more pamphlets and service manuals and was able to attend the Boulder pre assembly. Unfortunately, long story short, I caused a leak happened in the house which caused damage to some of the literature. Most of the damaged items was disposable. But yeah I feel really bad thought I kept them in a save spot but unfortunately it happened. But feel free to take a look at the display help yourself to some pamphlets. And any questions I would love to help you with. And Thanks again for letting me serve

Love and service
Lance W.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

I would like to thank all who have attended the meeting. In attendance were

Voting members

Gennifer Dist 12

Nadine. Dist 11

Debra. Dist 61

Natasha Dist 41

Visitors

Susan. Dist 93

Jerry. Dist 11

Nicole Dist 91

Big thanks to Jennifer and Natasha for taking notes.

Literature GSC Agenda Items

A.)

1. Committee considered the request to add an appendix Library of Congress. Discussed back and forth some boys that they would like to see it in the book. 3 voted agreed and 2 opposed.

2.) Committee considered to add the AA Preamble and responsibility statement. We thought that we do need to add them into the book. Even though we do love the statements. All opposed.

3.) Committee considered request to add endnote all opposed besides one. This we discussed that song like the idea having it added. Questions of how much would this cost? Majority felt it was not needed.

B.) The committee considered request that AA us-canada publish the god word pamphlet. 3 was for It 2 was not. Some discussed & felt that there shouldn't be any more made but also felt more undecided.

C.) The committee considered for a pamphlet developed for atheists and agnostics. Once again a lot of the discussion as in previous item some voice about people being offended others mentioned about many ways of finding a higher power and there's a chapter in The Big Book. 2 voted for it and 3 voted against it.

E-L) the committee decided to do the "review" items last and not much was discussed. Mainly updated pamphlets to have more suit today.

M.) The committee considered request for revision living sober. Not too much was discussed. Committees all for it.

N.) The committee considered for the development of a new book 12 steps 12 traditions and a 12 Concepts. We had felt no need for it. Committee all opposed.

O.) The committee considered request to update the video "You're GSO" we wasn't able to watch the video. But agreed to update the video.

P.) Committee did consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet we had discussed that we agreed with the background information. All for it.

Q.) The committee did consider the Quest for a new pamphlet for the Spanish-speaking woman. Committee all for it.

R.) The committee did consider to add anonymity to the pamphlet

S.) Committee review The Matrix of the a literature no discussion.

CPC REPORT

It was a slow winter in the CPC world. I was allowed to attend a CPC workshop in Great Falls. I didn't leave hungry and the panel was fantastic. The professionals who were invited were passionate people. They shared the chaos that alcoholism cause to their profession. The people in participation flooded them with questions and just like the drinking days..... had to be cut off. I was contacted through our area 40 website by two different medical professional. Both of them were doctors in recovery. One asked for assistance in getting literature in the facility she worked at. The other one asked me to try to pass on a survey to other alcoholics. I handled it with the guidance of other Area Committee members. I attended two preassemblies and well. We went beautiful Victor Montana and beat one horse to death. Next we went to Boulder and found a different horse to beat to death and tried to dig up the horse from the Victor pre-assembly. Discussion was good and participation was inspiring. I came to the conclusion that Alcoholics Anonymous is in safe hand in area 40. Luke S.

CPC Committee Report

Luke Sanders - CPC Chair - lukesanders020307@yahoo.com

Laura Henderson - salminenlaura@yahoo.com

Lori Stroup - lstroup@gmail.com

Robert Kelleher - robertkelleher22@gmail.com

Jackson Riley - rileywellsite@yahoo.com

Colleen Campbell - colleen1976campbell70@gmail.com

Dawn Brockman - cemorelife@yahoo.com

Gene Allen - themammaGitstriangle.com

Brendan Garvey - brendangarvey81@gmail.com

Rick Hainsworth - rick.hainsworth@gmail.com

Terri Todd - moxrmediamt@gmail.com

Lee - cabintimer2@yahoo.com

Serenity Prayer

CPC - Area 40

A. Review assembly report - Luke attended CPC workshops in Great Falls. He had two different contacts through Area 40. Also attended 2 preassemblies - Victor & Boulder.

Will present formal report.

A medical professional sent a survey to Luke and asked him to distribute to AA members. Is this affiliating with an outside entity? Luke asked some trusted servants and they suggested that he not move forward with it. He is not sure that it would be affiliation.

CPC - GSC

A. LinkedIn - Majority opinion feels it does not go against our traditions. Minority feels it goes against Traditions 6, 10 & 11. Is this promotion rather than attraction? Will we be affiliated with pop-up ads? On Al Anon LinkedIn page they state anonymity disclosure. Billings has tagged themselves on Google. The district did it for each group. Who manages the website? Delegate feels it will someone on a technical committee at GSO. LinkedIn currently has 468 million members. How many people can we reach through this? We need to make sure what we are getting into - fine print - can they create a page from our page? Can we deactivate it if needed? Are the clicks being tracked and shared? The committee was about 50/50 at the beginning of the meeting. At the end of the discussion the majority was much more open to the idea.

- B. Committee reviewed and approved changes.
- C. Committee reviewed and approved changes.
- D. Committee reviewed and approved changes.
- E. Committee reviewed

Trustees - GSC

A - D. Skipped these items. Trust our trusted servants at the GSC to make these decisions.

E. Proposal to censure the General Service Board -

Some thoughts - Do not use right of decision as first resort. Their decision did affect AA as a whole. The board understands their mistakes and they won't do that again, they don't need to be censured. It's unnecessary. The concepts allow us to censure when AA as a whole objects to something the board does. We should follow through on this. If we don't want this to happen again, we should censure to hopefully stop impulsive decisions in the future. Would we censure if we ended up with the document? We've all made mistakes - we should move on. 7 for, 3 against. Consensus is for censure.

F. Proposal to reorganize - Can't be personally punitive. The conference can ask for resignations. The committee feels that reorganization is going overboard and will harm AA more than the actions taken by a few trustees.

G. The US trustee at large election process. The varying numbers of Areas in each region put some areas at a disadvantage to other regions. For example the western region would only have 8 people to put forth but the pacific would have 18. The motion proposes that each region get the amount of votes based on the smallest region.

Finance Report

Since the Fall Assembly, I have continued to pay the bills of Area 40 and to deposit your generous contributions. Though I cannot mail an acknowledgement to each contributor, I can look up the records if you want to know your group's donations. A few groups have contacted me for the Bozeman address when their mail was returned to them. The forwarding has expired. The Area 40, Inc., address is: PO Box 3878, Bozeman, MT 59772

I have filed the Area's annual report to the IRS (Form 990-N) online and, also, the corporate report to the State which has a \$20 fee. In March, I attended the Pre-Assemblies in Billings and Boulder Hot Springs. Thank you to both the districts which hosted those events!

I hope everyone has gotten a copy of the March financial reports. They are also posted monthly to the Area 40 website and I e-mail copies to the Area Committee. We ended March almost even on income and expenses, a negative \$12. And our expenses are showing \$340 under budget for the first quarter. Both of those figures would have been higher, but we paid the Yogo Inn \$935 as a deposit in March for this Assembly. If we use the balance of the Assembly budget of \$6,000, that will bring our Operating Balance close to 0. Of course, we do have the Prudent Reserve. As I mentioned this morning, our expenses are increasing, costs are going up and our income is holding steady. If the Area is to meet budgeted expenses, contributions will need to keep pace with what services we've asked the Area to provide. Because of inflation, a dollar in the basket today is only worth 68 cents compared to 20 years ago; 47 cents compared to 30 years ago. When I went to my first Regional Service Conference in 2005, they were talking about this trend then. It really opened my eyes. The basket is where money and spirituality mix. How can I put a spiritual and monetary value on my sobriety? The cost of that drink has definitely increased in the time I've been sober. I'm certainly grateful I don't have to drink today and that's without a doubt due to Alcoholics Anonymous. I try to show that gratitude by contributing the price of that drink I don't have to take every time the basket is passed. And if I can afford to, I try to put in a little extra for the newcomer. If we want A.A. to be here for the next generation, we need to keep supporting our 12th-Step work at all levels of service.

Lastly, at our fall assembly, we will hold elections for the next rotation. It's not too soon to be thinking about your next service position. If you want to know more about the Finance Committee and Treasurer's duties, beyond what's in the Policy and Procedures document, please contact me – call me, e-mail me, whatever – I'm happy to share with you what I've learned.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to be of service!

Julie R.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Opened with Serenity Prayer. Introductions were made. Five voting members were present: Gerry R., Area 40 Delegate; Paul L., Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate; Steve S., DCM Dist. 23; Tom R., Dist. 71 rep; Julie R., Area 40 Treasurer. Visitors attending: Jeremy S. and Mike P.

Area 40 Agenda Items:

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer (see attached report given by Julie R.)

Consider Agenda Item to amend section G12.5 in Area 40 Policy and Procedures as follows: "In the rare occurrence that an Area Committee member is unable to pay his/her pre-approved travel expenses for later reimbursement by the Area, the Area Treasurer may issue a check to the member in advance for the payment of airfare and/or hotel room. All excess funds, along with all receipts for monies spent, must be submitted back to the Area Treasurer." After a thorough discussion of the item and the principles of trust and prudence, lasting about an hour, a motion was made & seconded to accept the proposal as written. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2.

General Service Conference Agenda Items:

"Consider developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the General Service Board." Our committee thought that tying AA's finances in any aspect to outside economic indicators had a lack of the "where money and spirituality mix" aspect of AA and our Traditions.

"Review Self-Support Packet." Julie showed what was in the packet explaining it can be ordered free of charge along with any literature order from AAWS.

Gerry raised an issue about WCRAASC finances and creation of a regional administrative service position, having an 8-yr. rotation, to better deal with the banking complexities of the annually rotating Conference. It may have a cost to each Area of about \$75-150 per year or an increased attendance cost of about \$3 per member. He will be discussing this later at the assembly and at the Regional luncheon held at the General Service Conference this month.

Corrections Report

Hi, my name is Hugh and I am an Alcoholic. Proud to be serving as your Area 40 Corrections Chair.

This fall has been busy with great fellowship and growth. I attended our fall Round-Up in Fairmont Hot Springs and enjoyed great speakers and awesome fellowship meetings in the hot water.

In October I attended a corrections workshop in Victor put on by District 93. We had great discussions on Bridging the Gap and I was able to hear great sharing on mental health, DUI task force, and the sheriff of Ravalli jail; who does a wonderful job with the AA meetings and allowing felons to take the meetings into the jail.

In November I traveled to Havre for a workshop in district 51. We had great discussion on meetings at the jail and are hoping to get felons able to take the message into the jail. Bridging the Gap was also discussed at length and the under-sheriff now has BTG forms and hands them out to inmates to fill out and gets them back to Jody to contact when they get out.

I also attended the Building Bridges Workshop in January in Great Falls. We had a police officer who works in the high schools, a highway patrol officer, and many other professionals within the community. It was an immense success.

At the end of January, I took that long drive from Great Falls to Glendive. I was asked to do a workshop for District 23 by DCM Steve. We went into the Watch East facility. We discussed at length of Bridging the Gap and then we were able to work with the inmates and had great involvement and interest in our AA program.

I am looking forward to the spring Round-Up in Great Falls on May 4th, 5th, and 6th. I have enjoyed working with so many districts this past year, and hope that for the next 8 months I will be able to address any other correction's needs and concerns that your district may have.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Hugh M.

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

We had 12 people who attended our committee meeting. I would like to thank Jenni F. from District 93 for taking notes, once again for me, and all others in attendance. We discussed all items on our agenda. Our main focus was to listen to 3 different bids to host our West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference and thank Carol, Ashley and Terry for their very informative bids. We also had great discussions on Bridging the Gap in the prisons and what AA does and doesn't do. We also discussed finding a solution to our singleness of purpose and what we can do to help our other 12 step programs. Thank you, Hugh M.

ARCHIVES REPORT

Hello to those in attendance at the 2018 Spring Assembly. My name is Raymona K. and I'm an alcoholic. I am also currently serving as your Archives Committee Chair this rotation. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Life has most definitely been interesting since I last saw most of you at fall assembly. Since that time my personal life has been pretty hectic. One thing that you may have noted as I introduced myself was the change in my last name. I am once again single and going by my maiden name of Keene.

Since late November of last year, I have been getting resettled and taking some personal time to do so. As far as my duties of Archives Chair, I attended the pre-assembly in Victor with Paul and Luke. Travel has become difficult with my present health matters making it hard to travel as much as I would have liked to. I am very good at operating under pressure, therefore, I have taken what time I could to prepare for this assembly.

One thing I know that has been on people's minds since we changed locations for assembly last fall, is the nature of the venue for assemblies to come in the future. Archives Committee is making every attempt to address this issue and we pray by Fall assembly we will have a permanent solution in place for the change in location. The changes are being made based on the trial basis of the change in venue last fall and the outcome of the evaluation sheets. The majority were more satisfied with the Great Falls venue. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will be able to please 100% of the assembly and those who are involved in the travel to and from. Rest assured, we are doing our best to address this matter.

So, here we are once again at the Spring assembly. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve beside all those who currently sit on my committee and those who are here in attendance. I look forward to the remainder of my rotation and pray God's blessings to you all as we work together in an attempt to serve our primary purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic.

In service,
Raymona K.

Archives/Structure and Policy Committee

12 members in attendance with 5 voting members present

Area 40 Business

Raymona's Report:

Attended pre-assembly in Victor with Luke and Paul

By fall 2018--we hope to have a final/permanent venue solution for our Area

Most were more satisfied with Great Falls venue

Please complete an evaluation sheet--vital to the success of the decision making process for our assemblies

Area 40 Ad/Hoc Committee Report:

Jessica-co-chair-developing policy/plan establishing Bridging the Gap Chair/Committee for Area 40--full report [page ?](#)

Discussion:

Costs associated with computer/software--what if the Chairperson needs a computer to facilitate this position/run database?

It might be an additional expense for Area if that the elected chair needs a computer

Costs/Budget: we can address most of this in the Fall 2018 Assembly when the 2019 budget is proposed/adjusted, etc.

Committee agreed that this position is essential, especially because district Treatment chairs are "missing" Bridging the Gap in the service of their region

Some controversy about the non-rotating/"at will"/non-voting nature of this position

Motion: The Archives committee recommends the creation of non-voting, non-rotating Bridging the Gap chair and alternate chair positions to serve as part of the Treatment committee, and that the Area 40 Policies and Procedures will be adjusted to reflect these proposed structural changes. The Bridging the Gap Chair will be elected at the Fall 2018 Assembly.

Motion unanimously passed

Agenda Item B.

The Delegate/Area 40 Chair would have final say on agenda items

Should we spend more time on Area 40 business or GSC?

Timeline: GSC Agenda released in March, our agendas must be finalized by the end of March

School committee chairs into how to pick out most relevant/essential agenda items

What can be done outside of assembly with district level committee chairs?

Agenda items should not be completely deleted--available, but maybe not all addressed by committees and Area 40

We discussed this item and decided that Area 40 Structure and Policy already covers this item/this is already within the scope of the guidelines for trusted servants. And ultimately, in the interest of focusing assembly time on Area 40 business, our committee suggests that Area 40 Committee chairs have been given and should exercise the Right of Decision to review and advance pertinent Area 40 and GSC agenda items within an allotted time frame.

Agenda Item C.: Adding common practices to Area 40 Policies and Procedures Manual

Reviewed background information/past actions/common/current practices

Motion: Committee recommends that these commonly used practices for Area 40 communication be formalized in the Area 40 Policies and Procedures

Passed unanimously

Agenda Item D: "Revising Archival Policy"

Districts face a financial burden for storage of archival materials, or are improperly stored

A section can be dedicated within the Area 40 Archives storage facility

Facilitate work days for district archivists throughout the year

Discussion:

What is the cost comparison? Pay for storage vs. travelling to Ennis for a work day

This is a significant expense for many groups

Cost effective and secure

District's/Archive's chair discretion

No expense to individual districts

Might be limits

Motion: The Archives committee recommends that Area 40 implements a policy allowing districts to house their archives in the Area 40 repository. The area assumes no responsibility for the District collections and may, at the discretion of the Area Archivist exclude any collection or parts of a collection because of harmful conditions. Passed unanimously

Venue Discussion:

Budgets: it actually costs more to have assembly in Lewistown

Findings of surveys: 30 out of 92 evaluations specifically in favor of moving to Great Falls, overall in favor of going in Great Falls

Lewistown:

Wi-fi went in and out

Accessibility

Great Falls:

Understaffed restaurant--did not know what to expect

Accessibility was overall positive

Overall positive cleanliness

Some chairs did not have to travel

Rotating assembly

Near an interstate?

Accessibility

We have always chosen Lewistown because of it's central location

Motion: The committee recommends that the words "in Lewistown" be removed from section 2.3 in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Passes unanimously

But...we should recommend an ad/hoc committee to continue to review the venue "situation"

Also, where do we meet next Spring?

Motion: The Archives committee recommends that the Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Fall 2020 Assemblies be held at a Great Falls venue and that an ad-hoc committee be created to explore further venue locations. This committee should report to the Archives committee by Fall of 2019.

Motion passed unanimously

Archives GSC

A. We do not have access to draft

B. Can we put the presentation on a YouTube channel that already exists? Committee considered it and didn't find it appropriate.

Discussed and trusted to the discretion of the GSC

Archivist Report

Greetings Area 40, my name is Earl F. and I'm an alcoholic. I also serve as the Area 40 Archivist. I am happy to report that your archives are dry, secure and fairly clean. I say that because of an increase of traffic and dust from the roads that serve our facility. It's not real bad and isn't getting to the actual documents, just on the floor. I will speak to our landlord about a better door seal. I am very happy with our repository. I have monitored our facility conditions over the last little bit and the temperature stays around 50* in the winter, 65* to 70* in the summer. Humidity stays fairly constant at 35% to 45%. I have adequate storage shelves and necessary materials at this time. Depending on the actions of this Assembly, I might need to purchase additional shelving for District Archives, depending on participation.

About two weeks after the Fall Assembly, I left for Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada for the National AA Archives Workshop. This is an annual event to help provide information, experience, strength and hope in working with AA Archives. I have written a separate report for this activity and will make this available to all of the DCM's and anyone who wants an electronic copy. I will also provide copies to Melinda and Rebecca for inclusion in the minutes and the "Triangle." I want to thank Area 40 for funding me to go to this activity. It was great to make connections and learn about what is new to better care for our archives. I came home with several new ideas.

I have been busy off and on since the last Assembly. I was invited to take a display to the Fall Round-up, hosted by District 71 at Fairmont. The committee did a great job and it was a fun weekend. There was an Ice cream social on Friday night that was in the lobby where the display was, so I am claiming that almost everyone there came by to see the Archives, or maybe it was the ice cream. Anyway, I did receive a lot of traffic over the weekend and visited with a lot of folks.

The following weekend, I rode along with Gerry for a CPC Activity with District 23, in Sydney, and District 21, in Glasgow the following day, for a District meeting. It was a fun time and I was able to connect with some friends, make new ones, and encourage people to become involved in service in AA. I also had to take time to give both Paul and Gerry a lesson in Cribbage.

I have been collecting items from our current Officers and Committee Chairs that has been traveling through the email and keeping up with District minutes and activities on the Area 40 web site. Please keep me informed of any information that is not located in either of these places and I am also interested in obits of former members and stories about Alcoholism in publications, especially local. I recently received a packet of documents from a member who sobered up in Montana but now resides in Wyoming. It includes a couple of copies of the court documents that were filed by his wife to keep him from drinking. It is some very interesting reading.

Now, I need to make amends to the Archives Committee and Area 40 as a whole. One of the responsibilities of my position is to update the Past Actions Document and the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. I have been very remiss in getting this done. I have no excuse other than the five syllable word for sloth that Bill talks about in the Twelve and Twelve, procrastination. I currently have the Past Actions up to date to the last assembly; I just need to get it to Libby for a second set of eyes to make sure it is correct. My plan is to update the Policy and Procedure Manual, asap, including any changes in policy from this Assembly, submit it for oversight to the Area Advisor and get both documents current on the website so that people who might consider standing for a position will have accurate information as to what the position requirements are. If I need to do anything else in the form of amends, let me know. I regret that I have let these get in arrears the way they have.

If I can be of service at any activity that your District is having, please let me know. I will be at the Spring Round-up in Gt. Falls in a few weeks and the Fall Round-up in Helena, other than that, my calendar is fairly open. I am planning on traveling around Area 40, when I have time, to do Archival recordings. I would like to try to do multiples when traveling a large distance. Please let your DCM's know of people who you think would be good candidates and I will work with them for scheduling. Please keep me in the loop of your activities and information.

Happy Trudging,

Earl F.

Area 40 Archivist

Report on the 2017

National AA Archives Workshop

Sept. 28 – Oct 1, 2017 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

I want to thank Area 40 for voting to have me attend the National AA Archives Workshop. It was a very rewarding trip that was fulfilling, informative, enlightening and interesting. Area 78 was the host committee for this event and they done a bang-up job in making the participants feel welcome. There were around 400 registrations for the event and the level in attendance was from seasoned and professional to novice Archivists, and it was also attended by members from 38 years down to three days. The Canadian people were extremely friendly and helpful to both myself and my wife, Lori, who went along and seen the sights of Winnipeg. It is a very historical city and is currently one of the more diverse cities in Canada. We drove there and back and with mileage reimbursement, gas, meals, lodging and registration, including the banquet, my expenses were around \$1300, below the amount budgeted by Area 40. Julie has a copy of my expense form for your viewing if desired.

Now about the workshop: The event spanned four days and each day was filled with a variety of activities to choose from. There was some overlap so I had to choose on which activities I would attend. I purchased a flash drive recording of all of the presentations, so I didn't really miss much. I arrived on Thursday and registered then attended the welcoming meeting chaired by JoAnne L., the Area 78 Archivist. JoAnne was a Panel 52 Delegate at the General Service Conference and also served as a Western Canada Regional Trustee, prior to her current position. I served with her at the conference for one year so it was good to touch base and catch up on life happenings since 2003. Another highlight of the evening was to listen to a presentation of the history of the National AA Archives Workshop, given by Gail L., Archivist of the Akron Archives. This was the 21st annual event that has been hosted at several locations across the country, though this was the first in Canada. Area 40 hosted the 15th in Helena. Areas are awarded host privileges through a bidding process, more about that later. It would be fun to host another in Area 40 sometime, but that is left to be seen. Friday was very busy. I choose to attend a three hour presentation "Introduction to Archives"- Basic standards, Practical Preservation. This presentation was given by Diane Haglund, an Archivist at the University of Winnipeg and Carole Boily, Archivist for the Blue Nuns Society of Canada. Both of these Archivists shared their experiences and knowledge with us and welcomed questions and comments from the attendees. Most of what they shared was about preservation, cataloguing, recording, some restoration, and just basic information to make our collections and repositories better. Their presentation was very informative and I spent a while visiting with each one afterward. They were very gracious and stayed throughout the day. Friday afternoon I attended a presentation by Gail L. entitled "The Three Legacies – Ethics and Archives" where she shared some of her experiences that closely relate to many who were there. She shared stories of people who added or kept items for their own personal collections that were donated to an area. Also, she talked about the difference between an Archivist and a collector. She spoke about acquiring items that really had nothing to do with our Areas and going through the process of trying to return them to the Areas or places where they belong, giving with no expectation of return. I spent a lot of my breaks looking over the Archival Displays that Area's brought for us to look over. I was looking for new ideas and collections that would be interesting and informative for people in our Area to see at Assemblies, Round-Ups and other events that I attend. I was able to take a few pictures and get several new ideas of how to display our collection. Now I have to follow through. One really neat thing that was on display was a phone booth that was from the room where one of the biggest groups in Winnipeg meets. The story goes that the number of the booth was advertised in the paper and when the phone rang during the meeting, the man or woman closest to the booth would talk with the caller, get an address then grab another man or woman and go to meet the person who had called. Many who were there for the banquet on Saturday evening said that was how they got to AA. Friday afternoon I also attended a presentation by Don F., an Archivist from Northern Florida, on "Dr. Carl Jung- The Vital Link." This was a historical and personal presentation that included an extensive collection of books written by and about Dr. Jung. His method of thought and ideas were some of the most progressive of the time and he was a great help to people trying to better themselves. His influence can be seen in the early members of the Oxford Groups and in AA and even in each of us here today. Friday evening we were given a special presentation of the GSO Archives by Michelle Mirza, GSO Archivist. She gave a video account of the history of AA, AA's Archives collections, new recent acquisitions of recordings as well as updates on the expansion and remodel of our Archives Repository in New York. The closing of her presentation was some recordings that really drove home the importance of why we need to do and encourage this work. They were recordings of Bill speaking at the 1969 and 1970 Conferences.

The 1970 recording was done when he was ill and he started his talk but was unable to finish. He finished his talk later in the week, but it was the last conference he addressed. Later that evening, I enjoyed an Ice Cream Social and fellowship with several of our fellowship, new and old alike.

Saturday, I attended the business meeting and bid presentations. There was not a lot of business and it appeared to me that if you want to host a future National AA Archives Workshop, all you have to really do is express your intent to do so. The workshops are spoken for through 2021, with the next to be held in Chicago, future locations include: Detroit, Washington DC and Northwest Texas. I think it would be fun and useful for Area 40 to consider hosting another in the future, but that would be up to the fellowship at that time. It would be similar to the size of a Round-Up and require a facility to accommodate with meeting rooms and a secure area for displays to be set up. Meals and lodging and also an interesting local history or attraction is encouraged. With upcoming events in Area 40 of a Regional Service Conference and a Regional Forum, I don't think that now would be a good time, just something to think about for the future. On Saturday morning, I attended a presentation of Software for Archivist. It was a techy presentation that had a lot of words that I didn't understand, but I did take some good notes about the programs that were talked about. A lot of them had to do with recording and transferring recordings, data catalogues, acquisition programs as well as storage methods and programs, what's good and what's not. Most of the programs that were talked about were available as freeware or shareware, with other versions available for purchase. It was an interesting presentation, and gave me several avenues I would like to pursue. This tied in with the next presentation that I attended: "Digital Archives- Why, Why Not and How." This seemed to be a very slanted presentation that spent a lot of time on the benefits, not much more than a mention of possible detriments, and the programs that the presenter used. I was expecting more like a sharing session with a lot experiences both pro and con. That came when visiting with other archivists after the presentation and over lunch. I learned that there are benefits of storage, recovering, use and distribution. Detriments of security, conversion sharing and as always anonymity and our other tradition concerns. There is a lot to think about and weigh in this endeavor. I am currently putting our hard documents into digital and backing those files up, but it is a slow process and I will have to think long and hard and ask for guidance from the Area before I store in the Cloud or make anything publicly accessible. Saturday afternoon, I attended a presentation where Gail L., did an interview with Bill W. She asked questions and then did cuts from recordings and old still pictures for Bill's answers to her questions. It was fun. I hopefully will be able to acquire a copy and show at a future activity. Later that afternoon I attended an Archival interview demonstration. A Past Delegate from Area 78 interviewed a Past Western Canada Trustee. It was much like other interviews I have heard and listened to over the years. It reminded me that this is one thing that I can do to help preserve the history of Area 40. Saturday night there was a Banquet with traditional Canadian fare. After the Banquet, Murry M., Past Canadian Trustee at Large, gave a presentation on the "History of the World Service Meeting." The World Service Meeting is a Bi-annual meeting of AA Representatives from the US, Canada and any other country that has an AA service structure. It is held every two years once in New York, the following it rotated to different locations around the world. This is designed to aid in sharing experience and assisting in carrying the message of AA worldwide. Sunday was a typical closing session. A question and answer session for a panel of experienced Archivists, a sharing session on what people thought about the Workshop and of course saying goodbye to new and old friends alike. I have said it before, the longer and more active in AA that you become, the smaller your world becomes. The network of friends that I met and started friendships with, the sharing of experiences and the sources of information and knowledge were worth the price of admission, the rest was extra benefits. Thank you once again for allowing me to serve the fellowship of Area 40 in this way.

Happy Trudging,

Earl F.

Area 40 Archivist

Treatment/Accessibilities Report

Hello, my name is James W, and I am your area 40 treatment/accessibilities' chair. I am very blessed and grateful to have woke up today sober. Thanks to God, alcoholics anonymous, and people. Thank you for the opportunity to serve alcoholics anonymous and the still suffering alcoholic today.

7 months ago, I sparked a fire right after fall assembly in great falls. I asked new comers, oldsters, and others about having an area 40 treatment workshop. We met as a committee and it was well attended with about 15 sober alcoholics, and within 48 received 2-4 phone calls that area 40 chairs do not do workshops, but some are asked to participate from districts or groups.

So, it was passed on to our district 41 treatment and CPC chairs and it led to our awesome workshop committee. We all worked very hard as a committee, and about 75 attended building bridges workshop on January 11, 2018. It was a very successful district 41 event that helped build the bridge between AA and the professional community. We are very excited as committee to meet again this spring and plan another event for this fall.

I was asked to attend Missoula district 81 for a BTG workshop/presentation in December 2017, although it was postponed until January 21st, 2018. I facilitated a 2-hour BTG presentation after the district 81 monthly business meeting.

I have continued to attend district meetings monthly and have met with our district 41 workshop committee. I have also bridged the gap for 5 males and one female, and have often wondered why I have not had more, but I have found that most of the contacts are made at the district BTG level.

I was able to attend our first preassembly in Billings, our second preassembly in Victor Montana, and our final preassembly in Boulder Montana.

Thank you area 40 for letting me be of service. I keep waking up sober every day, and for this alcoholic, that is a miracle. I look forward to seeing everyone at fall assembly in great falls, and to share my next experience, strength, and hope with area 40. There is still a lot of work to be done, one day at a time, and collectively as a group we can all help each other stay sober.

Treatment/Accessibilities Committee Report

Members Present:

(Voting Members) James W. – Area Treatment/accessibilities chair (& BTG); Martin N. – rep for treatment chair from district 81; Bill O. – district 41 treatment chair; Bob E. – District 72 DCM

(Non-Voting members) Joe O. – Gfalls Visitor; Jana L. – GFalls visitor; Tony M. – Gfalls visitor; April D. – Missoula visitor; Daniel M. CPC chair and sitting in for BTG for district 41; Tom F. - district 61 treatment chair; Steve S. – District 91 flathead intergroup chair

Review assembly report of the Area 40 treatment chair

Report is not yet available according to James W.

Review agenda item for the treatment chair to attend the BTG workshop in Denver, CO in September 2018

Tom feels that it is necessary to send someone to the BTG workshop because we do not have an area chair for the position. Bill O seconded that opinion. He said he has to hunt people to find different contacts even in different states and it was very difficult to “bridge the gap”

Going to propose a non-rotating BTG area chair as well as a Co-BTG chair (because it is non-rotating)

Tom feels that we should make a motion and second a motion to make an agenda item to bring to the floor. Tom F. made a motion that we send the area treatment chair to the Denver BTG workshop. Bill O. seconded the motion

Voting members: 3 yays, 1 nay

conscious: this agenda item will be brought to the floor for further discussion

Describe the proposal

To send the area treatment chair to the 28th annual BTG workshop in Denver Colorado

List the proposal benefits:

Further knowledge of BTG in other areas. Better able to participate in BTG presentations and workshops

Cost estimate:

1350-1500

List additional background materials included with the proposal:

Last year we sent our Area 40 treatment chair to Minnesota for the BTG workshop. James W. has the flyer for this year available

How the proposal originated:

James W. received information about this year's BTG workshop in Denver and felt it was something he should attend again

Why the proposal should be considered:

To help Area 40 BTG and to help fill any holes in our system that may prevent those seeking help through our BTG program

Additional comments about sending treatment chair to Denver:

Dan M brought up that he has gone to Nexus as well as a few other treatment facilities, most people had not heard of BTG. He brought up concerns and thoughts about how to spread the message about BTG to the treatment facilities as well as with people that are "dual addicted"

Tom suggested that if these programs are asking for a contact; whether it be someone with an alcohol or drug problem to match them up with a contact with AA. He also has number for someone who can give the BTG chair the contact for the database (Alex M. from Helena)

Treatment/Accessibilities Agenda GSC

Review Trustees committee report on cooperation with armed services exploration strategies:

Important for because retired vets might have more accessibility to meetings than those in active service or for those that are deployed to other countries or in remote areas

Bob brought up that he went to a workshop that they were wondering why the focus is specifically on vets and seem to be leaving out other minorities and specific communities. The group fears that they are at risk of turning AA into special interest group. They also feel that certain higher ranking officers in armed services are fearful of admitting to being an alcoholic due to fear of loss of job, position, or lifestyle.

James stated that that is why we are here and that is why we have these break out and workshops. We hope to revise different pamphlets and we will focus on treatment and accessibility. The vets that are deployed or civilians that are unable to reach out and be reached out to will be addressed. We have other items on the agenda that are for other specific groups that are unable to get to meetings or hear the message because of different disabilities, or assess ability issues

Tom brought up the concern that the vet aa groups are still not listed on the aa schedules and pamphlets. We now have internet that is inaccessible in some areas of the world, but vets and active duty are able to get grapevine as well as other literature

Create additions to the CPC workbook and other workbooks Discussed and reviewed

Develop sections to existing service pieces like guidelines or even creating a "military focused" guideline.

Coconscious is nay

Share the idea with local members to develop a newsletter for vets and members currently serving in the military?

Coconscious is nay

Create a psa focused on vets and active duty members with the hope to draw attention and create discussion for how to carry the aa message to the population?

Coconscious is nay

Coconscious is nay

Revise the existing "aa and the armed forces" pamphlet?

Consideration to hear more about what need to be changed

Consider a national corrections conference. These conferences would ultimately be spearheaded by local committees.

reviewed and considered

Review proposed revisions to the pamphlet "accessibility for all alcoholics"

Reviewed what old pamphlets say and what is proposed to be changed

Reviewed Proposed revisions/ background, they mainly want to revise the name; coconscious is agreeing with the grammatical changes

Discuss ways that remote community's concerns might be addressed by the conference

Reviewed and discussed

Review summary of the fellowship sharing on the need for additional material to support carrying the aa message to Deaf and HOH aa members

Reviewed and discussed. Bob asked if any other districts have funds set up for HOH or deaf for interpreters: most were no, but funds could be made available if needed at that time

Reviewed whether pamphlets of any type are acceptable for deaf or hoh; Dan brought up that maybe we could have streaming video as they had brought up at GSO

Bob brought up that something like talk to text could be misconstrued or words messed up; technology needs to catch up

Review contents of treatment kit and workbook

Reviewed and discussed;

James pointed out that area 40 combines treatment and accessibilities into one chair

James showed comparison between old workbook and kit and the new ones. Both workbooks were passed around to be reviewed

Review contents of accessibilities kit and workbook

Reviewed and discussed that we do not have an accessibilities chair; it is combined with the treatment chair (see Item E)

Agenda --- General Service Conference

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2019 General Service Conference

Reviewed the 7 different suggestions for the theme

Group decided that we prefer topic #2

Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the General Service Conference

Reviewed the top 14 suggested ideas

Group decided that we prefer topic #3

Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2019 General Service Conference

Reviewed the top 13 suggested ideas

Group decide that we prefer topic #7

Conference evaluation

Review summary of the 2017 General Service Conference

Unable to be reviewed

Review general service evaluation form

unable to be reviewed

Discuss report on the conference agenda process from the trustees; committee on General Service Conference

Discussed and reviewed

GRAPEVINE REPORT

First I want to apologize for not being with you at Lewistown for this year's Spring Assembly. The old bod hit a couple of speed bumps on the happy road to destiny and I had to take it into the shop for some repairs. I'll miss you folks. Your fellowship during these events turbocharges my spiritual health. I also want to thank Libbie for the willingness to jump in and cover for me at the last minute.

So what's going on with my Grapevine duties? With a lot of help from the Grapevine Committee, I have pretty much finished outlining the, "Writing and Submitting a Story for the Grapevine" workshop. The inaugural debut will be at the 2018 Fall Roundup October 12-14 in Helena unless I get an earlier request. In addition to learning to write and submit the story, we will try to keep our focus on applying AA's principals during the process.

The refurbishing of the Grapevine Display has finally been completed. I have requested and received new, updated literature and flyers from New York and finally built a stand for the Grapevine banner so we no longer have to guiltily poke tack holes in our venue's walls. Thanks to Dan from District 91 for taking care of the display in my absence.

On a final note, I have recently been communicating with Grapevine Operations Manager Janet Bryan about becoming one of the three at-large members of the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board. Things were shaping up real good when at the last minute we discovered a person can't serve as an Area Chair and be on the advisory board at the same time. Janet asked me to contact her just as soon as my rotation is over. I think this would be a very exciting, rewarding service position.

In service with gratitude and a smile,

Jake H.

Grapevine/GSC Policy & Admissions Committee Report

6 People in Attendance.

Voting Members present: Libbie L. Acting Chair, Ralph S. DCM-31, Dan L. DR-91, Shawn N. DR-61

Thanks to Lisa D. for taking notes and to Mark H. for attending.

Grapevine – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine Chair.

Grapevine – GSC

A. Review social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook and Google for nonprofits.

Committee reviewed this very extensive reported. No recommendations.

B. Review Audio Strategy status update.

Committee reviewed report. No recommendations.

C. Review report on 2004 Conference Advisory Action on Outside Sales.

Committee reviewed report. Acknowledge that reconsidering the 2004 Advisory Action may give the GV board freedom to explore outside sales.

D. Reconsider the 2014 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña.

Goal is to gain spiritual parity for La Viña as compared to Grapevine.

Both are perfect bound

Color vs Black and White (Both have color covers)

12 issues vs 6 per year

Cost of these changes approximately \$4000 per year

Committee for 4-0

E. Review revised text of the pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings In Print.”

Committee noted unanimous decision by AAGV committee to approve changes.

F. Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2019 and later.

Considered list acknowledged that book ideas are suggested one year in advance for review by the Fellowship

G. Review Grapevine Workbook.

WorkConsidered list acknowledged that book ideas are suggested one year in advance for review by the Fellowshi

Policy & Admissions

A. Approve request for one observer from A.A. in India to attend the 2018 General Service Conference.

Committee had no opposition to this request.

B. Review dates for the 2021 General Service Conference.

Weeks are narrowed down to 2 choices. 4/17-4/24 or 4/24-5/1 2021

C. Review report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference.

Committee reviewed report from the General Service Manager and noted that management will share progress at the conference and through the year.

D. Review draft process for polling the General Service Conference between annual conference meetings.

Committee reviewed draft for an extensive and specific process for polling between annual conference meetings.

E. Review progress report on options for equitable distribution of the workload of conference committees.

Committee reviewed report which states P&A Trustee’s committee needs more time to discuss this.

F. Consider request to develop a policy for the use of the Conference dashboard.

Committee agrees with the need to develop a clear and concise policy.

G. Discuss the following question from the trustees’ International Committee: “Does the U.S./Canada have a role/responsibility in assisting in the development of A.A.”

GSR Breakout—Earl F.

Questions for discussion:

1. How do you remain spiritual and active in your homegroup even if you've grown out of love with your homegroup?
2. Experience with learning curve? GSR?
3. What do we do to generate enthusiasm for service work?
4. Influence of overwhelming newcomers on bleeding deacons?
5. What if you are the only person interested in service work in your group? How do you demonstrate?
 - Get involved in Grapevine
 - "when in doubt, keep walking?"
 - Show appreciation—"thank you"
 - Principles before personalities
 - Work harder for spiritual connection; compassion and understanding
 - Find someone to relate to
 - Life depends on meetings
 - Perfectly normal to not know how to do job
 - Read 12x12, pamphlets
 - New GSR pamphlet
 - Sponsoring builds enthusiasm. Sponsor people into service
 - Stick to the positive
 - Take group conscience. Don't confront.

DCM Breakout—Mark S.

Questions for discussion:

1. DCM doesn't show up at District meetings.
2. How do DCMs deal with money controversy?
3. How do Districts work together with Intergroup, Young Peoples....
 - Alternate DCM a good idea
 - Some groups say after 3 meeting of no show, consider person has resigned
 - DCMs need to visit groups and talk about money/what we do with 7th Tradition
 - Listen.

Workshop: the group Conscience with Earl F

Saturday, April 7, 2018

9:16 AM

Early AA came to the conclusion that we will all pass on and that our group conscience is what should guide us

What Group conscience is

On sensitive issues the group works slowly

Minority opinions

All views be heard

The group conscience be heard from the group by GSR's and carried to Area then

Why is the group conscience important

Language of the heart pg 21. "personal calamity holds us in bondage no more our most challenging concern has become the future of Alcoholics Anonymous how to preserve among us AA's ...The Future may well depend on how we feel and act about things that are controversial and how we regard our public relations . Our final destiny will surely hang upon what we presently decide to do with these danger-frought issues!" Bill W. from an article

The founders recognized their longevity and realized the services needed to be carried on

AA service manual

most AA members are not connected to AA as a whole and have little idea of the way it works

How the group conscience is formed

Making mistakes forms the group conscience and has formed the conscience of AA in general. The group conscience is formed by recognizing these mistakes, not acting hastily, and looking to the steps, traditions, concepts and group members for guidance.

Bill and Charlie Fisk's story of the temptation of making money off of AA, becoming a lay therapist.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire" is what bill thought of

One of the group members spoke up to tell bill he can't tie AA up in the hospital or any other institution

"Here was the true voice welling up out of my friends.

Earl- "collectively we can do the best for Alcoholics anonymous and we can get the best from alcoholics anonymous."

Communication, communication, communication

Sharing of materials and experiences

This parodies how we stay sober

"I know best but you might know better"

Stimulating interest in general service

Service can add a rich dimension and is vital to recovery

Another phase of our new lives

In many ways it's how we keep going in AA after

"Get in the car"

Workshop: Participation in All of A.A.—Is your Triangle Balanced?

Led by Mark S.

THREE PARTS OF THE TRIANGLE

Unity

1. What does this mean to me?
2. What does this mean to my home group?
3. District?
4. How do the Traditions affect unity? Or do they?

Recovery

1. Is there more to this than the 12 steps?
2. Is the fellowship part of this?
3. What else?

Service

1. What things do I do that are part of AA service?
2. How does the 7th Tradition contribute to service?

One dollar is more than enough, isn't it?

What services are there other than coffee for me?

WHAT DOES BALANCE REALLY LOOK LIKE FOR ME?

Recovery = 12 steps

Unity = fellowship and.....

Service = I'll take all I can get? Or.....

Intergroup Report

District 11—Billings

The District 11 Intergroup is responsible for the special events for Dist. 11. We also are responsible for the Dist. 11 book store. We do three annual events: Founders Day which is March 17th, Cooney Lake Campout which is July 14-17, and the Holiday Party on December 10th.

We have 8-10 service positions and we pull our volunteers from the wealth of local AA groups in our area.

The book store is manned by volunteers from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. every Saturday. We have dozens of new books and pamphlets.

We supply books to the local treatment centers, jails, and prisons.

We are an integral part of the functioning AA machine of District 11.

Thank you for letting me serve and move towards being the best person I know I can be. Chuck D.

2017 Fall Round Up Report

The Fall Round up “Joy in Recovery” was held at Fairmont Hot Spring, the weekend of October 13, 2017 after many months of hard work collaboration and compromise. Always mindful to remember “principles before personalities”

Joy in Recovery proved without a doubt that we are not a glum lot. With 370 members of AA and Al-Anon in attendance, the round up was a success.

Our AA speakers traveled from the west coast and our Al-Anon speaker from the east coast. All sharing their experience, strength, and hope, and the joy they found in recovery. Only in AA can you pick up the phone, ask a stranger to travel thousands of miles and share their story with hundreds of strangers and without any hesitation, their answer is a resounding “YES”.

We had planned to start the weekend with an early bird golf tournament, however we live in Montana and the weather did not cooperate. Highlights of the roundup included an acoustic jam session on Friday. An open mic and DJ dance on Saturday. We were entertained by amazing musicians and vocalists. Meetings of all kinds...yoga and meditation meetings for the early riser, the ever popular midnight hot tub meeting for the night owl and marathon meetings for everyone in between.

On a personal note, if you have ever served on , are currently serving on , or are thinking of serving on a round up committee and are wondering is the commitment and hard work worth it? The answer is YES. My sobriety today is in large part due to the message I received attending a round up I was invited to while lost in my alcoholism. A seed was planted. Although it did not take root, it was there inside my heart and mind growing. I attended my second round up 42 days sober and was welcomed with love and acceptance. I stand here beyond blessed, thankful for my sobriety and the opportunity to give back and be part of something bigger than myself.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the committee for a job well done.

Yours in service,

Laura H.

Fall Round-up October 12-14th, 2018 Helena, MT

Hello Area 40! I am bummed I will not be able to give this report in person, but am grateful for my FAULOUS co-chair (wave to the crowd Clancy)

As a committee, we have been meeting once a month, the second Saturday after District. In that time, we have filled all the committee chairs and most have co-chairs as well. We have a great time at our meetings! Here's a snapshot of the most important "stuff" that has come out of them:

Our AA Speakers for the weekend are:

Bill N. from Buford, Georgia/ Jessica E. from Kalispell MT/ Jeff W from Maplewood, NJ

The Al Anon speakers for the weekend are:

Penni S from Kona HI/ Shane S from Missoula MT

Our workshops chair is doing a fabulous job with the workshops and we are excited for our speakers to be a part of those as well.

We have been working with Brandon to get a website link from the Area page and so appreciate his continued hard work.

A big Thank you to The Great Falls Round-up, who forwarded us \$500.00 of the \$1500.00 seed money so that we could get started. We are excited to attend the Spring Roundup in May in Great Falls and hope to see all of you there as well.

We have decided on a theme and are thrilled to be hosting Area 40's 100th Roundup in the rotation. (Thunderous applause)

We are working with an enthusiastic group of Al-Anons and appreciate the shared vision and hard work.

The dedicated group of AA's that have come to make this committee have discussed colors, food, entertainment, speakers, traditions, prices, rooms, schedules, hosting arrangements, workshops, free-time, marathon meetings, movies, the principals and every other logistic you can dream up!

There is a lot of cool stuff in the works. I'll let your mind wander as to what we may be planning.... (dramatic pause Clancy) (-:

We will be sending website/registration and flyer materials and information to each district for distribution, please be on the lookout for those.

I am so grateful to be a part of the GREATEST AA ON EARTH, thank you to my District {61} for their continued support and relentless smiling and thank you to Area 40 for allowing me to serve.

SO GRATEFUL!

Ginger Taylor

2019 SPRING ROUND UP

"Our Path to a Common Solution"

May 17-19, 2019

Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell

Speakers: Frank A.—AA , Sacramento, CA

Maggie A.—AA, Sacramento, CA

Terry H.—AA, Billings, MT

Lori S.—Al-Anon, San Rafael, CA

West Central Regional AA Service Conference Report

I'm Rick and I'm an alcoholic

GSR for the HOW group in district 72, Bozeman. I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Des Moines Iowa last month. A few of us from Montana were having lunch at the hotel on Friday and we were talking about how we had gotten to the service conference by not saying no to an AA request and being willing to serve. Right about then Paul came over and asked if I would take notes and give a report at the area assembly! My brain instantly said oh hell no! I looked at the others and said yes, God does have a sense of humor.

The weekend started with the regional trustee Tom A. from Minnesota giving his report with some encouraging news. 2017 had a 4% increase in revenue at the GSO and the 2018 budget was expected to be about 82% self supporting, although only 40% of the listed groups are making contributions. This was followed by the first general session, presented by Area 76 Wyoming, on the topic of " Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion not Exclusion". Next was our first look at the GSC agenda items and an ice cream social hosted by the Area 40 hospitality suite.

Saturday began at 8:45 with general session two " Participation in all of AA : is my triangle balanced" presented by Area 35 Southern Minnesota. Next was more of the GSC agenda items with some discussion about the Linked-in item on the CPC committee. After lunch I attended two of the breakout sessions, the first was on the traditions. I thought it kind of turned into a bitch session of how people are breaking the traditions in groups and at meetings. Maybe I was not very spiritual at the time? The second breakout was on the 5th concept for world service, the right of appeal and the minority opinion. I learned there is a difference between encouraged and allowed. After general session three, "Attraction not Promotion : AA's relationship to the world " presented by Area 63 South Dakota, we went over more of the agenda items then broke for dinner.

Following an excellent dinner at a very professional Italian restaurant we got to listen to Clement C. from Harlem New York share his story .His home group is the oldest group in Harlem, they celebrated 71 years in March. I really identified with the part about having to wear orthopedic shoes and matching outfits to school as a kid. After a break we finished the agenda items at a little after 11:00
Saturday night

Sunday started with general session four, "AA Technology : Where innovation meets the Traditions" presented by Area 41 Nebraska. My favorite part was where one of the presenters said he was born in 12 BC, Before Cable. The final session was an ask it basket with the past Trustees. The question that really stood out for me was," what is the greatest threat to AA today". Bob from the East Central region thought that it was Mechanistic and Materialistic will override our group conscience. Tom A. thought it would be untreated alcoholism in AA.

The entire weekend was an incredible experience with 415 other alcoholics, I am grateful to have been able to attend and to serve my group. Thank you for my sobriety.

In service Rick H.

Area Committee Conference Call

February 11, 2018 5 p.m.

Welcome: Paul L.—Area Chair

Roll Call: Melinda W.—Area Secretary

Gerry gave his delegate report. He made a trip to N.Y. for the Quarterly Board Meeting. Worked up items for Conference Agenda. He has a copy of the new PSA which he will show at Spring Assembly. Regional Forum Bid guidelines sent out. Need volunteers for WCRAASC in Des Moines. Dawn and Ashley volunteered.

Committee reports: Everyone talked about what they had been up to. Will give full report at Spring Assembly.

Reminder: DCMs are now included in Friday night committee meeting at Assemblies.

Paul: Spring Assembly Agenda items