

Area 40 Spring 2021 Assembly Minutes

Virtual Assembly via Zoom

March 26-28, 2021

Table of Contents

Friday, March 26, 2021.....	3
Zoom Orientation with Q&A.....	3
Area Standing Committee Meeting.....	3
GSR/DCM Meeting.....	3
Saturday, March 27, 2021.....	3
Orientation to the Assembly.....	3
Roll Call.....	5
Secretary’s Report.....	7
Motions from the Spring 2021 Assembly.....	8
Webmaster Nominations and Election.....	8
Financial Highlights.....	9
Triangle Editor’s Report.....	9
Area Chair Report.....	9
DCM Reports.....	10
District 11 DCM Report.....	10
District 12 DCM Report.....	11
District 31 DCM Report.....	11
District 51 DCM Report.....	11
District 61 DCM Report.....	12
District 71 DCM Report.....	13
District 72 DCM Report.....	13
District 81 DCM Report.....	14
District 91 DCM Report.....	15
District 93 DCM Report.....	16
Workshop: Challenging Old Ideas in a Changing World.....	17
Delegate’s Report with Q&A.....	17
Standing Committee Reports.....	19
Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy.....	19

Archivist Report.....	20
CPC/Trustees	22
Corrections/International Conventions	22
Finance.....	24
Grapevine/Policy & Admissions.....	26
GSR Breakout	27
DCM Breakout.....	29
Sunday, March 28, 2021	31
Roundup Reports	31
Spring 2021 Roundup	31
Fall 2021 Roundup.....	31
Spring 2022 Roundup	31
Fall 2022 Roundup.....	31
Intergroup Reports	31
WACYPAA Report	31
WC Regional Forum Report	32
WCRAASC Report.....	32
Past Delegate Sharing	32
Standing Committee Reports (cont'd)	33
Literature.....	33
Public Information/Report & Charter/Website	34
Webmaster Report	37
Hotline Chair Report.....	37
Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda.....	38
Bridging the Gap Chair Report.....	41

Friday, March 26, 2021

Zoom Orientation with Q&A

Mike D, Zoom Advisor

Area Standing Committee Meeting

Kacie N, Area 40 Chair

GSR/DCM Meeting

Connie R, Area 40 Delegate

Saturday, March 27, 2021

The Assembly was opened with the Serenity Prayer at 8:00 am by Area 40 Chair Kacie N. The Twelve Traditions were read by Jim J (D71 GSR), and the Twelve Concepts were read by Susan H (D91 GSR). An abbreviated Zoom Orientation was conducted by Zoom Commander Mike D.

Orientation to the Assembly

Connie R, Area 40 Delegate, Panel 71

Good morning everyone. I am Connie and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege and honor of serving Area 40 as Panel 71 Delegate to the General Service Conference. 25 years ago, I stood in the front of the assembly holding a sign that said “Committee” as Robbie S and Bob H explained how our Area 40 assemblies would be done if the Area agreed to adopt the Committee System. I was in awe of Robbie and Bob and their ability to help everyone understand the new way we will be conducting our area assemblies. Standing there confused but willing to participate, just as many of you may be feeling today, I never would have imagined that I would be standing here today as your Area 40 Delegate.

Will all of the new GSRS, please raise your hand? Now will everyone else who is attending their first Area Assembly, please raise your hand? Welcome! One of my favorite parts in the Big Book is on page 89, where it explains what will happen for us as we embark on this new way of life. “Life will take on a new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends—this is an experience you must not miss.”

General Service work is part of the triangle that affords us the opportunity to “have a fellowship grow up about you.” Doing area virtually does not offer us the opportunity to receive the hugs and handshakes that a face to face does but we can find creative ways to get to know each other. As you look down the participant list, you can see those who do not have their hands raised. I encourage you to find someone who doesn’t have their hand raised and ask them to be your Area buddy. At my first assembly, sitting by someone who knew what was going on eased my fears and they gladly answered many of my questions. It helps to remember that we are all here to help each other help the still suffering alcoholic. Please lower your hands now.

Will all DCMs raise your hand? Thank you for your willingness to take your service work to another level and for the example that you all set in your respective districts that General Service work is not a do-it-once-and-you're-done deal. After our secretary, Lisa, does roll call, we will ask districts to go into their district breakout room. Whether you're a GSR, Alternate GSR, District Rep or just a visitor, please join you DCM in the break out room. DCMs will take roll of voting members and non-voting members representing the district. Alternate GSRs will only have a vote if their GSR is not present and and Alternate DCMs only if their DCM is not here. DCM's please identify your District Reps. District Reps appointed to a committee have a vote in that committee but not out in the general assembly, unless they are a GSR.

The DCM will give the collected information to Lisa. The collected information helps to establish a quorum, which is two-thirds of the eligible voters. 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. (Kacie will explain this as we take our votes) Occasionally, with the General Service Conference Agenda Items, I may ask Kacie to take a "sense of the Area". Everyone gets to participate in a "Sense of the Area", and because it's not an actual vote, no quorum is needed.

Will all Past Delegates please raise your hands? Please keep them raised. I feel it's important to note that these folks have taken the time and put forth the effort, time and time again, some for decades, to leave their Home Groups, leave their Districts and leave the Area, to do the work necessary to ensure that the hand of AA, as a whole, is always there reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic. Please lower your hands.

Will all past Trustees please raise your hands? I wanted to take a moment to recognize Andrew W who served as the West Central Regional Trustee from 2013 to 2016 and. Carole B who served three years as a Non-Trustee Director of the Grapevine, from 2013 to 2015 and a four year rotation as a General Service Trustee from 2016 to 2020. Serving as a Trustee is a LOT of work and requires a huge commitment of time. Area 40 and AA as a whole owe much gratitude to both Andrew and Carole for their dedication. Thank you!

At this time I'd like to ask the Support team, to please un-mute everyone. Please join me in expressing our gratitude for the work that they have done and continue to do.

Our job this weekend is to establish and gather the informed group conscience of Area 40 pertaining to the matters on our Agenda. Kacie, our Area Chair/Alt Delegate will be facilitating the assembly according to a loose interpretation of Roberts Rule of Order, an interpretation that she will explain as she goes, and of which, she has the final say. In other words, when it comes time to decide if we're done talking about something, "Kacie makes the call."

The Agenda was prepared by Kacie, our Area Chair/Alt Delegate. This is the order in which we will conduct our business. When everyone returns from the District Breakouts, we will start to hear reports from our Area Officers, Area Chairs and DCMs. At 9:45 the Committees will go to their respective breakout rooms. Anyone can attend the committee meetings, but remember, only the appointed DCMs and District Reps are eligible to vote in committee. If you

prefer not to attend a committee meeting Libbie will be doing a workshop on “Challenging Old Ideas in a Changing World”. We will break for lunch and then come back to elect a new Area 40 Webmaster. This vote requires a quorum so please return promptly at 1:00pm. We will resume hearing reports and after all the reports are made, we will begin the Floor Assembly.

This year the background information broke the record for the most documents. Originally it was 1375 pages and then additional background information was added which put us over 1500 pages. We will address the Area 40 items first and then discuss the General Service Conference items. A motion will come out of the committee with the verbiage “The committee recommend...” A recommendation is a made and seconded motion. Kacie will open discussion on all items, please raise your virtual hand or message Mike D, Jake L or Alex M with the words “raised hand. Again, Area 40 items require a quorum of eligible voters and two-thirds majority of votes for an item to pass. For the General Service Conference items only a sense of the area is needed and everyone gets to participate.

At 8:30 p.m., a breakout room will be set up for GSRs and DCMs. This is a good time for everyone to bring any questions, concerns or share solutions along with experience, strength and hope. After the breakout, get out your ice cream and join the virtual ice cream social. BYOIC

One piece of advice I have for everyone attending is be an active participant. Take part in the discussions, PLEASE ask questions if you are unsure of something. Every action that you take to be a part of our Area 40 Assembly ensures AA, as a whole, will remain a viable service to the still suffering alcoholic. Your full participation in this side of the triangle will indeed offer you “an experience you must not miss.”

Roll Call

Name	Service Position	Voting Member	Non-Voting Member
Connie R	Area 40 Delegate	X	
Kacie N	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	X	
Jeremiah S	Treasurer	X	
Lisa C	Secretary	X	
Brynn C	Archives Chair	X	
Don M	CPC Chair	X	
Ty K	Corrections Chair	X	
Jody T	Grapevine Chair	X	
Sabrina C	Hotline Chair	X	
Dan H	Literature Chair	X	
Jake H	Public Information (PI) Chair	X	
Grant O	Treatment Chair	X	
Terri T	Triangle Editor	X	
Paul L	Area Advisor	X	
Earl F	Archivist	X	
Jessica E	Bridging the Gap	X	
Penny R	Alt Bridging the Gap Chair		X

Jake L	Interim Webmaster	X	
Alex M	Interim Alt. Webmaster		X
# of Voting Members of Area Committee Present: 17			
Lynne W	District 11 DCM	X	
Riley J	District 12 DCM		
Dennis G	District 21 DCM		
Steve S	District 23 DCM		
David V	District 31 DCM		
Natasha G	District 41 DCM		
Kurt K	District 42 DCM		
Gene A	District 51 DCM	X	
Jessica S	District 61 DCM	X	
Laura H	District 71 DCM	X	
Rick H	District 72 DCM	X	
Trevor F	District 81 DCM	X	
Sheila J	District 91 DCM	X	
Mark H	District 93 DCM	X	
		Voting	Non-Voting
	District 11	6	
	District 12	2	
	District 21		
	District 23		
	District 31	1	
	District 41	2	1
	District 42		
	District 51	1	
	District 61	6	2
	District 71	4	
	District 72	12	1
	District 81	9	
	District 91	5	3
	District 93	4	
# of DCM and GSR Voting Members Present: 52			
Total # of Voting Members Present: 69^{1*}			
Quorum (2/3): 46			

* This roll call reflects attendance and number of voting members as of 9:15 am on Saturday, March 27, 2021. Voting members were recounted at approximately 3:30 pm on Saturday, at which time there were 72 voting members present (quorum of 48).

Secretary's Report

Lisa C, Area 40 Secretary

Good morning! My name is Lisa, and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

I want to thank all the DCMs who sent me a sign-up sheet this week with the attendees from your districts. Not everyone was able to do that in advance and among those who did, there may be some last-minute changes, so we're going to have a short district breakout session at the end of my report. Everyone will leave this main room and head to their district breakout room long enough to sign in with your DCM as either a voting member or a visitor.

Voting members are GSRs, alternate GSRs if the GSR is not present, DCMs, alternate DCMs if the DCM is not present, and members of the Area Committee. District representatives selected to serve on Standing Committees may vote in committee meetings, but they do not have a vote on floor actions unless they are also a GSR.

If you are uncertain about whether or when you should vote, please discuss this with your DCM during the district breakout session.

After the district breakout sessions, DCMs, please email me a list of all voting and non-voting attendees here today from your district (secretary@aa-montana.org). This will allow us to establish our quorum for voting with confidence.

I'd like to thank everyone who has already emailed their reports to me and remind those who have not to please email them to me before the end of the Assembly. I also ask that each committee chair provide me with the notes or minutes taken during their committee meeting and a list of the voting members at the committee meeting. If your committee brings a recommendation to the floor, please email me a written copy prior to presenting the motion (secretary@aa-montana.org).

Lastly, here are the motions passed at the 2020 Fall Assembly:

Archives, Structure and Policy:

- Update the Archivist job description in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures, part G1.12 to read, "update the Area 40 Past Actions document and the Area 40 Policy and Procedure document with the Archives committee and Area Advisor after each Area Assembly." Motion passed, 41 in favor, 3 opposed, 11 abstained.
- Consider granting voting privileges to the Archivist, Webmaster, Area Advisor & Bridging the Gap Chair. Motion passed 37 in favor, 15 opposed, 1 abstained.
- Consider having Area 40 host a virtual assembly for each Spring Assembly, beginning in Spring of 2021. Motion failed, 21 in favor, 31 opposed, 3 abstained.
- Follow up floor action: Decide today to hold a virtual Spring 2021 assembly. Motion passed, 35 in favor, 13 opposed, 1 abstained.
- This then went to a motion to reconsider (34 in favor, 16 opposed) and it was decided to hold the Spring 2021 Assembly virtually.

Finance:

- 2020-2021 Budget passed, 52 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

Public Information:

- Allow Triangle Editor to create a searchable website for the Area 40 Triangle and grant authority for the Triangle Editor to email notices of the new website. Motion passed, 36 in favor, 13 opposed, 2 abstained.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve the Fellowship that has given me so much.

Motions from the Spring 2021 Assembly

- MOTION made and seconded to elect Alex M Area 40 Webmaster by acclamation. MOTION PASSED, 57 for, 4 opposed, 4 abstained.

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy:

- ARCHIVES/AREA 40 STRUCTURE & POLICY COMMITTEE MOTION:
After careful consideration, and with the intention of clearly and accurately reporting the past and present actions of Area 40, the Archives Committee recommends the following changes be made to the Past Actions document:
 - a. Move page 4, Fall 2005 Item B *“the Archives Committee conduct, with the Area Archivist and the Area Advisor, an update of the Past Actions Document—to insure the applicability of any Past Actions, and to insure the historical position of certain Past Actions. This review will be conducted during the second year of each rotation.”* to “historical.”
 - b. Page 5, Fall 2017 *“Voting membership of each committee to include the Area Service Chair, who will serve as chair of the committee”* replace “Area Service Chair” with “Standing Committee Chair”
 - c. Page 5, Fall 2017 *“it was agreed that the dashboard be accessible to standing committee chairs, DCMs, GSRs, Area officers and DRs”* replace “DRs” with “District Representatives”
 - d. Add an “Area Advisor” section to page 7
 - e. Page 21 Fall 2004: Change “Area” to “Area 40”
 - f. Change Page 26, Fall 2012 from *“make available via the website BTG mini sites with first name, last name or initial, hometown, sobriety date, contact telephone # 1, contact telephone # 2 and email address”* to “make available via a password protected landing page.....”
 - g. Move Spring 2014 Special Needs/Accessibilities survey to historicalMOTION PASSED, 68 for, 0 against, 3 abstained.

- MOTION made and seconded to extend the Sunday meeting by 30 minutes and close the Assembly at 12:35 pm. MOTION PASSED, 50 for, 2 opposed, 0 abstained.

Webmaster Nominations and Election

- Alex M was nominated, and the nomination was seconded.
- Mike D, Dave O, and Jake L were nominated. Each declined the nomination.
- Erik G was nominated but was not present to accept or decline the nomination.

- Alex M was elected Area 40 Webmaster by acclamation (57 for, 4 opposed, 4 abstained).

Financial Highlights

Jeremiah S, Area 40 Treasurer delivered a brief report on Area 40 finances.

Triangle Editor's Report

My name is Terri and I am an Alcoholic. I am your Area 40 Triangle Editor. This has been a challenging commitment. It has been even more difficult by my ability to complicate everything I found I became so filled with fear that I would screw up the publication that I was paralyzed and could not complete the first issue. I then decided to take some good orderly direction and stepped out in Faith. I published and printed the first issue of this rotation on February 20th. The schedule for the remainder of the rotation will be deadline for submissions by 30th of each month with an issue being published on the 10th of the following month. I apologize that we have only had 1 issue so far in 2021 however with the above schedule we will produce 8 issues this year in compliance with our Area Policy's and Procedures. Our first issue featured District 71 with highlights on the history and happenings of Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillion Phillipsburg, Whitehall and Sheridan. Earl even dug in to the archives to find a letter to the archives from 1985 to Ray V from Eddie M with the history of Butte. I traveled to Butte in early January to collect information and was excited to attend a meeting at the Alano Club in Butte with Dan and Laura Henderson. I hope to highlight a different district for each issue. I am hopeful that each issue we will have participation from every Area Committee Member and DCM. The Triangle is a useful communication tool if we actually all communicate. I have hope that the Triangle will continue to have depth and weight we have had in past rotations.

I attended Pockets of Enthusiasm in Florida and have had the opportunity to share on panels in New York, California, Florida, Alabama and Texas via zoom and spoke for a workshop in Texas. I am excited to see how AA continues to evolve through online and in person meetings.

Area Chair Report

Good morning, Area 40! I'm Kacie and I'm an alcoholic. I have the incredible privilege of serving as your Area 40 Chair and Alternate Delegate during our 2021/2022 service rotation.

November 22nd Connie hosted a workshop that provided the opportunity for outgoing chairs to meet with their incoming counterparts. It was so helpful to visit with Connie and gain insight on what to expect and prepare for as the new service rotation was getting ready to begin. Wasting no time, 2021 started on day one with welcome emails to and from all sorts of people. On January 2nd, I participated in the financial audit with Connie, Paul, Julie, and Jeremiah. I can confidently say every penny of Area 40's money is properly accounted for. Using the Doodle Poll service, I was able to get an idea of a good time to schedule our first Area Committee meeting on Zoom with the new DCMs and Committee Chairs. The Area 40 "Kick-Off Call" took place on Saturday, January 16th and was a great opportunity to meet the people I'll be serving along side for the next two years.

February began and I was faced with the challenge of developing the agenda for this Spring Assembly. It only took three and a half times and a couple of Phone-A-Friends to get it almost all the way right! During January and February, I also participated in an eight-week virtual Service Manual workshop hosted by members of the Northeast Region of AA.

Now here we are in March where things have certainly not slowed down! I got a sneak peek behind the Delegate curtain when I was invited to participate in the Friday night session of the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference on March 5th. I Zoomed in at 3:00 pm and got to meet with the other Alternate Delegates, Delegates, and our Regional Trustee for two hours. Then all the past Delegates and Trustees joined us at 6:00 pm. I sat quietly (if you can believe that) secretly

anticipating that I'd overhear someone share some mystical uber confidential top-secret key to unlocking all the mysteries and insider knowledge I was just sure I had been missing out on all these years. Or maybe I'd see a copy of an elusive For Committee Eyes Only draft document. I mean this is a big deal, right?! Trustees-at-Large, Delegates, and Trustees galore...how on earth did I land this gig? But ya know what? As it turns out, I just found myself amongst a group of passionate, highly committed, regular ol' AA members no different than you or I. No secrets. No mystery. No Insider Knowledge. Just folks practicing their 2-minute talks and sharing ideas on how to best serve this amazing fellowship. Once again it is clear to me that nowhere in AA is there an Us or a Them. There is only a We. You'll hear a little more about the rest of the WCRAASC weekend from Jessica on Sunday.

March stayed busy with a virtual Zoom Pre-Assembly during the second weekend, a spiritual battery charging Pockets of Enthusiasm the third weekend, and Spring Assembly this weekend. Phew! No rest for the wicked, right?

There are so many people I would like to thank, but I know if I start listing them, I will absolutely accidentally forget someone. However, I must say a very special thank you to Connie. As an Area Delegate you are not only busy with all of the many commitments that service position entails, but you balance a busy family life and full-time career as well. Yet there has not been one instant where you have been too busy to answer a question, take a phone call, or talk me back from the anxiety ledge. Thank you for sharing your experience with me and for allowing me to be your co-pilot on this magic carpet ride.

This is going to be a fantastic weekend, Friends! I am thrilled to be here and blessed to be able to serve as your Area Chair. If there is anything I can do to be of service to you, your group, or district, please let me know. Thank you for my sobriety and the unbelievably beautiful life I get to have today.

In Love and Service, Kacie N

DCM Reports

District 11 DCM Report

Hi ya'll! We have persevered through our challenging times here in District 11. Over the last few months we have watched restrictions fall away, many groups have no capacity limits at all. We have a total of 23 active groups, over 100 meetings a week. Some groups have chosen to incorporate Zoom into their normal meeting routine. There are different ways about accomplishing this, either a hybrid option where people gather in a central location and connect through Zoom to people across the country. Other groups have opted to have a separate live meeting from the Zoom meeting. One group in particular is celebrating their first-year anniversary of their Zoom meeting on March 27! And we also have at least one group that is Zoom only. Part of the beauty of AA is that the solution is open to everyone, the only thing that differs is the delivery method.

As your trusted servant DCM, it means a lot to me personally to keep fellowship involved in service work. My story is greatly impacted by showing up for service, and I want to make sure that option is available for those who come after me. We are having a Viewing Party here in Billings, and I hope we will have one for each Assembly that is going to be on Zoom. We are starting to have activities here in District 11, Intergroup will tell you about Founders Day and the campout coming up this summer.

In loving service, Lynne [REDACTED] DCM District 11

District 12 DCM Report

First, I would like to ask that we all keep our DCM in our prayers as he is fighting a very serious health challenge. Since we last met, we in District 12 have had good attendance at both our in person and zoom meetings with a healthy amount of newcomers. We were unable to hold our annual winter event, Mid- Winter Social, usually held in February, due to Covid restrictions. We are hopefully planning our other big event, the Fireman's point Campout the second weekend in August. I hope to have a flyer up on the website soon and we hope to see many of you there. We have campfire meetings Friday and Saturday nights and the should be famous Spam cooking contest.

We are challenged by a lack of participation at the District level and I welcome any advice and suggestions to improve this.

Respectfully improvised by,
Tara McNabb

District 31 DCM Report

No DCM for District 31 was in attendance at the Spring Assembly. Alt-GSR Steve P delivered a report on behalf of his district:

Hello to all my friends in Area 40. This is Steve [REDACTED] from district 31. I am the district 31 Treasurer as well as alternate GSR and Treasure of Colstrip three and four group.

It's been quite a year as most of our meetings we're shut down for several months due to Covid. Currently all of the Miles City meetings that were open before the closure have re-opened they are small but steady. Lame Deer still has two meetings a week also small but steady. Forsyth re-opened their two meetings but after a bit closed them for lack of participation. There are no meetings open in Forsyth at this time. After Covid our meeting place, the Colstrip library was closed for renovations. So we had to wait an additional 3 to 4 weeks but are now running and our numbers seem to be growing. Towns further east are either closed or struggling with one or two members.

I maintain an email list with about 60 members throughout the district so I have the capability of passing on area information whenever I can get it. We are not completely isolated but our groups are small and far between and the spirit of the AA program survives comes Covid or Highwater.

Best regards to you all Steve [REDACTED]

District 51 DCM Report

Our District had good attendance at WCRAASC and also at our pre area 40 assembly. We are fortunate to have an Area Chair Jody T for Grapevine and a great supporting cast of characters for a DCM who is a bit overwhelmed by the volume of current items for which we are responsible.

We have 7 Groups which are currently back to meeting face to face from Havre to Malta and two

groups currently locked out of their normal meeting place, Northern Montana Hospital, but meeting on Zoom. These two groups: the Big Book Study and Road To Recovery groups have all seven days of the week covered by an evening meeting. Sunrise Alano Club has 3rd step group with a meeting everyday at 5:30 PM.

We are still in need of a few people to fill vacant chairs at district but it seems harder to get people more involved with Covid19 lock downs and restrictions. Hoping to see more desiring to get involved.

Gene A District 51 DCM

District 61 DCM Report
Spring 2021 District 61 DCM Report for Area 40

Hello, Area 40, or as we like to say in District 61 HEYYYYYYYYYYYYYY.

I am grateful to serve as District 61's DCM. These first three months as DCM have been wonderful. In January, I attended the Area 40 Kickoff, and in early March, I attended my first WCRAASC. Since my rotation began, I have been visiting groups in our district in order to introduce myself and make myself available. I have also been attending the workshops committee. In November, we held our annual Attitude of Gratitude via Zoom. Not what we expected to be doing, but a fantastic success.

District 61 meets the first Thursday of every month, at 6:30, via Zoom. We will likely remain on zoom until the First Presbyterian Church in Helena reopens to the public. You are welcome to join us. The Zoom login is available on the aamountana.org website. Currently, most of our meetings in District 61 are meeting via Zoom, with some in-person and hybrid meetings also taking place. In February and March, we held GSR school, during portions of our district meeting, with presentations from GSRs. The GSRs did a fantastic job presenting the AA's service structure, and the role of the GSR within our service structure. One group even presented with a PowerPoint. Zoom has really changed things.

Like many districts, we have struggled with attendance at our district meetings during the pandemic, and we are still in need of a CPC chair and a Roundup Chair.

Corrections and Treatment are limited on where they can take meetings due to the pandemic, but meetings are happening in Boyd Andrew's Treatment Center and at the jail through Zoom.

It's in the Book group, held their annual Pockets of Enthusiasm conference last weekend, via Zoom and it was wonderful.

Our workshop Committee is hosting monthly workshops via Zoom, on the third Saturday of each month, at 2 pm. Please join us in April, when Curt C. and others will be sharing their experience, strength, and hope. You can find out more on aamountana.org.

For those of you that do not know, our district has a bookstore. Our bookstore has remained open

throughout the pandemic, following the mask requirement, and sanitizing regularly. Our bookstore is open every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday from 11:30 to 1:30.

In love and service,

Jessica [REDACTED] District 61 DCM

District 71 DCM Report

Hello everyone. My name is Laura H., I am an alcoholic. When I attended my first area assembly at 6 months sober I never for one moment thought I would be here 6 years later attending assembly as a DCM. Here I am! DCM of District 71. What a privilege! District 71 is located in southwest Montana and is composed of meetings in Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Philipsburg, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, George Town Lake, and Wise River.

Covid 19 has definitely impacted our district as I am sure it has everywhere. Many meetings adapted. Social distancing, 6 feet apart, no hugging! Some shut done. Masks mandates were implemented bringing a whole new meaning to anonymity. Large meetings split into two smaller meetings. Zoom became a familiar term and a saving grace to our fellowship during quarantine. Some meetings shut down and just starting to reopen there doors. All obstacles aside, AA is alive in District 71.

This rotation started out slow for our district. Elections were postponed until February when we finally had enough people present and willing to be of service. I had personally decided to step away from service this rotation. Here I am, so you can see how that plan worked for me. I am grateful to be here. We have several positions open (archives, CPC, PI, and secretary) and are hoping to find ways to spark interest and participation in service work. Our corrections/treatment chair came into the rotation excited and enthusiastic. It was amazing to see and feel his excitement spread through the room igniting a spark in ALL of us.

We are motivated to encourage participation in service work and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in these challenging times.

Blessed to be of service, Laura H.

District 72 DCM Report

Hello Area 40,

I'm Rick and I am an alcoholic, currently serving as District 72 DCM. Our district covers all of Gallatin county and parts of Park county to the east and Madison county to the west. The majority of our meetings are in Bozeman and Belgrade. We also have meetings in three of the gateway communities to Yellowstone National Park, West Yellowstone, Gardiner and Cooke City. I am looking forward to attending these and the other outlying area meetings in the district, when we are able to have open meetings and travel again.

On that note the transition to online business meetings has had a silver lining, it has allowed greater participation for the groups who would have to travel a long distance to attend. We are currently working with the non-profit Fellowship Hall, where we have our business

meeting and store our literature and archives. Our goal is to set up the technology needed to have hybrid online-live meetings, the hope is that this will increase attendance in general and allow the outlying groups to continue to have their voice heard at the district level.

Our district business meeting is on the last Saturday of the month at 5:00 pm, all of our committee chair positions are currently filled, with the possible exception of one. Currently our Treatment committee takes a zoom meeting to the Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) once a month, and the Corrections committee is doing phone conference calls at the Gallatin County Detention Center (GCDC). The detention center is working on setting up video meeting , there are a lot of logistical issues so we are waiting patiently.

Two of our local groups have annual speaker events, the Primary Purpose held their event in February it was a fourth step workshop led by Adam T. from L.A. followed by him sharing his experience, strength and hope. It was an awesome event and well attended. The HOW group event is planned for the 2nd of October with Don L. from Bellingham WA there will be a workshop in the afternoon followed by a potluck and Don sharing his story, hopefully in person, stay tuned for updates. Regarding the transition back to live meetings, there are groups slowly starting to have in person meetings with safety protocols, this has definitely been our own flying blind period, just like the first one hundred AAs, the hope is that we come out of this more unified and able to carry the message of recovery to even more suffering alcoholics.

Yours in Service Rick [REDACTED] District 72 DCM

District 81 DCM Report

Greetings Area 40. It is an honor and privilege to represent District 81 as District Committee Member. District 81 is located in western Montana; we have meetings as far west as Trout Creek, as far north as Polson, as far east as Seeley Lake, and as far south as Missoula. Before the pandemic began, our district had approximately 45 groups with 100 meetings per week. As covid restrictions have gradually decreased, the group conscience has led certain groups to meet again in person; other groups remain in a digital or hybrid format. I literally have little to no idea about what is going on outside my Missoula bubble, so I have work to do after the Area Assembly. My goal is to contact each group and help them keep their meeting information on the Area 40 website as up-to-date as possible.

Our District 81 business meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 2-4pm. Although we were accustomed to meeting in-person in Missoula, we currently meet exclusively on Zoom. Our district has voted to purchase our own Zoom account and has created a “zoom administrator” service position; we are very fortunate to report that this is the only commitment in the district that isn’t currently held.

Since our district rotated service positions at the beginning of this year, we have a dedicated and engaged group of 9-12ish General Service Representatives that attend the district meetings each month. To all of you attending here today, especially those at your first area assembly, I thank you from the bottom of my resentful little heart.

Now I'll awkwardly transition and discuss events in our district. Missoula was set to host the West Central Regional Forum later this year; however, this event has been postponed, as the General Service Office has chosen to delay our forum for two years. Therefore, Missoula hopes to host a regional forum in 2023.

In a similar vein, the Western Area Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (commonly known as WACYPAA) was set to take place in Missoula at the end of 2020. This conference was also delayed; the WACYPAA host committee hopes to have an in-person event in the future, but there are no specific dates or venues for this conference at this time. Our district just began planning our Founder's Day event, and we really hope to hear Connie's delegate report sometime in June.

Despite the pandemic, our district earnestly seeks to carry the message of recovery to those suffering of alcoholism. Many of the treatment facilities that are not attached to hospitals have begun to allow visitors and AA meetings to return, but our jails remain closed at this time. We have spread the word and sent letters to our fellowship within Montana State Prison. In lieu of our typical expenditures, our district is dedicated to donating a major percentage of our income to the General Service Office (and a little to Area). As I said, it is an honor and a privilege to represent this district.

I'm sure that I'm missing many important things, so I encourage members of my district and our area to help me reach that unattainable goal of patient improvement.

Yours in service, Trevor

District 91 DCM Report

District 91 DCM Spring Assembly Report

In 1901, George Bird Grinnell, writer, hunter, explorer, and mapmaker, coined the phrase "Crown of the Continent" in an article extolling the Rocky Mountain Area in Northwest Montana and Canada. He described pristine lakes, bold mountain peaks, sources of streams flowing into three different seas. Those of us blessed enough to live in District 91 also know that we are fortunate to have many members dedicated to pristinely carrying the message in all directions, boldly embracing change and adaptations, and engaging all our sources of Higher Power to stream the consciousness of AA to those still suffering, always trying to remember our primary purpose.

Welcome to District 91, the "Crown" of Northwest Montana. Our District shares a border with Canada to the North, Idaho to the West, Glacier Park to the East and Flathead Lake to the South. Kalispell, Whitefish, Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Lakeside, Elmo and Coram/West Glacier welcome residents and many seasonal visitors to the rooms of AA. With approximately 111 weekly live meetings and 24 weekly virtual meetings, finding a meeting in District 91 is never a challenge. Some of our regular meetings have been temporarily closed, some replaced with virtual, or hybrid meetings, but most are back to our regular meeting schedule. So, even in this difficult time, the message is still available, in one form or another, to all that need, and want it.

District 91 also is home to the Flathead Intergroup. Flathead Intergroup is a great asset, providing an area Hot-Line Service, printed meeting schedules, monthly Birthday meetings and many opportunities for fellowship at Holiday and social events, including the Emery Bay Campout, August 12-15, a great summer event that is well attended by many District 91 members, friends, and guests.

District 91 is proud to host one of Area 40's biannual Roundup's. Our next rotation will be Fall of 2022. We have an enthusiastic Chair and look forward to an inspirational event with motivational speakers, enlightening workshops, fun and fellowship.

We have a highly active District, our monthly meetings are well attended, meeting the last Sunday of each month. GSR's well represent most of our groups and though we still have a few chair positions open, we are sure they will fill soon, as life slowly gets more like normal. Many of our groups are planning summer events, campouts, and picnics, "we absolutely insist on enjoying life"! Check out Flathead Intergroup or Area 40 website calendars for event flyers and information.

The next time you plan a visit to the "Crown of the Continent", please join us at a meeting, event, or social function, we look forward to seeing you!

In Service, Sheila J., District 91 DCM

District 93 DCM Report

Hello, my name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic. I am the dcm for district 93.

District 93 is located in the southwest corner of Mt. in the bitterroot valley. It runs from the Idaho border at lost trail pass to Missoula.

Besides zoom, online, or backyard meetings we have 13 listed groups. Everyday there is at least 2 face to face meetings happening, with a variety of formats to choose from. Hopefully more will start up again as we figure our "new" normal. We are still waiting to get back into the local jail, hopefully soon.

Since our last assembly we had our district elections. Dist. 93 had an amazing group of people step up to take on the responsibility of helping to carry the message. I cannot explain the overwhelming emotions I feel when I think of the privilege I have to serve with these people, and the members of our districts fellowship.

As last year ended the district showed its ability to be resilient and to handle the changes these odd times threw at us. We were able to have gatherings for the holidays. Thanks to all who helped, supported, and attended these events.

By the time winter arrived our groups were able to find places to hold meetings. A kind of bitter-sweet. Some very magical meetings happened sitting around a fire or in a park or on the banks of a river. Often watching the sun as it was setting. Sometimes it snowed. Sometimes it rained. Sometimes it was even sunny. Occasionally it was all three. What an awesome example

of "any 2 or more alcoholics who gather together". Thank you to all the people who set up online and zoom meetings to help carry the message. How cool is it to attend meetings all over the U.S. and even other countries. So as a new year begins I'm excited to see what develops.

Our district is looking to host our annual campout at lake Como. Also Norms picnic which is also a campout will be happening. We'll be posting these events as more information comes up.

In closing I just want to thank who's involved in this rotation. I look forward to serving with you all. If there is anything I can do to help please get in touch with me. Love you all.

Yours in service, Mark H.

Districts 21, 23, 41, and 42 - No DCM report given.

Workshop: Challenging Old Ideas in a Changing World

Presentation attached as Appendix A.

Delegate's Report with Q&A

Hello everyone, I'm Connie R. and I am an alcoholic. I am honored and feel very privileged to be serving as your Panel 71 Delegate this rotation. The panel number 71 indicates that the General Service Conference for 2021 is the 71st. The first Conference was held in 1950. That means there has been many delegates that have gone before me.

25 years ago, when I was participating in the demonstration of the committee system with Past Delegates, Robbie S and Bob H, which I mentioned in the orientation, I never dreamed that I would someday serve as the Area 40 Delegate. While serving in my first Area position in 2005, my sponsor helped me learn about the Concepts. That was the beginning of my journey in understanding the Traditions and Concepts. The principles found in the Steps, Traditions and Concepts aid my spiritual growth, and service work takes on new meaning for me. I anticipate that this journey will afford me an even greater understanding of those principles. I have had the privilege to become acquainted with so many outstanding examples of service in Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 40 and beyond. Trusted servants who have demonstrated those principals by leading and serving with tolerance, love and kindness. Some are no longer with us but their example continues on in how we follow their examples and conduct ourselves in and outside of the rooms of AA.

After the election last fall, I would have periods when all I could think was "Oh My God, what am I doing." After hearing some of that same anxiety from past Area Committee chairs, we set up a workshop to allow the outgoing to share their experience, strength and hope with the incoming Area committee. While the New Committee Chairs met with the outgoing Committee Chair, new DCMs were able to attend a workshop that Paul L and Gerry R conducted. This workshop helped to prepare the incoming Standing Committee for what lies ahead and it helped me to remember that I'm not the only person who is in a new position.

I received my welcome letter from the General Service Office in the middle of December. The emails slowly trickled in and then on January 1, my email exploded. Paul L had shared with me to expect this but I was not prepared for the amount. I was assigned to the GSC Finance Committee and have a secondary assignment to the GSC Archives Committee. In January, I had the privilege to meet with both

committees through virtual meetings. Part of the email explosion involved Doodle Polls. I had to learn new time management skills with all the requests for virtual meetings. I meet with the West Central Region Trustee and Delegates January 16th. I meet with the Archives Committee on January 19th and then the Finance Committee January 20th. In February, I was invited to a Delegates only meeting, which gave all the delegates the opportunity to get to know each other. Nothing compares to a face to face meeting, but with the virtual meeting the delegates were able to meet moderm to moderm sooner than if we waited to meet in New York.

In January, Paul L, Julie R, Kacie N, Jeremiah S and I meet by Zoom to do the audit on the Area's finances. This year, Julie sent each of us 3 months of statements and we did the audit virtually. I passed on the torch of Area Chair/Alt Delegate thru a flash drive and USPS. After all the changes I am looking forward to getting back to normal and being able to meet face to face with Kacie and each of you next fall.

On March 6th I attended the WCRAASC. This was the first time I presented the agenda items from each of the Conference Committee's I was assigned too. What a daunting task not only for me but for each delegate. As I mentioned in the orientation, the background information was record breaking with over 1500 pages of material. The 8 delegates did their best to present the items in a breakout room in 45 minutes and then did their best to summarize all the breakouts in an hour and 45 minutes.

Area 40 is fortunate to have the access to the background material so everyone can review the information. The West Central Region GSO liaison, James H, reminded me my focus needs to be on the committees that were assigned to me. I have to trust God and others around me to help disseminate and understand the rest of the information.

Kacie scheduled a pre-Assembly for the afternoon of March 13th. Each Area Committee Chair stepped up and did their job of presenting their committee's agendas as best they could. All of us working together and sharing our understanding of the items will help us to find a group conscience.

I have received one invitation to District 81 for this summer, no date set as yet. I look forward to the opportunity to come to your district to share the Delegates report on what happened at the General Service Conference. The West Central Regional Forum that was scheduled for September 10 thru 12 in Missoula is still being planned for a virtual format Forum. Andrew will give us more information in his report tomorrow. Please let me know how I can be of service you, your group or district.

I won't be traveling to New York this year but have set up a fine office space in my back room. The Conference begins April 17th and ends April 24th. When speaking with some of the delegates from Panel 70, I was reminded that the experience is what we each make of it. I recently heard in a meeting that I can choose to see the problem or look for the opportunity. I'm so very grateful to the God of my understanding, sponsorship and all of you in Area 40 who support me while I serve Area 40. This truly is an opportunity.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Yours in Service, Connie R, Delegate, Panel 71

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

Archives Chair Report

Hello All,

I am grateful to be here and of service. Since I was elected I have been balancing a whole lot of life amidst a global pandemic and have done my best to practice self care while transitioning into this position. Many thanks to Paul, Kacie, Earl, and Mike for all of the emails you answered clarifying things that I'm uncertain about.

Due to scheduling conflicts I was unable to attend a couple of virtual meetings this spring, however, I look forward to future sessions and attending the archives in Ennis in person this summer, as I drop off the car full of secretary bins to Lisa. Two weeks ago I attended the pre assembly to preview our agenda item and get excited for this weekend. I look forward to the business of this weekend and the future and brainstorming a relevant archives project that I can implement throughout my rotation that will best reflect the circumstances of our fellowship during this unprecedented time.

Thanks to my committee members Trevor from District 81 and Laura from District 71 and those who were grandfathered in today, the dedicated Carrie from District 91 and Nels from District 61 and visitors Bryan F and Karin S. I would also like to heartily thank archivist Earl F., BTG chair Jessica E and Tech guru Mike D for much needed background information that helped us to make the most informed decisions we could with respect to our agenda item.

Grateful to be of service.

Sincerely, Brynn

Archives Committee Minutes

Archives – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair.
- B. Review Archivist Report.
- C. Review activity of Archives Committees throughout Area 40.

Despite the pandemic many of our Area's archives committees have been active throughout, especially in Districts 11 and 61 where teams are working on conducting oral interviews and digitizing decades of materials. Important items of discussion included appropriately storing archival materials and maintaining anonymity while using technology to transcribe interviews. Earl reminded us of a motion from a couple of years back, when he made, with a few caveats for safety, etc space in the Area Archives available for districts who may not have a permanent, or secure location to store some of their materials. We also discussed some potential projects that we as a committee could tackle during this rotation, these included helping to accurately maintain records, conducting archival interviews, and working with new technologies to transcribe these interviews.

Structure & Policy — Area 40

- A. Area Assembly Evaluation Report.

Were you able to hear? 83% yes, 17% no

Were you able to follow along with the process? 7% no, 93% yes

If you had technical issues do you feel they were able to be resolved? 23% no, 77% yes

Do you feel that the Zoom platform met the assembly needs? 21% no 79% yes

The summary of highlights of the comments were a balance between those who were eager to get back to in person assemblies, while others appreciated being able to attend to their lives at home. Of course, many wished that the virtual assembly weren't as long and had more breaks. Several thought that there were many technical issues and that the voting was problematic, however, most were grateful for the work of the tech crew and knew that the bugs would get worked out in time. Overall, given the circumstances the comments were lighthearted and supportive for this new frontier of conducting Area 40 business.

2020 Fall Assembly Survey Responses

[Go to this link here](#)

B. Consider providing guidance or rewriting certain Area 40 Past Actions.

After careful consideration, and with the intention of clearly and accurately reporting the past and present actions of Area 40, the Archives Committee recommends the following changes be made to the Past Actions document:

- a. Move page 4, Fall 2005: Item B *“the Archives Committee conduct, with the Area Archivist and the Area Advisor, an update of the Past Actions Document—to insure the applicability of any Past Actions, and to insure the historical position of certain Past Actions. This review will be conducted during the second year of each rotation.”* to “historical.”
 - b. Page 5, Fall 2017: *“Voting membership of each committee to include the Area Service Chair, who will serve as chair of the committee”* replace “Area Service Chair” with “Standing Committee Chair”
 - c. Page 5, Fall 2017: *“it was agreed that the dashboard be accessible to standing committee chairs, DCMs, GSRs, Area officers and DRs”* replace “DRs” with “District Representatives”
 - d. Add an “Area Advisor” section to page 7
 - e. Page 21 Fall 2004: Change “Area” to “Area 40”
 - f. Change Page 26, Fall 2012: from *“make available via the website BTG mini sites with first name, last name or initial, hometown, sobriety date, contact telephone # 1, contact telephone # 2 and email address”* to “make available via a password protected landing page.....”
 - g. Move Spring 2014 Special Needs/Accessibilities survey to historical
- After discussion and a friendly amendment the motion passed with 70 votes and 3 abstaining

Archives — GSC

A. Review report on “Proposed Book on A.A. History.” The committee did not have time to review the materials today. During the floor assembly the delegate requested a sense of the area. Discussion around this motion revolved around whose version of “AA History” would be told and the fact that attempts to create an archives book “died on the vine.” Overall though, the sense of the area was that the report and findings of the committee should be reviewed.

B. Review Archives Workbook. The committee did not have time to review and/or discuss this item.

Archivist Report

Good afternoon Area 40, my name is Earl and I am an alcoholic. I am also serving as the Area 40 Archivist.

I am happy to report that your archival collection is secure, dry and in good condition. The repository is

serving us quite well and we have room for new acquisitions and additional storage. As to an item passed a few years back, the offer to store District archives collections has not been acted on by any district in the Area. I received a call from our landlord around mid-February with an inquiry of if we still needed the facility as he had a waiting list of people wanting to rent. I thought God was trying to hint something to me, but it is not time for me to rotate quite yet.

The pandemic has obviously put a damper on the live activities that we had always been used to participating in and I for one am ready to have a real close to each other pot-luck meal and have some good fellowship at live activities this upcoming summer and fall. My schedule at the present is open. As anyone involved is General Service, I have gotten accustomed to joining in virtual activities on my computer and keeping abreast of current items of interest to the AA community. Last October I was able to join a zoom meeting of General Service and Archives. I Attended an afternoon Archives workshop put on by the National AA Archives Workshop and was able to hear reports and shared experiences from the presenters. In December I was able to attend the Western US and Canada Regional Forum conducted on Zoom by the General Service Board. I attended workshops on Archives and was able to hear from a new Class A trustee on the Board, Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA , who served in the convent under Sister Ignatia, one of our early benefactors. What a treat. I went to a different workshop on the Grapevine afterward, and I received a text from Gerry R. with the information from a man who was sharing his experience and mentioned that he had sobered up in Whitefish and that his father was a close friend of Sam Shoemaker in the early days of AA. He is currently living in Hawaii and I have made contact, spoke a couple of times and are trying to work out a time to have a virtual visit and interview. One conversation was at around 80 mph heading East on Interstate 80 in western Nebraska. As there is a five-hour time difference, connections can sometimes be difficult, but we will get it done sometime soon. This made me realize I can be utilizing virtual technology to continue working on the list of interviews that I would like to get done.

The result of a rotation long audit of the Past Actions Document last rotation worked on by Grant O., Kacie, Gerry and myself and join in on by Brynn and Paul late in the year last year resulted in an agenda item for the Archives Committee to review particular items and provide guidance as to how to reword, rewrite or just do away with certain actions that the audit committee wanted further instruction on. We did exercise the Third Concept, "The Right of Decision" and made certain changes regarding pronoun usage and changes to reflect gender neutrality in the applicable motions. We made no changes in motions that were deemed outdated or historical, and moved to the historical sections of the Past Actions Document. During this process, I realized that once an Ad Hoc committee has completed its task, the only record of those results is their report in our minutes. Mind you there is nothing wrong with this, it is just difficult to access. I believe that there is need for a separate listing of these committees, especially since there is always an ad hoc committee appointed to plan, conduct and report our Area inventories. I am in the process of remedying that as I have collected the data from our past inventories and am going to compile it into a single report of the processes used, items or questions addressed and a report of the findings, easily accessible to all. I have plans for a similar document regarding the other ad hoc committees, but this will take considerably longer to compile. Please be patient.

In this new age of communication and the way we conduct our business, please include me on your mailing lists for district minutes, activity flyers and general correspondence regarding your work in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have activities I like a final report with dates, names and locations. If there is a recording of service-related sharing and experience, all the better. With restricted events and travel, I have failed to keep up with the happenings across the state. If you have had members who have been instrumental in establishing groups, active at the District and Area levels of service, who have passed in this last year, please contact me so that I can get a copy of their obit and perhaps gather information for a file on them. My email is archivist@aamontana.org

I look forward to seeing you as we trudge the road...
Earl [REDACTED], Area 40 Archivist

CPC/Trustees

CPC Chair Report

Greetings Area 40! I'm humbled to be serving as your CPC Chair. Since elections I have received my Workbook from AAWS and have attended a few CPC events via zoom nationally. I'm looking forward to being of service to our area. If there is anything we can do to assist districts or CPC committees please do not hesitate to contact me for anything. Yours in service!
Don [REDACTED]

CPC Committee Minutes

CPC Committee Meeting Minutes 3/27/21

The meeting opened at 9:55am with Don M. using the serenity prayer. There were 2 voting members present; Don M. and Rick H. There were two other members present; Robyn H. and Paul L. After discussion it was agreed to let Robyn H. have a vote on the committee. Don M. Reviewed his report as CPC chair and it was accepted by the members present. We then had a discussion about CPC activity in Area 40; not much is going on as COVID restrictions and participation are impacting this. We agreed that the primary thing is to keep the lines of communication open and grow member participation in preparation for when things loosen up.

We then moved to the review and discussion of the CPC GSC agenda; All items were reviewed and discussed. Those present agreed that the work in these items continue and supported the idea of creating a pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals (Item B) unanimously.

We then moved to discuss the Trustees GSC Agenda; All items were reviewed and discussed. Item A "Consider the revised "Procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board" was thoroughly discussed with Paul L being valuable in his insight to the proposed process. It was agreed after much discussion that the process was thorough and complete to the best of our understanding. We also discussed item B of the agenda about alternate Trustee's and after much discussion we felt, as a committee, that this was not necessary or even practical. We continued our review and during the discussion of item F "Review the statement of concern and motion to censure for submission to the 71st General Service Conference". We had a long discussion. Again Paul L. was invaluable as he had attended the 70th GSC and the 69th GSC. After much discussion and questions we as a committee did not feel censure was necessary or warranted.

In the few minutes that were left Don M. asked he committee to consider the 2-3 items of focus the committee wanted to have going forward. He also asked for contact information for voting members. No clear focus items were selected but all agreed that we need to stand ready to get in contact with professionals whenever the opportunity allowed. We closed the meeting with the Responsibility statement at Noon.

Corrections/International Conventions

Corrections Chair Report

Bonjourno Area 40!

It has been an honor being elected to serve as your corrections chair for this rotation. Corrections work came to a halt last year at the beginning of the pandemic. A year later we are still limited as to what we can do as far as taking meetings into correctional facilities. This forces us to innovate and get creative in new ways of reaching the still suffering alcoholic in need. In district 72 we have call in meetings and one on one meetings behind the glass. Montana State Prison has requested AA's write anonymous letters of encouragement to let them know we have

not forgotten about them and we all look forward to getting back in as soon as possible. Looking at the positive side, the pandemic has encouraged us to advance and use technology to reach out to people on the inside but most of us are anxiously looking forward to the day we can get back inside these facilities doing 12 step work.

So far in my rotation I have attended the West Central Regional Service Conference and the Area 40 Pre assembly. We very recently completed the transfer of the bank account for the pink can fund. The pink can balance is \$5602.66. The new address to send pink can contributions is: Area 40 Inc. PO Box 3464 Bozeman, MT 59772. This info can also be found on the Area 40 website.

I am looking forward to suggestions of places to send literature as well as other ways of using pink can money for things like making digital copies of AA and Grapevine literature available at no cost to inmates in facilities in our area.

I would like to thank all of the corrections chairs and volunteers who have not given up on reaching out to facilities to find ways we can still be of service. I also would like to thank Gary E our Montana State Prison liaison for staying in contact with the prison and keeping us updated on our status in the prison. Gary asked if you are currently approved or interested in taking meetings into Montana State Prison to reach out to him so he can update his volunteer contact list and schedule. Gary's email is retired.10@live.com. I personally am looking forward to the day when we can start taking meetings back into these facilities and get back into some good old fashioned one on one work with other alcoholics. Until then we will keep reaching out by mail, virtually and through our literature and keep finding innovative ways of carrying the message. I cannot wait to see all of you in person hopefully in the fall and until then we will keep trudging the road to happy destiny. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

In Service,
Ty K Area 40 Corrections Chair (2021-22 Rotation)
corrections@aa-montana.org

Corrections Committee Minutes

Corrections/International Conventions and Regional Forums –
Ty K. Corrections –

Area 40

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

-see report

B. Review report on Pink Can income and disbursements.

-Pink can account has \$5602.66 and we have several boxes of big books and other aa literature

-no income or expenses have occurred since the beginning of my rotation.

-we discussed ways of contributing to the pink can through paypal or venmo

C. Review activity of Corrections Committees throughout Area 40. Corrections

-Most facilities across the state are closed to volunteers

-D72 call in meetings, one on one in person meetings through visitation window

-Anonymous letters of encouragement to the prison

GSC

A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as “inmate” and “offender” with less stigmatizing language.

-The committee was divided on this topic. At WCRAASC and in the committee various people asked people previously and currently locked up and could not find anyone offended by this language. Some thought considering changing the language to make it more inclusive would be a good idea.

B. Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.

-Virtual meetings

-Making literature available digitally

C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

-We reviewed the contents and had no concerns

International Conventions/Regional Forums - GSC

A. Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.

-We agreed it makes sense to find alternatives to the Lords Prayer like 3rd step, 7th step and the serenity prayer

B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Finance

Finance Chair Report

The Finance Chair delivered a report on the floor at the Assembly. When these minutes were published, a written version of the report was not available. If a written report becomes available at a later date, amended minutes will be published.

Finance Committee Minutes

Meeting opened at 9:51 by Committee Chair, Jeremiah S., with the Serenity Prayer.

Voting members present: Jeremiah - Finance Committee Chair, Connie - Area Delegate, Kacie - Area Chair, Dave R standing in for Jackson from District 12.

Jeremiah gave chair report and Connie shared financial information and slides from the WCRAASC.

- A. The pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."
 - i. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
Comment - Statement of concern that pie charts are taken to literally and members may not realize it is their decision how to allocate contributions.
 - ii. Discuss mechanization of group contributions.

- B. Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating "G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group."
Comment - It is against our traditions to accept funds from outside entities. It will set a precedent that could open us up to receiving contributions from other 12-step groups that are not AA.
Comment - Groups should contribute directly, contributions should not be made from a club.

- C. Discuss Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less."
Connie clarified this item by reading the comment, "up to now we AAs have strongly believed that money charities should not be a function of the AA group or AA as a whole." This item is meant to create conversation about the processes that are taking place now and whether what we say and what we do are in sync. Who is being responsible for the Pink Can monies and how they are used? Discussion ensued.
Comment - This item is so vague it is hard to know exactly what it is about. GSO does not endorse or oppose the Pink Can and does not weigh in on such matters. A more specific Area 40 agenda item may be appropriate. Hopefully, it will engender some good discussion.

- D. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
Contribution increased in 2017 to \$1800. No other background info really. Discussion ensued.

- E. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
This is a one time donation amount. In 2019 it increased from \$5000 to \$10000

- F. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.
In 2018 it increased from \$3000 to \$5000.

- G. Review the "Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report."
Connie just received additional information on this. We reviewed the discussions that have taken place in previous years. Caution must be exercised in transactions that will be considered income.
Clarification - Google Ads is giving us money. We would be taking an outside contribution from an outside entity.
Discussion ensued. We're not in favor of breaking traditions if that should be the case.

H. Review Self-Support Packet.

We reviewed and think it's super duper!

Closed at 10:52 with the Responsibility Statement

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions

Grapevine Chair Report

I'm not really sure if I knew what I was getting into, but one thing I do know that has helped me continuously in my sobriety is service work. So, I thank you for allowing me to continue to be of service.

In mid-January, I was able to get to Helena and meet with Shawn to get all of the Grapevine material. And at that time, Shawn was willing to give me pointers and keep communication open when I need to reach out.

As of yet, I haven't put together the Grapevine display. I have spent many days and nights reading up on the 69 pages of Grapevine and 191 pages of Policy & Admissions, repeatedly. At this point I still have more questions than answers, but I am willing to continue to learn.

I pray that we will soon have some sense of normalcy, where we can have our round ups, conferences and assemblies. I look forward to setting up the Grapevine display, and to attending more functions. Meeting up with old friends and meeting many new friends.

I am grateful that we have our meeting in print (Grapevine), especially during this past year. Also, for the ability to have our zoom meetings and assemblies. We may not be face to face, but we have been able to stay connected. What I have found is that Covid-19 doesn't have the strength to take AA down.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Jody [REDACTED] Area 40 Grapevine/Policy & Admissions

Grapevine Committee Minutes

Area 40 Grapevine Committee Meeting
March 26, 27 & 28, 2021

Chairperson

Jody T.

Voting Members

Jessica K D61 DCM

Kathie T D81 GSR

Visitors

Susan H D91

Candy D93

Dan F D51

Tereece P D81

Grapevine and La Vina—Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine and La Vina Chair. Read my report.
- B. Review activity of Grapevine and La Vina Committees throughout Area 40 .Kathy T. would like to do a writing workshop. Most districts are just getting going.

Grapevine and La Vina—GSC

- A. Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions. I haven't received anything on this.
- B. Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey. Not much was discussed with this.
- C. Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the AA message. This was split, some want more pamphlets while others said that the Grapevine speaks for itself.

- D. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account. Again, there was discussion for and against. Security and anonymity were a couple of the concerns, but could be valuable for the Millennials.
- E. Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the AA Preamble. Quite a bit of discussion, was able to get points of view from all sides. The majority was in favor of seeing a change.
- F. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2022 or later. There were so many good topics and Susan came up with one...ZOBRIETY, the name for those who are staying sober with Zoom and who have never been to a live meeting.

Policy & Admissions—GSC

- A. Review G.S.O. general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection. Brought up that considering more details to the sited would be helpful.
- B. Review the floor action process. The wording now says it requires a simple majority, the other would be 2/3 majority. Floor action is for the purpose of other areas to have a voice. Decided that it is best left up to the trusted servant.
- C. Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee. It’s hard to make sense of some of this when you aren’t actually there at the GSO conference, we were in agreement to leave this up to the trusted servant.
- D. Review dates for the 2025 General Service Conference. No comments on when they have it.
- E. Review the “Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material.” GSO strives to provide background material in English by February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March. The actual cost was 44.8% less than what was budgeted. We discussed this and agree that we need to make sure everyone who needs the information, gets it.
- F. Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings to make use of virtual meeting technologies. As we have found this past year, having online meetings we have gotten more participation from the groups, expense and travel time adds to a deterrent for people to be there. Also, would give groups time to think over what is being said and do some of their own research.
- G. Consider a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair. A reminder that we are organized from the bottom up and not the top down, which means we should trust our trusted servant.
- H. Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload. We all agree that distributing the work more is a really good idea. We do service for free and for fun, but it shouldn’t be so strenuous that other areas of the service person’s life is not neglected.
- I. Review the report on the Conference Committee Assignment Application implemented for the 2020 Committee selection process. No comment.
- J. Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure. We agreed that these groups should be official and be done just like an in-person group.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. This was an amazing experience and I am so grateful to those who attended and helped me. A big thank you to Terece for taking notes for me.

Jody ██████

GSR Breakout

**Groups feeling separated – part of group online, part online

Pat P: Split in group- in person/online

Joe: His group figured out a way to do live and virtual meetings simultaneously

Aaron: Fear that in person will not be able to hear members on zoom if they were to go hybrid

Nels: Group purchased a laptop + is renting a projector + camera + microphone
Trouble with zoom members not hearing live members due to masks

Brian: Split in group as well

**Positions are unfilled at group level; PI, archives, etc

Daniel – Feels that as long as the meeting can be open + run, other service positions will fill with time

Gail M- Thinks it is a common problem for meetings to not have all positions filled

Ian- Feels it is better to have an empty position rather than someone who won't be active. His group is too small to have all the positions.

Steve- Has an email list to update people on happenings in his district

*** What is the area prudent reserve?

A: (about) \$13, xxx – will be able to be found on the aa-montana.org website

*** How can GSR's know which breakout room they will be put in + thus which background information they need to know?

A: It is by "a hat" / random. It happens right after area election. DCM should have info

*** Local priest called + asked if he could sit in on an AA meeting to give his thoughts on spirituality?

Judy- People come to meetings from colleges to observe meetings, sometimes they share.

Daniel- His meeting is open but only alcoholics are allowed to share

Ian- Has had negative experiences with non-aa's sharing

Brian- Has experience having alanon speakers at his meeting

Jessica- In her home group, anyone is welcome to come to the meeting and listen, but only alcoholics can share. In her town events that include alanon are called 'special events', so that it is very clear to the newcomer.

Tara- Her meeting has it stated that 'only people with a problem with alcohol can share'. When treatment centers come to her home group, they have everyone go around the room + introduce

themselves, to get a feel for the chair person to know how to manage the meeting.

Lisa D - Had an alanon woman come to her meeting + asked a lot of questions, it seemed to take over the meeting.

The open meeting statement was put in the chat.

***Can an out of state zoom person become a member of their homegroup?

Bubba- Has a consistent out of state visitor, they call him an 'honorary member'

Aaron- Also has a regular out of state participant. He does not see how it would be a problem to have this person be a home group member.

Jake- Lives in a tourist town + has lots of visitors to meetings. He feels it is positive.

Karon- Feels the diversity of alcoholic voices is important.

Jim- Loves that he can go anywhere and go to a meeting + welcomes all to his meeting.

DCM Breakout

Past Delegate Libbie L. led a DCM Breakout session with ask-it basket and sharing.

#1

DCM question: As a DCM beginning a rotation, how do I approach groups that do not currently participate at the district level? Much like other districts in Montana, our district meetings are held in the largest town in the district, but there are many communities and meetings that I do not have any form of communication with. What can I do to make contact with these groups and develop a relationship with them? Also, do you think that offering a hybrid format (an in-person district meeting with a zoom option) for district meetings is a responsible option for our remote communities when it comes to accessibility to the general service structure? Thank you!

- If you can get to know somebody from the area who attends some of the rural meetings and begin to build a rapport it is a good place to start.
- Hopefully using virtual meeting formats going forward in the future it will help reduce the burden of traveling long distance to make some of those meetings
- If I go to a rural meeting as a DCM how could I make that approach best?
 - Announcements, show up early, talk to the chair, attend a group business meeting, in person if possible, make a phone call
 - Many small groups that meet far from the home of the District mtg are happy when you take the time to reach out and will accommodate announcements etc
 - I am here tonight as an alt dcm as the result of a past dcm showing up to my rural home group and doing all of the above

#2

I would like for the DCM's to discuss the issue of fallout or lack of participation on Area committees. We seem to have an ongoing problem of poor attendance in our committees. I am hoping we could do some brainstorming to address this.

- Do more workshops especially geared towards those who are not experienced in AA service

#3

How has your District embraced technology in the past year, and what will carry forward?

- One of the problems with our hybrid meetings are being able to hear the speaker. A good microphone makes a huge difference.
- Hybrids seem to pose a challenge especially because it is a lot harder for the groups meeting to all get on the same page at the same time. Maybe it would be better to use virtual meetings to get the most benefit where they work best and in person for the most benefit where they work best as well

#4

Discuss the terms - and practices of a - leader, trusted servant, and governor.

- The people who do their best to follow the Group Conscience and the guiding principles in our Traditions for the best possible outcome of our collective Fellowship is a Trusted Servant who is fit for leadership vs somebody who tries to tell others what they must and must not do
- One on one conversations with clear communication and listening has been very effective way to teach other members why our Traditions are so important and exactly what the concerns are and how we can protect our Unity and the integrity of our message
- A leader will first go to others who they serve for direction rather than making the decisions and trying to force an outcome

#5

How can we keep our A.A. and committee meetings inclusive with respect to politics, religions, gender, and sexual preference... We had some touting of politics in an area meeting and would be a great way to trickle down how we can be inclusive.

- Talk about singleness of purpose at our meetings and get to the basics because when we try to relate to each other as alcoholics first it just seems to work and everything else starts to make sense
- We are the guardians of our Traditions and we have an obligation to defend and follow those guidelines in a way that also promotes tolerance kindness and love
- There is a difference between weaponizing the Traditions to tear others down and trying to apply those principles in all areas of our lives and in our relationships so we have to challenge ourselves to take an objective look at our own behavior rather than focusing on the behavior of others

#6

How do you best approach direct conflicts in AA service?

- It helps to understand that everybody has the right to their opinions and beliefs as well as having the safety of voicing their position because we need to hear those positions from the far left and right and everywhere in between to find a common ground and come to an informed Group Conscience decision.
- Sometimes these situations seem to get more heated than they should, or maybe sometimes we imagine that there is more going on than in reality.
- In the end it is important that we realize we all stand together and if we take the initiative to reach out and talk about it with all concerned just like we have been taught in our amends step

work.

- Maybe we need to look at our behavior and try to examine how we come across because we could be causing resentments and producing chaos instead of harmony so continuing to do our personal 12 step work will help improve our effectiveness

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Roundup Reports

Spring 2021 Roundup

The Spring 2021 Roundup is cancelled.

Fall 2021 Roundup

Good morning. Diane alcoholic.

I am your newly elected 2021 Fall Roundup Chair. I would at this time like to extend a hearty welcome from Great Falls to Area 40 to save the date for this year's roundup. We are currently planning on having the Fall Roundup on November 5-7, 2021; God willing and no further COVID outbreaks! This will be a Friday evening through Sunday at noon event held at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Unfortunately due to previous spring events being rescheduled and reserved prior due to COVID, this date is a few weeks later but does not coincide with any other event posted at this time. We are excited to begin planning this event, as we have not been able to gather as a large group in person since 2019 before the dreaded COVID. Please keep your eyes posted on the web site for updates as new information will be forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you all in November. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Respectfully submitted, Diane S. District 41

Fall Roundup Chair

Spring 2022 Roundup

The Spring 2022 Roundup will be in Helena. District 61 is seeking a volunteer to chair this Roundup.

Fall 2022 Roundup

The Fall 2022 Roundup will be chaired by Sonya, District 91.

Intergroup Reports

Grant O delivered a report for the Flathead Valley Intergroup. A Founder's Day campout is planned for the weekend of June 11-13, 2021. For more information, visit

<https://www.aanwmt.org/calendar>.

WACYPAA Report

WACYPAA XXIV Report at Area 40 Spring Assembly

The conference is on hold as we wait for more developments with the vaccine and lifting of gathering restrictions. We are planning to have it early summer 2022. We still currently have zoom meeting and events. Our next business meeting is April 4th at 5:30 pm. We do have open service positions and with many being able to be held by people outside of Missoula.

My contact info is: Ian D. 601-639-0867

Business meeting Info: Meeting ID 842 5299 6848, Password: 364477

WC Regional Forum Report

Andrew W, Past Delegate & Chair of the Local Host Committee for the 2021 WCRAA Forum

The GSB made the decision to have only virtual forums this year and to hold the 2023 forums at the sites planned for 2021. So that means the WCRAA Forum will be virtual this year on September 11, 2021. There will be more information coming soon. There will be a WCRAA Forum in Missoula in 2023! The exact dates are still to be determined. The District 81 DCM and Area 40 Delegate can choose a new chair of a new Local Host Committee for the 2023 WCRAA Forum. I'm looking forward to both the virtual forum this year and the in-person one in 2023! Hope to see all of you there.

Finally, I want to thank all of my committee for their time and commitment over the last year and a half as we struggled to figure out the role of a local host committee for a forum that would likely be virtual.

WCRAASC Report

Jessica S-K District 61

To begin I would like to thank District 61 of allowing me to serve and attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference. And thank you to our Area 40 Chair for asking me to give this report.

Okay, let's get down to business. What an incredible thing we get to be part of. This was my first WCRAASC and I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of AA service. I can't help but reflect on the last sentence in the Twelfth Concept "To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live – the freedom in which we have our being."

The West Central Regional AA Service Conference was held via zoom. It was great to see so many committee chairs and DCMs from Area 40. The West Central Regional Conference is made up of 7 states: North Dakota: Area 52, South Dakota: Area 63, Wyoming: Area 76, Nebraska: Area 41, Minnesota: Area 35, Iowa: Area 24, and Montana Area 40 (Hey!!!!) WCRAASC took place on Friday and all-day Saturday. Friday's meetings were for Delegates and Past Delegates. On Saturday, we began the day with the Trustee's Report and Delegate reports. We then had the opportunity to move into breakout rooms. I attended the Grapevine and La Vina/ Internationals and Regionals committee where we discussed several important items. After lunch we had the opportunity to attend another breakout. I was able to attend the Finance/Archives committee with our very own Connie. After the sessions were complete, we gathered back together to hear the summary of the committees and then finalize the agenda items. I love Alcoholics Anonymous and the service structure we get to be a part of. Participating in WCRAASC was an incredible opportunity to see the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts alive and active. If you were not able to attend, I encourage you to not miss out next time. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Past Delegate Sharing

Good Morning, Libbie L. Panel 65 Past Delegate

Thanks for being here today. It's been a great weekend. I have been honored to participate as

past delegate. The workshop yesterday was well attended and we had a great discussion about challenging old ideas and living in our changing world.

March is always a busy time for me, I have my own sobriety birthday, two birthdays and my wedding anniversary. And then there is always the time spent preparing for assembly.

My focus this morning is about being willing to do things we don't really want to do. I'd rather be riding my new bike today, but this is important. The WCRAASC always happens on my wedding anniversary. I spent my 25th anniversary in Bismarck, ND with 200 alcoholics. That was almost as much fun as being with my husband.

I encourage GSR's to honor the top of the triangle. Go back with enthusiasm, and don't dwell on the negative things you're feeling. Share something cool with them. We always struggle with participation, so try to attract rather than deter.

I am very thrilled to be candidate for Trustee at Large. I leave it all in God's hands and will be ready to do whatever happens next.

Ended with a quote from Bill W in the book Our Great Responsibility page 104.

“We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won't change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service— let us hope that this goes on changing for the better.”

Thanks for letting me share.

Standing Committee Reports (cont'd)

Literature

Literature Chair Report

Hello friends of Area 40,

My name is Dan H. and I serve as your Literature chair for Area 40. Since I took on my position in this current rotation, I was able to get ahold of our outgoing chairperson and travel to Helena to pick up the literature from Grant. As Grant and I were loading it into my car I was beginning to wonder if it would all fit. With some rearranging and maneuvering I was able to squeeze it all in. I then put it into its new home in my office, and have been looking through it. I have noticed that we do have a lot of new updated pamphlets, and literature to make a very nice display. I look forward to displaying it at our next assembly for all of us to see. I also plan to order new service manuals that will be able for purchase at our next assembly. I have also been asked to attend the upcoming fall roundup and bringing it to provide them with a display. I was able to travel to Billings on the 13th to attend Pre-assembly, and was able to be present for our virtual pre-assembly. I look forward to serving as Literature chair and learning as I go. Thank you for allowing me to be of service it is truly an honor.

Yours in service,

Daniel H., Area 40 Literature

Literature Committee Minutes

The Literature Committee met during the Assembly, and the Literature Chair reported their activities on the floor of the Assembly. Written minutes of the Committee meeting are not available.

Public Information/Report & Charter/Website

Public Information Chair Report

Greetings,

My name is Jake How, I'm an alcoholic, and I'm extremely grateful to have been given the Area's trust to serve as the Area 40 PI Chair. The longer I am sober, the more I realize service is a key part of my sobriety.

Since I've been serving in this position for less than three months and this my first report, it is going to be heavy on plans for the next two years and light on actual accomplishments. I have contacted the GSO's staff assigned PI person, Racy J., for her ideas on where I might be most useful and I think I've come up with a plan.

In the past, well over half the Area PI Chair's time has been taken up making sure the Area 40 Hotline calls are answered by volunteers in each district. Now that we have an Area Hotline Chair to handle these responsibilities (thank you, Sabrina!), I plan on using that freed-up time to help Districts throughout Montana use A.A.'s many varied Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to attract those still-drinking alcoholics who are ready to seek help.

We are a huge state with a scattered population and many small, local media outlets, including daily and weekly newspapers, localized radio stations, and a few TV stations. On the other hand, the GSO has moved into the digital age in a big way. HD broadcast quality versions of AA's public service announcements are readily available to us. Local service structures and intergroups can even embed video content from GSO's YouTube channel directly into their local websites. All the GSO's print, audio, and visual PSAs can be accessed by newspapers, radio stations and TV stations right off the GSO's website. All they need is an alcoholic human to guide them there.

I'm going to make it my goal to learn the most effective way to connect all these digital materials with local media and then share what I learned with any Area 40 PI Chairs that aren't already doing so. One thing I learned pouring through the PI guidelines and talking with the GSO is the most effective way to begin a relationship with local media is to show up in person armed with all the necessary information. Gulp! That's not always as easy as it sounds. At least not for me. But with a higher power's help, It will get done.

In that regard, I will make myself available to travel anywhere an Area 40 District PI Chair might want help doing the same (especially if there is fishing involved).

To conclude my report, I am going to quote #13 under "PI Committee Sharing" in the A.A. Guidelines for Public Information: "Fight apathy within the fellowship, find ... interested people to achieve the above, and most important, keep your sanity and stay away from the first drink."

In Service, Jake [REDACTED]

Public Information Committee Minutes

2021 Spring Assembly Area 40 PI Committee Report

Jake [REDACTED] – Area 40 PI Chair

I want to thank intrepid attendees Susan, Mike, Haily, Michael, Gene, Sabrina, Katie (who volunteered to take notes!) Summer, Aron, Alex, and the other Jake for one of the smoothest, most fruitful committee meetings I have attended. Everyone contributed.

Twelve people attended: Jake H. Area 40 PI Chair, Susan S. D81 PI, Mike O. D71 PI, Haily D. D51 PI, Michael M. D93 PI, Gene A D51 DCM, Sabrina C. Area Hotline Chair, Katie M., Summer G. D41 GSR, Aron B. D 72 GSR, Alex, Jake L. Area 40 Webmaster.

Going through the Agenda items in order:

Public Information – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair (report read to assembly)
- B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster (report read to assembly)
- C. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Hotline Chair (report read to assembly)
- D. Discuss formal creation of Area Hotline Chair Job Description: The committee decided unanimously to have Sabrina write up a draft of the job description and get it to the committee for review prior to presenting it at the 2021 Fall Assembly.
- E. Review activity of PI Committees throughout Area 40: We did this. Everyone we heard from is busy distributing literature and meeting schedules and actively conducting other PI duties. Covid has created some limits to literature distribution and work with groups in person. One thing that stands out to me is that, at least from who we heard from, there is very little use of the GSO's Public Service Announcements.

Public Information – GSC

- A. Review 2020 annual reports from the trustees' PI Committee regarding aa.org and aa.grapevine.org. This we did.
- B. Review 2020 trustees' Public Information progress report on Google Ads performance: a few things stand out. The biggest use is to find meetings. The heaviest use seems to come from Western Canada and southern California, including the central valley. There are concerns on how to avoid the appearance AA is affiliating with Google because of Googles ad grants donation.
- C. Review progress report regarding the 2021 PI Comprehensive Media Plan: the only concern voiced is the media plan may look like "branding" A.A., which is an advertising term. We feel the fellowship should be vigilant the GSO doesn't veer into promotion rather than attraction.
- D. Public Service Announcements:
 - i. Review the 2020 Report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements": we did this.
 - ii. Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs: We did this. There was some discussion on a part of the report that the GSO consider developing a PSA geared towards minorities. Some felt singling out certain minorities takes from all of us who are alcoholics. The other side of the coin concerns areas like the Central Valley of California where there is a huge concentration of migrant workers who might benefit by being reached with a specific PSA. One comment was PSA's need to reflect our society.
- E. Consider draft plan to develop podcasts: we did this, and mostly we feel there is not enough information to make an informed decision. There was some concern

the podcasts would originate within the GSO and therefore may be prone to advocate for GSO positions on issues. We voted, and the result was none in favor, none against, and unanimous that there is not enough information to make a decision.

- F. Review Triennial Membership Survey report: we did this. An interesting aspect is they are trying to find what in the survey makes it so 20% of people don't respond. They call this "A built in bias" and recognize it as a problem.
- G. Discuss Public Information pamphlets: we did this
- H. Review contents and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook: there is discussion about making the kits and workbook digital. One idea is to create service position apps that would include up-to-date information.

Report and Charter – GSR

- A. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report: there is really no information to discuss on this subject
- B. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.): our impression is the momentum seems to be building toward digital Directories. I asked if anyone had seen one recently, and no one had. Two of us remembered seeing them a long time ago. One committee member had two old ones upstairs somewhere. One of the directories' values was to list group numbers for the 7th tradition contributions. We feel going digital is inevitable.
- C. Review Draft of the A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 version: we didn't have it to review but after our meeting I looked at the service manual and see the changes are marked with black lines on the left margin. I'll make sure to communicate this to all the committee members and we will give it a look.
- D. Consider a request to amend paragraph one, the Purpose of the current Conference Charter: this request would change Article 1, the Purpose of the Conference Charter, to include the Concepts along with the steps and traditions. The revised text of the purpose paragraph would read: "The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. There was a resounding silence when our discussion started. In the end, we voted 5 agreeing to the change, none opposed, and the rest had no opinion. I think that in itself might somehow give our Delegate some sort of guidance.
- E. Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of The Twelve Concepts for World Service: The request is worded, "a request to update the Concept XI essay to accurately reflect the current A.A. Service structure as opposed to the Service structure from 1960 when Bill W. first wrote the essay". This idea came up from an AA sponsor who found it very difficult to go through the Concept Eleven essay while working with a sponsee because the original text by Bill W. is outdated and then qualified with quite a few tiny, footnote numbers throughout and then at the end in tiny print the footnotes explain how it actually is now. In past decisions, there has always been reluctance to change Bill W.'s original text. Our committee was all over the place here. We agree it needs to be easier to understand. I feel the agenda

item itself is unclear because it doesn't really specify what changes they would want made. They recommend "moving the footnotes directly into the essay and expanding on the information they contain". I'm not sure if this changes the actual original text or not. We took three votes:

1. Do some sort of changes need to be made to make the service manual more useful – unanimous yes.
2. Who believes Bill W.'s text should be changed when making the manual more useful - 3 yes.
3. Who believes Bill W.'s text should not be changed - 4 yes

Some agreement was to at least put the footnotes on the bottom of the page they occur on instead of grouping them together several pages farther and to make the text the same size as the regular text in the manual.

Webmaster Report

Former Interim Webmaster Jake L. delivered a Webmaster Report on the floor of the Assembly. At the time these minutes were published, no written report was available.

Hotline Chair Report

Greetings Area 40,

My name is Sabrina [REDACTED] and I am an alcoholic. Sober since August 14, 2012. My homegroup is the Recovery Group in Billings. I spent the last 5 years in Missoula and got to be of service in District 81. But I am very happy to be back home in District 11.

I served the last 2 years as your Area 40 PI Chair and I am happy to be currently serving as your Area 40 Hotline Chair. This position was created at the last assembly so that the Area 40 PI Chair can focus on other things. In this next rotation I am tasked with creating some guidelines for the position so that it can be more easily passed on. I hope some of you will consider standing for it in 2022. Until then, I look forward to working with you.

I have spent quite a bit of time since the last assembly reaching out to each District to determine who the Hotline Chair is. There are still Districts that do not have designated Hotline Chairs, but I do have contact information for at least one person in each District who is willing to take calls from the Hotline.

The way the Area 40 Hotline Chair reports to the Districts has changed. It used to be that reports indicating how many calls were answered and missed were submitted. But the process has changed and that is no longer an effective or productive way to report. The Hotline report now indicates how many calls each District received during the month. If District Hotline Chairs would like to know how those calls were handled in their Districts, please have your Hotline volunteers report back to you.

What I requested from each District at this point are the names of one male and one female who are willing to be listed as Hotline contacts for their District. I only provide the Answering Service with 2 names for each District because if I provide them with more, the operators continue calling each name listed and they charge us for every single call.

If you have questions about how the process works, please feel free to call me directly. My number is (406) 672-6937.

District 81 has been doing a great job answering hotline calls. They decided that the Hotline volunteers will be switched out every month. I think monthly switching up of volunteers

is smart for District 81 because they have a very high call volume. Hotline Chairs may decide for their District, that volunteers only need to be switched out every 3 or 6 months. It is up to you!

A few things to keep in mind:

The volunteers who will be answering calls need to know which meetings in their District are meeting in-person and which meetings are on Zoom. They need to know about our Area 40 website at <https://aa-montana.org> and be prepared to share that information with the caller. Hotline volunteers should know how to connect the caller with Alcoholics Anonymous.

It's also important to remember that answering hotline calls is not convenient and can be challenging. The Area 40 Hotline is not a suicide line, crisis line, taxi service, counseling service, or property management company. It is also not ACoA, Alanon, NA, GA, CA, or any other 12-step program. And it is not affiliated with any kind of treatment facility. If callers want that kind of information, they need to contact those entities. It is essential that we stick to our primary purpose. The Area 40 Hotline is to assist with the process of one alcoholic relating to another. We are here to help alcoholics find AA meetings and give information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

The volunteer who will be taking calls from the Hotline should NEVER call the Hotline back when they see they missed a call. The Answering Service charges us for every single call that is made and also charges to connect the volunteer with the caller. Please allow the Area Hotline Chair to pass the information along to the District Hotline Chair and the call can be returned that way. Doing it like that doesn't cost us a dime!

Volunteers can save the local Hotline number in their phones as "AA Hotline" so they can easily see when the Hotline is calling them: (406) 540-5131.

Some of our dearest friends and fellows got sober and stayed sober after a call to the AA Hotline. When an alcoholic reaches out for help, we want the hand of AA to be there. For that, we are responsible.

Thank you for giving me a whole new life in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service, Sabrina [REDACTED]

Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda

Treatment Chair Report

Grant Olson, trackfanatic@gmail.com, 406-314-1639

Greetings, my name is Grant and I am an alcoholic. It pleases me greatly to be delivering this, my first report as Area Treatment Chair. I am filled with gratitude at the prospect of serving Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity. More than that though, I am weighted with the duty of this position, of reaching the still-suffering alcoholic. With that, I will jump into the substance of my report.

Unfortunately, I've been preoccupied with a health condition for the first three months of my rotation. In three weeks I will be having major surgery, followed by a long period off of work. I plan to use that period to make up for lost time, and to set in motion whatever work my committee wishes. I am looking forward to this weekend to meet and solidify my committee, as well as to set our eyes forward to the work ahead of us. I apologize for this lapse, but as we in AA know all too well, "life shows up", especially when we get and stay sober. I have, however, spent my first few months familiarizing myself with the treatment workbook and the layout of treatment facilities in our Area. I feel more than prepared to start a period of vigorous activity during my recovery from this surgery.

For the last year across our Area, in-person meetings became a "special treat" at best or a thing of the past for many. This same reality held true for those alcoholics in treatment centers. Though the change may have been hard, many of us had the benefit of Zoom or other online mediums, while many alcoholics in treatment facilities did not. Now that we as a Fellowship of the Spirit have been forced to change, new possibilities have arisen for reaching the still-suffering alcoholic. I can't help but see the parallel between

this situation and my own recovery; that after periods of painful change, my life opens up and new horizons of which I had not even dreamed suddenly come into view. I will make it a primary focus of my rotation to find those new possibilities and explore them joyfully with my committee and with all of you. The meetings with my committee this weekend will paint the picture for how we proceed down that road of growth and progress.

Another primary focus of my rotation will be working closely with and supporting the committee embedded within my own, Bridging the Gap. More than ever, the "gaps" in our reach have been keenly felt over the past year. I am looking forward to evaluating these areas with Jessica and her committee, and helping in whatever way I and my committee can. Over the past rotation, the Bridging the Gap committee developed a link for professionals to use to better access Alcoholics Anonymous. This is a fantastic tool! I want to encourage all members of AA, whether you are involved in a committee or not, to utilize this tool. Both as individuals and as a fellowship, we are only as good as the tools that we actually use!

If ever the need should arise, I want to make it known I will always find time to help another alcoholic. In case anyone has a tough time finding it, I'll post my contact information in the chat. The Big Book says my telephone may jangle at any time, and I'm always happy to find another alcoholic on the other end!

Grant [REDACTED]
trackfanatic@gmail.com
406-314-1639
[REDACTED]

Last, but certainly not least, I want to again express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. I wish I could find words to truly express the feelings in my heart, but I know that I cannot ever do it full justice. As my service sponsor says, "I stand on the shoulders of giants" and I cannot express enough that without all of you, I wouldn't be able to accomplish anything of value. Alcoholics Anonymous has given me a purpose, a life, and everything in it. My group's preamble states, "Each member squares their debt by helping others to recover." It is my highest aspiration to do just that, with each of you by my side, and to be thankful for the opportunity.

Yours in Service, Grant O.

Treatment Committee Minutes

The Standing Committee Meeting opened with the Responsibility Statement.

Introductions of voting members and Ryan was chosen as the 7th voting member. Voting members; Grant, Sheila, Meg, Mark and Ryan.

Grant stated we'd be focusing on Area 40 agenda items. The other GSC items are primarily dealt with at GSC. Grant asked if anyone had any questions.

Item A. Grant gave his Assembly Report.

Item B. Jessica gave her BTG report.

Item C. We reviewed, by District, what is currently happening, or not happening, regarding treatment centers.

91- no current treatment chair, facilities closed.

93- poor audio quality, could not hear report. They will forward bullet points.

51- new treatment committee has been formed. Not a lot happening at this time, no outside visitors allowed at this time.

11-main center, Rimrock, just starting to reopen. They are attending a Zoom meeting. This has led to some good contacts.

Jessica spoke about collaboration between different committees, tanger, Corrections, BTG, etc. We need to work together to share our experiences.

Grant presented an idea to create an Area based online zoom meeting to allow all

treatment facilities to participate in Area wide AA meeting. Discussion was held about gathering info from treatment centers regarding interest, preferences, format, etc. The possibility of monthly committee meetings discussed.

Grant will draw up a brief proposal with goals, ideas, etc.

Discussion held on advantages of Zoom for facilities, targeted meetings for those in facilities, acting in a timely manner important as zoom is popular now but a still a good tool for the future.

Discussion about process of proceeding with ideas to Area, Districts and Groups. Grant will connect with Area Chair on best way to proceed.

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 Spring 2021

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica E. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair. After fall assembly I met with our alt. webmaster, Jake L., to review the framework for our BTG link. Terri T, our CPC chair last rotation, brought it to the assembly in the spring of 2019. In the fall of 2019, the alt BTG chair and I were entrusted by the area to work with the webmaster to develop the link. With the help of the past webmaster, Brandon M., and our BTG committee, which consists of BTG reps from across Area 40, we developed an outline. We incorporated suggestions gathered from our area and utilized a video provided to me from our past Trustee Carole B. that has a description of what BTG is by Hon. Christine Carpenter and Nancy McCarthy that are both past Class A trustees. This page was designed to be used by professionals to enter general information of AA members who opted to participate in the Bridging the Gap program and are in direct contact with these professionals. With the AA member's permission, a professional can send their information directly to the Montana BTG administrator's email address where this information is solely used to connect these participants with our District BTG coordinators.

The BTG committee, both outgoing and incoming chairs, alt. BTG Chair, Penny R., myself, and our Area 40 Treatment Chair Grant O. met for a virtual BTG meeting on *December 13th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.* for an exchange of information. During this time we also reviewed the final draft of the BTG Link with our alt. Webmaster Jake. It is now active and you can connect with your BTG rep for detail. We would be happy for any feedback. I want to thank Jake L. and Alex M., who stepped in this fall to assist Area 40, for helping us by developing the page as well as immediately addressing all the formatting feedback. They were consistently available to address anything that popped up.

The committee members for this 21-22 rotation consist of a blend of a few BTG chairs that are non-rotating, some continuing into this new rotation, brand new chairs, and liaisons to some of our major facilities. Penny and I are here to serve and to support their ideas and efforts. If there are projects or tasks that you are interested in us considering or would like to join us in the future, I would be happy to connect with you. With this link as an example, we could've never foreseen the desperate need for an electronic version this year when we were not able to bring paper BTG cards into closed facilities. If you see a need, please join us.

Following this December meeting, our alt. BTG chair and district 61's BTG coordinator, Guenevere, designed a BTG card that has the BTG link on it to be used as a service tool when working with our professionals. I wanted to thank Guenevere for her creativity and her work on this. I received them promptly and was able to get them out to most of our area's BTG chairs.

In January I sent out the BTG workbook, a contact list, a new BTG chair checklist, and a framework for formal contact with our facilities to new BTG chairs. I have met with a few new chairs to assist in their transition into their new positions. If you presently have a BTG vacancy, I am available to provide support to a new chair as they step into their new position. I also have hard copies of BTG workbooks for chairs that desire it.

Last year's BTG National Workshop Weekend had been postponed and RESCHEDULED for September 10-12, 2021. Same weekend—Same place Holiday Inn Rock Island Hotel 226 17th Street Rock Island, Illinois 61201. I am still planning to submit our package for 2022 at their next meeting.

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. Although many facilities are not allowing face-to-face meetings, they are still receiving alcoholic inmates and patients and we are still leaving and need temporary contacts.

I am so grateful for these opportunities to be of service and please let me know if I can help support your districts in any way.

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

Zoom Meeting Listings

Bridging the Gap Participant Form

[Submit on paper](#) to the Bridging the Gap Chair and the Webmaster

Alcoholics Anonymous offers A.A. members a temporary contact to help transition into their community from the facility. Our experience tells us that the critical point of progression towards abstinence is located between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. meeting. Fear often prevents an individual from going to an A.A. meeting. A member of A.A. will accompany the DTG participant to their first few A.A. meetings, taking them around to meet other A.A. members and visit groups. This same member will introduce the DTG participant to other A.A. members and will explain the difference between open, closed, discussion meetings, book study groups, and will provide a local A.A. meeting schedule. They will introduce the DTG participant to our conference approved books and brochures (especially the Big Book). They will explain what group membership is and the importance of having a home group. They will talk about sponsorship.



A.A. DOES NOT provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other welfare or services. The sole purpose of the temporary contact is to introduce the DTG participant to our fellowship in their local community. There are no fees for any of the services offered by Alcoholics Anonymous.

Your name will remain confidential.

Bridging the Gap Participant Form

Participant Name: (required)

Age:

Gender:

Enter Telephone:

Participant Email Address:

Address where you will be living upon release:

City: (required)

State: (required)

Zip:

Is this member of A.A. currently living in a facility, treatment center, hospital, rehabilitation center, nursing home, etc and like to be contacted before leaving? (required)

Department of Corrections (DDC) number (if applicable):

Estimated Date of Release

Enter Comments:

Figure 1 Picture of the BTG Electronic Form



Figure 2 Front side of BTG card

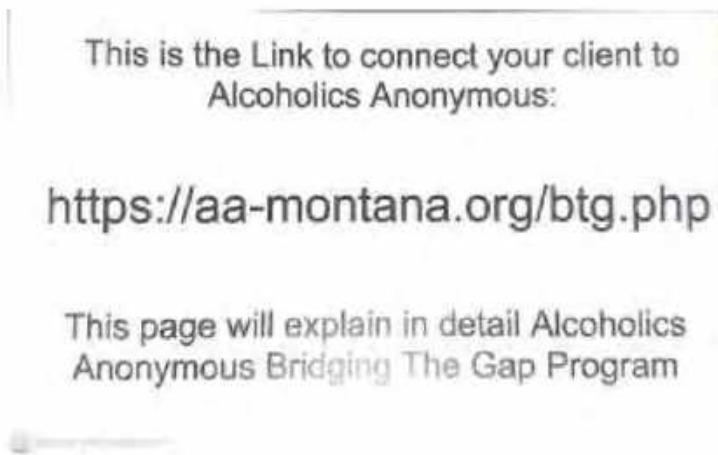


Figure 3 The backside of the BTG Card

BTG Committee Meeting Agenda

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83669197053>

Time: December 13th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Topic: BTG Committee Meetings

Meeting ID: 836 6919 7053

Dial by your location: 1 253 215 8782

We have our Bridging the Gap(BTG) link and it is ready for our final review. I have attached the motion and background for reference. The Webmaster has done an incredible job with implementing our vision for the link. I wanted to invite everyone to review it next weekend so we can finalize any changes before we start distributing it to our facilities. I set aside some time for us to welcome incoming BTG chairs and support our continuity for the new rotation. If you would like to provide your new BTG coordinator's info, you can add it now by clicking on the following Google Doc link. If not, we can add their information at a later time.

After our welcome, we will then be joined by the Area Cooperation with the Professional Community(CPC) chair and the Webmaster to review our new BTG link. I have invited our Webmaster for guidance in formatting or to address any changes before the link goes live. I invited our CPC for guidance with any additional considerations with our delivery and content that our professionals will be accessing.

Please forward this information to your new incoming chairs or if I missed anyone on the BTG committee. We would love to welcome the new chairs and introduce them to their new BTG resource as they continue to bridge the gap in treatment and correctional facilities.

It has been an honor to serve with you this 2019 - 2020 rotation. I am so grateful for your support as we have navigated new ground with this new Area BTG position. Thank you for all of your work and service.

Kind regards,

Jessica

Appendix A

Challenging Old Ideas in Our Changing World

"We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won't change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service—let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever."

Our Great Responsibility A
Selection of Bill W.'s General
Service Conference Talks 1951-
1970 Page 104



Covid Parents

Trivia Questions

1. Some of us have tried to hold on to our _____. _____ and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.
2. What is the name of the religious organization that Ebby and Bill belonged to when they first got sober?
3. What year was the book Alcoholics Anonymous published?
4. What was the year of the first International Convention which was also the year the Twelve Traditions were adopted?
5. What was the year of the first General Service Conference?
6. How many Class A Trustees are there? Class B?
7. How many Delegates are there?
8. The General Service Board serves what countries?
9. What's on the bottom of the upside down triangle?
10. What year did Area 40 approve the hotline service?
11. Name the teleconferencing App that we all now use but had barely ever heard of one year ago?
12. What do we throw out with the bathwater when we ignore lessons of the past?

Answers

1. Old ideas
2. Oxford groups-much discussion and arguments about separating themselves
3. 1939. Imagine the discussions about money, content, credit and feasibility when they first decided to publish a book.
4. 1950 in Cleveland. Prior to this Bill was asked to visit groups, but “don’t talk about those damn Traditions.”
5. 1951. The new conference structure began with the help of Class A Trustee Bernard Smith. Major upheaval and Major change.
6. Class A-7, Class B-14. Used to be more A’s than B’s and were big volatile conversations about this.
7. 93 Delegates, again major upheavals about the changes that evolved over time.
8. US and Canada
9. General Service Board and the Corporate Boards of AAWS and GV.
10. Hotline service in 2007, website in 2001
11. ZOOM
12. The BABY. How do we learn to remove old ideas and keep the good stuff?

Wonderful discussion by the 26 participants for the next hour. Sharing our old ideas and how we can move on in our changing world.