

Area 40 Spring 2023 Assembly Minutes

Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom

March 31-April 2, 2023

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Friday, March 26, 2021

Area Standing Committee Meeting: Transcript not available at the time of this release.
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Saturday, March 27, 2021

Assembly Welcome

12 Traditions: Greg T
12 Concepts: Bob F

Area Chair

I'm Lisa, and I'm an alcoholic. I have the great privilege of serving as your Area 40 Chair and Alternate Delegate during this rotation.

Preparing for the role kicked off in November, when Kacie hosted a workshop that provided the opportunity for outgoing trusted servants to download information to their new counterparts. It was great to have an opportunity to hand off my former responsibilities as secretary to our new secretary, Lynne, and to visit with Kacie to get a sense of what to expect in the weeks and months ahead.

Wasting no time, 2023 started on day one with welcome emails to and from all sorts of people... my first glimpse of the heartening wave of enthusiasm from people who are doing the same job as me in other places and those who have done the job in the past... It was also my first glimpse of the truly startling number of emails I would be getting in my new job.

On January 11, I travelled to Billings to hand off my file boxes to our new secretary. My trip coincided with District 11's first business meeting of the year and their new rotation "GSR school." Lynne kindly invited me to both, and I was warmly welcomed at the meeting by District 11's trusted servants, including their new DCM, Diane W. At the GSR School, conducted by Don M., we were all reminded that our voices in AA Service could save an alcoholic's life. It's a powerful statement that stayed with me, and I was glad I got to hear it in the earliest days in my new role.

Later in January, I participated in the financial audit with Kacie, Jake, and former Area 40 secretary and treasurer Julie R. I can confidently say every penny of Area 40's money is properly accounted for, and Jake is doing a great job managing all the information that the treasurer has to stay on top of.

That same day, I attended District 72's workshop "Service and Spice and Everything Nice." I'm a pretty big AA nerd, but even I didn't anticipate how much fun that afternoon would be. Kacie and her trusty sidekick Susan H drove all the way from Kalispell to Bozeman, even though a big snowstorm was predicted. Fortunately, it didn't amount to much, and they arrived safely. Kacie and Susan brought trivia questions, AA-related prizes, and stickers. District 72 provided a few dozen attendees and two card tables loaded with potluck desserts. Fueled by sugar and our

two immensely entertaining presenters, a great time was had by all.

February arrived, and I was faced with the challenge of developing the agenda for this Spring Assembly. It took four tries and a couple of glitches to get it almost right! Unfortunately, I learned yesterday that half of the room assignments I gave for the upcoming breakout sessions are wrong. I told my friend Dave this morning that if we convert that to an MLB batting average, I'm doing great! I'm sure it's not the last lesson in humility I'll get to enjoy in this role.

The first weekend in March, I got to attend the WSRAASC in Omaha. As always, it was inspiring to meet people from all over the place, all of whom put this program right at the center of their lives. I also had an opportunity, thanks to Kacie, to speak to the conference attendees for a few minutes on Friday night. The topic was "Our Common Perils and Common Solution." That Friday would have been my father's 73rd birthday. Like his mother before him and his daughters after him, he was a member of this fellowship, and he loved it so much. I felt his spirit with me as I spoke to the conference. It was a beautiful moment.

My other favorite moment at the conference came from Kacie, and even though it was slightly mortifying, she has kindly authorized me to share it with you all. Sessions started at 8 am on Saturday, and it was after 11 pm when we finally reached the last committee presentation, which was Kacie's. As computers are wont to do, Kacie's laptop decided to stop working right before she was to take the stage. Undaunted, she borrowed a laptop from another member of Area 40 and was able to pull everything she needed together. At the podium, Kacie opened the borrowed laptop, and the camera at the podium – which was projecting onto two drive-in movie sized screens on either side of the conference room – captured this:



For the bleary-eyed folks who were still in attendance during the FIFTEENTH consecutive hour of conference business, it was delightful to get to share that laugh together.

This is going to be a fantastic weekend! 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.

Yours in Service,

Lisa C.

Hello, I'm Kacie, and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege and pleasure of serving Area 40 as your Panel 73 Delegate. The first General Service Conference was held in 1950. There have been 72 conferences since, with the 73rd approaching quickly at the end of this month. Depending on what year a Delegate's rotation begins, that conference number is their panel number. 2023 is the first year in my 2-year rotation, this is the 73rd General Service Conference, and that's what makes me a Panel 73 Delegate. Each of the 93 Areas in the US and Canada alternate Delegate elections so that half of the Delegates at a conference are in their first year of service and the other half are in their second year.

In our region, the West Central region, we have eight delegates. Cara from Nebraska, Katie from South Dakota, Mary from Wyoming, and Steve from Northern Minnesota are the Panel 72 delegates who are in their second year. Julie from Iowa, Meg from Southern Minnesota, and Rachel from North Dakota and the other first year delegates. The eight of us, our Alternate Delegates, Mike L., our WCR Trustee, and Kathi, our WCR Admin meet every fourth Monday of the month over Zoom for a regional delegates meeting. Mike shares news and updates from the Generals Service Board, AAWS, and the Grapevine. Some regional business gets discussed such as regional conference and forum planning and regional guideline updates. This meeting also provides an opportunity for Q&A and the sharing of experience, strength, and hope regarding how to prepare for and what to expect at the General Service Conference.

Each Delegate is assigned to a committee. Some are also assigned to a secondary committee. The committee I have been assigned to is Policy and Agenda. I've already had the benefit of meeting with my committee twice over Zoom. The first meeting was on February 13th when we actually got to conduct the very first official business of the 73rd General Service Conference. By past action, we were tasked with evaluating and deciding whether or not to approve a request for a member of the Peru General Service Structure to attend the conference as an observer. Our committee had a more thorough discussion than I anticipated before voting unanimously to approve the request. We met for the second time on April 13th. During this meeting we addressed general housekeeping items to prepare for the conference such as what staff member or trustee we may want to have available should we have questions during our committee meetings, whether we would be voting as a group by simple majority or substantial unanimity, and if we would have planned breaks or as-needed breaks.

There have also been two (or three?) Delegate-Only meetings over Zoom to share effective methods employed by other Areas for distribution of agenda items and background information as well as things that should be done to prepare for conference.

I'm going to change course here and go back to last Fall for a moment. Last rotation I took my turn at Area Chair and there is a bit of follow-up reporting I need to do regarding the last quarter of my time in that position. We had such a fantastic Fall Assembly with so many treasured moments. One of the highlights for me was watching our Area stand in willingness to serve our fellowship during the elections. All but one position was a true election with two or more people standing for the opening. It was absolutely so fun to observe and be a part of. We have the best Area. <3 The excitement of Assembly followed us out the door of the hotel, into the car, and all the way across the border when I accidentally drove Susan and myself into Canada. That was a very long U-turn!

During Fall Assembly I was tasked with appointing an ad-hoc committee to review, revise, and suggest possible edits for our Area 40 Website Guidelines. I must admit that I dragged my feet on this task for far too long, but I'm happy to report that there has been an ad-hoc committee appointed. I'd like to thank

Anne G, Lance W, Karen T, Paul W, and Jackie B for agreeing to serve on this committee.

In September I attended the Fall Round-Up in Kalispell and in October I had the privilege of speaking at and participating in the Havre Mini-Conference. November 12th, with the help of Gerry, Jake, Lisa, and others, I conducted the Area Service Rotation Workshop over Zoom that Connie started when she was preparing to rotate on from Area Chair.

District 72's DCM, Betty, extended an invitation to conduct a Service Workshop in Bozeman on January 28th. The weather was classic Montana, and the roads were a bit treacherous, but undeterred by our last road trip to Canada, Susan got in the car with me again, only as the driver this time. It was revealed I'm as poor a navigator as I am a driver somewhere on the highway going up into another blizzard instead of taking the exit to Bozeman. Fortunately, Susan has cat-like reflexes and maneuvering skills like Mario Andretti and we arrived unscathed. This workshop, Service, Spice, & Everything Nice, was my first official service event as a new Delegate, and I am so grateful to Betty and to the Bozeman AA fellowship for the warm welcome and super fun experience. I don't think I could have asked for a better start to the year! Being in Bozeman also provided the opportunity for the Area Financial Audit to be conducted. While District 72 was holding their business meeting after the workshop, Jake, our Area Treasurer, Lisa, our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, Julie, a past Area 40 Treasurer, and I met in another room of the Fellowship Hall to conduct the audit. A quick shout out and special thanks to Julie for stepping in on short notice to help with the audit. Connie was unable to make it and Julie unassumingly showed up to the service workshop only to get wrangled into some service. Thank you so much, Julie!

On February 18th, I attended the Into Action service event hosted by District 91 where past Delegates Libbie L, Gerry R, and Connie R shared about the importance of effective communication up, down, and across the service structure triangle of Alcoholics Anonymous. March 2nd – 5th was the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. There will be a report on that later and I don't want to steal any of Betty's thunder. So, I will simply express my gratitude to all of the members of Area 40 who made the trip to Omaha and to those who participated online. I wasn't able to get a count for those online, but we did have 17 members of the Area 40 fellowship travel to Omaha. Some of them even made the trip on their own dime.

The weekend following the WCRAASC, Lisa, our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, hosted an online Area Pre-Assembly. It was well attended and, in my estimate, a very fruitful process.

I'd like to address communication for a moment. I talked about this during the orientation last night and I feel strongly enough about it to bring it up again in this report. An informed group conscience is an absolutely essential component of a healthy service structure and benefits our fellowship beyond measure. It's true that some may not be interested in hearing what we have to share, but they should at least have the option to say so. We should never assume people aren't interested, let them prove it. GSRs, DCMs, and our Area Committee members carry the responsibility of clicking that forward button on emails, using the phone, and sharing information. All of us are responsible to show up to events like workshops, business meetings, online opportunities, and fellowship events. Our website aa-montana.org is another great resource to utilize for information gathering. In the last few years there have been rumblings of things happening in AA without any discussion or awareness of what is going on. I can assure you that is not a real thing. But I cannot guarantee with as much confidence that there was effective and efficient communication up, down, and across the triangle. This is not a scolding at all! Just a challenge and encouragement to do the best we can to practice extraordinary communication skills during this rotation. It's just starting, so there's LOTS of time to work on this.

The last thing I'd like to talk about is what happened at the General Service Board Weekend on January 29th. The Board Chair and Class A Trustee, Judge Linda Chezum resigned at the request of the Board that Sunday. There has been a lot of controversy over this event. Initially, there was very little communication from the Board which has now been recognized as an error that needs never to be repeated. The lack of communication and information created a void that was filled with one side of the story, assumptions, accusations, and fear from the fellowship. After about five weeks the communication began to improve. The 73rd General Service Conference has met together for Q&A sharing sessions, and I have had many conversations with our Regional Trustee, Mike L., and others to get more information. I am more than willing to speak with anyone further regarding this matter if you have any questions or would like more information. You can call, text, email, or pull me aside this weekend. If you have strong feelings on the incident, I would appreciate hearing from you.

I'd like to summarize my thoughts on the resignation and surrounding events by sharing part of an email I recently sent out to the DCMs and Committee Chairs to be shared with the groups.

“This is A.A. It's bigger than us.
 It's bigger than disagreements, mistakes, secrecy, shame, guilt, and fear.
 It's bigger than anger, resentment, and having to be right.
 This thing saves lives. This thing makes life *worth* living.
 We owe it, ALL of us owe it, to the person who isn't here yet.
 The person who hasn't heard our message and hasn't had a chance to do the work yet.
 The person in the jail, the ER, and the treatment center.
 The person sitting in the dark spinning the chamber of the revolver not knowing there is another way. (That was me!)
 Anger, accusations, and assumptions should be relinquished. Timely and informative communication should be practiced. Honest and transparent conversations should be had.
 Consideration of ego and questioning of fear should be given.
 We must heal this division and work to rebuild trust throughout the Fellowship.”

I love you all very much and am tremendously grateful for the privilege to be of service to Area 40. Thank you for my sobriety and for my amazing life.

Kacie N.
 Panel 73 Area 40 Delegate

Roll Call

ROLL CALL (Vote Count)				
Name	Service Position	Present	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Kacie N	Area 40 Delegate	X		
Lisa C-D	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	X		
Jake L	Treasurer	X		
Lynne W	Secretary	X		
	Archives Chair			
Ty K	CPC Chair	X		

Mark H	Corrections Chair	X		
Martin N	Grapevine Chair	X		
Xavier G-G	Hotline Chair	X		
Jessica S-K	Literature Chair	X		
Rick H	Public Information (PI) Chair	X		
Hugh M	Treatment Chair	X		
Connie R	Area Advisor	X		
Earl F	Archivist	X		
Jessica W	Bridging the Gap	X		
Alex M	Webmaster	X		
Dianne W	District 11 DCM	X	9	7
Tony O	District 12 DCM	X	2	1
	District 21 DCM		2	
Steve S	District 23 DCM			
Corrina H	District 31 DCM	X	2	
Lance W	District 41 DCM	X	11	
Darrel H	District 42 DCM		2	
Ryan M	District 51 DCM	X	5	
Krissy S	District 61 DCM	X	10	5
Jordana B	District 71 DCM	X	2	
Betty M	District 72 DCM	X	9	2
Daniel S	District 81 DCM	X	5	
Grant O	District 91 DCM	X	8	2
	District 93 DCM		9	
	Online Voting Members		12	
	Voting Members Present		113	
	Quorum (2/3)		75	

Secretary Report

Lynne W, Area 40 Secretary

Hi ya'll, I'm Lynne and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar. DCMs, if you haven't already sent me a sign-up sheet for your district, please be sure to send it to me by 10 am so that we can establish our quorum. Your sign-in sheets should only list the people from your district who are attending assembly in-person. If someone from your district is attending virtually, please do not list that person on your sign-in sheets, as they will be counted by one of our zoom advisors. If you submitted a sign-up sheet that you need to add or subtract some people from, please let me know. Lastly, please email your DCM reports to me at secretary@aa-montana.org before the end of the Assembly.

Committee chairs, please email me your reports and the notes or minutes taken during your committee meeting along with a list of the voting members in attendance. If your committee brings a recommendation to the floor, please email me a written copy prior to presenting the motion (secretary@aa-montana.org).

Motions from the Fall 2022 Area 40 Assembly

The Archives Committee presented three Recommendations:

1. MOTION: Update the Bridging the Gap (BTG) and Alternate BTG Chairperson job descriptions to reflect necessary qualifications and current practices.

MOTION PASSED.

2. MOTION: That Area 40 creates a 4-5 member technology/AV team led by two co-chair people. Full job description including rotation and voting status will be brought to the Spring 2023 Assembly for approval. Funding amounts will be decided with annual budget approval.

78 IN FAVOR/3 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED. After minority opinion was heard, no Motion to Reconsider was made.

3. MOTION: That Area 40 discontinues the Area 40 Triangle and the Area 40 Triangle Editor position.

68 IN FAVOR/10 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED. After minority opinion was heard, a Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded. 13 IN FAVOR/62 OPPOSED. MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILED.

The Public Information Committee presented two Recommendations:

1. MOTION: Area 40 PI Committee recommends that Area 40 discontinue the use of all Northern Directory Publishing (MDP) phone directories.

82 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

2. MOTION: Area 40 PI Committee recommends that the Area 40 Chair create an Ad-Hoc Committee to determine if Area 40 should adopt more detailed guidelines for the Area 40 website and, if so, to recommend to the Area such guidelines no later than the 2024 Fall Assembly.

80 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The Treatment Committee presented one Recommendation:

MOTION: That Area 40 fund the Bridging the Gap Chairperson to attend the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend (BTGWW) held September 30th to October 2nd, 2022.

82 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The Finance Committee presented one Recommendation:

MOTION: To approve the Area 40 Budget for 2023.

78 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The Literature Committee presented one Recommendation:

MOTION: We reviewed the job description for the Area 40 Literature Chair and saw that it was necessary to change Item G7.4 We added the word current to it. It would now read: The Literature Committee will have available one (1) copy of all current literature from the G.S.O. for viewing.

70 IN FAVOR/0 OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

The following floor motion was made and seconded by Susan, GSR, Bigfork By The Bay Group,

District 91:

MOTION: Create a separate Area 40 Hotline standing committee and include it in the DCM and District Rep assignments for each rotation.

72 IN FAVOR/3 OPPOSED. **MOTION PASSED.** After minority opinion was heard, a Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded. 39 IN FAVOR/22 OPPOSED/7 ABSTAINED.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILED.

2023 Spring Elections:

Tech Co-Chairs: Mike D: June 25, 2009. GSR, DCM 11, handful of district committees, Area 40 Archives chair, Triangle editor for half the rotation. Been fulfilling role as interim tech person since inception of tech committee, would be honored to serve.

Jack W: Jan 18, 2021. Greater, coffee maker, big book study meeting chair (Rebellion Dogs), half term as alt. GSR. 3rd area he's helped with the tech committee after being told to help, background in audio/video technology systems.

Dave O: Dec 14, 1994. group secretary, meeting chair, alt GSR, DCM 11, district bridging the gap chair, doing all virtual meetings and hybrid meetings.

Counters: Michael C, Jake H, Pat P

Round 1: Mike D (53 votes, 26, 17)

Round 2: Jack W (58 votes, 37)

Archives Chair: Jody T: January 17, 1988. Mini-conference chair (every position except treasurer) all for Intergroup (except treasurer), District all except Treasure, Area 40 Grapevine Chair, currently district 51 hotline

Eric: Feb 10, 2000. Secretary, treasurer, GSR. Dist Workshop Chair, CPC Chair, secretary, treasurer, DCM

Katherine: Nov 27, 1999. GSR, PI for district, all positions at group level, DCM, District Archives chair

Counters: Michael C, Jake H, Pat P

Round 1: Jody T: 44 votes, Eric 31, Katherine 17

Round 2: Jody T: 53 votes, Eric 34

Motions from this Assembly

Archives

MOTION 1: Archives committee recommend that Area 40 approve the Co-Chairs Roles and Responsibilities with the identified changes. **MOTION PASSED:** 73 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. Minority opinion heard, no motion to reconsider.

MOTION 2: Archives committee recommends that Area 40 Chair appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee be appointed to review, revise and update the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. The AdHoc committee should include the Area Archivist and Area Chair. The committee will bring back a completed document to the 2024 Area 40 Spring Assembly.

MOTION PASSED: 88 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Minority opinion kept silent.

Finance

MOTION: Amend the 2023 budget, approved at Fall Assembly 2022, to include a line item for the Bridging the Gap chair in the amount of \$1,000.

MOTION PASSED: 81 in favor, none opposed

Treatment

MOTION: The Treatment Committee recommends that we send the Area 40 Bridging The Gap Chair to the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend(BTGWW) in Houston, TX in September 8th- 10th, 2023 with the financial support by the use of up to \$1500 that is a current line item in the Area 40 2023 budget that is allotted for chair travel to National Conferences.

MOTION PASSED: 82 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. Minority opinion kept silent.

General Floor Motion

MOTION: Grant O (d. 91), 2nd Bert (d.42) Extend the assembly 30 minutes, or less if less time is needed. Most in favor, 1 opposed. No minority opinion

Hotline

MOTION 1: #2: Consider current job description of Area 40 Hotline Chair and propose revisions, if necessary. Area 40 Hotline committee recommends the Area 40 Archivist and Area 40 Advisor remove the last sentence on pg. 32 item G18.1 job description which reads:

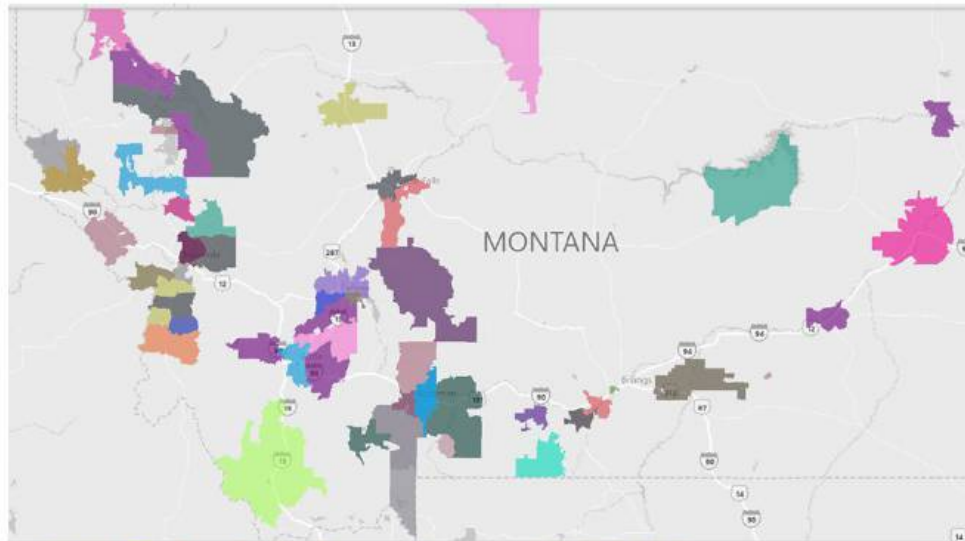
“Area 40 shall discontinue the use of all Northern Directory Publishing (NDP) phone directories.”

MOTION PASSED: 54 in favor, 13 opposed, 14 abstention. An abstention said why they abstained, but Minority Opinion kept silent

MOTION 2: Area 40 Committee recommends that we end our association with Thryv previously known as DexYP.

MOTION PASSED: 76 in favor, 1 opposed. Minority opinion kept silent

Financial Highlights

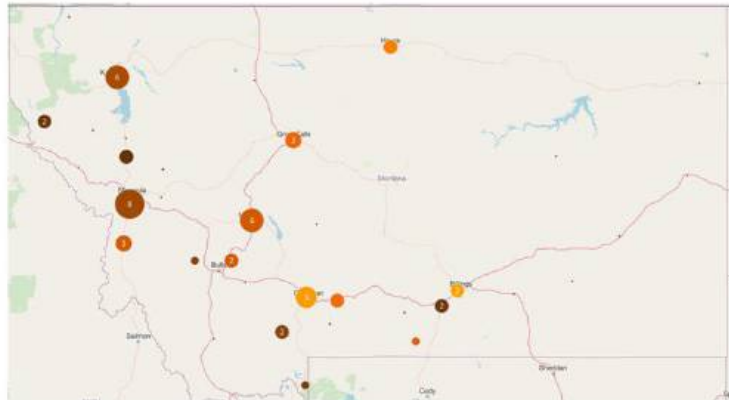


AREA 40 Spring 2023

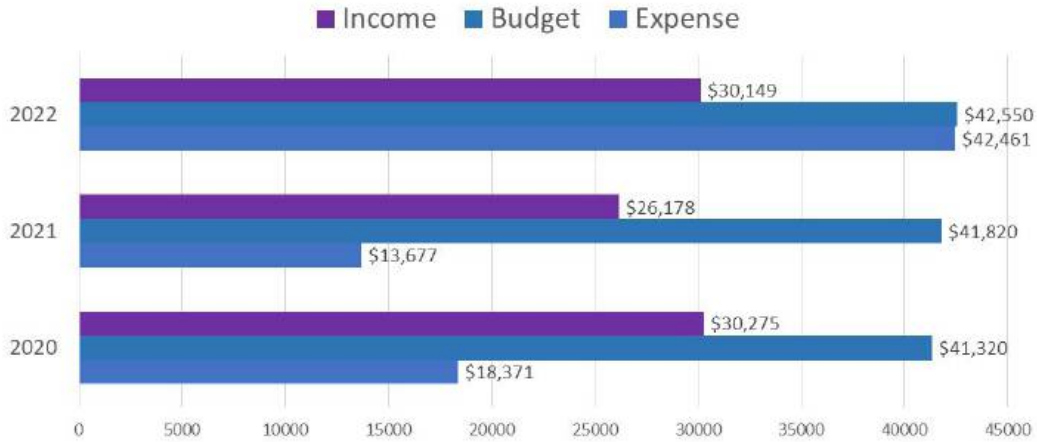
Financial Highlights

March 2023 Updates

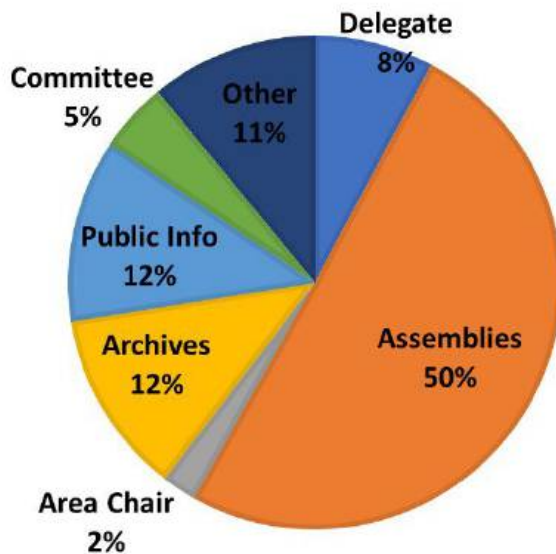
- Accounts in good standing
- 2023 Tax Filings Complete
- Strong cash reserves
- PO Box Remains the same



Income & Expense vs. Budget (2022 through Dec 31st)



2022 Expenses by Committee/Project



- 2022 expenses: \$42,462
- 2022 income: \$30,149
- Net income: **-\$12,313**

HOW AREA 40 GROUPS SUPPORT SERVICES

Area 40 2023 budget = \$42,550

Registered groups in Area 40 = 279

$\$45,525.00 / 279 \text{ groups} = \$163 \text{ cost per group}$

Out of 279 Groups, 97 (~35%) have contributed \$30,148.34 in 2022

Average of \$310.80 (\$281 in 2021) per Group

Area 40 2022 Expenses were \$42,462 or \$152/Group

35% of Groups supported an average of \$438 towards expenses

Income 2022

\$30,149



Gratitude in Action



Area 40 Policies and Procedures – Area Treasurer

- Any Area Committee member, or ad hoc committee chairperson who is not reimbursed in the capacity of G.S.R. or D.C.M. shall be reimbursed for all miles driven on Area 40 business, at a rate of \$0.05 per mile, as well as actual spent monies of food, gas and lodging. No money will be paid without proper receipts. The use of the Area Committee Expense Form is suggested.
- The Area will fund the Area Delegate to attend Spring and Fall Roundups.
- The Area will also pay the expenses of two past delegates to attend Area Assembly. This does not include the immediate past delegate whose expenses are also paid by the Area.
- The Area will fund the Area Delegate, at the GSO suggested level of Area contribution for expenses, to attend the General Service Conference each spring.
- The Area will fund the Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate/Area Chair for expenses to attend the annual meeting of the West Central Region.
- The Area will fund the Area Assembly biannually. Arrangements and negotiations for meeting space and coffee will be the responsibility of the Area Advisor.
- The Area Treasurer is allowed to advance funds for approved travel and lodging expenses to events for Area 40 Representatives.

Expense Form

TRAVEL

Date: _____
Destination: _____
Purpose of Trip: _____
Mileage, Before: _____ After: _____ Total: _____
Gas Expense: _____
Mileage Allowance (\$0.05/mile):* _____
Meals, # of: _____ Total Expense: _____
Lodging, # of nights: _____ Total Expense: _____
Other: _____

<https://www.aa-montana.org/pdf/area/Area40ExpenseReport.pdf>



PADDLING LIKE HELL UNDERNEATH



Area 40
P.O. Box 155
Bozeman, MT
59771-0155

DCM Reports

District 11 Report

As a trusted servant for District 11, it is my honor to represent so many wonderful people who have agreed to be of service during this rotation. I have an alternate who is always ready to be of assistance, a secretary who has supplied us with incredible records of our meetings, and a treasurer who keeps meticulous records of our income and expenses.

There are thirteen GSR's who faithfully attend district meetings and then share

information with their groups. All of our District Committee Chairs are actively working with members to transmit information about how to become involved in the work of Alcoholics Anonymous as well as they themselves attending workshops being offered around the state. We at District 11 are fully committed to making it possible for anyone to attend workshops as well as assemblies to become informed as to how to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those we serve as well as those we have yet to meet.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to all of those who yearn to be free of the yoke of Alcoholism.

Diane W

District 12 Report

Greetings Area 40 Assembly. I am so pleased to be able to report on the activities of District 12. Since we last met many things have happened within the district, from Thanksgiving and Christmas potlucks to evening events of bowling and ice cream socials. This new year brought yet more pot lucks and a great Super Bowl party. Our district supports meetings at the YBGR (Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch) meetings are for all residence both male and female. District 12 also supplies Big Books and 12 & 12's for all the residence houses on the ranch. It is an awesome sight to see a young alcoholic receive a sobriety coin, also supplied by the district.

Our February Mid Winter Social, in Joliet, was a huge success. This event numbered in the hundreds, and we all were able to share fellowship and a wonderful meal. We had three speakers, a silent auction as well as a 50/50 raffle. All had a great time and meal. District 12 has been able to fill many open service positions, with district meetings increasing in participation. The Rock Creek group in Red Lodge hosted a 4 th step workshop this winter, with great success. They have also become an active participant in district meetings and decisions. We look to the future of AA and District 12 which will bring many events from the 4 th of July parade in Laurel where you can find a cool drink and some fellowship to our August Fireman's Point campout with its nationally known Spam cookoff. It is something to add to your AA bucket list. We hope to see you there.

Love in Service

Tony O

District 21 Report no report

District 23 Report no report

District 31 Report Report not available at the time of this release.

District 41 Report Report not available at the time of this release.

District 42 Report no report

District 51 Report

Hello, my name is Ryan and I am an alcoholic. I am the current DCM for District 51.

District 51 consists of Box Elder, Dodson, Ft. Belknap, Harlem, Havre, Hays, Malta, Rudyard and all the small towns in between. There are currently 15 groups in District 51 with 31 meetings a week. We've had some new groups and meetings start up recently and they are the Ft. Belknap group and the Sisters In Step group, which is an open women's meeting.

We as a district meet every month on the 3 rd Sunday of the month. We've been having great participation from our GSRs and our district chairs. Most chair positions are filled except for our treatment and speaker/ audio chairs.

We hold a mini conference every year with the exception of one recently due to Covid. We have fundraising events to raise money for our mini conference and those events are cornhole, horseshoes, tug-o-war, cow pasture golf and things like that. Our mini conference starts Friday evening and goes until about Sunday at Noon. This year it will be October 6 th through the 8 th in Havre. It's a weekend filled with Speakers, seminars, skits, fellowship, food and fun. We always like to see new faces and meet new people.

The 3 rd step group has gotten back into hosting a feed and speaker potluck meeting on the 3 rd Sunday of the month starting at 4:30.

The Monday 12x12 group holds a Valentines day party with a potluck feed and meeting every February.

We also have campouts in June, July and August which are always great fellowship times with plenty of food and games and a campfire meeting. These are held in the Bear Paw mountains.

We as a District are a pretty close group and we try to get as much fellowship outside of the rooms as we do inside the rooms. I'll be forever grateful for District 51. When my sponsor told me to find the herd and get in the middle of it these people welcomed me with open arms, made room for me and my family and gave us a place to call home.

Thank you for letting me be of service and to try and pay back all the gifts I have received from this program. Thank You

District 61 Report

As we like to say in District 61....Heeeeyyyyy Area 40!!!

I'm Krissy, alcoholic and District 61 DCM. So far I think everyone in our District is adjusting well to this new rotation and showing up like a bunch of alcoholic rockstars!

In January, our workshops chair hosted a GSR workshop for all our incoming GSR's. Our District also voted to keep and accentuate our zoom/hybrid option for attending District. To do this we added a Tech Chair position to the roster. I hope that the surrounding towns included in our District see this as a simpler way to join in on District business! Speaking of towns with in our District.....Lincoln is one and has a great little meeting on Thursday and Sunday at Lambkin's Restaurant if you're ever heading through town, they would love the support!

Our 'It's in the Book' group just help their 26th annual Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm, in hybrid fashion with 119 attending in person and 20 on Zoom. The speakers were good and the food was even better. On May 13th our Corrections and Treatment committees will be hosting the 20th annual Workshop for professionals in the community with a panel of AA and profession speakers.

I had the pleasure of attending my first West Central Regional Conference in Omaha in early March with some pretty amazing people from Area 40. It was a lot to take in and I'm not totally sure I left any wiser but I did leave with a little more love for AA service.

We have a very active district that hosts 10 plus meetings a day, including plenty of hybrid meetings. We also have a fully stocked bookstore open 3 days a week with volunteer support. I sure feel grateful to be part of such a great bunch of alcoholics.

Thanks for keeping me sober!

Krissy S

District 71 Report

My name is Jordana, I am a grateful alcoholic and the new DCM for District 71 in Southwest Montana. District 71 currently consists of 22 groups and a total of over 60 meetings a week throughout the district. Overall, the district is running pretty smoothly with all of our

vacant chairs filled with this last election last December/January. During this last election in December, including already open positions and ones that were previously filled and retired from, the district had 5 chair vacancies- Corrections, Treatment, Bridging the Gap, Secretary, and Grapevine. All of these positions were filled by the next district meeting in January. We very much want to say thank you to all previous chairs within the district for their hard work and dedication to district for the duration of their positions. Additionally, we welcome and thank the new chairs for your commitment to keeping our district alive and carrying the message with your new roles. Our new Corrections chair, Mark B, has been bringing meetings into the treatment center in Butte for the past year or two as covid has allowed so he is no stranger to bringing meetings into institutions and is serving well in his new role. Aaron M, new Treatment chair, has really hit the ground running in this position. He has taken his new role seriously and has been a great addition to district and doing a great job at carrying the message. Our Literature chair, Nikki R, has recently taken the role as Literature chair since the previous chair, myself, took on responsibility as DCM. Nikki has been the GSR for her home group and attends district regularly. Jim J, previous DCM, has volunteered to be the Alternate DCM for this rotation. Jim J is a great asset to District 71 and does not shy away from being of service to his District. Dirk S, CPC chair, has volunteered to continue to be of service as CPC chair for this rotation. Tom R has taken on Treasurer for this rotation, to add to his district resume along with Archives, Heather B has been elected as Secretary and immediately was willing to dive in head first. Jessica P, hotline chair, was an addition between the last assembly and this last election. She is dedicated to her role as hotline chair and has done a wonderful job thus far. Colton M is the new Bridging the Gap chair and has made himself available as needed and is responsive to new opportunities to fulfil his service commitment. Peggy H Sara S have tag-teamed PI chair (Sara as the co-chair/alternate) and AJ K, new Grapevine chair, are all eager to execute their ideas within the scope of their shared role. Jon W, our activities chair, has done a lot of hard work to raise awareness within the District and provide opportunities for more involvement with all of the groups. His most recent success was a Valentines Day dance that was well attended. All in all, the district is doing well with it's involvement with the community and also, in general, attendance from GSR's and volunteers has increased in the past few months. Thank you for letting me serve as District 71's DCM, what a wonderful opportunity to give back

Jordana B

District 72 Report

DCM Report, District 72:

Hi everybody! My name is Betty and I'm an alcoholic and the DCM for District 72. We hold District meetings on the last Saturday of each month at 4:30, and you're welcome to visit in person or online anytime!

Our trusted servants in District 72 are my "Dream Team". They care deeply about carrying the message of AA to our fellows in both the real and virtual AA rooms, as well as newcomers who've just joined us, and to those who will be arriving in the future. We use the group conscience to always bring us back to our primary purpose and principles when we disagree on something.

I sense an energy – an excitement in District 72. We have both new and familiar faces at meetings, and often have a handful of visitors as well. I'm seeing more collaboration between groups

and committees.

Our GSRs report that their meetings are doing well. They have recovered from COVID and attendance is increasing. We host over 90 meetings a week in multiple formats – in person, online only and hybrid.

In January, our Special Events chair hosted a great Service Kick-Off event led by Kacie N, and Susan H from Bigfork. They made the workshop informative, personal and so much fun; they really set the tone for the excitement I feel.

Our Primary Purpose group had a workshop/speaker/potluck event in February. The topic was Fear, and Candace M from Los Angeles was their main speaker. The event was very well attended. After the drought of COVID, it felt so good to be at a special event together to fellowship and share with each other.

Our Archives, Answering Service, CPC, PI, Bridging the Gap, Corrections and Treatment chairs have focused on growing & organizing their teams. Several have, and are continuing to be intentional, about looking for new committee members from towns outside of Bozeman. Our PI chair contacted GSRs who are not attending district meetings to see if they need meeting schedules. Lenore, the Alternate DCM and I will be following up with them to encourage their participation at district.

Our Literature and Grapevine chairs are doing a terrific job of keeping us informed about what the groups need to know for buying literature, and for extending the reach of Grapevine & La Vina.

Our Treatment Chair brought 4 boxes of Big Books to MCDC. It was rewarding to hear that their current residents included 15 newcomers to AA, and they were taking advantage of the new resources.

Our Answering Service chair, Emily, had the cutest baby on February 20th! Pre-baby, the Answering Service implemented a new approach for responding to Hotline calls. One or two people take responsibility for answering calls for one month at a time. This should contribute to a greater sense of individual responsibility & accountability when a Hotline call comes in.

The CPC committee has conducted a series of interviews in the Valley to update their contacts and to hear what professionals are identifying as their high priority needs. This, and with support from area & district CPC committees, will help them plan for how best to meet those needs.

Our Bridging the Gap and PI chairs were contacted by the Bozeman Warming Center to request that we share our stories at a non-AA specific recovery meeting for the homeless.

Because our online meeting presence is thriving, we recognized the need for a technology committee, and now, we are in the process of implementing it. We elected a chair and held the first meeting last month. At present, we have 32 on-line or hybrid meetings, in addition to district and several committee meetings.

The Roundup Team is busy preparing for the event “We Are Not Saints” this Fall. Flyers are provided on the table near the door and you’ll hear more about it Sunday morning.

Like I said, to me this is exciting, and I am so grateful to have the privilege to represent District 72 at the Area 40 Spring Assembly.

Thank you.
Betty M, D72 DCM

District 81 Report

It is an honor and privilege to serve District 81 as District Committee Member. District 81 is located in western Montana; although our biggest population center is Missoula, we have meetings as far west as Trout Creek, as far north as Polson, and as far east as Seeley Lake. Our district has approximately 45 groups with 100 meetings per week. Amongst all the changes

that we have seen in our district because of covid, we at the district level are focused on updating our printed schedules and the Area 40 website to reflect the sweeping changes still occurring in our district.

Our business meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 2-4pm in a hybrid format. While any member is able to attend our meetings virtually via zoom, we also meet in-person at the 4th D Club in Missoula (1500 West Broadway, Suite B, Missoula, MT 59801). This clubhouse has been able to provide an impressively effective hybrid option. As of this time, we have a few service positions that are unfilled, and recent attempts to entice members to serve have been unsuccessful.

With that being said we have scheduled time to take meetings into the recovery center of missoula every tuesday and to providence hospital every saturday. We go to mc dc every 3rd Saturday of the month i believe. The jails have opened up for us to take meetings into their facilities on a regular basis with changes always happening with their procedure. We also have scheduled times to take meetings into Montana state prison every month.

Please consider showing up for the 2023 spring roundup hosted in missoula may 19-21 at the hilton garden inn but your gonna hear more about that later on. Also there is the third annual yg phoenix campout at the lubrecht expiremental forest roughly 30 miles outside of missoula. There is the west central regional forum at the hilton garden inn august 25-27. Room rates are currently \$139 a night. And lastly there is the 3rd annual mop retreat at the outback campgrounds july 7-10, all of this information is on the area 40 website. There is alot to look forward to and I thank you for your time and its an absolute honor and privilege to serve district 81 as their district committee member!!!!

District 91 Report

Greetings!

My name is Grant and I am an alcoholic. I'm grateful to be serving as DCM for District 91 this rotation. I am happy to report that AA is alive and well in the northwest corner of the state. District 91 extends from the Canadian border past Eureka south to mid-way through Flathead Lake, from West Glacier in the east, all the way to the town of Libby in the west. Our major towns include Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, and Bigfork. Our district has over 80 meetings per week from 6:30 am all the way until 8 p.m.

I stated earlier that AA is alive and well, and this is true. However, in this time of "post-COVID" or returning to normal, I can say that things are...weird. Meetings that were large and active pre-COVID are small and sometimes inactive in service. The vice versa of that is true along with every point in the middle. I know that I have my hands full navigating this new landscape and trying to generate interest in service in Alcoholics Anonymous. One exciting bit of news here: in the past years, AA groups from Libby have been participating in service with a district and Area in northern Idaho. Recently, the Came to Believe Group from Libby has made the decision to participate in service with district 91 and area 40! It may not seem like an issue of great importance, but for us this was a surprise and is a big deal!

One thing we are not short of in district 91 is events. Coming up this summer we have no less than a half dozen campouts throughout the summer. I won't even try to list all the dates, but I know that flyers will be up on aa-montana.org as they become available. I invite you all to join us for the first campout of the summer, Founders Day hosted by Serenity Group in June! We don't have a nationally renowned SPAM cookoff, but mosquitos and rain will be in abundance! On the service side of things, I am grateful to report that our district only has one open position as of right now. I am grateful to be serving such an active and enthusiastic district. My

committee and GSRs are very interested in this years GSC agenda items, and many of them are present here this weekend. I recently went to the regional service conference with many from our Area, and it served to reignite my passion for service in AA. It is always fun and gratifying to spend a weekend with those I love from service in a new town. I could ask for nothing more from service.

Since I know there are many here for their first time, I want to finish my report by sharing a spiritual awakening I had at my first Area Assembly. It was the fall of 2018, and it was an election Assembly. I arrived late on Friday night, just in time to hear the final remarks of our then Delegate, Gerry R. Incidentally, that man is my sponsor today and I love him dearly. The next morning, as we signed in with our DCM and sat down to begin the assembly. We began, of course, with the Serenity Prayer. In the midst of that prayer, I was struck by the realization that all of you were here, in this very room, that day to make sure that Alcoholics Anonymous was running for the newcomer who was going to walk into a meeting that night. A second realization hit that all of you were here, every spring and fall of every year prior to 2016, to make sure that Alcoholics Anonymous was running for ME. I knew at that moment that I had found the way to repay the debt I owed to Alcoholics Anonymous, and I've spent the last 5 years doing just that. I have had the greatest times of my life at service events, I have a sponsor I admire and love because of service, I have friends and a home group because of service, and most importantly, I haven't had to take a drink for over 6 years, in part because of service. I hope and pray that all the first timers have a similar experience this weekend, and in case you don't, that you keep coming back until you do.

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve this fellowship in whatever way I can. I am grateful and indebted to all of you for my sobriety and my life.

Yours in service,
Grant O.

District 93

Hello from Dist.93. We are located in the southwestern part of the state located in the Bitterroot valley.

We have 14 groups hosting 25 meetings a week with multiple meetings everyday. We also carry the message to both men and woman in our local jail. Our district meeting is held the third Sunday of the month.

We were able to host 3 holiday events last year (thanksgiving, Christmas, new years). Thanks to everyone who supported these.

So far there's 3 events planned for this year. 2 campouts at lake como, one in June and the other in August. In July there's one up the west fork of the Bitterroot river. Hope to see you all there.

Thank you all for being here to help carry the message.

In love and service, district 93

Delegate's Report

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy: Connie R

Chair Report:

The only report that I have to give is that Don M had to resign due to health issues. We wish him well.

Committee Report:

Thank you to all of those who showed up to participate in the archives meeting.

- Mike Dist 93, Aryl Dist 91, Greg Dist 12, Ken Dist 91, John Dist 41, Karen Dist 11, Leo Dist 51,
- The voting members: Angie Dist 81, Ryan Dist 51, Krissy Dist 61, Jana Dist 41

Archives – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair
1. * The only report that I have to give is that Don M had to resign due to health issues. We wish him well.
2. Review assembly report or the Area 40 Archivist
 - Earl gave report
3. Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - Angie from Dist 81 was glad that Earl was doing a table for the Roundup because she didn't know how she might set an archive table up. A suggestion was to have Earl come to the district and do a workshop.
 - Someone asked about if districts have policies. Dist 61 has done them and suggested they speak with Krissy current DCM or Jessica, Past DCM.
 - Mike of Dist 61 asked about how to get a climate control storage. Earl stated that can be hard. Earl let the group know that any district can ask the Area to store their historical documents. Earl asked that if the district wants to send him historical documents, please contact him so he can make sure there is no bugs or mold.
 - Earl welcomes everyone to come visit the archives. Please call him before so he can be available.

Area 40 Structure and Policy

1. Review Fall 2022 Assembly Evaluation Report.
 - No report to be given.
 - There is current Evaluations on the back table and also available on the link under the Area Calendar tab on the website.
2. Consider whether to revise the “Bridging the Gap Duties” and “Alternate Area 40 BTG Duties” as outlined on pages 31 and 32 of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures.
 - After a lengthy discussion the committee took no action.
3. Consider proposed description of Tech Committee Co-Chairs Roles and Responsibilities.
 - *The committee discussed the roles and responsibilities. Connie made some suggestion to add to the job description.

Archives committee recommend that Area 40 approve the Co-Chairs Roles and Responsibilities with the identified changes. The committee approve unanimously.

Area 40 Technology Committee Roles & Responsibilities

The Technology Committee is established as the official technological agency of Area 40 and is not a Standing Committee of the Area. The Technology Committee will function rather as a

volunteer service provider to the Area 40 Committee to render direct tech related services and or determine viable appropriate solutions for services requested by the Area.

The main objective of the Technology Committee shall be to provide and administer technological assistance to the Area 40 Committee and its body in all of its 12th Step activities\services and organizational functions which may require or benefit from the use of technology and specialized technological skills.

The Technology Co-Chairs will provide leadership to their appointed committee members and volunteers, recruiting members as needed to provide specific services and tasks for Area 40. The Co-Chairs shall function as team coordinators in determination of how to execute their duties.

The Co-Chairs will keep open communication with the Area 40 Chair and Area 40 officers regarding all activities, planning, and expenses. A written report of all committee activities, business, and expenses shall be prepared and submitted to the Area at each Assembly.

The Co-Chairs will prepare and submit a proposed budget to the Area 40 Treasurer prior to the Area 40 Assembly each Fall for consideration at the Assembly, which will include the expense of the volunteers attending area assembly to help.

The Co-Chairs are non-rotating non-voting servant leaders of Area 40.

The Co-Chair positions shall be determined by election of the Area 40 Assembly.

There shall be 2 Co-Chairs of the committee, and any number of committee members at large by means of either volunteer, appointment, or recruitment.

The suggested qualifications specific for the position of Technology Chairperson are:

Q1 An interest in the use of AA technology in Area 40 and a desire to learn how technology can be used to help carry AA's message to the still suffering alcoholic as well as assisting the Area in all of its service and organizational functions.

Q2 The ability to lead and facilitate a committee, presentation meetings, and workshops.

Q3 Special skills and knowledge of technology and technology communications as well as organizational skills to plan and coordinate a multitude of tasks and duties with others to meet deadlines.

Q4 Financially savvy in order to be responsible for planning and administering a budget surrounding all related activities.

Q5 Technology Committee will report under Report and Charter Area Committee.

The archives chair brought another concern before the Structure & Policy Committee in regard to the Policy and Procedure Manual. The last time the Policy and Procedure Manual was updated was 2006. Since that time the Archivist has made identified correction and deletions. With all the changes such as adding area potions, removing area position and the change in the way we do some of our business, The P & P needs to be updated.

- Archives committee recommends that Area 40 Chair appoint an Ad Hoc Committee be appointed to review, revise and update the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. The Ad Hoc

committee should include the Area Archivist and Area Chair. The committee will bring back a completed document to the 2024 Area 40 Spring Assembly.

Area Inventory Ad Hoc Committee:

- Connie R Area Advisor
- Eric C. - District 41
- Ken J- District 91
- Jordana B. - District 71
- Theresa L. - District 41
- Berdie B. - District 31
- Greg T. - District 12

Archives –GSC

A. Review content and format of Archives Workbook.

Connie told the group that they can find the workbook on AA.org. The work book is a downloadable PDF.

Motion: Archives committee recommend that Area 40 approve the Co-Chairs Roles and Responsibilities with the identified changes.

Motion: Archives committee recommends that Area 40 Chair appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee be appointed to review, revise and update the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. The AdHoc committee should include the Area Archivist and Area Chair. The committee should bring back a completed document to the 2024 Area 40 Spring Assembly.

Grapevine & La Vina/Policy & Admissions: Martin N

Chair Report: Report not available at the time of this release.

Committee Report: Report not available at the time of this release.

On the Floor: Grapevine Item D. Consider a request to provide all area alternate delegates the same conference materials as sitting delegates.

Sense of the Area (SOTA): In Favor: everyone Opposed: no one

On the Floor: Policy and Admissions Item D. Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process

Sense of the Area: In Favor: 2/3 Opposed: 1/3

Q from Kaci (SOTA): Are you in favor of individuals being able to submit agenda items to GSO (as opposed to having to go through your group, district, or area) In Favor: 1/5 Opposed: 4/5

How many of you would support submitting items through the group: Favor: 1/2, opposed 1/2

How many would support through the district: In Favor: 1/3 Oposed 2/3

How many would support through the area: yes: 2/3 no 1/3

On the Floor SOTA: Are you in favor of online groups participating in the Service Structure w the creation of new Areas and Districts in favor: 3/4 opposed 1/4

CPC/Trustees: Ty K

Chair Report:

Greetings Area 40,

The moment I was voted into my position, it became apparent that I have no idea what the Area 40 CPC chair does, although I have quite a bit of experience at the district level doing CPC work and being involved on a CPC committee. I have been reaching out and talking to people with experience in AA service, asking examples of what an Area CPC chair does and most of the time they quickly change the subject to PI or become irritated and refuse to talk.

The CPC job description in the Area 40 Policies and Procedures is as follows:
"G3.6 Work with District CPC Chairs to find productive and creative ways of cooperating without affiliating with third parties who may come in contact with future members of Alcoholics Anonymous."

On the aa.org website CPC work is described as:

- Establishing better communication with professionals working with alcoholics
- Finding simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating
- Explaining clearly what A.A. does and doesn't do

I sent out an introduction email to DCMs to connect with my committee members and made contact with 3 of 4 voting members on my committee. I have been in contact with a couple of district CPC chairs and look forward to hearing from more. If there is anyway I can help, if you have questions about CPC work or want me to attend a workshop or event, please reach out to me at cpc@aa-montana.org

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Ty Kraft Area 40 CPC

Committee Report:

Attendance at our committee meeting included: John H, Eli S, Deborah S, Betty M, Bob F, Mitch A, Mac M, Daniel S, Paul G and Ty K (10 people)

We Opened the meeting with the serenity prayer.

CPC

1. We reviewed the assembly report from Ty
2. We discussed at length CPC work across the state and how to get started in CPC work establishing or reestablishing connections.

CPC-GSC

A. Review progress report on AA LinkedIn page--We looked at the analytics and found that most of the content was over our heads. The most notable thing is that they will be updating and posting more often to keep at the top of search results and stay relevant.

B. Review draft pamphlet "AA in Your Community"--We looked over the background quickly and did not have any comments.

C. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets for mental health professionals-- We looked through the report and did not have any comments.

D. Consider retiring the pamphlet "A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous"-- We discussed this at length and we unanimously came to the conclusion that we feel the pamphlet should be retained as an inward facing pamphlet and should not be used as a

CPC tool. There is significant historical value in this pamphlet.

E. Review CPC Kit and Workbook--We looked in the CPC kit and the pamphlet has been removed from the list and from being referenced in the workbook as a useful document.

Trustees-GSC

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. Northeast Regional Trustee
2. Southwest Regional Trustee
3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada

B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

D. Review slate of directors of A.A Grapevine Inc.

A-D: We were not able to see any of the resumes for these items so we did not discuss them and we are entrusting our trusted servants to vote on all of these items.

On the Floor: CPC(GSC) D. Consider retiring the pamphlet "A Member's-Eye View of AA". Committee consensus was to keep the flier, but to take it out of the CPC committee.

SOTA: Would you like to see the pamphlet stay? Yes: almost everyone No: 4 people

Literature: Jessica S-K

Chair Report:

Heyyyyyyyyy Area 40! I am thrilled to serve as Area 40's Literature Chair. I began this rotation by conducting an inventory of the current literature to identify what needed to be replaced. As a result, the literature should be up to date. If you notice that it isn't, please let me know.

I plan to update the displays before we meet in the Fall. The current Service Manuals are available for \$4 each. If you need one and don't have the cash, please let me know.

In March I had the opportunity to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Nebraska. This was very helpful in preparing for Pre-Assembly and Assembly.

I have been asked to do a display in August in Great Falls for Fellowship at the Falls, this is the same weekend as the Forum. If you would like to help with this, please let me know.

I am available to bring a display to your district or group, please let me know how I can be helpful. I am still learning what I am doing and hope to serve the Area to the best of my ability.

Committee Report:

Jessica Stewart-Kuntz

District 61

Area 40 Literature Chair

Literature – Jessica S-K

Literature – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair

I would like to thank all of the amazing folks that attended the literature Committee.

Becky from District 93; Susan from District 11; Jeff from District 61; Birdie from District 31; Lisa from District 11; Patrick from District 81; Ashley from District 72; Jeff C from District 93; Daniel from District 11; Jay District from District 81; Dave from District 93; Haley from District 51; and T-bone from District 81.

ii. We did not have a voting member from District 21 but Merida S. from District 61 volunteered to serve as a voting member of the Committee. As a result we have 4 voting members. Jordana from District 71; Diane from District 41; Joey from District 93 and now Merida from District 61.

1. A big thank you to Diane from District 11 for taking notes for our Committee.

2. Review activities of Literature Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - a. Haley from District 51 shared that she is inventorying the literature and working on updating all of the literature for her district.
 - b. Daniel from District 11 shared that District 11 is looking into creating a literature chair position. They currently use Intergroup for their literature.
 - c. Becky from District 93 shared that she is keeping the literature closet full.

Literature – GSC

- A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.
 - a. The Committee reviewed the recovery literature matrix.
- B. Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.
 - a. The Committee reviewed the draft pamphlet on A.A.s Three Legacies.
- C. Review draft of the revised pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."
 - a. The Committee reviewed the draft of the revised pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."
- D. Review draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A."
 - a. The Committee reviewed the revised pamphlet "Young People in A.A."
- E. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."
 - a. The Committee reviewed the progress report regarding the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."
- F. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."
 - a. Birdie from District 31 shared her experience with racism at a recent AA event in Montana. There is more work to do in A.A. to address the racism that still exists.
- G. Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* - Spanish.
 - a. The Committee reviewed the progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* - Spanish.
- H. Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
 - a. The Committee reviewed and discussed this item. Committee members shared their thoughts on this item. Opinions ranged from concerned about the use of the word "translate" when "adaptation" may be a better term. The Committee share their concerns about changing the first 164, while others shared that they thought the Plain and Simple Language version will help those that have cognitive challenges.

I. Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

a. The Committee reviewed the progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

J. Review revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

a. The Committee reviewed the revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

K. Review revised draft of the Literature Committee workbook.

a. The Committee did not review the Literature Committee workbook but did discuss that the hard copy has not been sent out yet, but the PDF is available online.

L. Review request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?”

a. The Committee reviewed the request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” The Committee notice this pamphlet was updated as recently as 2018 and was curious about the cost of updated a pamphlet.

M. Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI’s) related to the Plain Language Big Book Translation.

a. The Committee discussed the new proposed agenda item and reviewed the background material. The Committee agree that the final version of the Plain and Simple Language version be reviewed and approved by the voting members of the General Service Conference.

N. Review update on video animation for the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”

a. The Committee watched the animation and agreed that the animation would be a good direction for the pamphlet. Some Committee members are interested in digitizing more of the pamphlets.

O. Discuss cost effective media options that welcome young people to A.A. as an alternative to revising the ‘Too Young?’ pamphlet.

a. The Committee discussed cost effective media options that welcome young people to A.A. as an alternative to revising the ‘Too Young?’ pamphlet. The Committee unanimously agreed that alternatives to revising the “Too Young” pamphlet should be explored and considered.

P. Review update on the proposal for Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides.

a. The Committee reviewed the update on the proposal for the Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides and agreed with the decision to take no action on the study guides.

In Service,
Jessica Stewart-Kuntz

Finance: Jake L

Chair Report:

Good morning! My name is Jake and I’m an alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Treasurer.

It was my pleasure to present some Area 40 financial highlights yesterday morning. We are in the beginning a new rotation for most and I hope we can enter with open minds and hearts, but like everything else in AA, you can’t fix what you can’t change.

The Area’s annual report to the IRS (Form 990-N) and, the corporate report to the State

which has a \$20 fee are both complete. In the spirit of self-support, we also secured an annual license for Zoom at a cost of \$57 to be used by Area 40 through the non-profit network TechSoup. This will help facilitate communication, pre-assemblies, committee and the like for Area 40 furthering our effectiveness and reach across Montana.

Since the Fall Assembly, I have continued to pitter patter around, keeping Area 40 accounts current and depositing any received contributions. I would like to thank Kacie, Lisa, and Julie, along with their patience in conducting the audit. Shocking some, surprising everyone, I passed. Though I cannot mail an acknowledgment to each contributor, I can look up any group's donations. A few groups still continue to contact me for the Bozeman address when their mail is returned to them. Apparently, it continues to be an issue for some, it's been almost 2 years but we'll get there. The forwarding has expired, so expect any contributions mailed to the incorrect address to be returned. Rinse and repeat.

The current Area 40 Inc. address is:

PO Box 155
Bozeman, MT
59771-0155

Please keep your areas informed. The most current address will always be on the Area 40 website. If I accomplish nothing else, I would like all contributions to get deposited.

The Area 40 Treasurer's job is primarily a quiet existence. I do not interact directly unless there is an issue. It requires some technical knowledge, a bit of bookkeeping, some organization, and a little time. Please consider the gifts sobriety has provided and step up to serve where and when you are able. Alcoholics generally thrive when faced with adversity and you will too.

Returning to an in-person assembly will take some calibration to ensure we are back on track from a budget perspective. We are current on our annual rent for the archives storage which runs on a rolling 13-month schedule. As I previously mentioned, our expenses are increasing, and will continue, to go up with our income continuing to hold steady. If the Area is to meet budgeted expenses, contributions will need to continue to keep pace with what services we've asked the Area to provide. However, I would like to note, that we have a substantial cushion of cash on hand and in no way need to be alarmed.

I hope everyone takes the time to review the latest financial reports. They are always posted monthly to the Area 40 website. We continued the trend of light on income YTD February and are gaining momentum on expenses, with a net income of \$2,022. Our expenses are under budget YTD, which does include some discretionary spending to support a Bridging the Gap workshop scheduled for May 6th in Shelby, MT.

We ended 2022 in the red with a net income of \$12,312. With a prudent reserve of ~\$14,000 and a bank balance of ~\$34,000, our operating balance is roughly \$20,000, above and beyond our prudent reserve. As mentioned this morning, our expenses are increasing, inflationary costs are going up while our income is holding steady. 2023 will be an interesting calibration as we adjust back to in person assemblies and the increase in travel expenses. If the Area is to continue to meet budgeted expenses, contributions will need to keep pace with what services we've asked the Area to provide.

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to establish a sound fiscal policy for the Area, keeping in mind our Tradition of self-support, that sufficient operating funds, plus a prudent reserve, should be the Area's fiscal policy.

Because of inflation, a dollar in the basket today is only worth 61 cents compared to 20 years ago; 15 cents compared to 50 years ago. The basket is where money and spirituality mix. What value do I put on my sobriety? Everything in my life has the stamp of AA on it. The cost of that drink has definitely increased in the time I've been sober. I'm certainly grateful I don't have to drink today and that's without a doubt due to Alcoholics Anonymous. I try to show that gratitude by contributing the price of that drink I don't have to take every time the basket is passed. Every dollar I contribute is another share I own in the responsibility we all share in AA. If we want A.A. to be here for the next generation, the self-support of our 12 th -Step work is vital at all levels of service.

We are deadly serious about our work but we should not forget the levity in it all. Please take it seriously if you are considering stepping up to serve. We need the best possible option for all levels of service.

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

Committee Report:

4/1/2023 Finance Committee

Attendees:

- Kacie N. (v) – Delegate
- Lisa C-D. (v) – Alt Delegate/Area Chair
- Laurie C. (v) – D61 GSR & Notes;
- Jake L. (v) – Treasurer
- Cailey D. – D61 GSR
- Julie S. – D91 GSR

Finance – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

- a. We reviewed.
- b. Discussed the prudent reserve and expenses & income
- c. It was suggested if groups are withholding due to excess funds, please notify so we aren't misinterpreting the "power of the purse"
- d. 38% of groups contribute, highest since 2018

Finance GSC

A. Consider request that materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board ("GSB") is the A.A. entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO is the A.A. entity which performs the processing of all A.A. contributions.

- a. We reviewed.
- b. Discussed the nuances of GSB vs GSO

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

- a. We reviewed the item.
- b. Discussed the costs of the conference and how expenses are allocated.

C. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.

- a. We reviewed the item.

D. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.

- a. We reviewed the item.
- E. Review Self-Support Packet.
 - a. We reviewed the self-support packet.
 - b. We discussed self-support and online contributions.
- F. Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI's) regarding the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
 - a. We discussed, oh boy did we discuss.
 - b. Result of minority opinion.
 - c. Discussed the process for changes at the conference level.

Extra Credit

- 1. Bridging the Gap
 - a. Costs associated with an annual workshop pursuant with the job duties and responsibilities.
 - b. Position created in Spring 2018, elected Fall 2018.
 - c. Background supports the addition of a line item to support the voice of the assembly.
- Motion: d. BTG – Consider a motion to amend the 2023 budget, approved at Fall Assembly 2022 to include a line item for the Bridging the Gap chair in the amount of \$1,000.
- e. Moved by Jake, second by Laurie
 - f. In committee, all in favor, 4-0
- Area Motion Vote: 81 in favor, none opposed.

Corrections/International Conventions & Regional Forums: Mark H

Chair Report:

Greetings, my name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic. I'm serving as your area 40 corrections chair. I'd like to say I hit the ground running but really just trying to figure out what I'm supposed to do. Just trying to reach out and make contact with district chairs. Thanks to those who've taken the time to talk.

I was able to attend the B.T.G. event in January and I'm planning to attend the workshop in Shelby this May. I was also able to attend the W.C.R.A.A. in Omaha.

I also get the privilege of pink can. The address to send contributions is posted on the area 40 website. Thanks to all who've contributed. The starting balance was \$421.38. The current balance is \$226.97. I've been able to send books to M.S.P. and a county detention center.

So in our corrections committee we 9 attendees, plus our btg chair Sean and our M.S.P. liason Gary. Both having time to share. Thanks to Lance D-41, Kacy D-11, Karla D-61, and Susan D-91 who are voting members. Also thanks to Pat D-11, Bob D-72, kevin D-93, Valkyrie D-93 and Jennifer D-72. A huge thank you to Kacy for taking such awesome notes.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve in this position.

Mark H.

Committee Report:

4 voting members in the committee

- 1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair

a. Mark has been reaching out to meet all the corrections chairs across the state, but he has not had any calls back. Please return his call so he can be of assistance, or at least so he can introduce himself.

b. He did attend the West Central Service Conference in Omaha

c. 421.38 current balance in the pink can fund

d. Sent books to MSP and around the state

2. Pink can: He ended up having to get a refillable debit card to distribute funds to get books for the facilities. The pink can fund is very low and this needs to be addressed. He would like to somehow get a clearcut way to see where the monies go for the pink can. He would like a better written policy of who and where this money goes. Is it just for prisons and jails? Watch, Nexus, pre-release centers etc. There is a lot of grey areas with the pink can funds and where they go.

3. Review activities of corrections committees in groups and districts

a. Dist 91 – starting off all over again. They have a corrections meetings on May 7 th to do training etc.

b. Jessica’s report – Dist Send report? Shelby workshop May 6 th starts at 12 with a potluck, then teach outs from the Calgary crew

c. Gary Helena Dist. 61 and he schedules the prison from the outside. The next orientation for MSP is in July. If anyone is interested in getting approved to go in, please email Gary at retired.10@live.com As far as BTG if you are a volunteer you can not be on the BTG list because you can’t have mailing rights if you are on the volunteer list. Corrections workshop on May 13 th , at the First Presbyterian Church in Helena. The information is on Area 40 website. The cost is \$10 to attend and the meal will be catered. You can pay when you get there. They are in good shape for volunteers.

d. Lance Dist. 41 DCM a group is taking meetings into the men’s prerelease here in Great Falls. Before that they had been able to go to the jail but they are only allowed to into the fed side but not the state side.

e. Patrick Dist. 11 Corrections Chair has 4 facilities we go into. MWP, Men’s Alpha House Passages women’s prerelease and also YCDF Yellowstone County detention center the jail. The Alpha house had been locked down until this year due to Covid. They are wanting to set up a second meeting per week, now it’s on Sunday nights only. He plans on going and bringing a big group of folks to the Helena corrections workshop. Sometime in the next year he would like to start having a corrections workshop in Billings also. He is starting a monthly committee meetings set up on the last Saturday of the month at the Westend Group. He is wanting to revive the pink can fund again.

f. We had several members that wanted to come and learn more about corrections.

g. Valkerie Dist 93 They are getting things going again and met with the captain of the Ravalli County jail and hoping to get meetings going in to the Ravalli County jail soon. She would like to eventually start a workshop to get more people in involved.

h. Jennifer Corrections chair for dist 72, They will be sending a contribution to the pink can fund. The way they used to send the funds was all combined monies and now they have broken off the pink can fund so it’s going to the correct account, the pink can fund account. She coordinates for the MSP volunteers. She also has the Gallatin county detention center. The lady she works with there is amazing and does an orientation every two months. They have 5 meetings per week in the jail. They actually just added a Saturday meeting also. They actually have to go through a 6 month mentoring process. So they are trying to get the women’s side up to where it needs to be. They do also try to hook folks up with sponsors while they are still locked up. They also do the prerelease meetings. They need someone to start the Shelby prison to take it on to begin to get meetings going there.

i. At this time there are no meetings being taken into Shelby, Glendive prisons or to Watch at this time. So any ideas to get into these locations is paramount.

CORRECTIONS - GSC A. CORRECTIONS GSC

Agenda Item A – 54 responses on how they have done it, some just go in as visitors to sponsor, but officers read all the mail in and out. This is just a consideration

B. Agenda item B – Corrections Workbook - You can download it, but it has not been sent out from GSO yet. Mark can give you the information to download it yourself.

C. Agenda item C – Discuss service piece, “Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare (SMF 209) and it’s revisions – This is actually a literature piece. The first one that came out was in 2017 and they came up with a yellow card to display. In 2021 they changed it some more. Then they changed it back to the original 2017 version, they wanted it back to the original version. It talks about the gender pronouns and they want the original text put back into it. Nothing has been implemented and it will go back to New York and they will not do anything without having the feedback from all areas. Please provide your discussion. Some views have been said that this is dividing us. We have to think outside of the state of Montana, we actually are sheltered from a lot of this that others might be going through in other states and areas.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND REGIONAL FORUMS – GSC

A. Discuss selection of cities for the international convention in 2035. This will be the 50th anniversary. 1. Indianapolis, Toronto, New Orleans and Phoenix

B. Discussing inviting up to twenty-one non-AA speakers to participate in the 2025 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

C. Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Book Meeting at the International Convention – A survey was done and over 50% voted to keep the current practice.

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

On the Floor: Sense of the Area (SOTA) for Corrections (GSC) item A: Consider a request to include content in existing A.A. literature on sponsorship of persons in custody by outside members of the Fellowship. Most in favor, 1 opposed

On the Floor: SOTA: Corrections (GSC) item C: Discuss service piece, “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare (SMF-209)” and its revisions.

Request: Anyone who feels strongly on this, please reach out to Kacy N.

Treatment & Accessibilities/Agenda; Bridging the Gap: Hugh M; Jessica W

Chair Report:

Hello my name is Hugh alcoholic proud to be serving as your area 40 treatment and accessibility chair looking forward to working with all districts to help them anyway that I can so for this year I've been pretty busy personally with work I was able to attend a sober sobriety Super Bowl party I also participated in a sponsorship workshop put on by 2 district 41 groups the mustard seed and new beginnings. We had a great time and was a very informative workshop once again I look forward to working with all of you . I would like to thank Saturday from district 91 for taking notes in our breakout we had 13 people attend the breakout also baby Hank who was 2 weeks old. 2 of my voting members were not present so Sarah D and Amy N were selected to be voting members we had great discussions throughout the meeting. Sincerely yours in service Hugh M

Bridging the Gap Chair Report:

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica EW. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair. After the fall assembly, I began putting together two PowerPoints in preparation to attend the Bridging the Gap

Workshop Weekend(BTGWW). I also resecured a contract with a site in Missoula for the 2024 BTGWW bid.

Again I want to thank the Area for the support to go. This was by no means a vacation. Although I felt grateful to be doing the BTG under palm trees, I was busy serving Area 40 and Alcoholics Anonymous the moment I landed. I was asked to participate in a workshop by presenting our Area 40 BTG structure and how it was established. I felt incredibly proud to be representing Area 40 and all of the coordinated efforts of our past and current trusted servants. I had the opportunity to meet with the past GSO Treatment Chair during the weekend and we all got to work on potential language for the BTG workbook that you will see referenced on our agenda. I happily shared the resources of my handouts, our past actions, and our service structure. I also got to share our BTG link for Professionals. People were really excited about our BTG Database. This especially warmed my heart recalling all the exciting discussions over technology and anonymity that finally brought that agenda item to fruition over 10 years ago and all the work our Webmaster then put into getting it launched. We got something special here in Montana.

We successfully won the bid to host the 2024 BTGWW which will be held in Missoula Montana, September 4-6th. Flyers are available on our display and online.

After getting home both myself and our Alternative(Alt) BTG Chair got busy with establishing our monthly meeting. Although we met more frequently via Zoom, phone, or text, both chairs felt the responsibility to establish this practice. We made a shared Area BTG Google email so we can utilize a shared file for both the BTG and Alt BTG Chairs in Google Docs as a repository of files that can be passed on to future Area BTG and Alt Chairs. One active list that is within this file is a growing list of fun/wild ideas for projects and goals that our committee can consider. This list was expanded after attending the BTGWW and continues to grow. Hopefully, you have had a chance to check out our Area's new BTG displays we put together, which was one of the ideas, and if you are able, take the time to sign up to be a volunteer for BTG.

I had the opportunity to attend the Denver Area Central Committee BTG Workshop on October 22, 2022, and to travel to Missoula to meet with Dan L our new BTG Chair in Missoula last fall.

We are happy to announce our May 6th BTG workshop and committee meeting in Shelby, Montana. I asked my alternate, Sean R. to lead the organization of this event. I want to thank him, Jerry T D51, Bandi D 91, and John A and Darrel H, D42 for everyone's work and helped on it. We are excited to have Area 78 BTG(Calgary Canada) presenting Teachouts for all our AA attendees. Please come check it out to learn more.

We had our first new rotation BTG committee meeting for our new chairs in January. I had the BTGWW Committee Chair meet with all of us where she shared the logistics of the A40 BTG committee serving as the host committee for the event. We invite you to connect with us if you are interested in serving and please let your BTG, Treatment, Corrections, PI, and CPC peeps know about the Workshop Weekend. All AA members are invited!

I have continued to connect with BTG participants. Most recently I have been getting consistent requests through the electronic BTG link and via email from our facilities. When I receive a request through the BTG link, I often send a generic welcome letter from BTG that I tailor to each electronic request. In addition to this, I send their immediate contact number, their local meeting list, the Area Hotline, and the webpage for Zoom meetings.

I am available to support local BTG efforts in Area 40. I have BTG materials for new chairs, including the BTG workbook, an updated list of BTG contacts across the state, and various tools for your local

BTG coordinators or volunteers. If you presently have a BTG vacancy, I am available to provide support to a district or a new chair as they step into their new position, especially with the incoming rotation.

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.W.

Committee Report:

Report from standing committee meeting

Hugh gave his report. We had 13 people present; no one there from district 23 or district 31 so Amy, Ann, and Sarah D volunteered voting members. Jessica bridges and the gap chair gave her report talked about may 6th bridging the gap workshop in Shelby Montana, all members invited. Tony O from district 12 commented that Yellowstone boys and girls club were giving referrals via the counselors for AA meetings. Treatment general service discussed updating "Never Too Late" pamphlet also military audible still being worked on treatment kit workshop book is not available yet or accessibility kit work book not available yet. We consider requests to do accessibility on a throughout service structure do we have the tools we needed disgust. Discuss Carrie in the message to alcoholics with intellectual or info processing in challenges no further background since 2021 no changes yet. Reviewed progress report on bridging the gap workbook service materials Jessica made comments that they were talking about at the national bridge in the gap workshop language and streaming clarifying service material what materials are needed discussed updated pamphlet bridges in the gap still no difference still committee's eyes only. I reviewed progress on G So's guidelines for remote communities. Agenda general service conference a suggestion for 2024 names we came up with number 4 back to basics love and tolerance. Is number 71 day at a time a daily repri. A number one embracing technology in order to help all alcoholics. D review presentation topic ideas for 2024 general circumference we chose number 42 creating the next generation of leadership. Number one benefits and challenges of technology NAA. The discuss workshop ideas for 2024 general service our choices were number 24 what is the newcomers hearing. Number 27 safety and a are common. A number for how can we make AA better with technology. Items DEF and G were discussed they were pretty much all just conference improvements delicate chairs communications etc. We did have a recommendation coming out of the treatment our recommendation was to send Jessica the Virgin a gap chair to Houston to attend the national bridge in the gap workshop it was approved on the floor.

Thank you yours and service, Hugh M.

Public Information & Website: Rick H & Alex M

Chair Report:

Hello Area Assembly

My name is Rick and I am an alcoholic. Currently serving as the Public Information chair for Area 40, right now I feel a little more overwhelmed than honored about my new service position. I know that the gratitude will come with the actions, you have shown me that and it has been my experience in the past.

The rotation started well with a weekly meeting with a PI mentor who helped me draft an introduction email to the District Committee Members. I fully intended to contact the committee members before the assembly, unfortunately one of my biggest character defects at the moment is procrastination. I seem to have an inordinate amount of fear around composing and sending emails. I have been seeking help in this area from my 26 year old daughter, who texts me that she is proud of me for learning hard things, this getting old stuff is hard. On the

positive and humorous side, I just applied for a lateral position change at my place of employment that will require me to learn spreadsheets, word processing and email skills. Double the fear!

I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) virtually, our West Central Trustee and all the presenters did a great job of going through the conference agenda items. A big shout out to the Area 40 Delegate, Kacie N. , Mark H. and Lisa C-D. for their presentation shares Friday night. I was quickly reminded how fortunate we are a in Area 40 to have the tech crew that we do for our assemblies.

Thanks to all who attended the virtual pre-assembly, speaking for myself, I find the more times I discuss an item the closer I get to a group conscience. I am looking forward to some lively discussion in the committee meeting, anyone who wants to can join in the discussion.

In Love and Service Rick H.

Webmaster Report:

Greetings Area 40, I am Alex M, alcoholic, serving as your Area 40 Webmaster.

First of all, I want to welcome everyone to our new rotation and those who are attending Assembly for the first time!! I've already sent the Committee, DCMs and others your new login info for our email system and admin sections of the website.

I would like to ask the DCMs and PI chairs to introduce the elected admins for their districts during the district meetings. If you need help getting this information, please email me at webmaster@aamontana.org.

Since the Fall Assembly, there have been 129,464 views of our website pages, with 34,271 users and 6,600 downloads. Those numbers indicate that our website generates a substantial amount of traffic, and visitors are downloading a considerable number of flyers and documents. The most popular pages are the Home and Zoom pages, and recently, the Newcomer page has seen more activity. Additionally, I have noticed an increase in emails from people who have never attended A.A. before.

If you type aa-montana.org or aamontana.org you will get to our website, and the same applies to emails. You can contact the webmaster, for example, using either webmaster@aa-montana.org or webmaster@aamontana.org.

To conclude, I want to again express my thanks to Jake L. We have fixed all the issues that were causing problems between the Meeting Guide app and our database, and I appreciate Jake's help with this.

Thank you'all for continuing to entrust me as your webmaster.

Yours in Service,
Alex Mariño
Area 40 Webmaster

Committee Report:

Attendance:

Rick H. – Area PI Committee Chair (Voting)
Grant O. – D91 DCM (Voting)
David W. – D71 GSR
Theresa L. – D42 GSR (Voting)
Joe W. – D71 Rep (Voting)

Mark W. – D11 GSR (Voting)
Kendall M. – D72 GSR
Alex M. – Area Webmaster
Rick H. – D81 GSR
Susan H. – D72 Visitor

Actions:

Meeting called to order at 9:35 by Rick H.

Serenity prayer

We reviewed the report of Rick H., PI committee chair.

Alex M gave a report as Webmaster.

Rick had a question about how to update meeting addresses. Alex answered his question.

A. Review the 2023 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.

Committee reviewed the media plan, and found it mostly acceptable. The agenda item referenced a “content calendar” of what would be posted and worked on, which was not included in the agenda item. We would like to see that content calendar included.

B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

1. Review the distribution and tracking information for two video PSAs:

i. “Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall”

ii. “Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party.”

2. Review the 2022 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs.”

Committee reviewed the PSA reports and found them to be impressive. 190 million impressions from our PSAs is impressive. A question was raised about these PSAs violating anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. The question was answered that these PSAs follow anonymity guidelines and are not promoting AA, simply offering information about who we are.

C. Review progress report on the development of a GSO Podcast.

Committee reviewed the progress report and found it acceptable.

D. Review report on “YouTube Performance.”

Committee reviewed the report and found it acceptable.

E. Review report on “Google Ads Performance.”

Committee expressed concern that we are entering into competition with rehab centers and others for SEO placement.

F. Review report on “Meeting Guide Performance.”

Committee expressed a deep love and appreciation for the Meeting Guide app.

G. Review the “2022 Third Quarter Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of G.S.O.’s A.A. website.”

Committee reviewed the report and found it acceptable.

H. Review report on “AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast.”

Committee reviewed the report and found it acceptable.

I. Review report for “Online Business Profiles”

Committee reviewed the report and found it acceptable. A few questions were asked about what these profiles are for, and the nature of them. All questions were answered.

J. Review report on analytics

Committee reviewed the report and found it acceptable.

K. Review progress report on the Young People’s Video Project

Committee reviewed the report and found it acceptable.

L. Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.

Committee generally finds that proceeding with this process would violate the Traditions.

M. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials:

1. Review progress report on revision to the flyer "A.A. At a Glance."

2. Review progress report on revision to the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A.

Meetings."

3. Review progress report on revision to the flyer "A Message to Teenagers"

Committee reviewed the reports on pamphlets and found them to be acceptable.

N. Review progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.

Committee reviewed the report and found it to be acceptable.

O. Review report on 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process

Committee reviewed the report and found it to be acceptable. One persons group was surveyed and thought it was a fun process!

P. Review report on 2022 A.A. Membership Survey results reporting

Committee reviewed the report and found it to be acceptable.

Q. Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook

Committee reviewed the content and format of workbook and found it to be acceptable.

R. Consider request to implement an Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Instagram account.

Committee discussed this item. An opinion was expressed that this may overburden the staff at GSO, who are already overworked. As long as time and workload is available, we are in favor of this.

Rick closed the meeting with the Responsibility Statement.

Committee meeting adjourned at 12:00 sharp.

SOTA: in favor of AA instituting an Instagram account: 1/8, opposed 7/8

Hotline/Report & Charter: Xavier Gonzales-Graybill

Chair Report:

Welcome Area 40 Panel 73.

What an amazing weekend it has been to be here At Area 40 Spring assemble. I don't know what the rest but I had never been more excited to come to assemble. To be able to see friends, hang out all night playing video, enjoy amazing meals and conversation with like minded people. It was exactly what I needed.

Now, I just want to say it a honor to be standing here at Area 40 assembly as the first Chair of the Hotline Committee. To think my first assembly was 2 years ago and at that time I would have never expect that I would be an area chair. But here I am 4 years sober standing in front of all you amazing people giving a report as the hotline chair, something I am very passionate about. With that being said;

When I took on the hotline assignment, I honestly didn't know exactly what I was getting myself into. I knew that I was passionate about it and that was all that mattered. Transition into this position was a little rough. It was hard for me to get the information I needed to get started but once I did I hit the ground running.

Meanwhile, while I was waiting to get the access to the answering service, I had reached out to all the districts. In doing so, I have found that out of the 14 district there are 13 active hotline chairs the only district I have not contacted is district 12. Which is a problem because I have received calls for that district.

After I have gained access to the answering service. I was able to have a hotline workshop via zoom there were 9 district reps in attendance for that.

During this workshop we went over what the hotline is. How to answer calls. How to handle a 12-step call. Went over different types of calls one might receive and suggested ways to build a hotline committee.

I send out a report to all the districts at the first of the month.

There are some districts that I am in contact with regularly and other I don't really talk to at all

Since the first of the year, we have received 100 calls 3 of those were just in the last 24 hours.

Out of the 100 calls 13 of them were considered as other calls. This means that there was no specific district to route the call to, so that call doesn't get forward to anyone. I then receive an email and text in real time about the call and I return it. Of those I returned, I was only able to reach maybe half of them. Those calls are people looking for anything like how to get on zoom, what is the difference is between an open and closed meeting, and even just for advice, as well as treatment centers looking to get people connected with AA

The way the hotline works is you have 1 male and 1 female listed as the main contact for the hotline to call. This contact can be updated date at any time. When a district wants to change their contact information, they text me the name and number then I send out an email to the answering service and ask them to delete the current contact for the district I'm updating and provide them with new contact information. I do see all calls and check them, I have also fielded calls from people looking for rides to meeting, needing to see where meetings are, or even trying to get the spouse or child into AA.

As far as how each district is running. Most districts have multiple people that answer calls, and they rotate every month or every couple months. Then they have system in place for missed calls as well. When I get notified there is missed call, then I see what the call was about and what district it is for. Then I send out a text asking them to have a person in their committee return the call. There is one district that only has the hotline chair receive calls for both male and female and she then forwards the calls.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.
Xavier Area 40 hotline

Committee Report:

Hotline—Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Hotline Chair.
2. Consider current job description of Area 40 Hotline Chair and propose revisions, if necessary.

a. We reviewed the current job description on pg. 32 of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures. After some discussion the committee came up with 2 recommendations. I will go over first now and address the second when we consider agenda item three.

b. Area 40 Hotline committee recommends the Area 40 Archivist and Area 40 Advisor remove the last sentence on pg. 32 item G18.1 job description which reads: (Area 40 shall discontinue the use of all Northern Directory Publishing (NDP) phone directories.)

c. This is not part of the job description it is a past action. Apparently placed their by mistake.

In addition, we noticed that there are no qualifications listed in this job description, therefore; the hotline committee plans to meet via zoom to develop these qualifications which we will then ask to be placed on the Fall assembly agenda for the structure and policy committee to consider.

3. Determine who will serve as secondary/alternate contact for the Hotline

The Area 40 Hotline Committee decided that Paul L. district 41 hotline to be the secondary alternate contact for Area 40 hotline.

The Hotline committee will develop a proposal, and guidelines and qualifications, for the Alternate Hotline Chair position and present them as an agenda items to be considered at the fall assembly by the Area 40 Structure and Policy Committee

4. Review activities of Hotline Committees and chairpersons in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

a. First I want to thank all of the district hot chair we have District 11 Spencer, District 21 Dennis, District 23 Steve, District 31 Steve & Birdie, District 41 Paul, District 42 Kurt, District 51 Jody, District 61 Jackie, District 71 Jessica, District 72 Emily, District 81 Alex, District 91 Jake and District 93 Anne.

b. We talked about how it hard to find people to answer call. But most district has at least 2 men and women to answers call. That they rotate out ever month to couple months.

5. The Committee recommends that we end our association with Thryv previously known as DexYP.

It is costing Area 40 \$516 to use this. We have already removed all the other directory so why do we still have this one. Thryv enables the users customers to: Find a business online through ratings and reviews, social presence and accurate search results. Interact, receive reminders, send texts and emails and schedule appointments. Pay the business, receive receipts instantly, and choose how to pay. It is more for small business not listing a hotline number.

Report and Charter – GSC

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition:

1. Review list of editorial updates.

a. No information

2. Consider the request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action concerning a footnote in the resolution concerning “register” and “Groups.”

a. We talked about this and the committee sense on this was 3 for and 1 against.

3. Consider the request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of the A.A. Service Manual.

a. This was discussed and the committee sense was all in favor
4. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service title "Amendments."

a. We reviewed this.
5. Review feasibility report of an ASL translation of The A.A. Service Manual Combines with the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

a. We talked about this in depth. At the end of the day, it is super expensive to make this happen. Plus this is something that's going to take 2 or more years to develop and by the time it finished it going to need to be updated. and as Diane very eloquently stated I quote" this is a social justice issue we want to be everything to everyone, when everyone should just be enough."

We have 2 questions we would like Kacie to ask at the General service conference

1. How feasible is this considering the time frame it will take.
2. What is the data supporting this, if any, that there are enough people in the fellowship with the need of this for the cost it will take.

B. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

a. We discussed and seemed on par with past reports.

C. Consider posting an anonymity-protected Conference Final Report on aa.org

a. This item came from a trustee and after in-depth conversation the committee was in favor that the report be posted on AA.org all in favor.

I want to thank the Hotline committee: Jody district 51 hotline from not only being their but also taking such amazing notes. Paul district 41 hotline for the willing to be the alternate hotline chair. Diane DCM district 11 for her amazing wisdom and willing to make the hotline as great as we know it can be. Jake district 91 hotline for sharing his experience with the hotline and his wisdom on the hotline. I look forward to work with you all over the next 2 year it going to be an amazing opportunity for me.

Last but not less I would like to thank my sponsor Gerry for all his guidance and wisdom. I went into this very lost and let be honest being led by fear but when push came to shove he was there for me. guiding me with the things I didn't understand and decision I have had to make to get here. So, for that I am super grateful.

GSR Breakout, hosted by Earl F.

Notes taken by April T, GSR from District 11.

Q: Is Area 40 Spring Assembly needed?

A: Yes

Q: As a GSR how can you get your group to get involved with service work?

A: Sponsorship, give back, give a nudge, directly tell people to do stuff, and emphasize that it makes you feel good.

Q: When did Area 40 come into existence?

A: 1950 Bill & Bernard Smith, Michael Alexander. (Sidenote: our 1st delegate got drunk on the train)

Q: We read "How it Works" but how does it really work?

A: it just does, plant the seed, God works in mysterious ways, one alcoholic working with

another, spiritual experience

Q: If my home group is just a meeting how can I get involved in district?

A: Just show up at district meetings, share experience strength and hope with your meeting

Q: How do I vote on my Group Conscious on controversial items when they are split 50/50?

A: You need to write a decision. No action should be taken without unanimity, as trusted servants we make the best choice, make sure everyone has verbalized their thoughts.

Q: Why did they discontinue our newsletter? Was it replaced?

A: Digital was being used more and no one wanted to edit it, the value was far below the cost

Q: Zoom and anonymity was discussed, as well as safety issues.

DCM Breakout, hosted by Libbie L. Report not available at the time of this release.

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Archivist Report

Greetings Area 40,

My name is Earl Fink and I am an alcoholic. I also have the honor to serve as the Area 40 Archivist. For those who are unfamiliar with our Area policies, the Archivist is a non-rotating position. I started serving in this capacity in 2012 and I have been collecting, preserving, and maintaining the Archive collection of Area 40 since that time. The repository for our collection is a climate controlled storage facility in Ennis, where I reside. Our collection is well protected, dry and the UV light is a minimum. The conditions in the repository yesterday was around 55* and the relative humidity was 45%. These conditions do vary with exterior changes but always seem to be with acceptable limits.

Some of my responsibilities along with the care and maintenance of your archives are the updating of the Area 40 Past Actions and the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Documents, with the help of the Area Archives Committee Chair and the Area Advisor. I have to say that I have been somewhat slow in getting this done the past couple of years. They are currently updated on the Website mostly because of the encouragement of your Area Delegate. As I have gotten to know Kacie, I have realized that she has a very helpful and encouraging nature. Needless to say, when she asks, I try my best to respond.

Other responsibilities of my position is to attend group, district, and Area Service activities as well as Area 40 Roundups when invited and participate in any capacity that is requested. Those usually consist of having displays of Archival nature from our collection and giving presentations. Since the last Assembly, I have attended the Attitude of Gratitude in Helena last fall, have joined in several zoom meetings of the area committee and the concepts studies, I was able to go to the Regional Service Conference in Omaha and attended parts of the Area preassembly in early March. I recently attended the South-central intergroup Founders Day celebration in Billings. I have been asked to do an Archives workshop in Helena in April and have been invited to the Area 40 Roundup in Missoula in May. I have also been asked to attend the Fellowship at the Falls, here in Gt. Falls.

Recording archival interviews of leaders in Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40 has become an unexpectedly enjoyable activity of this position. These are done to gain a clearer record of our history. I get to meet a lot of fascinating people and record their experiences with Alcoholics Anonymous. I would like to ask for your help in gathering information and reports of all committee activities at the Area level and collecting minutes and activities flyers from the fourteen Districts in our Area for this rotation. I want to meet and visit with all the new DCM's this weekend to find where I can acquire info about your activities.

Service in Alcoholics Anonymous seems a little overwhelming sometimes. I have learned that it

can be a lot of fun and very rewarding to all of us if we stay focused on our primary purpose; How can we best carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Archives helps to provide a history of some of the things that we have tried. Some were successful, some were not, but the experiences and the friendships that we make in this process that we use to achieve a group conscience have been priceless. Welcome to this rotation of Service in Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40.

Happy trudging,
Earl

Roundup Reports

Spring 2023 Roundup: Report not available at the time of this release.

Fall 2023 Roundup

Hi everybody! My name is Betty & I'm an alcoholic, the DCM for District 72 and excited to tell you about the planning for our Area 40 Fall 2023 Roundup.

The roundup will be held October 27 – 29th at the GranTree Inn Best Western in Bozeman Montana. Details and Registration information can be found by scanning the QR code on the front of the flyer. The flyer will be available on the Area 40 calendar shortly and may be found today on the table near the door.

The theme of our Roundup is “We Are Not Saints”. We thought that fitting for several reasons... Proximity to Halloween of course and, from an AA perspective, to the masks we live behind in our life and how our untreated alcoholism keeps us in ignorance. Without our spiritual toolkit, we are unable to differentiate the true from the false.

We will have panel discussions, great AA and Al-Anon speakers, and much, much more. Lest you think we might be a glum lot, I can assure you that we are not. We will be having a Masquerade Ball on Friday night, contests & snacks, Halloween party on Saturday night at the Fellowship Hall, raffles and a sure to be exciting auction... Like what? 2nd Edition, first print of the Big Book, 1st Edition of the Big Book published in 1947. The item which I want to win is a 2nd Edition Big Book signed and inscribed by Bill W in 1969!

We anticipate that this event will sell out and we are limited in capacity to about 450 people. To register, scan the QR code on the flyer and sign up. Registration is \$40 until July, and then it goes up to \$45. Meals are available for additional purchase. We have a special room rate of \$139 plus tax/night available by calling the GranTree and registering with the “AA Convention” block. Scholarships will be available for folks that need assistance with registration cost. Child care will also be available.

We hope to see you there!
Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Betty

Spring 2024 Roundup: Angela F

Hi All,

We in Billings are proud to host the 2024 Spring Roundup! The committee has started, we have elected a chair, vice chair, treasurer, hospitality chair, and registration chair. We are currently exploring event locations, and once we know that we can tell you the date. For now, I can say the roundup will be either the 2nd or 3rd weekend of May, 2024, and once we have set the date we will post a flier on the Area 40 website.

Thank you,
Angela F

Intergroup Reports

Aryel M, Flathead Valley Intergroup

What we do!

- ✓ Serves 15 plus groups and meetings in Northwest Montana
- ✓ Offers 10 plus Service Position Opportunities
- ✓ Provides your printed Meeting Schedules
- ✓ Hosts Annual Campout and New Year's Alcahthon
- ✓ Has hosted Valentines, St Patty's, Halloween, and Thanksgiving Events
- ✓ Participates and contributes to District Functions and Events
- ✓ Provides the local AA Hotline Phone Number (406) 991-7052
- ✓ Provides a local Website www.aanwmt.org

Website (aanwmt.org) Provides!

a) Meeting schedule

b) Events Calendar with printable flyers

c) Contact emails for all District and Intergroup Service Positions

Accomplished in a year

- 12 Business Meetings and 12 Birthday Meetings are held on the last Saturday of the month at the North Valley Senior Center 205 Nucleus Ave Columbia Falls.
- Received 60,000 Visits to the Website
- The web site Announces and informs the fellowship on:
 - 20 plus Social Events for the whole family
 - 7 Plus Service Meetings including Into Action, Fall Refresher, Jail Orientation, etc.
 - Keeps District informed of area social events

Events like

Valentine's Day Great Northern Hike

Halloween with Intergroup Christmas Alcahthon hosted by District 91

Thanksgiving Dinner Tally Lake Campout

New Year's Alcahthon hosted by Intergroup Big Fork by the Bay Campout

Sober Ski Camp Emery Bay Campout

St Patty's Day Dinner Spring Fling Barbeque

EZ Duz it Golf Christmas White Elephant Party

Spring Fling Barbeque

Conference Report-WCRAASC 2023

Hi everybody! My name is Betty & I'm an alcoholic. I'm also the DCM for District 72. I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Omaha earlier this month and Lisa asked if I would give a First Timer's report at the Area 40 Spring Assembly. Being a good AA, I said "sure".

There were 442 people attending from all levels of the AA service structure... GSRs,

DCMs, some alternates, Delegates, current and former Regional Trustees from the 7 states that make up our Region. It was a pretty diverse group. The event flyer said that the purpose of the Conference was “to develop greater unity among members, groups and areas of the WCR, to encourage the exchange of ideas & experiences. Recovery, Unity and Service should always be the primary purpose of the conference..... The agenda listed the items our Delegates would be addressing at the General Service Conference in New York next month. Attending this event felt like an important responsibility.

The conference was very much like AA Assemblies I’ve attended. The agenda items were read, some clarification provided, people were invited to share questions, thoughts, concerns. The group listened.

There was much talk of AA traditions, the Concepts and how each speaker felt they should be applied to the item. When the group got sidetracked with a non-agenda item that generated a lot of feelings, one Delegate spoke kindly & powerfully to us. She asked us to please keep our focus on the things that would be discussed at the General Service Conference, so that the voting members could begin to discern the conscience of the group. The feelings left the room; people settled down. For me, I got to observe how and why AA continues function as an international community without a single leader. Unity. We don’t always agree, and that’s OK. We are grateful, passionate people who care deeply about doing the next right thing for AA as a whole, and are committed to doing our very best to help newcomers find the fellowship and recovery they seek in our rooms.

As we were going home, I was either asked or dared to include 2 things in my talk, so without mentioning names, this next part is for you...

Lisa arranged a lunch at a local restaurant for the Area 40 folks. It was a fun place with good food. Lisa & I sat near each other and when the waiter came by to take our order, he began to extol the praises of their ales, and how well they would complement our meals. Wouldn’t we like to try one? Lisa was asked first and she said something like No thank you – not today. Great AA response! To protect the anonymity of the other 15 people at that the table, I said that I couldn’t because I’m a pilot. He said “really, for what airline?” I said Spirit Airlines... I didn’t think that was too big of a stretch – after all, what is alcohol but a spirit?

Second. During the conference, I finally had something to share on and I went up to the mike – many people had been up there before me. There were actually 3 microphones – 2 for the in-person attendees, and 1 for those online. The session chair directed each speaker to go to either Mike A, B, C – to ensure only 1 mike would be active at a time. So I got up to microphone B and introduced myself – Hi everybody, my name is Mike B and I am an alcoholic. Everybody cracked up. Perhaps what happens in Omaha should have stayed in Omaha.

I’m grateful that I was able to participate in the Conference, and left feeling more in love with AA & our principles. I’m confident that if we remember AA’s responsibility pledge, AA will be around for years to come. Please join me in that pledge... “I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.”

Thank you.

Betty M, DCM, D72

Past Delegate Sharing: Transcript not available at the time of this release.