

Area 40 Delegate, Paul L.	2
Area 40 Chair, Connie R.	3
Area 40 Triangle Editor, Catherine B.	4
Area 40 Secretary/Registrar, Brynn C.	5
Past Actions/Motions voted on last assembly:	6
District 11 DCM, Don M.	6
Alternate DCM District 12, Jackson R.	7
District 41 DCM, Hugh M.	8
District 51 DCM, Jodi T.	8
District 71 DCM, Dan H.	9
District 72 DCM, Lisa C-D.	9
District 81 DCM, Mike R.	10
District 91 DCM, Mike P	11
Area 40 Literature, Grant M.	12
Area 40 Bridging the Gap, Jessica E.	13
Area 40 Bridging The Gap Committee Mission Statement:	13
BTG Chair Report Fall 2019	13
Area 40 Grapevine, Shawn N.	16
Area 40 Archivist, Earl F.	17
Area 40 PI, Sabrina C.	19
Area 40 CPC: Terri T.	20
Trustee Trip Report	21
Area 40 Treasurer: Ash J.	23
First time attendee WSRAASC	24
Appendix A. Motions Voted this assembly:	25
Appendix B. Results of Fall 2019 Venue Survey (Area 40 Structure and Policy)	25
Attachments to these minutes:	27
Finance documents	27

Area 40 Delegate, Paul L.

2020 Spring Assembly Delegate Report

My activities since the Fall Assembly began the weekend following the Assembly. I met with the Area 40 CPC Chair Terri T. and General Service Trustee Carol B. who were shepherding two Class A Trustees, the Honorable Christine Carpenter and Nancy McCarthy across Montana. These Trustees had already met with corrections, judicial and treatment professionals in Billings, Helena and Browning. In Kalispell the Trustees gave a talk about AA from a non-AA members point of view. They had an informal format with the two of them sitting at a table giving a Power Point presentation about what AA offered. There were about 20 professionals in attendance as well as a handful of AA members. From the Flathead we went down to Missoula and gave a presentation before heading to Butte for the night. On my way to Butte I took the opportunity to visit with Ed and the AA group in Phillipsburg. There were 5 of us and we had a very good discussion.

Butte had a good turnout with many people from treatment and correctional facilities present. The Class A tour ended in Bozeman where there was the largest turnout for all of the venues. We learned many things about hosting this tour. Probably foremost was the fact that these two Class A Trustees have much to offer members of the law enforcement, corrections and judicial professional communities. The Class A Trustees are under utilized and provide a great opportunity to advocate for AA.

We also learned that there were opportunities to getting the word out about such an event that we could have done differently. The enthusiasm that went into putting on and hosting such an event did not translate into the number of attendees that we had hoped for. The professionals that did attend however were very thankful to hear someone talk about AA using the language that they used. That was a success. As Trustee Nancy McCarthy said, "You Don't Know What You Don't Know." When the program of recovery and hope that is offered by AA is described to professionals in language they can understand it opens their eyes and minds to how they can assist their clients.

After the Class A tour I attended the Fall Refresher hosted by the Flathead Valley Serenity Group. I got to hear past Area 40 Treasurer Julie R. And General Service Trustee Carol B. share their stories. It was a very inspirational event.

The following weekend I attended the Fall Roundup in Missoula. They did a very good job and had some very good speakers. One of the main messages I took away from the event was that I need to continue to work on keeping an open mind about things. At the Roundup I gave my final Delegates Report about the 69th General Service Conference to a handful of people. It was my final Delegates Report after giving it in Great Falls, Helena, Lake Como in the Bitterroot, Copper Park in Butte, Bozeman, Kalispell, Fireman's Point in Columbus, Forsyth, Glasgow and at the Havre Mini-Conference.

After the Roundup activities for me slowed down as preparation began in earnest for the West Central Regional AA Service Conference. I attended some of the service conference planning committee meetings in Billings in person and via a conference call. It was great working with such a passionate and talented group of people. I also took advantage of the time to attend various district committee meetings and AA meetings from outlying groups.

The WCRAASC finally arrived after some road bumps along the way. It came off very well considering we changed venue site six weeks before the event. It was an honor and a privilege to represent Area 40 at this regional event and to participate as the Delegate of the hosting Area. The committee chaired by Terri T. did a fantastic job. For the first time in many years the conference did not loose money.

Finally, in the past few weeks we have been faced with remarkable challenges in continuing to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40. With a meeting here and there closing their doors and a few virtual meetings popping up we have progressed to the closure of nearly all AA meetings in area 40. There are a scattering of small meetings still open but most meetings have converted to digital, virtual meetings. The resilience and innovation that we have shown in continuing to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous is encouraging. We are resilient enough that not even a virus can keep us down or destroy us. We must remain vigilant because as we progress through these times our greatest challenge comes from within. From those operating out of fear of breaking a Tradition rather than using the Traditions to guide us. Good Luck as we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you until then.

Area 40 Chair, Connie R.

Hello everyone, I'm Connie and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to the Virtual Area Assembly. This is a great opportunity to see how we can reach out to those who are unable to attend but would like to be part of the General Service Structure. If you read the Inventory Report that the Inventory Ad-Hoc Committee put together, you will see that this was one of the suggestions to help include those who could not attend. This has been discussed many times not only during the inventory process but also amongst member to member. I don't believe that COVID-19 is the will of God but I do believe that a Higher Power will use something like this to help us do something that we have been hesitant to do on our own.

After the 2019 Fall Assembly, I had the privilege of participating in Missoula's Fall Roundup. Ashley called and asked me to be on the panel discussing the 12 Traditions. Then in October, District 81 asked Gerry and I to share our experience with the 12 Traditions. We are two very passionate people who love the traditions, so were only able to make it thru tradition 6 and answered several questions. We hope that they will invite us back so we can finish the rest of the traditions.

In November, I had the pleasure of speaking at the 2nd Anniversary of The Women in the Solution group in Butte. It was truly a humbling experience to be in a room full of women seeking a solution and enjoying recovery.

In February, I attended District 61's District meeting. District 61's Workshops Committee has a special way of doing a GSR school. He assigns a group of GSRs to different pamphlets that address the GSR's job. Then those groups present what they have learned to the whole district. The participants and attendees seem to really enjoy the plays, presentations, laughter and learning that this type of GSR school offers.

The following week, I went to District 71's District meeting. It was very clear to me after this experience that District 71 is working hard to make sure the still suffering alcoholic can find the rooms of recovery.

The end of February, I attended the WCRAASC in Billings. Terri T. and her team from District 11 did an excellent job. Area 40 was fortunate to have one of the best WCRAASC right here in their back yard. With the WCRAASC in Billings, a pre-assembly was not held in Billings. The following weekend, the committee chairs joined about 30 people from Districts 41, 51, 61, 71 and 72 at Boulder Hot Springs. They were able to find out about the agenda items that will be discussed at GSO and the 5 items on Area 40s agenda.

The following weekend the committee was invited to a pre-assembly hosted by District 91. Between a bad snow storm and the onset of the COVID-19, the pre-assembly was cancelled. Thus began my journey into the world of ZOOM. Honestly, I was a bit of a grumbler...Okay, I was a big grumbler. Change is not easy for me. Fear and anxiety caused me to dig in my heels in and I just didn't want to play. Thanks to AA and a loving patient and persistent God of my own understanding, I tried something new. Since then I have been on new journey of learning. The opportunity for us to hold a virtual Area Assembly is both terrifying yet extremely exciting. I have even had a dark District contact me to ask how they might participate. The idea that we may be able to reach people who would not normally attend has made me grateful for the opportunity to do things differently.

This little lesson reminds me, once more, that my only job is to be "of maximum service to God and the people about me" (pg. 77 Big Book) I don't get to decide how the job is being done, I only need to show up and do the best I can with the help of my Higher Power and the people who are ready and willing to help.

This leads me to the topic of the elections that will be happening at the Fall Assembly. As we listen this weekend and when we are able to go out and be amongst our Fellowship we need to watch for those who we would like to see become our next trusted servants. I have heard this many times and it is true, "God doesn't chose the prepared, God prepares the chosen. We all become prepared when we practice the principles of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service and for the wonderful life, I get to live.

Connie R
Area 40 Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Area 40 Triangle Editor, Catherine B.

My name is Catherine, and I am an alcoholic. I'm your Area 40 Triangle Editor, which is an honor and a privilege. My intention is to give a thorough report, but I'm operating at half-steam as I'm quarantined at home with a potential case of COVID-19 (I'm waiting on my test results).

Okay, enough about me, let's get into what's been going on with the Triangle.

I published eight issues for 2019 and have kicked off 2020 with two issues so far. Issue Seven of 2019 was about the highlights of our Fall Assembly. Issue eight of 2019 focused on excerpts from the West Central Region Forum. Julie R. from Bozeman, sent in an article, *Carry this Message to Alcoholics*, and shared her experience on carrying the message and the 12th Step. Derk W., from District 11, sent in an article, *Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information*, and shared his experience, strength, and hope on being District 11's CPC chair. Thank you Julie and Derk for sending me your articles! Part of the benefit of the Triangle is sharing our Area member's experience, strength, and hope around service.

The first issue for 2020 focused on Cooperation with the Professional Community. Terri T., our Area 40 CPC Chair sent me her report on the 2019 Class A Trustee Trip through Area 40, which centered on how we communicate with professionals in our Area. Also included were tidbits on Box 459, General Service Office contributions update, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in ASL, along with an excerpt from our new book, *Our Great Responsibility*. Did any of you get all the answers right on the Area 40 Crossword Puzzle? I'm hoping I stumped some of you.

I combined February's issue with March since the Area Assembly was scheduled for the end of March. I included information on agenda items for the General Service Conference and our Area 40.

I include a Call to Action in Triangle issue. The next Call to Action is calling for articles on A.A. Service and the deadline is April 28th. Please send me a short article—400 words or less—on A.A. Service.

In 2019, printing and postage expenses for the Triangle were \$3450. Group subscriptions totaled \$750.

I submitted two agenda items to discuss and vote on during the Spring assembly.

Briefly, the first one is about making the Triangle searchable online, and the second details the benefits of sending email notifications rather than printed copies of the Triangle, though printed copies would still be available on special request.

Each group is guaranteed an issue of the Triangle, though the Area encourages each group to be self-supporting and pay for a subscription. A yearly subscription is \$10.

Area 40 Secretary/Registrar, Brynn C.

Grateful to be here virtually and serving as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar. On my end not much has happened since the last assembly. In November, all registrars lost access to our then records maintenance system Fellowship New Vision as GSO began the transition to our new software NetSuite. This has been a process fraught with struggle for the records and many other departments at the office; one that has also caused outrage and controversy within our fellowship, especially among many other area's registrars frustrated with the inability to view, update and report on group records.

In late January I attended a virtual training on the view only version of Netsuite. It was inspiring to connect with other registrars all over North America and witness the knowledge and dedication of GSO Records Department Manager Karen H, and technology specialist Mimi. At this time, we were tentatively told that the editable version of the software would be available to us by the end of the first quarter, or right about now: due to recent developments and the effects of Coronavirus on the daily functionality of GSO, I have heard no updates on new deadlines. Following this training, I was initially encouraged by how user friendly this new interface was for viewing records, but soon after (and following the barrage of emails I received in my inbox from my online Registrar Google Group) discovered that the database in its current format cannot easily generate spreadsheets of district meetings for use in updating group records: a concern that has been shared with and is being "worked on" by Netsuite engineers.

Some of you may be concerned about the slow rollout of the new database and how it might affect our Area. Throughout my tenure as Secretary/Registrar, aside from group updates collected at the Spring 2019 assembly, I have processed an average of 2 group information updates per quarter, which is roughly 8 per year. Compared to most areas in our country this is a very small and not concerning figure. The current protocol for updating this information to the GSO records department via email. Although they are currently inundated (2 months behind) and update records in the order they are received, this is the best, and only way to process this information at this time. I understand any frustrations or concerns any members might be having, and do share them, however, from what I have learned the new software will make management of several aspects of AA functionality easier and housed in one place, so, although cumbersome and problematic, I do believe that once all of the kinks are ironed out will be of great benefit

to our fellowship and Area 40. On behalf of GSO, I appreciate your patience. In the interim, records updates (first and last name, phone number, email address and snail mail address are needed) can be sent to me, or directly to records@aa.org, at this time email is the best way to send anything to GSO as their whole office is shut down and working remotely. Please let me know if you have any questions and I am happy to assist.

In service,

Brynn

Past Actions/Motions voted on last assembly:

Public Information:

Motion: The Ad Hoc committee recommends switching the AA Hotline Answering Service from AnswerNet to TruLive.

Motion: The webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and corrections institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program and put it to a vote of the assembly. Motion passed.

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy:

Motion: That the Area Assembly is to be held at a suitable venue (as determined by the Area Chair) in Great Falls, Montana until such time as an Area motion changes or modifies this. Motion passed.

Motion: That a new section be added to Area Advisor job description. Reading, "will serve as Venue Liaison. In that position they be provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites of the last two Area Assemblies of their rotation, as well as the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation." Motion passed

Treatment/Bridging the Gap:

Motion: To place a bid to host the National BTG weekend, either September 9-11, 2022, or the following year in September 2023, it will include the Area 40 BTG and Alternate BTG chairs to work with the National BTG weekend steering committee. The cost to Area 40 not to exceed \$500. Motion passed.

Literature:

Motion: Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, (A. A. Service Manual, p. 65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a "money charity" via the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less. Motion failed.

Finance:

Motion: The finances committee recommends that the area assembly approve the proposed budget of 2020 at \$41,320 as written unless there are any floor actions or committee recommendations to amend at this time. Motion passed.

District 11 DCM, Don M.

Since our last report we have been very busy! We had an UP Event in November, a Gratitude Dinner that was well attended. Great speakers from several groups and two Oldtimers who did a great job! We have

added a new Archives chair who is just killing it! She's completed the transfer of all cassette taped talks in our archive into digital format. She and her committee are interviewing old-timers and those recordings are in a digital format. She presented the history of Billings AA at our recent Founders Day sponsored by our local intergroup. We are happy to have supported the recent West Central Regional AA Service Conference.

We continue to take meetings into our local corrections facilities and volunteers continue to step up in support of these activities. Our Treatment committee continues to carry the message into local treatment facilities. Bridging the Gap continues to make progress with facilities in helping alcoholics transition out of local institutions. Our PI/CPC committee continues to be very busy going into high schools and talking to clergy. We continue to take 12th step calls into our local hospitals. We are considering separating these two functions as a district. Soon we may have a separate PI and CPC committee. Our Grapevine committee continues to challenge us to use the Grapevine to carry the message in our area. Hotline continues to follow-up on our calls and encourages volunteers to be available.

The District is actively behind the committee for the Fall Roundup and we are sure to have all the volunteers we need to support that. We have also started talking about rotation as we move towards the end of this rotation. Elections start in August in our district and it will be here before you know it. We continue to be blessed with the opportunity to serve and we pray that we are up to the challenges.

Yours in Service,

Don M

DCM District 11

Alternate DCM District 12, Jackson R.

Good Morning from District 12. I'm reporting on the state of my District in the midst of troubling times, in and out of AA. Meetings within our District are closing temporarily, and we continue to learn from other Districts and Area 40 the power of electronic communication to keep in touch with our Fellowship. Thanks for the Leadership you've shown!

In spite of chaos and confusion outside of AA, we see examples daily of Members checking on Members and ongoing outreach to the newcomer and the still suffering Alcoholic, even outside the traditional Meeting environment. Fortunately, District 12 held its 2020 Mid Winter Social shortly before the current Sorrows. We fed a crowd approaching 200 people from all over Montana and enjoyed Speakers from AA and Al-Anon. We hope that the next Mid Winter Social will be business as usual.

We also held our Fireman's Point gathering August 2019 up on the beautiful Stillwater River just south of Columbus. In addition to the World Famous Spam Cookoff, this gathering also served over 200 campers for the main meal and District 11 showed up to cook breakfast in bed for many, many campers. We had Sunday morning breakfast with our Delegate Paul L, who recapped his observations from his trip to GSO.

Our District as a whole is grateful to all of you in Area 40; you all lead by example and we do notice! We're grateful every day that we are surrounded by recovering Alcoholics!

Jackson Riley, Alternate District 12 DCM.

District 41 DCM, Hugh M.

Greetings to all area 40! My name is Hugh and I am an alcoholic proudly serving as DCM. I pray that all of you are safe and healthy through these troubling times. Since our last Assembly, things have been solid in our District, with all chairs filled. I was not able to attend the Fall Roundup Missoula, but was told it was a great time with a lot of fellowship and fun. Congratulations to all those who put it together. I am looking forward to the Spring Roundup in Bozeman (if we get the chance to have it!). I did attend the WCRAAC in Billings and had a blast along with learning some important things about what is happening in our Fellowship. Myself and 7 others from District 41 were able to attend the Pre-Assembly in Boulder. it was a great success, great job, and thank you Bozeman for hosting it this year! I find myself along with our Fellowship in District 41 stepping up and learning new ways to have meetings. It has been challenging, especially for people like myself who are not computer savvy, but if we want it bad enough, we will learn to adjust. Remember life's not fair, it's how we deal with it that matters. I would like to give a big thanks out to Jana L. our District 41 Secretary, for spearheading the Zoom meetings and helping all of us who don't have a clue what we are doing. We still have plans for Founder's Day Celebration on June 13th, and our Unity Campout on June 26-28th and also the Annual Fellowship of the Falls on Sept 18 & 19, Wishing you all good health and happiness--thank you for allowing me to serve!

Sincerely,
Hugh M.

District 51 DCM, Jodi T.

District 51 DCM Report Our District consists of Havre, Box Elder, Rocky Boy, Chinook, Harlem, Hays, Fort Belknap, Dodson and Malta. There are 16 different groups/meetings with 34 meetings a week. Not to mention quite a few miles in between. Our District meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month at 3:30 pm at Northern Montana Hospital 4th floor 4A conference room. There was a New Year's Eve party held at First Lutheran Church, many in attendance. The 3rd Step group held a Alcathon over the Christmas holidays. The 12 x 12 held their annual Valentine's dinner with meeting included. We held a district inventory in February. We used the Area inventory questions. It was an amazing turnout and really good discussions and participation. In March there was a very good representation of our District at WCRAASC in Billings. We had six members including myself come. But the best part was seeing two of the newest members, one had 7 months the other has 10 months, come and participate. My District also sent me to pre-assembly in Boulder. I have to be honest I fought with myself wanting to stay home but thank God the other me won. As usual I am never disappointed when I get involved. I am trying to hit more of the meetings out of town. So grateful that someone always comes along, thank you Gene. Of course there was Dairy Queen involved and a very good meeting in Malta. These past couple of weeks have been very hard on all of the AA members and meetings. I am so grateful that I was able to attend the Zoom meeting trying to get ready for a Virtual Spring Assembly. It was very new to me but I'm hoping that with all that is going on we can set something up like that in our District. Thank you for allowing me to be of service Jody T. District 51 DCM

District 71 DCM, Dan H.

District 71 DCM Report

March 24, 2020

Hello my name is Dan H. I am an alcoholic. I serve as DCM for District 71. District 71 consists of approximately 25 groups and 85 meetings across southwest Montana. We have meetings held in Butte, Anaconda, Deer lodge, Dillon, Phillipsburg, Melrose, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, and during the summer months Wise River, and GeorgetownLake.

District 71 is carrying meetings into various treatment and correctional facilities including Montana Chemical Dependency Center, Warm Springs Forensics Unit and Civil Side, Galen Forensics Unit, Montana State Prison, and the Anaconda Jail. Our corrections chair, Scott A. has been successful in gaining approval to bring meetings into the Butte Pre Release beginning mid September. Unfortunatley one of our womens meetings dissolved and no longer exists. Our ladies night out that used to meet on Wednesday evenings was canceled due to lack of participation.

I was grateful to be able to host the trustees workshop that was held last September. I would like to thank Terri T. for organizing the statewide workshop. I am happy to report that we had a great turn out for our Christmas party that was held at St. Anns Parish hall. Our district made sure that Santa visited and brought gifts for all the children. It was a joyful event where fun was had by all.

Service participation in our District unfortunately has decreased. In the coming months we are hoping to reach out to the fellowship and encourage participation in service.

I am truly blessed to be of service today. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Yours In Service,
Daniel H. DCM Dist. 71

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District 72 DCM, Lisa C-D.

District 72
Spring 2020

District 72 covers all of Gallatin County and portions of Madison and Park counties. Our District is usually home to more than one hundred AA meetings per week. About half of District 72's meetings occur in Bozeman, and the other half occur in fourteen other towns spanning three counties.

Like everywhere else, the number of face-to-face meetings in District 72 is now sharply curtailed. Most of the venues that host our meetings have closed their doors. Fortunately, shortly before face-to-face meetings began to go dark, some of our district's more tech-savvy members stepped into the breach by establishing three online meetings every day of the week. Since then, several new groups have moved their meetings online, and at the time of this writing, there are now 35 online meetings every week in our District, with an average attendance of around 20-30. If face-to-face meetings remain infeasible for any length of time, I fully expect to see online meetings in our district meet or even surpass the number of face-to-face meetings we had one month ago. The mushrooming process is in full swing!

If anyone reading this would like to join us in an online meeting, click on the COVID-19 information link on the Area 40 webpage, then click on the link to the Bozeman virtual meeting schedule. We hope to "see" you there!

For some time, District 72 has been looking forward to hosting the 2020 Spring Roundup. Our roundup committee has worked tirelessly for months to curate a weekend of dynamic speakers, panels, and workshops, delicious meals, beautiful decorations, and fabulous entertainment. I would like to share a message from the Roundup Committee:

The members of the Bozeman Roundup Committee want to assure you the health and safety of our attendees is our highest priority. We are carefully and continuously monitoring the relevant health advisories regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus). Please be assured we will continue to assess the advisories, and we will promptly inform registered attendees of any impacts to the Roundup. At present, we continue to look forward to a safe, joyful, and fun-filled Roundup weekend May 15-17, and we hope you will join us to PASS IT ON.

To register online, go to bozemanroundup.org.

I look forward to gathering with you all virtually this week, and to seeing you again in person in September, if not before. May we all stay safe and connected until then.

God Bless,
Lisa C., District 72 DCM

District 81 DCM, Mike R.

District 81 – Area 40 DCM 40 Spring Assembly

Hello my name is Mike District 81 DCM. It is an honor to be of service and to bring the opinions of my district to Area 40. We are a very large district, located in Western Montana. 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 73,000. We have forty-five groups with 100 meetings per week. If you are in our district you should not have any problem finding a meeting.

Our district business meetings are on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Fourth D Alano Club at 2:00 PM. We several open positions at the district level they are Bridging the Gap and CPC. There are between ten to fifteen GSR's that attending our district meetings. This month's meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus and hopefully we can have our normal District meeting in April. Hopefully things get back to normal soon. As soon as I know when our Founders Day will be held, I will get flyers out.

It was exciting to attend the West Central Service Conference in Billings. I enjoyed the amazing opportunity to be part of this fellowship and to be able to attend these functions to represent my district.

In September 2021 the regional forum will be held in Missoula, MT. The committee chair for that event is Andrew W. our past delegate and a past trustee.

Thank you for letting me be of service!

Mike R.

District 91 DCM, Mike P

Hello all.

District 91 is weathering this Coronavirus as best we can.

The following meetings are still operating for now:

Lakeside Group

New Hope Group

Whitefish Group
Columbia Falls Group
Canyon Group

All others are closed indefinitely.

There are several virtual meetings taking place in our District.

We have had a busy schedule up until the last month.

We cancelled our pre-assembly meeting in Lakeside this month.

Many of our members attend the WCRAASC in Billings, and had a great time.

We hosted the Trustee visit, and had a fairly good turn out. It was so educational, and we gained valuable lessons for hosting future events.

We hosted a Into Action workshop in February which was very well attended. Thank you to all that worked so hard to make this a success.

We are looking for ways to carry the message of recovery as best we can.

If this situation continues we are looking into having a Virtual District Meeting. Should be interesting.

Thank you to all, and please stay safe.

Yours in service,

Mike P. DCM District 91

Area 40 Literature, Grant M.

Good Afternoon Area 40 my name is Grant and I am an alcoholic currently serving as the Area 40 literature chair.

I spent some time this winter updating the Area Literature Display with some book covers and pamphlets, I also restocked and reconfigured the pamphlet racks. I was able to purchase the new book from AAWS "Our Great Responsibility" and large print service manuals for sale at the assembly, unfortunately that will not be possible this Spring...however I am looking forward to having them available for the assembly this Fall.

I was able to attend the West Central AA Service Conference in Billings on February 28 & 29 and March 1st. This event was fantastic! I would like to thank Terri and all of her committee members ad all their

hard work in an adverse situation. I would also like to apologize for not bringing the literature for the event.

On March 7 I attended the preassembly at Boulder Hot Springs for the first run through of the agenda items, which there are 26 items in literature alone.

Unfortunately, the preassembly in Sommers was canceled due to the Covid-19 virus as well as our Area 40 Spring Assembly as you all know too well!

I am hopeful that this virtual platform will work for Area 40 and allow the districts that are unable to attend the opportunity to call in. With that said I think this is also a great option for us at a regular in person assembly to perhaps incorporate a virtual option for those who won't make it due to funds or distance in future assemblies! Same goes for homegroup meetings, if we have a member that is disabled or invalid, we could use this format to include them as well! So out of all of this uncertainty...let us thank the small blessings coming to fruition.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as your Area 40 Literature Chair!

Area 40 Bridging the Gap, Jessica E.

Area 40 Bridging The Gap Committee Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Temporary Contact Program is to "Bridge the Gap" between A.A. meetings in treatment facilities, hospitals, prisons and jails and the first A.A. meetings upon release in the home community. Volunteer members of Alcoholics Anonymous usually acting in pairs, meet the client or inmate after release and accompany them to their first A.A. meeting. Like all 12th Step work, this is never paid for. It is the goal of Area 40 - Montana Bridging the Gap Committee, Treatment Facilities Committee, and Corrections Committee to make this vital 12th Step work possible statewide.



BTG Chair Report Fall 2019

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica E. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair. Since the last assembly, our BTG committee met for a virtual BTG meeting on November 10, 2019. I want to express my gratitude for the representation from BTG, corrections, and treatment chairs from across our state. Penny R, alt. BTG chair and I met the committee to discuss where we are with the two agenda item that was passed last fall, (1) To Place a Bid to Host the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend(BTGWW) on either September 10-12, 2021 or September 9-11, 2022 (TBD based on availability) would benefit Area 40 as a whole and (2) That the webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy-protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and correctional institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program. I have attached the notes below.

For the 1st, I have stayed in constant contact with the BTGWW steering committee chair who had identified Missoula as the desired location for the BTGWW in Montana. With this in mind, I have asked Susan B., District 93 BTG and Treatment chair, and Casey O., District 81 BTG Chair, to assist me we leading this endeavor. We all met at the Holiday Inn in Missoula in December to review all of the bid package materials with Jessie, ZOOYPAA member, to inquire about her experience with presenting bid packages. From our initial meeting, Susan put together a formal write-up for our package to entice the steering committee to pick Montana. Casey O. and I met with the hotel management earlier this month and acquired all of the information and pricing we would need to present the final bid package.

I have worked with the webmaster to create a privacy-protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and correctional institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program. With our given circumstances where we find our face-to-face limitations exacerbated because of our inability to go to our jails, treatment centers, hospitals, psychiatric centers and a majority of the facilities that we serve to connect our members coming out of these facilities, it has shown me how much we need innovative tools to help us reach the still suffering alcoholic. These tools are not to take away our face-to-face work, but to enable us to be there when we can't be there in person during the facilities day to day functions. We envisioned how useful these could be in our remote communities. We could have never imagined the circumstances that we would have to work in now. This link would be used by professionals to enter general information of potential AA members who opted in to participate in the Bridging the Gap program and are in direct contact with these professionals. With the potential AA member's permission, a professional can send their information directly to the Montana BTG administrator's email address where this information will be solely used to connect these participants with local BTG. I've been working with the Webmaster on the design of the landing page. There will be a fillable pdf that has a video from the trustee trip embedded in it. What it is not- It is not open access for anyone. It is not a database. It can only be accessed by a link that will be provided to these professionals by us. As soon as it is complete there will be a review process with the BTG committee. I will ask the Area 40 CPC and PI chair to review its language so that it is appropriate for professionals that will visit the landing page. I look forward to having this tool as soon as possible so that we can continue to get our AA's connected although we aren't allowed to go to these facilities in person.

As a committee, we voted last year to have our 2020 BTG committee meeting in northwestern Montana in District 42. In light of what we are globally facing, we will postpone this meeting until we can all safely meet. Until then we will continue to meet virtually until that time permits. For any questions please feel free to contact me.

I have made a few handouts to help new BTG transition into their new positions and have offered to submit our BTG workbook as a resource to the GSO treatment Desk. I continue our relationship with Pine Hills Correctional Facility to connect their AA's with volunteers in our communities and assist with our out of state BTG transfers whenever we are needed. I have had the opportunity of connecting AAs in our facilities to BTG volunteers in California, Colorado, Idaho, South Dakota, Missouri, Michigan, Washington and I am probably forgetting a few. I am so grateful for these opportunities because the truth is that it's our BTG committee who are doing the real work. We welcomed our new D61 BTG chair, Guinevere, to our committee. She has taken on the continued task of disseminating the BTG cards to our BTG coordinators throughout the state. Mandi our BTG from D11 has forwarded the efforts in getting BTG accessible for our AA's into the Women's Prison. D91 BTG Sean R has worked with D91 Corrections chair Grant O to successfully establish BTG in their local jail. Our committee members, which also include Susan H, D72, Casey O, D81, Judy J D41, Jerry T D51, Ryan K and Big Ed D 71, Susan B. D 93 and all of our Treatment and Corrections chairs across Montana, are the ones on the ground serving our treatment centers, jails, halfway houses, and prereleases. I am always humbled at their collective efforts and I am serving to support their ideas and efforts.

Thank you again for entrusting me to serve as your Area 40 BTG Chair.
Jessica E.

Bridging the Gap Committee Meeting Notes

November 10, 2019

Agenda

Update on Area 40 Agenda Items

Agenda Item: Online BTG Form

Motion: The webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and corrections institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program and put it to a vote of the assembly. ***Motion passed.***

Update-Jessica E.

I've been working with the Webmaster on the Landing Page.

There will be a fillable pdf. We will also have the trustees meeting video embedded:

What it is not- It is not open access for anyone. It can only be accessed by a link.

January 1st launch date

There will be a review process.

CPC Area chair will review for language so that it is appropriate for professionals that will visit the landing page.

Agenda Item: National BTGWW

Motion: To place a bid to host the National BTG weekend, either September 9-11, 2022, or the following year in September 2023, it will include the Area 40 BTG and Alternate BTG chairs to work with the National BTG weekend steering committee. The cost to Area 40 not to exceed \$500. **Motion passed.**

Meeting: November 23, 2019 Holiday Inn in Missoula

11 am.

We all discussed willingness to participant

BTG committee member: Susan, District 93(Bitterroot) Treatment Chair

Zooypa Committee Member: Jesse

Update on District 61 Penny R.

Over 100 BTG participants coming in.

There is an alternate BTG now.

District 61-served Watch and MCDC and then sends the BTG cards to the BTG in Helena PO Box

Consensus that we agree that we should

Shelby

Jail , Sean will follow-up with Barry

Sherrifs Office/Drug Court

Area 40 Grapevine, Shawn N.

Area 40 Report

Grapevine Chair

Top of the day to you all Area 40. My name is Shawn Nelson and I am an alcoholic! Since we last met I have actually accomplished a few things!

I have succeeded in my goal of revamping our Area 40 display. If you have any suggestions to add to or take away from it please let me know. I would be glad to check em out. Or just let me know what you think!

The GV has a new project they have initiated. It's called Carry the Message project. There is more info on the website. All you GSRs please check it out. The newcomer needs every tool available! A GV subscription, even a GV magazine, in their hand is an awesome way to stay sober for a minute, a day, a week, ad infinitum!

The updates I have been receiving from The GV/LV regarding new publishing's and other news I have been passing on to the GV Committee. All the News that crossed my path is available to everyone on the Grapevine website aagrapevine.org. There is also some additional info on the Grapevine display table.

I attended the Class A CPC workshop in Helena on the September 20. Grapevine Workshop in Great Falls on November 2nd, I also attended the GrapeFest in Helena. The WCRAASC in Billings was my first GSO conference I have attended. It was quite the experience!

I am completely open to new ideas, suggestions or input regarding how to pass the GV or LV on to the still suffering alcoholic. Feel free to call, email or text me at any time.

I was sent this advisory note from The GV:

Due to the current changing health situation, many AA meetings across the U.S. and Canada are finding it safer to close. To help members during this time, we are giving everyone **free access** to all of our 2020 Grapevine and La Viña issues. (The audio to Grapevine's stories will be available as well, so people can listen to the stories if they like.) Please share with your fellows. We have also included a link to our Youtube channel with some original audio stories as well as other important information.

To enter, visit:

www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help

Again, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your Area 40 Grapevine chair!!!!

In Service
Shawn Nelson

Area 40 Archivist, Earl F.

Archivist Report
2020 Spring Assembly

Greetings Area 40, my name is Earl and I have the honor of serving as your Archivist. I want to let you know that your Archives have been growing a little with new contributions from interested members of our Area. I have received a tape collection from a grateful member of Al-Anon, Frances M. I received a copy of a Grapevine Cartoon book from a member from Gt. Falls that I have loaned out to Shawn for inclusion in his display. I have also received books and documents from estates of members who have went to the big meeting in the sky. These are gracious contributions that help add to the history story of Alcoholics Anonymous in Montana.

I want to encourage you to include me in your correspondence and committee activity, as well as District minutes and activities. I want to put in a plug for the district mini sites on our web site. Districts can post their minutes, flyers for upcoming events and anything pertinent about the activities of your Districts. This is digitally available for me to download and have a copy to record, print and to have stored on different storage devices. If you don't use the mini pages, please make sure I get copies of your minutes emailed to me. My email is: archivist@aamontana.org Please let me know of any members who have passed so that I can get copies of their obituaries. These people have contributed greatly to their local groups and to the conscience of AA in Area 40 and if possible, I would like to get these as a final contribution to their stories. I have had big plans to get around the state this spring to do Archival recordings of several of our older members as well as people who have been significant in Service to AA as a whole. That has been shifted to a future goal due to the current situations that we are facing.

I have not traveled a lot since the last Assembly. I was invited to participate in the Fall Round-up in Missoula with a display and also to conduct a workshop/sharing session. I was also asked to attend the Mini conference at Montana State Prison and take in some historical documents pertaining to the "Freedom" group of AA, located there. The winter was spent trying to work on the audit of the Past Actions and the Policy and Procedure documents. I will be very honest and say I struggled to get this completed. Finally, in early February, I sent copies to the other members who are helping with this process for their review. I know that we have some old minutes to look at to clarify the intent of some motions and I also need to collect some information on our first inventory process. Through visiting with Gerry, I realized that adding sections or appendices to our current documents was not the proper way to record some of the documentation, so I have decided to go a different route. I have created a collection of Ad Hoc committee actions that includes the history, findings and results of the Ad Hoc Committees as well as those who served on those committees. This will be recorded as a new section after the Historical Content in our Past Actions Document. A historical collection of our Area Inventories, the processes used, the questions accumulated and shared experience as well as the resulting final reports will be a new stand alone document, and the Policy and Procedure document will continue to be a stand-alone document that is updated regularly to reflect our current operating policy. I am hoping to get these up to date and accurate very soon after this assembly so that people interested in standing for Area positions have accurate job descriptions that reflect current qualifications and responsibilities. The last activity that I participated in was the West Central Regional Service Conference in Billings. I took a display of our Archives that was viewed by several folks from across our region. I was able to see old friends, meet new ones and even got to smear a little ice cream around during the social on Friday night. It was a great weekend and I was able to have breakfast with Carl B., a Past Regional Trustee and was invited to go to Sheridan, WY for a visit to look over some of his Archival Collection and maybe do an Archival interview with him. I am hoping that the summer will provide opportunities to travel and see some of these people safely. I do have a few activities scheduled for the late spring and the summer if we are able to have them. Time will tell.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to your activities or functions or you have a question about some of the history of AA in Montana, don't hesitate to contact me. I am more than willing to do research, travel or help out in any way I can.

Happy trudging,

Earl

Area 40 PI, Sabrina C.

AREA ASSEMBLY SPRING 2020

Hello Area 40!

My name is Sabrina Currie and I'm an alcoholic. I am grateful to be serving as your Area 40 PI Chair. I am living in Missoula (District 81) and my home group is the Sunrise Group. Normally, we meet every morning at 8:00AM at the Unity Church on South Avenue. But right now we are meeting online via ZOOM, and doing our best to stay connected. If you're ever in town when we are able to meet again, I would love to welcome you to my home group!

Area 40 has successfully switched to a new answering service and it is up and running. There have been plenty of hiccups, but we are working it out. So far, I have been pleased with the new service overall. They are fair, professional, reasonably priced, and very responsive. I usually get an answer to a question within minutes and they really seem to want to help wherever possible. I have kept in contact with all districts and maintained the lists of A.A. members who have volunteered to answer hotline calls. Unfortunately, many calls are still not answered by those A.A. members when the hotline initially calls. But I have been impressed with the way A.A. members step up to return calls when I reach out to them in whichever district the call came from.

One thing I would like to mention is the increasing volume of calls to the hotline from A.A. members, rather than from people seeking to make contact with A.A. Some examples include:

I want to know if there are A.A. meetings in my town that are still open.

I want you to tell callers we have online meetings now.

I need the contact information of an A.A. member in a different town so they can give someone I know rides to meetings.

I need to know what meetings are available in a certain town.

I need to know what meetings have been closed.

I saw the hotline tried to call me, so I am calling back.

I am looking for information regarding a treatment facility to see if there are beds available.

I want my name taken off the volunteer list.

I want my name added to the volunteer list.

These questions and needs are legitimate and totally understandable. What A.A. members need to understand, however, is that their calls are answered by an answering service. These operators are not A.A. members. The only function they serve is to answer the phone and to get the caller connected with a member of A.A. in the district they are calling from. It does no good to call the answering service back if you missed a call from them either because they are instructed to move on to the next volunteer on the list. It is also important to remember that we are only allotted 100 calls per month for the \$80/per month

rate. When we go over that amount, we are charged \$.85 per call. So, it is important that we have informed A.A. members who can answer these types of questions because the people answering the phones cannot do it.

I would encourage GSR's and DCM's to do their best to keep their groups and districts informed. Does your home group know there is an Area 40 website? Do they know there is an up-to-date list of all the meetings in their district on that website? Are they familiar with aa.org? Do they know how to contact their district and area officers? Do they know they should submit changes to the webmaster in order to keep the website up-to-date? Do they know they can call the PI Chair directly with any questions or concerns regarding the A.A. Hotline? Arguably, this is a time when staying connected and informed is more important than ever.

The transition to a new answering service came with many challenges. Thanks to Paul, Connie, and solid direction from my sponsor, I was able to see those challenges as opportunities to grow and change. I am so grateful to have found Alcoholics Anonymous and hope I never take for granted what a privilege it is to be of service.

Thank you for my life.

Yours in Service,

Sabrina C.

Area 40 CPC: Terri T.

CP

C

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Area 40 CPC Chair. This has been an exciting time of reaching out to our Professionals.

On September 19th right after Area Assembly I spent 1 week on the Montana Trustee Tour with Class A Trustees Christine McCarthy and Nancy McCarthy and Class B Trustee Carol Boerner. We traveled to Billings, Helena, Browning, Kalispell, Missoula and Butte.

Based on the discussion we had in Browning I was able to facilitate a zoom meeting biweekly for the Crystal Creek Treatment Center in Browning. I attended the First Saturday Conference in Billings the first weekend in December, participated in the Holiday Party for District 11, attended the Rule 62 Conference in Bismarck.

In January I began participating in the Nationwide CPC committee calls and google group. We have had 3 phone conference calls and a zoom call. We are now working on a National CPC Conference.

I was the Chair of the West Central Regional Service Conference held in Billings February 28,29 and

March 1st. It was a great opportunity to be of service and to learn so much about the service structure.

I have had 3 requests for information from Diane at the GSO CPC Desk. We are communicating with Nexxus to find the best way for their staff to connect with AA. There has been discussion about starting a zoom meeting weekly. The Billings Gazette reached out for information concerning how to find AA now that the meetings have shut down due to covid 19. The Start program reached out for guidance on how to get AA books and the request was forwarded to Connections. There have also been several emails from Professionals reaching out for help as of today 623 people have viewed the video that was created from the Trustee Tour. I have sent this link out to Professionals who have asked for further information.

Thank you so much for the privilege of serving you.

Terri T Area 40
CPC Chair

Trustee Trip Report

September 19-25 7 appearances, over 1000 miles, 78 committee members, 5153 emails, 2 Class A Trustees and One grand adventure. On September 19, 2020 Area 40 embarked on a new journey in an effort to Cooperate with our Professionals and reach the still suffering Alcoholic. Christine Carpenter and Nancy McCarthy our Class A Trustee's traveled across Montana to speak with our Professional Communities. We stopped in Billings, Helena, Browning, Kalispell, Missoula, Butte and Bozeman. The cost of the total trip was approximately \$3200.

There were so many things that we learned from this process. The cost There were highlights and disappointments.

Highlights: Acknowledgment from State Officials including both US Senators, US House of Representatives, Governor, Mayors and State Politicians. We had a radio call in show and had 5 newspaper articles. We had 40+ professionals log in to the Billings stop via WebEx, we had Professionals from the VA, Corrections, Treatment, Clergy, Politicians and Medical Field. We had a great sit down with the treatment center in Browning which led to zoom meetings to carry the message to a dark Districts. We saw an uptake in requests for CPC information and connection. Which means that from September to current I have received 9 requests for CPC whereas in the previous year I had 1.

Challenges: Our professionals did not turn out in the numbers we expected. We needed to focus on having Committee Chairs who were tech savvy in order to get the emails and directions to the other committee members. As a collective whole we would benefit from better communication. Professionals did not understand AA and thought it might not be relevant. We have much work to do to overcome these challenges and best carry the message to the still suffering

There are so many things I learned traveling the state of Montana with the Trustees.

Is A.A. really relevant? This is one of the conversations that I overheard between two professionals at the beginning of one of our stops. It was a comment I heard several times and it just reinforced to me how important our C.P.C. work is. Professionals in the medical, corrections, law enforcement, and treatment fields are on the front lines of our disease. Daily they meet and work with still suffering alcoholics who would benefit from finding the rooms of A.A., but if these same professionals are not sure of A.A.'s relevance, how will they find help?

Observation 1: Do we communicate in a language they understand? 2: Do we bristle when they use terms like alcohol use disorder? 3: Do we make A.A. information available to the professional community?

Listening to Nancy and Christine talk to the professionals in attendance, I began to see that the language barrier was wide. As a member of the Fellowship, I tend to speak in terms and phrases that we as members understand but are foreign to business professionals. The standard that professionals currently use is DSM-5.

The DSM-5 lists eleven symptoms that can be used to determine if someone has an alcohol use disorder.

1. Alcohol is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended. 2. There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol use. 3. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain alcohol, use alcohol, or recover from its effects. 4. Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use alcohol. 5. Recurrent alcohol use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home. 6. Continued alcohol use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of alcohol. 7. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of alcohol use. 8. Recurrent alcohol use in situations in which it is physically hazardous. 9. Alcohol use is continued despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by alcohol.

10. Tolerance, as defined by either of the following: a) a need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol to achieve intoxication or desired effect, or b) a markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of alcohol.

11. Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following: a) the characteristic withdrawal syndrome for alcohol, or b) alcohol (or a closely related substance, such as a benzodiazepine) is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.

When a person is diagnosed with alcohol use disorder, the severity of the condition is determined by the

number of symptoms they have.

- Mild: 2-3 symptoms present
- Moderate: 4-5 symptoms present
- Severe: 6 or more symptoms present

I find these to be very similar to the questions we find in the A.A. Pamphlet is *A.A. for you?* The DSM is much wordier but similar. The questions I ask are: Are we as a Fellowship unable to accept the similarities and acknowledge that professionals have their own autonomy in the terms they use? And is there any harm in learning to communicate in their language? In no way am I advocating to change A.A. I am only offering that we will reach more of those who are still suffering if we make an honest effort to work with our professionals. I know when I go to the doctor and tell him I am an alcoholic, he hears that I suffer from Alcohol Use Disorder. We both know what I am talking about and it does not change the fact that I am an alcoholic.

I also found it interesting that the Grapevine is such an effective tool to use for our professionals. Nancy talked about having them in her lobby at Probation and Parole. The Grapevine app, Meeting Guide app, and the Grapevine quote of the day were also discussed and shown as additional resources that can be utilized. Nancy shared how the Grapevine quote of the day arrives in someone's inbox at 5:30 am each morning and can be used as a moment of serenity in the morning. The Meeting Guide app allows the professional community to find meetings and give directions to help find the meetings.

Christine talked about the importance of open and closed meetings. She explained how meeting cards and signatures for attendance worked and offered some ideas on how to maintain anonymity. She addressed singleness of purpose and how to address recovery. There is a video presentation available upon request.”

Area 40 Treasurer: Ash J.

It has been an honor to serve Area 40. Sadly, I have had to give my resignation for the position of treasurer. Alcoholics Anonymous has given me so many amazing opportunities and one of those is the ability to move closer to my family. As we face these unprecedented times, I am more than ever grateful to be able to be there for my parents and to do so with the grace that this program has taught me. I cannot even begin to express what all of you at Area 40 have done for me. While I was the one who was supposed to be of service and giving, I truly feel that I have been receiving. Your compassion, friendship, and patience have changed me in so many ways. Specifically, from the DCM at WCRAASC who hardly spoke to the person now up at the mic or I guess computer screen now. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to be of service! I will miss Area 40 so much!

Now to the numbers...

Once again, before I begin, I want to remind everyone that we look at finances in a couple different ways, such as net income and operating balance. If you have any questions about these please come talk to me!

The net income is the income minus expenses for a specific period of time. The operating balance is the amount we have in the bank and this amount does not include the prudent reserve. The operating balance and prudent reserve together make up our checkbook balance, the actual amount that we have in the bank!

As of February 29th, the checkbook balance was \$13,198.94. The prudent reserve is \$13,773.33, which is calculated as four months of our 2020 budget. Therefore, our operating balance is in the red -\$574.39. Currently our net income is \$4,008.30 as our income exceed expenses this quarter. Last year we ended in the red -\$3799.36, which means that we reduced our prudent reserve to \$9,190.64. This partially a result of the addition of the Class A Trustee Assignment that we had not budgeted for. The beginning of this year has resulted in a positive net income of over \$4,000, so we have almost rebuilt our prudent reserve. This would not have been possible if it was not for group contributions. Please thank you for groups for their contributions, these contributions are vital to supporting the work at Area 40. Also, I suspect this assembly is going to be significantly less than we have budgeted for, most likely putting us back into the green next month.

Lastly just a reminder could Area officers and chairs please get your expenses to me as soon as possible and no more than 90 days past event per Area 40 policy and procedures. At this time email is the best way. Please do not forget to include all receipts, as we cannot reimburse any expense without a receipt. Expense reports are available online.

Thank you to my committee for your hard work and number crunching on the budget. And thank you all for me letting me be of service!

First time attendee WSRAASC

First of all, I would like to thank Connie for asking me to write up a brief report on attending my first WCRAASC in Billings February 28-March 1. The event was well attended. The theme was "A Clear Vision for You". I was very impressed with all the enthusiasm for Alcoholics Anonymous. I chose to go for a few reasons, the first is that it was held in Montana, second, I wanted to see how AA service at that capacity was implemented, third, I wanted to learn more of the service structure. I have sat and served in District and District meetings and attended Area Assemblies but never attended a Regional Service Conference. I attended the whole event including the breakout sessions, met a lot of new people within the region and saw a lot of familiar faces as well. With each Agenda item people who went to the microphone to comment all had some very good points, comments in regard to possible changes being made in AA. The discussions really got me thinking about how important the Traditions are integrated into the process of decisions being made and the importance of being open minded to possible changes that may occur in AA. I think the most important thing I learned is that there are several committees that a revision, change has to go through before any decision making is considered or done. I also felt that people in the community and region truly care about the well being of AA, and that we (alcoholics anonymous) are being taken care of.

Love and Service

Desiree G.

District 41 Treatment Chair

Appendix A. Motions Voted this assembly:

- A. Consider creating a new Area 40 Hotline Chair rotating position that will be separate from the Area 40 PI Chair rotating position. Passed: 54 in favor, 5 opposed, 3 abstained

Appendix B. Results of Fall 2019 Venue Survey (Area 40 Structure and Policy)

**Area 40 Assembly Evaluation Results for Fall Assembly at the Holiday Inn
September 13-15, 2019**

- 1) Main Meeting Room
 - a. I could move around the room easily
87 Yes, 2 No, 2 Abstain
 - b. I could hear all those speaking
82 Yes, 7 No, 2 Abstain
 - c. The seating was adequate for my district
86 Yes, 2 No, 3 Abstain (1 no from 91, 1 no from 61)
 - d. The microphones worked well
60 Yes, 23 No, 8 Abstain
- 2) Committee Meeting Room
 - a. Were easily accessible
76 Yes, 11 No, 4 Abstain
 - b. Were well labeled and easy to locate
74 Yes, 10 No, 7 Abstain
 - c. Had enough chairs and tables for attendees
44 Yes, 44 No, 3 Abstain (No's account as follows: Literature 4, Archives 2, GSRs/Workshops 12, Area Chair/Finance 2, CPC 1, Grapevine 2, PI 3, Treatment/BTG 6, Corrections 3, Inventory 8)
 - d. Allowed for full participation
63 Yes, 20 No, 8 Abstain
- 3) Facility (Only answer if you stayed at the Holiday Inn) – 67 people who completed the evaluation stayed at the facility.
 - a. I was able to get a room
66 Yes, 1 No
 - b. My hotel room was reasonably priced
56 Yes, 10 No, 1 not able to get room
 - c. My hotel room was clean
64 Yes, 2 No, 1 not able to get room
 - d. The hotel staff was helpful
66 Yes, 1 not able to get room
- 4) Accessibility
 - a. I have accessibility needs
3 Yes, 76 No, 12 Abstain
 - b. If yes, were those needs met by this facility?
3 Yes (100%)
- 5) Additional helpful comments:
Maybe we should have a third mic
Do we know...does Lewistown miss Alcoholics Anonymous?

Meeting rooms were not arranged for a meeting; we had to rearrange; we had too many chairs. There were large stacks of chairs by the entrance/exit of the door that inhibited accessibility. The tables weren't arranged in a meeting format. (Treatment)

The hotel did a wonderful job assisting and accommodating those people with accessibility needs. Good job!

Battery trouble with mics

Like the hotel. Meets my needs as good as any other hotel.

Restaurant was good and the wait staff was excellent

Very good job, Area Chair, under much pressure, you had grace and consistency

“Respectfully, Prayerfully, Please Schedule Place Floor Assembly (Committee Reports/Motions Discussion) on Saturday morning Immediately following Standing Committee meetings so that Assembly Actions are not rushed postponed or not considered by full quorum!!!”

Committee meeting rooms not accessible – 7 floors of rooms! Most were sitting on beds! I sat on the floor for GSR school...along with others!

Would like rotating Area locations. If nothing else NOT HOLIDAY INN – maybe just a re-evaluation in a bid of a hotel. I also do not feel that this questionnaire is adequate to evaluate this hotel or our needs.

The main meeting room was a little chilly overall

Thank you! Staff was great! They were kind and loving!

Thank you for allowing use of the facility. We appreciate you!

Thank you for the hospitality!

Nice facility, good job!

Great location – enjoyed Assembly!

Restaurant: Food portions were small, but the service was great and food was good, but would have a bigger menu with more choices. Room: Bathtub drained very slowly.

Needed bigger breakout room for inventory.

Comfortable with this facility!

Thank you all for a great Assembly – learned so much!

During the Inventory the Lobby Rooms were too small and did not have enough chairs and it slowed the process down.

Restaurant was not good. Too slow. Food mediocre. Should allow for late checkout.

Thanks so much for all your help! I only cried twice this weekend 😊 I give this hotel 4/5 stars for the room and 3/5 for the conference room.

Main room was consistently too cold. Also, water w/no ice. Vegetarian food needed although at lunch I was able to get a great sandwich and soup.

May want to include a question on next form re: # of miles driven to GTF and town of origin to inform registration discussion.

Could you please consider possibly booking a different venue in Great Falls for the next Assembly? Thanks!

“No chairs and two bare (tattered, bare wood) tables crammed into a room with a couch, chair in addition to furniture described chairs and table covers, water was requested of the front desk person. He was not helpful and was very flippant. He did nothing – his name was Nathan. Perhaps the hotel would like to know. The room had not been fixed for the afternoon meeting – room 101.”

Needed more motel to move chairs – not attendees doing this. Short on staff at front desk when we asked for help.

Coffee was terrible – AV lacked

I am glad we decided to stay in one location for the foreseeable future. Moving around to many locations is too confusing and unnecessary. Great Falls seems like a fair distance for everyone to drive since we refuse to have it in the middle of the state.

The committee room was locked, dirty, and not set up. (Corrections)

This is a roomy space and comfortable though I had some allergies (asthma) not sure why?
Smoke smell
Glad we are gonna keep having this in G Falls
The TV stations either did not come in or were blocked I am not paying for a room that has Direct
TV again They blocked ABC Fox and NBC channel
More tables in Russell Room please. Set up 'square' so all can sit at the table. Computer folks
took up most of the only table. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Kacie N.
Area 40 Archives Committee Chair

Attachments to these minutes:

Finance documents

Documents used in Area 40 Archivist Earl F's Morning Workshop